

Pitcombe News



May 2007

The PITCOMBE NEWS welcomes contributions from its readers.



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The DEADLINE for the June issue is Friday 16 May

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PITCOMBE NEWS

This month seems to be all about gardening and gardens, what with plant sales, baskets to be bought and an open garden next month. Camilla Carter writes of just what it takes to win the village rhubarb competition. All is not what it seems! She has one or two other tricks up her sleeve which will help in making your garden grow so make sure to talk to her and our other local gardening experts who will be dispensing advice at the plant sale on **Monday 28 May**.

Charles Brook has written his last account of Parish Council Meetings as he retires most honourably from the Council. We must thank him and all the Councillors for the excellent job they have done for us over the past four years. We look forward to meeting the new members of the council on **Tuesday May 15**.

I caught up with Martin Jennings this month. He has just had his best lambing season ever. His 72 ewes produced 148 lambs including 13 sets of triplets. He couldn't remember exactly how many sets of twins he had. They will now be fattened up for Taunton market but he will be keeping some back to sell later in the year at the farm gate, or more correctly, all wrapped and ready for the freezer.

Susan Chamberlain

II **PLANT SALE**

IF YOU HAVE PLANTS FOR THE SALE COULD YOU
PLEASE BRING THEM TO THE VILLAGE HALL ?

ON SUNDAY 27TH MAY.

IF THIS IS NOT CONVENIENT, CALL 01963 350 616 OR
EMAIL sechamberlain@btinternet.com

TO ARRANGE A DIFFERENT TIME

PARISH COUNCIL

The Annual Parish Meeting and the last meeting of the present Council were held on 10 April 2007. In reviewing the activities of the Council over the last year, and indeed over the last four years, grateful thanks were given to all the Councillors who have served and especially to Cllrs Elliott and Holt who have served the full four years of this Council. We also expressed thanks to our County Councillors, Tim Carroll and Justin Robinson, and our District Councillor, Alexandria Winder, without whose help and guidance our deliberations would be less well informed

When we assumed office, we set out to make a contingency reserve and the Council now has about £2000.00 in reserve, about the same as its annual expenditure when it is not contributing to the Village Hall fund. This would enable us to seek a professional opinion for a minute or two if such a one was needed.

The Council has been very fortunate in its clerks. This year Jean Linden has been a tower of strength and she will provide the continuity between this Council and the next. That Council will consist of the seven people who have submitted their nomination papers for election on **Thursday 3 May**.

Since there are seven vacancies on the Council, there will be no parish election and they will all become Councillors and assume office at their first meeting, on **Tuesday 15 May at 7.30 pm**. It would be encouraging for them to see some interest in their deliberations, so please try to attend.

Personally, I wish the new Council very well. and I hope that it will have an opportunity sometimes to be proactive rather than reactive - and here is one suggestion. Just as we passed a vote of thanks to the Hadspen Estate for all the improvements it has made, perhaps the Council might annually select a *Citizen of the Year* for special recognition at the Annual Parish Meeting. *Charles Brook*



HADSPEN VILLAGE HALL REMEMBERED

The decision to build a Village Hall in Hadspen was made in 1937-1938 when permission was refused to hold Whist Drives and Dances in the Church Room. The Church Room, which is now part of Derek and Anita Pheby's house, was the meeting place for the village where some services, Sunday School and Parochial Church Council meetings were held.

Mrs Parker Rhodes, who lived in Honeywick House, suggested that the villagers build their own hall and Mr Dick Jennings of Hadspen Valley House, who farmed that part of the valley, gave the plot of land on which the hall now stands. Mr George Clothier, who farmed at Bottom Barn Farm, together with Mrs Parker Rhodes and Mr Jennings helped finance the venture. The first job was to dig out the nut hedge which bordered the land and level the site. This was done with the help of a horse and cart which carried the soil and debris to the top of Nettlecombe Lane where it was spread out along the verges.

There were living in Hadspen at the time about a dozen strong and able bodied young men, the Trevitts, Clothiers and Spratlings who together with some of their friends from Shepton Montague tackled the building job with enthusiasm. It is not certain who put in the sprung dance floor but the firm which is now Foote and Bicknell in Bruton were employed to do the plumbing. It took about 18 months to complete and a grand party was held at the opening.

Apart from whist drives and dances accompanied by the Billy Lukins Dance Band, there were two dart boards, table tennis and billiards being played on a regular basis. There was also a library of books for the villagers to borrow. The hall was heated by a solid fuel tortoise stove which had to be lit for four hours before an event. During the war the hall was used only for parties and wedding receptions for those couples married at Pitcombe Church. After the war there was a grand re-opening and the hall continued to flourish with a club night each Tuesday evening.

Later Mrs Pam Hobhouse became Chairman and Daphne Horsfall and her mother, Mrs Paul were caretakers for more than sixty years. In 1988 a Village Party was held to mark the 50th Anniversary.

The hall continues to serve the community in many and various ways and it is only now that it needs replacing. What a credit to those who built it in the 1930's! Let us hope that the present community can provide a similar facility for the next seventy years. *Jenny Elliott in conversation with Daphne Horsfall*

PLANT SALE MAY 28th 2007

***Has anyone got a useful gardening item to
help fill***

***A basket for the raffle to raise funds for
The new village hall***

***I should be delighted with any good quality
items Or indeed any other raffle prizes.***

***Please contact Camilla Carter
01963 351106***

the 3rd annual
hadspen plant sale
bank holiday monday
may 28th
10 am - 1.00 pm
hadspen village hall
with
free advice from our local
gardening experts
in aid of the new village hall
admission 50p **tea/coffee/cakes**

NOTES FROM A HADSPEN GARDEN

The two or three good pullings from my rhubarb this spring have been delicious. They were planted only two years ago and I have been careful this year not to be too greedy, as last year I lost a plant, it just died. I really don't know whether I had overtaxed it or whether it had a death wish.

At my last house there was a huge rhubarb bed. It was big enough to have several old redundant dustbins covering plants in spring to give enough forced rhubarb for my children and plenty to give to family and friends. This was prize winning rhubarb, it had huge pale pink stems, luscious, juicy and full of flavour and it always came first in the village show.

At our first show we proudly placed our rhubarb on the bench to the congratulations of our village friends who assured us that we undoubtedly had the best in the show but moments before judging our friends laughingly told us that we wouldn't win that year as we had cut off the fan of leaves. There was no time to return home and pull some more.

Next year we did better. My husband found three beautiful matching sticks; tops and bottoms were left in place; a child's coloured felt tip hid any odd blemish; a very slight rub of oil gave a bloom. They were perfection. Without doubt they were the village's best and we won the coveted first prize. **Camilla Carter**

What a man needs in gardening is a cast iron
back with a hinge in it. (C DWarner)

Not everyone with green thumbs are *good*
gardeners -- some are just careless painters. (Anon)

COMPUTER BYTES

www.SAYNOTO0870.COM

Many phone providers offer cheaper calls to standard telephone numbers (beginning with 01 or 02), but the same rates do not apply to **0844/0845/0870/0871** numbers. By using multiple providers, you can reduce your call cost on standard numbers to as little as 3p fixed cost (regardless of duration), whereas the cheapest provider to 0870 numbers during the day that I am aware of charges 4p/min (+3p connection fee) to call. Worst still, some companies using these numbers actually receive a cut of the phone call costs.

If you have an 'inclusive landline calls' phone package, it is very rare that **0844/0845/0870/0871** numbers are included in your 'free minutes' allocation. A number of mobile phone packages also exclude freephone 0800 and 0808 numbers from your bundled minutes.

Many companies advertise a separate number for use from abroad. This usually begins +44: There is nothing to stop you using this number from the UK (it is a normal rate call), and so will be included in any inclusive minutes provided by your landline or mobile provider. Many others will give you a standard number if asked. This site is all about listing these numbers, saving you money without having to pay additional charges. To get started and find a particular number, click on the 'Search to find an alternative number' link at the top of the page.

Right Click: We sometimes do not appreciate the convenience of the 'right-click' feature in Windows. In most software applications, a right-click pretty much anywhere will bring up a 'context' menu, which lists all **options** you are likely to **need** in that **particular** part of the screen. In other words, the options on the right-click menu change depending on where the mouse pointer is hovering. It is worth taking the trouble to experiment at various parts of the screen for all frequently used programs. Happy clicking!

Maria *Samuel*(woodcott13@btinternet.com)

YARLINGTON SPECIALIST PLANT SALE

Buy direct from the growers and get advice and good value.

For the 6th year running,
the Count and Countess de Salis have arranged

a Charity Specialist Plant Sale

at Yarlington House

on Saturday 19 May, 2007.

There will be 16 specialist stands in the courtyard

The two acre gardens are included in the entrance fee.

Refreshments. provided by the Supporters
of the Church of St. Mary the Virgin, Yarlington.

Tea, coffee, soft drinks, cakes and hot bacon rolls
The proceeds to go towards the church.

PLANTS FOR SALE

Many thanks to those who have placed orders for baskets and bedding plants] have now started to construct the baskets which should flourish throughout the summer. I have tried to grow some additional quantities and varieties this year.

I will be open for sales on Thursday 3rd May (election day) Why not call in after you have voted ? Monday 7th May (Bank Holiday) 10am-4pm

Sunday May 13th 2 pm - 5.30 pm.If these days do not suit give me a ring on 01963 350999 and we will make arrangements. All profits from the sale of plants go to charity. Ken Elliott



HADSPEN WINE CLUB

After our rather dismal showing at the January "end of term" exam conducted by Kathleen Apperly and Biddy Coghill Smith, the members of the Wine Club started the 2nd year determined to do better. Jim Linden was listened to very intently as he guided us with great expertise through a tasting of New Zealand wines.

We started with an appreciation of the flagship wine, Sauvignon Blanc, and tasted 3 quite different styles from the Marlborough area where it was first planted in 1973. An aromatic Gerwurtztraminer from the cooler Gisbourne area followed and found immediate favour with most of us. However, when it came to the Pinot Noirs we all agreed that the Kiwis need to try harder with their reds. The evening finished with a tasting of Chardonnay from the iconic Cloudy Bay vineyard. We went home with literature that Jim had obtained from the NZ Wine Board and a much deeper knowledge of their wines.

Connie Earl provided food to complement the wines.

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HADSPEN BRIDGE DAY

There were twelve tables taken on Wednesday 28 March for a fundraising bridge day in the village hall. Guests were warmly welcomed with coffee and home made biscuits at 10.30 by helpers Carole Wyatt, Jenny Elliott, Jean Constantine and Jean Linden. Then everyone settled down to play Chicago until 12.30 when red and white wine were offered by Kathleen Apperley and Biddy Coghill Smith who had joined the helpers. Lunch followed, prepared by Liz Thomas and Camilla Carter, a delicious goulash and rice accompanied by Liz's now famous crunchy winter salad, then orange and almond torta with Seville orange sauce. More bridge followed in the afternoon and after a successful raffle and a farewell cup of tea everyone returned home having agreed that they had had an excellent and enjoyable day out.

The Village Hall Fund benefitted by £ 835.00 to the delight of all the helpers! Many thanks to all the participants. **Liz Thomas and Camilla Carter**



St Leonard's Church

St Leonard's Church Services for May 2007

	Service/Time	Readings	Readers
	No Service		
13 May	Holy Communion 9.30am 6th Sunday of Easter	Acts 16:9-15 John 14:23-29	Willie Constantine Clergy
20 May	Morning Prayer 9.30am 7th Sunday of Easter Christening	Acts 16:16-34 John 17:29-end	Philip Pidsley George Bunting
27 May	Holy Communion 11.00am Pentecost Whit Sunday	Acts 2:1-21 John 14:8-17	Wendy Crane Clergy

CHURCHWARDENS NOTES

What a wonderful Easter celebration at St Leonard's. It was a very happy occasion with lots of families attending to celebrate the resurrection of Jesus. During May we look forward to other celebrations with a baptism on 20th and a wedding on the 26th.

Many thanks to all the members of the congregation for their hard work with the annual spring clean, churchyard tidying and for the displays of flowers for Easter day. The church looked beautiful. Well Done!

'The hand of the diligent will rule, but the slothful will be put to forced labour.' Proverbs 12:24. Do the hard things first, the ones you most dislike, and get them out of the way.....

You have the power of God in you to overcome procrastination. Pray and ask God to help you finish the tasks you have been dreading. Work on what is important first, and soon they will no longer be ruling or ruining your day.

God bless you all as we each face our difficult tasks. Wendy Crane, Churchwarden

CHURCH BLOOPERS

The 'eighth graders' will be presenting Shakespeare's "Hamlet" in the church basement on Friday at 7.00p.m. The congregation is invited to attend this tragedy.

At the evening service tonight, the sermon topic will be "What is Hell?" Come early and listen to our choir practice.

ALMOND AND ORANGE BLOSSOM CAKE

This is not really a cake for afternoon tea, it's more of a dessert cake to serve with berries, peaches and it would be delicious with rhubarb. It's one of Nigella's best and perfect for this time of year.

225g soft unsalted butter
225g caster sugar
4 eggs
50g plain flour
ground almonds*

1 tsp almond essence
zest of 1 orange
juice of ½ orange
2tbs orange flower water 80g

Butter an 8" tin, and line the bottom with greaseproof paper. Preheat oven to 180C/360F.

Cream butter and sugar well, until almost white. Beat the eggs separately and gradually add to the mixture with a spoonful of flour, beating well all the while. Gently stir in the ground almonds, almond essence, zest, juice and orange flower water. Pour the mixture into the tin and bake for about 1 hour. Check after 40 mins and if browning too quickly, cover loosely with foil. Test for doneness with a skewer.

Leave in the tin for 5 mins or so before turning out onto a rack. When completely cool, wrap in foil and leave for a day or two. To serve, sieve icing sugar over the top and enjoy.

*Blitzing whole blanched almonds in a processor does add to the taste and texture.

Forget smelling like a rose.

Orange flower water can also be used to cleanse the skin and to perfume bath water!

Susan Chamberlain



A KEAN THEATRE GOER

You know, we are exceptionally fortunate to have such a glorious attraction as the Theatre Royal, Bath within easy motoring distance of where we live. Apart from the sheer beauty of its Georgian facade and interior, its national standing is such that it can attract star names, actors and directors.

This is certainly true of the recent production of Kean with Sir Anthony Sher playing the wayward actor Edmund Kean who found it difficult to reconcile his self indulgent lifestyle with his widely acknowledged genius as a performer. Sher portrays this in a masterful way without allowing the physical smallness of his subject to diminish it. Indeed, Jane Austen described him as "too short", too short, that is. for the traditional image of a tragic actor. Despite this, the romantic poet Samuel Taylor Coleridge said that to see Edmund Kean act was like reading Shakespeare by flashes of lightning... Certainly, there were many times in Sher's brilliant performance which echoed some of the accolades paid to Kean by a host of distinguished intellects of his time.

it's a great tribute to the Theatre Royal that it can stage a play written by the great French writer Alexandre Dumas nearly two hundred years ago, in an adaptation by Jean Paul Satire and performed by such a great contemporary actor as Anthony Sher. It deserves our full and continuing support. *Philip Mellor*

PS: 'Kean' opens in London this month

THE CASTLE CARY MARKET HOUSE

FROM: THE SHERBORNE, DORCHESTER AND TAUNTON JOURNAL OF
OCTOBER 4TH 1855.

The new **Market-House**, which **the public** spirit of the inhabitants of Castle Cary has erected, was opened on Tuesday last, and celebrated, as the opening of all public buildings must be all over England, by a public dinner.

The Market House was built by a joint stock company formed in the town of Castle Cary, of which Mr Hobhouse is Chairman and Mr Charles Russ, the Hon Sec.

The architect is Mr T Penrose of Trafalgar Square, London, whose design is certainly of no common order. It consists, on the ground floor, of a pitched market house for corn and cheese, with shambles behind for meat, bacon etc. Over the main building is a mezzanine floor, forming an extensive floor for corn and by its side is a spacious and well lighted reading room. Above these, approached by a winding stair as may be found in some of our cathedrals, though somewhat wider, is the Assembly room, a spacious apartment 52 feet long, 21 feet wide and 21 feet high, with handsome oriel windows, open timbered roof and music gallery. Adjoining is a large refreshment room. The centre of the building is surmounted by a turret with bell but no clock; the people of Castle Cary being sufficiently 'up to the time of day' without one.

The building is Gothic, of a style conformable with architecture of the end of the 14th century. The chief effect is given by the pointed relieving arches, within which the mezzanine is placed. The general forms have arisen out of the peculiar nature of the ground and levels. The building has been most substantially erected of Castle Cary stone and Blue Lias, dressed with Doulling stone, by Mr M Davis of Langport, who has recently restored the Church of Castle Cary. The cost, we hear, will be about £2300.00.

About 150 persons were well accommodated to dinner in this building. We were told that the day of the opening was too early, that it interfered with Bridgwater and Elm Fairs and that no corn was thrashed, that the butchers were sulky and would not come to the shambles etc, but if all these so-called obstacles had been removed, the room could not have been fuller.

Theodore Thring Esq, presided and with overflowing eloquence said that in erecting the Market-House, they had given dealers a building where corn could be pitched and cheese sold and had made it as light as the most anxious inspector could desire.

They had a space behind for general Market. For the butchers, they had provided raised platforms where they could expose their meat to the greatest advantage.

For farmers frequenting the market, they proposed to lay books and newspapers upon the table at an admittance fee of 1d. For the corn shewn, they charged the same as at Shepton with this exception, that instead of the farmer paying 1/- a waggon, he was charged 1/- for every sample and nothing for unloading the waggon.

NATURE NOTES

Primroses, violets, cowslips, followed by bluebells this month — carpets of blues and yellows where they have not been removed in the name of progress. A positive feast of food for a succession of species in the food chain. an oak tree, for instance, is known to support over 450 species. Oaks tend to leaf fairly late and if you spread a white sheet under a bough and shake it you can see just how many varieties fall out. All of these eat or are eaten by something. I have been to many beautiful places in the world, places where one can only stand in awe but, because of the enormous variety, this island of ours is quite the most wonderful. Unfortunately too few of us take time to be intimate with god and contemplate this wonder.

At this time of year there is an explosion of life. As each level of "food" becomes available, it is a supply for the one above to breed and feed their young. This abundance decreases during the year leaving enough for a given number of a certain species but others may die of starvation or are eaten. As one looks at animals progressively up the chain, numbers become fewer. This is known as a food pyramid. toxic chemicals, such as herbicides/ pesticides, are ingested in larger quantities. For instance if a blue tit eats 100 or so insects a day then, even if each insect has only a tiny amount in it, this will obviously increase the amount. the sparrow hawk, a predator of tits will have. In ideal circumstances nature keeps the dynamic balance that its creator started. It would be a disaster if this were not so.

Consider a rabbit doe, giving birth to about 10 young each year. If half of these are females, able to breed after 4 months, and each of them gives birth to a further 5 more, in a year or so there will be around 150 from the one original female. Fine if natural predation/ starvation take their course.

In Scotland red deer are completely out of control **because** their natural predators, the wolves have gone. There is now a furious debate as to whether or not to re- introduce wolves. Humans have upset the natural balance with greed and materialism. Together with a huge population growth worldwide we have not only brought about climate change but are destroying the natural world on which we depend, particularly oceans and rain forests.

Some 12% of birds, 13% of all flowering plants and 25% of mammals are threatened with extinction. The human population continues to grow, in spite of the fact that children are dying of starvation/ disease in the third world. It will not be easy, nor necessarily pleasant but unless we look seriously at our way of life, we threaten not our own future but that of the whole planet as well.

Hamish Craig



The Garden at *Cole Manor*

will be open for exploring and Cream Teas

on Father's Day, Sunday 17th June 2007

from 2pm-5.30 pm

**The Garden will be open to raise funds for
St. Margaret's Hospice Yeovil
and
Great Lakes Outreach Burundi**

**(Great Lakes Outreach, or GLO
is a registered UK charity
supporting the work of
Simon Guillebaud in Burundi).**

**For more information
about the work of GLO
visit - www.greatlakesoutreach.org**

TEN COMMON EXPRESSIONS WE WOULD PREFER NOT TO USE OR HEAR AGAIN

1. At the end of the day
 2. But, having said that ..
 3. Going forward
 4. Bear with me
 5. When all's said and done
 6. Doing nothing is not an option
 7. Level playing field
 8. Added bonus
 9. I hear where you're coming from
 10. There's still a lot to be done
- and 10 other words for **ISSHOO** when used as a noun to mean an important topic or problem for debate or discussion

incident, event, milestone, occasion, dispute, circumstance, case, state of affairs, episode, concern.