

Pitcombe News



Remember remember the fifth of November
Gunpowder, treason and plot.
I see no reason why gunpowder, treason
Should ever be forgot...

November 2009

The ***PITCOMBE NEWS*** welcomes contributions
from its readers

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keep up to date
www.pitcombepc.org.uk
THE PITCOMBE WEB SITE
for details of the Parish Council, Minutes etc.
details and bookings of Hadspen Village Hall

**The DEADLINE for the December issue is
Friday 20 November**

The PITCOMBE NEWS regrets any errors or omissions that may occur, we do our best to avoid them. The information contained within this publications is published in good faith. the views expressed are those of the contributors and are not necessarily endorsed by the ***PITCOMBE NEWS***

PITCOMBE NEWS

Just to remind you that Remembrance Day is on Sunday November 8th this year, It's been some time since it has been this early in the month.

In this edition Alan Billenness writes of that awful day when his father was killed. He was here recently for a couple of days to see some of his old friends and to meet up with friends from long ago who have contacted him through the *Pitcombe News*. The Spratling family in particular have been very helpful in tracking down friends from the past..

We are very sorry indeed to hear of the death of long time resident of this "corner of Somerset" Weston Broadway. Our deepest sympathies go to his daughter Linda and her husband Mark. On page 7 there is a tribute to him from Rev. Richard Kirlew. Weston first came to live in Shepton Montague in 1934.

But it was in 1929 that Erich Maria Remarque's novel "All quiet on the Western Front" was published. The original classic film was made in 1930. This month the film at Batcombe is the 1979 version which, even so makes it 30 years old. If you were too young to see it then, you might want to catch it at Batcombe.

George Bunting this month turns his pen to one of his favourite topics, if not his favourite, Parson Woodforde. His article on page 12 is extracted from his Pitcombe address of a few months ago.

Pigs may not actually be able to fly, but they can certainly run. There is a lovely story on page 5 about four little piggies who ran away from Hadspen Valley Farm. So if they run away again and you see them, you know from whence they came and to whence they go back.

Many, many thanks go this month to those who write for the magazine. I came back from holiday and found that everyone had met the deadline and everything was ready for me to put together. How perfect can you be? We're a small group and a very nice group and if you feel that you would like to be part of it and contribute to the mag, please get in touch. We really do need a few more people to help to ease the load. Call or e mail me to discuss a very non arduous job.
Susan Chamberlain

Pitcombe Parish Council Notes – October 2009

Pitcombe Parish Council has a small budget for the award of grants and is inviting applications for projects that will benefit some or all of its residents or some or all of the area. The council will be considering grant applications at its next meeting on Tuesday 10th November. Applications should be made in writing to Rosie Morgan, Pitcombe Parish Council Clerk, Pen Corner, Bleak Street, Pen Selwood, Wincanton, Somerset. BA9 8LZ or via email at pitcombeclerk@trezemper.freereserve.co.uk in advance of 10th November.

New financial regulations were approved by council members at the last meeting on 13th October. These are now available on the Parish Council website at

<http://www.pitcombepc.org.uk/FinancialRegs.pdf>

The next meeting of the Pitcombe Parish Council
will be held at
7.30 pm on Tuesday, 10th November
in Hadspen Village Hall.
You are very welcome to attend.

Right, repeat after me

I will **never** . . . **ever** . . . **ever** . . . again put anything in the freezer without first labelling it. A box of egg whites does not even begin to be a substitute for the juice of 6 lemons.

and again

I will **always**, **but always** wear a pinny and I mean a proper pinny not a pretty apron, in the kitchen and **especially** if I am wearing a new blouse and **especially** if I am making anything with balsamic vinegar, soy sauce, fish sauce and honey. And while I am at it I will never, ever again wear suede shoes in the kitchen.



Hadspen Village Hall

Many thanks to all those who contributed towards a very enjoyable harvest supper. A lovely supper was provided by the ladies catering committee and there was some spirited bidding from those present over a wonderful selection of produce transported to the hall

from the church. The evening even included a birthday celebration!

At last it looks as though we may have found the answer to our floor cleaning problem, through the kind offer of Charles & Cathy Brook. We have been able to use their buffing machine to 'spray buff' the floor, and I believe a great improvement can be seen.

We are also making some improvements to the kitchen by fitting extra shelving and an automatic filling water boiler to the wall to replace the free standing urn.

Under a SSDC scheme, we have taken delivery of a huge amount of spring bulbs, croci, daffodils and tulips, These are being planted around the hall and immediate area and should provide a nice display in the spring.

Some dates for your diary the very worthwhile charity '**Motivation**' will be holding their Christmas Market in the hall on **Wednesday, 25th November**, and the Hall Christmas Party will be held on **Saturday, 12th December**.

Everyone is invited to the **Annual General Meeting** which will be held on **Thursday, 26th November at 7.30pm** and will be followed by wine and nibbles. This will be my last AGM as Chairman as I am resigning from the Committee this year.

I should like to conclude my last notes on the Village Hall by thanking everyone who has helped and supported the Committee during my time as Chairman.

Peter Wyatt

Ed. note It was actually Peter's birthday and his grand daughters Lottie and Hannah baked and decorated a magnificent cake in the shape of a cow. But best of all, they made it big enough for everyone to have a slice. Good thinking girls.

HADSPEN & SHEPTON MONTAGUE WI



The AGM was held on Monday, 12th October at Shepton Montague Village Hall when President, Mrs Sylvia Reed, was pleased to welcome new member Mrs Jane Guy from Bratton Seymour.

Mrs Sylvia Budgell stood down from the committee and will leave at the end of the year. Mrs Reed thanked her for all her work over the years and reminded members that the WI would have foundered before it had hardly started had it not been for Mrs Budgell taking over the presidency at a difficult time. She will be sorely missed.

The new Committee was formally adopted and will comprise Mrs Sylvia Reed (President), Mrs Gill Craig (Secretary), Mrs Julie West (Treasurer) and Mrs Rene Veryard. Mrs Reed asked members to think about joining the Committee as they were in effect one member short.

Mrs Gill Craig then reported on the year's activities and Mrs Julie West presented the financial statement which showed a slight improvement on the previous year.

Having dispensed with all the business, members then enjoyed the challenge of a quiz on Somerset. Some of the questions were easy, particularly for the 'locals', but some questions even had them foxed and needed reference to the answers book!

The next meeting will be held on **9th November at 2.30pm** at Hadspen Village Hall when Peter Triggs will be visiting to show his excellent slides and to talk about 'Times Gone By'. The members competition will be to provide the best photograph illustrating that theme.

Guests and new members are most welcome and if you would like to come along please ring Mrs Sylvia Reed on 01749 812768.

ACW

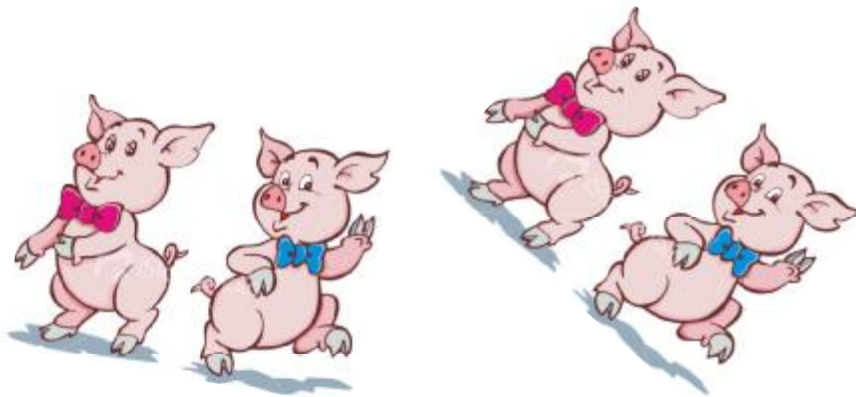
A Bedtime Story

Once upon a time there were four little pigs - called Brats, Brots, Chips and Sal - and they came to live in a nice paddock full of lots of crunchy nettles and docks. They had a very jolly house to sleep in and were given delicious food for breakfast and tea. Lots of people came to see them and talk to them.

One morning, after they had eaten their breakfast - about 9 o'clock, Sal - who was the adventurous one, and had already got herself stuck in the brambles - said to the others, "Let's go and see mother".

So they set off through a forest of bracken and climbed to the top of the steep hill - then they went across a very big field, and then across another huge field - and they found themselves in some buildings. There was a very busy road nearby and they were not sure which way to get to Sturminster Newton - so they were rather frightened.

Luckily a clever person saw them going across the fields and thought they ought not to be there, so they telephoned the kind lady who looks after them. She went and searched for them and suddenly she found them just behind her - and they were very pleased to see her - so she took them back to their house, and told Sal that if she went off again, she would be taken to somewhere called The Freezer - so Sal promised that she would not lead her brothers and sister astray again!!



COMPUTER BYTES



Tips for Windows:

Bypass the Recycle Bin (XP and Vista): To save disk space, hold down the **Control** key when pressing or clicking Delete. This means it will bypass the Recycle Bin and Windows can overwrite the space it occupies on the disk.

Open Folders with single-click (XP): To speed up program and folder opening times, open **My Computer** and select **Folder Options** from the **Tools** menu. Under 'Click items as follows' select the single click option.

Subdue your Sidebar (Vista): If the Sidebar is a little overbearing, you can adjust the transparency of each gadget by **right-clicking** each in turn, selecting **Opacity** and choosing a percentage value.

Change Security Centre warnings (Vista): Windows Security Centre helps ensure that your PC is safe from attack but its constant pop-up alerts can become annoying. To change these, type **SECURITY CENTER** into the **START** menu and press Enter. On the left, click '**Change the way Security Centre alerts me**' and then choose one of the three options.

Add extra world clocks (Vista): If you need to keep track of the time across the world, right click the clock in the NOTIFICATION AREA and select 'Adjust Date/Time'. Select the Additional Clocks tab and click one or both of the 'Show this clock' options. Choose the time zone for each and click OK. Hover over the clock and the new time zones will appear.

Reveal the Hibernate option (XP): If you want to hibernate Windows instead of switching to Standby or shutting down, click **Start, Turn Off Computer** and then hold the Shift key. The Hibernate option will now temporarily replace Standby. Hibernation mode saves documents to the hard disk and so is safer than Standby, which saves them to the memory.
Maria Samuel (woodcott13@btinternet.com)

Tip for MAC OSX Leopard

Send invitations by email: In **mail** click on new message, then stationery. Click on **template**, click on **I photo browser**, select photo or open **Safari** /other web browser and use **Google Image** to find a suitable image and drag into placeholder. Replace gibberish in template with some well chosen words, add addressees, click send. Sit back and await replies.
sec

Weston Broadway 1922 - 2009

I am indebted to Linda for providing a lot of information for this tribute. Born in South Cheriton, Weston moved to Eastfield Farm, Shepton Montague with his parents and elder sister Betty in 1934. At his new school, Wincanton Primary School he met a boy called Lloyd, and they have been friends ever since, some 75 years.

At school, he was called "Buckhorn". At a tender age with his friend Lloyd he decided to go into business from a desk in the playground. They traded as "The Buck Trading Company". It seems that they would buy or sell anything, even mice! Even at that young age Weston's business sense came to the fore! Leaving school at 14 Weston went to work on the farm.

He and Doreen were married in December 1961. They were devoted to each other and were delighted when Linda arrived to make a real family. The family moved to Cole in 1981 and continued to make a lot of good friends inside and outside the farming community. Weston was so proud the day Linda and Mark got married in October 1993. The two of them got on very well.

He was a farmer through and through - it was embedded in his heart and soul, it was his life! One thing that delighted him was a trip to "Pack Monday Fair". He went this year, some five days before he passed away!

Back in June and July 1999, Weston became an intrepid traveller and to everyone's surprise he went jetting off to Australia! He had never been on a plane before and it was rather amazing to him when he could get in it in England and get out on the other side of the world. He had a whale of a time while he was away and thoroughly enjoyed his experiences. But jet lag or not he went straight back to work as soon as he got back. This probably shows the inner strength that he had!!

We remember a man who was totally unique, a real character. When I had my own business, we rented a building from Weston. I was always impressed how honest, reliable he was and such a good judge of character - indeed he was one of nature's true gentlemen. The rumour **was true** - he could talk **both** hind legs of a donkey - but he was such a genuine man, so interested in you and what was going on in your life, that it didn't seem to matter how long the conversation took!! He had the time to talk and that mattered to him.

I am quite convinced that he and Doreen who died in 1993 are now together in paradise. This small corner of Somerset is a far better place for having Weston in it! *Rev. Richard Kirlew*

An evacuee remembers

Although I have made many visits to Pitcombe in more years, I have never really been able to come to terms with the absence of the railway. During the first part of my time at Pitcombe, my grandfather and I would watch the shunting that took place each evening at about 5.15 pm. The amount of freight that passed through each day was surprising for such a relatively small community. Grandfather had at one time worked for the railway and had never lost interest in trains. Just a few weeks before war was declared I had my first ride on a railway engine with an engine driver friend. This was very exciting and probably planted a seed in my mind of the importance and value of the trains themselves.

Cole Station suddenly came alive during term time as the platforms swarmed with pupils from Sexey's and from Sunnyhill as trains from both directions arrived and departed within minutes of each other in the morning and again in the afternoon. From home, I could watch the trains on the S & D line cross over the trains on the GWR. We used the trains for visits to Wincanton or perhaps to Shepton Mallet or even Bath.

Thus it seemed somewhat ironic that it was a train that brought tragedy and sadness to us all at Laburnum Cottages when my father was killed alighting from a train on 23 December 1943 within sight of our home. These were "the worst of times" that changed our lives forever. I expect that the fact that one lone airman lies buried in the cemetery at Pitcombe Church probably presents something of a mystery to newcomers.

We had all been looking forward to my Dad coming home on Christmas leave but no one more than me. He wasn't just my father he was my best friend, someone I could always talk to and rely on. He had always been there when I needed him and his loss was something I did not know how to handle. I had just turned thirteen and now just two days before Christmas made it all the more difficult to bear.

Dad had been stationed at RAF Kirkwall in the Orkneys and had spent two days travelling. He had reached Templecombe ahead of schedule the previous night. We had not expected him until much later the next day. He took the first train out in the morning after what must have been a very uncomfortable night in the waiting room at the station. The train arrived at Cole around 7.30 am. It was particularly dark and the train overshot the platform and stopped several yards ahead. Dad stepped out on to the parapet wall of the bridge which was the same height as the platform and plunged to his death in the road below.

On that fateful morning my grandfather was due to catch the next train in the opposite direction to stay with his daughter in Southampton. My mother and I set out to see him off. I stopped to wave from the bridge in Mill Lane and my mother helped him with his luggage to the station. The stationmaster Mr Cox refused to issue my grandfather with a ticket and broke the sad news to him after the train had left. My poor mother was left to tell me what had happened.

The next few days still remain a bit of a blur to me. The family were very protective of me. I tried unsuccessfully to immerse myself in my books while the family tried to come to terms with the situation and to deal with the practicalities involved. The RAF took charge of all the funeral arrangements as telegrams and letters of sympathy poured in.

Sadly I did not attend the funeral and spent the afternoon with Mr and Mrs Martin. I heard the cortege pass by and the shots being fired at the graveside. I suppose the family tried to protect me but as I grew up I rather wished that they had not. I just wanted to come to terms with the reality of the situations, to pick up the pieces and get on with life. People were too kind at times. One incident particularly has always stood out in my mind. It was at a fund raising to encourage people to buy National Savings Certificates. All sorts of items had been donated and auctioned. The amount then went towards the purchaser's Savings Certificates. A very kind lady, whom I did not know, bid well over £100 for a model airplane (a Mosquito) which she quietly presented to me later.

Time is a great healer and so it proved to be as gradually I came to terms with the situation as I realised that my personal grief was nothing by comparison with what my mother was suffering. A favourite hymn or song on the radio would everything back and lead to barely consolable tears, My grandfather though was a wonderful support. He helped enormously in tidying up Dad's affairs and would accompany my mother back to Portchester as she needed to spend so much time there. Our house there was let and so I would spend school holidays now with her and relatives in Gosport and Cosham. This was at the time of many air raids on Portsmouth and a great deal of damage was done.

Everywhere we went there were constant reminders of war, air raid shelters everywhere, barrage balloons, searchlight stations, gun emplacements, static water tanks, derelict buildings which wide open spaces where once shops, pubs, offices and homes had once stood. Sandbags protected buildings that still remained in defiance of everything that had been thrown at them. *Alan Billenness*

St. Leonard's Church



Services for November 2009

| | | | |
|------------------|--|--|---|
| 1 Nov 6.30pm | Evening Prayer PATRONAL FESTIVAL | First Lesson Solomon 3 v 1 - 9 Gospel John 11 v 32 - 44 Psalm 98 | Charles Brook Willie Constantine |
| 8 Nov 10.50am | REMEMBRANCE SERVICE 3rd before Advent | First Lesson Micah 4 v 1 - 5 Gospel John 15 v 9 - 17 | Charles Du Cane George Bunting |
| 15 Nov 9.30am | CLUSTER SERVICE Lamyatt 2nd before Advent | Psalm 16 | |
| 22 Nov 11.0am | Holy Communion BCP Christ the King | First Lesson Daniel 7 v 9 - 14 Epistle Revelations 1 v 4 - 8 Gospel John 18 v 33 - 37 | Philip Pidsley Ann Whittaker Clergy |
| 29 Nov 6.30pm | CLUSTER SERVICE Pitcombe | First Lesson Jeremiah 33 v 14 - 16 Gospel Luke 21 v 25 - 36 Psalm 18 v 1 - 6 | Peter Wyatt Carole Wyatt |

Churchwarden's Notes

You have probably noticed that the wall around the Church is in the process of being mended, but the herd of cattle thought this was a good opportunity to have a nose around the churchyard. As a result the ground is a little uneven in places so please do be careful if you are walking around the churchyard.

Many thanks to Mrs Coghill-Smith for getting two of the pews repaired and the bench in the porch.

November is always a busy month at St Leonard's, as our Patronal Festival falls at the beginning of the month, followed very rapidly by Remembrance Sunday. So, dates for your diary:

Sunday 1st November, **Patronal Festival** at 6.30pm, Evening Prayer.

Sunday 8th November, **Remembrance Sunday** Service at 10.50 am in order to acknowledge the two minutes silence at 11.00am. **Please remember to wear the medals that you are entitled to.**

'Therefore if any person is ingrafted in Christ, the Messiah, he is a new creation (a new creature); the old previous moral and spiritual condition has passed away.'
2 Corinthians 5:17

You can't really be a closet Christian. If you are saved, it will show to others. If you say you are saved, but nothing has changed in your life, something is wrong. When Jesus comes to live in you, He will get involved with how you live and how you look at life to make you more like Him. Welcome any changes He needs to make in you today.
Wendy Crane

Forthcoming Pitcombe addresses

1 November Patronal evensong Dr Robert Dunning, Diocesan Historian

6 December Andrew Drysdale

3 January Prof. Sir Al Aynsley-Green, Children's commissioner for England

7 February Kalantha Brewis, Lay Reader, Pershore, Worcestershire

7 March Major General Barry Lane, Castle Cary

Pitcombe Address

I wasn't quite quick witted enough decline this invitation and so it is that I now stand before you and you, I fear, are obliged to listen. Once committed I had to devise a subject and one suitable for a place of worship.

And yes, it's dear old Parson Woodforde of whom I'll be speaking. James Woodforde was born at Ansford in 1740, the second son of Samuel who was Rector of Ansford and vicar of Castle Cary and his wife Jane. Incidentally I'll mention at this point that Mabs and I have slept in the very room at the Old Parsonage at Ansford in which James was born but to my personal disappointment no ghostly diarist manifested himself despite my urgings. We don't know much about James' early years. He had some local schooling of the Dame school variety but at the age of 12, was sent off to Winchester as a scholar of the foundation which entitled him to entry to the sister foundation of New College, Oxford. And it was at New College that, in 1759, James began his now famous diary which he continued for upwards of 40 years. After four years at Oxford he returned to Somerset and obtained a Curacy at Thurloxtton, near Taunton, before moving to Babcary.

In 1765, he became his father's curate and, not unnaturally, had hopes of succeeding, eventually, to one or other of his father's livings. Six years later, when his father died, the major preferment, which was in the gift of Bath and Wells, went to an older man from Shepton Mallet, but James hoped for the other living. He was he contemplating marriage with Betsy White, a Shepton girl, but was horrified to discover that the advowson, the right to appoint to the living, had been secretly bought by his uncle whose own son Frank was to be presented to it. It meant that James lost both the living and the parsonage that went with it. He could hardly marry so Betsy married a rich farmer from Devon instead. A mere jilt wrote James in his diary. We have arrived at the year 1773, James was 33 years old and you will have noticed, there has been no mention of Pitcombe or St Leonard's.

But, be assured, we shall come to it. In 1775 he first heard of the death of Dr Ridley, rector of Weston Longville in Norfolk. James knew nothing of the place save that it was worth £300 a year. An election for the living was to be held and James was entitled to become a candidate. He won by 21 votes to 15, noting in his diary that "I voted for myself" so securing his future in Norfolk. It was not until 1782, during his first return visit to Somerset, that we hear mention

of Pitcombe. His sister Jane had married, late in life, a Mr Pounsett; the couple lived at Cole and James stayed with them for his lengthy holiday. On 23rd of June, Woodforde paid his first visit to St Leonard's. Of course, the Church he saw was not as we see it now although he would recognize the tower and the old pews. The preacher was the Rev Richard Goldsborough and all that James could say about him was that he was 'rather affected' but nothing at all about the Church. Woodforde was more struck by the spring in what he called Pitcombe Street into which he threw a shilling for the boys to scramble for. He didn't visit the Church again until 1786, during another return to his home county. It was then that he heard John Goldsborough read prayers and preach, which, wrote Woodforde, 'he did very well'. John Goldsborough was a curate at Bruton and he preached again the following week when, James noted, 'Counsellor Hobhouse was in Church', he, of course, was the father of the Henry Hobhouse who became Under Secretary of the Home Dept. Missing the following week because of a slight headache James heard, instead of a sermon, the reading of an Act of Parliament about donations to the poor.

Woodforde made several more return visits to Somerset over the next few years and came here many times never, alas, saying much about the Church although he did on one occasion complain about the inconvenience of his pew. Woodforde died on January 1 in 1803.
George Bunting

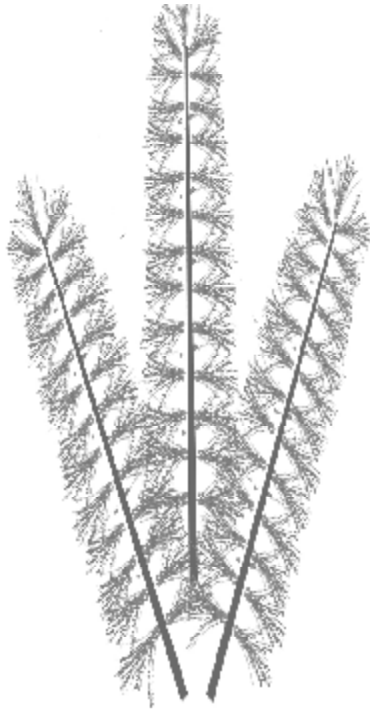
Marilynn's mother's helpful hints

Red wine on the tablecloth, worse, red wine on a shirt or blouse?
Blackcurrant stains, any red fruit stains can be magically removed following mm's hhs.

Boil the kettle. Stretch the fabric with the offending stain over a bowl. Pour boiling water through the stain and whoosh ...it disappears.

MM says also drive the stain back through the fabric. ie tackle the stain from the reverse side.

As a precaution first check that the fabric is colourfast. Works brilliantly on T shirts.



Draw
gorgeous
patterns
on the
computer
Giles
01749
812393

St Margaret's Somerset Hospice

Christmas is a special time of the year when we inevitably come together and remember those who cannot be with us. We know of many reasons why families and friends are apart at this time - distance, work or bereavement. Light up a life provides the opportunity to remember and celebrate those whose 'light' cannot be with us this year.

Join us for our Light Up A Life service near you

All Saints Church in Castle Cary on **Sunday November 29th at 6.30pm**



FRIDAY 13TH NOVEMBER 2009

**Batcombe Jubilee Hall
Doors open 7.15pm, film starts 7.45pm**

ALL QUIET ON THE WESTERN FRONT

(dir. Delbert Mann) 1979 / 123 mins / PG

As a tribute to Remembrance Day, and in honour of the late Harry Patch, we are showing the 1979 adaptation of Erich Maria Remarque's classic novel about life in the trenches during the First World War. This version stars Richard Thomas as Paul, one of a group of idealistic German schoolboys who set off in 1914 to fight in 'the glorious war'. Ernest Borgnine, Donald Pleasance and Patricia Neal also star in this compelling and affecting insight into the hellishness of war.

Free parking - Licensed bar & soft refreshments - Wheel-chair access - Hearing loop

Your magazine will give details of each month's film/event but for more details, contact Elizabeth Hunt on 01749 850 304 or ehunt@mbzonline.net – for membership enquiries, Rob Sage on 01749 850 934 or robsage@uwclub.net

FAVOURITE THINGS

Questions from Sue Smith.
Responses from Charles Du Cane, Hadspen

What are your three favourite places?

South West Coast of Ireland
La Rochelle, France.
Rhode Island Coast, USA

What are your three favourite foods?

Roast Pork
Peking Duck
Freshly caught fish (any) not necessarily with chips.

If you could invite three people to dinner (dead or alive!) who would you choose and why?

Galileo Galilei. The father of modern observational astronomy also modern physics.

Sir Ernest Shackleton. A great explorer, navigator and superb ship's captain.

Sir Robin Knox Johnston. A contemporary friend with whom a superb journey could be planned using the fantastic skills of the others. I would perhaps be somewhat let off the hook!

If you could pick just one of your favourite things, which would it be and why?

Occasional peace and quiet!





HADSPEN CHRISTMAS MARKET

WEDNESDAY
25th November 2009
10.30 am to 3 pm

HADSPEN VILLAGE HALL

Proceeds to MOTIVATION - a charity that enhances the quality of life for disabled people in developing countries.

Support your local producers selling items of food, clothing, jewellery, gifts etc.

REFRESHMENTS AND SOUP LUNCHES