

Pitcombe News



LEST WE FORGET

November 2010



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

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keep up to date at
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/JANUARY issue is
Sunday 20th 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

Well, as St. Delia always begins, what is going to happen to the *Pitcombe News*? This could well be the penultimate edition. We don't just need a patron saint of community magazines, we need a couple of people to help produce the magazine not even every month, just ten editions a year. I don't want to see it die, no one I talk to wants to see it die, but it will, unless help is at hand.

This is some of what you will miss.

There are a number of activities coming up in the valley.

The Christmas Market for MOTIVATION (see page 16 and the back cover.) Same day, wouldn't you know, Saturday 27 November hft has its sale in Wincanton. I do not have the dates of the shopping evenings in Cary and Bruton yet, but stay tuned as they are always good value.

To less worldly things. The Bishop of Bath and Wells is coming to the Patronal service on Sunday evening 7 November. It has been ten years since a Bishop was last in the Parish, so this is a rare chance to hear him and to meet him afterwards. See page 13.

How's your singing voice? What about Carol Singing this year? Kathryn Lloyd Clark is getting a group together, do get in touch with her. It really is a case of the more the merrier on these occasions. Page 13.

If it is an autumn walk you want, check out page 14 and David Jury's walk exploring the bridges across the Brue, You could go to South Brewham to begin at the very beginning or you could amble around locally looking at the bridges in a new and extremely well informed way.

With Remembrance Day coming up, Carole Wyatt's account of a visit to the River Kwai is timely. Do read it, page 9. Jenny Jones went to a WRAC reunion, which took her back a while. Turn to page 6 to discover what WRAC means for those too young to know or too forgetful possibly.

Well to paraphrase, I started with St. Delia so I'll end with St. Delia. There is a very timely recipe of hers on page 16. Enjoy.
Susan Chamberlain, Editor

PITCOMBE PARISH COUNCIL

Following the resignation of Councillor Whittaker due to other commitments, Councillor James Clark will be taking on responsibility for the Parish footpaths.

The next meeting of the Parish Council meeting will be on Tuesday November 9 at 7.30 p.m. in Hadpsen Village Hall



SAVE THE PITCOMBE NEWS

As one of the founders of the *Pitcombe News* I am particularly sad to hear that the December issue might be the last. Sue Chamberlain has put a tremendous amount of work into the News over the last six or seven years. Constance Earl worked tirelessly for a similar period.

This magazine found its way into almost every house in the parish free of charge. The funding came from the organisations who used the pages to advertise what was going on, and many generous supporters, some from outside the parish. There was also great support from Sexey's School where the magazine is printed for a very reasonable amount.

If the PN disappears then there will be a void in the dispensing of information in the parish. The only places where events will be advertised will be the three notice boards.

It is not an empty threat that the last edition will be in December. The *Pitcombe News* can be saved if there are one or two members of the Parish who will lend a hand. Please contact Sue Chamberlain and offer your services. *Ken Elliott*

HADSPEN VILLAGE HALL

The autumn session has got off to a splendid start. The Harvest Supper was a great community success, with funds being raised for both the church and the hall. Tickets sold out fast, so there were a few disappointments. A big thank you to all those who helped organise and run the event, with special thanks to the ladies of catering committee who once again produced an excellent harvest supper and our auctioneers who produced a tidy sum for the coffers of the Village Hall and the Church.



Other events have also proved popular. The life model painting classes on Tuesday is running at near capacity. The Italian Renaissance Art course started on 11 October attracting more participants than expected causing a few problems in the car park! The course so far has been highly praised, and it is expected that a follow on course will run early in the New Year. The Tuesday evening keep fit class has plenty of room for anyone wishing to join and improve their fitness – a gentle class suitable for all levels.

The U3A History group now meets at the hall on the first Monday of each month. Members of the bowls team invited residents from Highfield House retirement home to try their hand at bowls. This was very successful, and will now feature as an occasional Wednesday afternoon activity. We cater for all – from the very young to the not so young!

Coming up, so put the dates in your diary now

The Village Hall AGM is scheduled for 18 November and members of the community are most welcome to attend.

The Christmas Market for MOTIVATION is on 20 November.

The Village Hall Christmas Party is on 11 December, reserve your tickets now too avoid disappointment.

There are several other parties and receptions planned during the run up to Christmas.

The committee is always seeking new members, all skill levels required, so why not come along and join the Village Hall Committee, you would be most welcome.

Jim Linden, Chairman Trustees - 01749 813145

Hadspen Short — Mat Bowls Club Seventh Annual Meeting

We are now completing our seventh year and are still in fine fettle. The membership is now 12 which means that we are just about able to fulfil our match commitments.

We met some tough opposition in Division One Winter League and gave quite a good account of ourselves but not sufficient to avoid relegation to Division Two. However, we did fare a little better in Division Two of the Summer League.

The Club Championship was held again this year thanks to Peter Wyatt who also won the Club Championship Cup. After the match a supper party was held in the Hall which was greatly enjoyed by all present.

Hadspen S.M Bowls Club is now a force to be reckoned with and members of the Club have played in a number of weekend Competitions throughout the season frequently reaching the semi-finals and finals.

Short-Mat Bowling is a very sociable sport. It really does not take a long time to develop enough skill to make it enjoyable nor does it require a high degree of physical fitness. Thus it is a valuable enterprise in keeping communities together.

Over the past year or two we have given a lot of support and encouragement to Charlton Musgrove Village Hall Committee not only with the rebuilding of their Hall but also in the formation of a Bowls Club. We have asked them to join in our Club nights.

Finally, thank you all the members for their great support and commitment throughout the year and in particular to Stephen Wheadon our Team Captain and Carol Wyatt our Secretary who have helped the Club to reach and maintain a very high standard.

W G Constantine, Chairman, Hadspen Short Mat Bowling Club



Hadspen Wine Club

The wine club had been saving its pennies, perhaps pounds would be more accurate for a long time, to spend on a really special occasion. No one was quite sure what that occasion would be, but we would know it when we saw it. And then out of the blue came an invitation from the Shepton Mallet Chamber of Commerce to share an evening with them and Master of Wine Richard Bampffield.



If I tell you that the wine tasting began with champagne you will know exactly how good an evening it was. And not any old champagne but Moët & Chandon PINK champagne. How good was it going to be?

But to start at the very beginning, he first presented us all with a pinot noir grape from his greenhouse, picked that morning, which we ate under strict instructions first, sucking out the clear juice before tasting the skin and the tannins it holds. Quite unlike a table grape.

Three glasses of white wine were then arraigned before us. What could we tell from looking at them? Smelling them? Tasting them? Where were they from? We were bombarded with questions and mercifully answers. One was a 2009 chardonnay from Chapel Down with a light alcoholic content, the second a 2007 Meursault from Burgundy and well worth its £25 price tag, I might add and the third a Chenin Blanc from South Africa.

Then on to the effect of tannins and three glasses of red wine were placed before us. A 2005 Bordeaux, a 2005 Rioja and a 2006 Malbec from Argentina. We were rather quieter than usual at a Wine Club Meeting, we were all too busy listening to what Richard had to tell us and tasting and doing all the right things. Incidentally, he was very high on the Malbec that Argentina is now producing.

The evening was not without its pitfalls, we ended with a test. From unlabeled bottles he poured us a sip of white wine. Old or New World? That caught out just one or two. Northern or southern Europe? That caught out more. Name that country? That caught all but one canny woman. It was from Chapel Down. For the first year ever, conditions were right this year to make a still wine from the Pinot noir grapes normally only used in their sparkling wine.

It was a superb evening, hugely enjoyed by everyone and our thanks go not only to Richard Bampffield but to Barbara and David Bates who know a good opportunity when they see it. *sec*

THE REUNION

It's a strange phenomenon – the comradeship of ex-service personnel, but if you have served in Her Majesty's Armed Forces in whatever capacity, you automatically have a mutual affinity with one another. In my case, over 50 years ago I joined the Women's Royal Army Corps (WRAC) and recently I found myself on a train from Castle Cary to Solihull for a WRAC Dinner Club reunion.

I joined the WRAC Association and also the Dinner Club about four years ago, hoping to make contact with girls I had served with but lost touch. Over the years through different Forces' sites I had managed to reach others who had served at the same time as me but not in the same Regiment (Royal Signals) nor at the same postings.

In 2008 I went up to Blackpool for a big reunion (550+ ladies) and made a number of new contacts and friends. The highlight of that weekend was Church Parade and then the march-pass along the sea front in a howling gale - I hadn't marched for nearly 50 years but it's like riding a bike . . .

Back to Solihull, just imagine, 220 plus 'girls' of a certain age all trying to talk at the same time, catching up with old friends, making new ones. The noise level had to be heard to be believed.

We were all booked into a very central hotel - good travel links, shops and restaurants etc. On Saturday evening we had the Dinner, 22 tables each holding 10 ladies – I had previously met 2 on my table, at the end of the evening I had made 7 new friends. Over £1000 was raised for charity during the evening through various raffles – the large cuddly monkey I won was put back into the haul to be re raffled – I didn't think I could manage that together with my case on the return train journey, and anyway, what would I do with it when I got it home . . . maybe the Village Hall Christmas Party? Sorry folks, just too big to carry.

I came away from the weekend, rejuvenated and full of hope, with many new friends and looking forward to next year's Dinner.

Jenny Jones



COMPUTER BYTES



Scam Delivery Email: Security experts are warning of a new email scam that uses email attachments.

The attack uses emails claiming to be from courier service FedEx, warning that a package could not be delivered due to an address problem. The recipient is asked to print out an attached form to claim it. The attachment, however, contains malicious software. Don't attempt to open it – delete it immediately!

BT offers Fibre Broadband Deal: BT has launched an initiative to promote its new 'fibre-optic broadband service. The company said people who sign up to one of its current bundled services will get the chance to upgrade to BT fibre services free when the technology becomes available in their area. The telecommunications giant said that for most people this is likely to be before 2015.

Delete Emails Permanently: Deleting emails in Outlook Express/Windows Mail does not actually delete messages. Rather, emails are marked as 'ready to be deleted' by moving them from the Inbox to the Deleted Items folder. Like old files that float around in the Windows Recycle Bin, this makes it easier to recover emails that may be accidentally deleted. To completely delete emails and free up space, you will need to periodically empty the Deleted Items in that folder by right clicking it and selecting 'Empty Deleted Items Folder'; once a week should be often enough. Alternatively go to your Deleted Folder, click on EDIT and select 'Empty Deleted Files Folder'. *Maria Samuel* (woodcott13@btinternet.com)



FASHION TIP

If you buy only one thing this year, make it a scarf, long or square. If you want long, make it very long with fringing. If a square is more your style, make it drapery, very drapery, with the must have fringing and an animal print will really rock!

Try Accessorize, M&S, high street chain stores. But to make you really drool, check out the Liberty of London website but you can watch videos on how to tie a scarf FREE.

Treasures from Budapest, Royal Academy

The exhibition shows paintings, drawings and sculpture from collections in Budapest.

After the failure of the Hungarian War of Independence in the late 1840s, the Habsburg Empire became a Dual Monarchy, an equal partnership between Austria and Hungary, with Budapest as the new capital of Hungary. The Museum of Fine Arts was founded at the end of the nineteenth century, and in 1957 the Hungarian National Gallery became the home of all Hungarian works of art. The collections were mostly built up by the Esterhazy family, the most important Hungarian aristocrats of the eighteenth and nineteenth centuries.

One of the main pleasures is to see unfamiliar works by otherwise familiar artists such as two delightful paintings by Goya, *Knife-grinder* and *Water-carrier*, as well as some of the many royal portraits he painted. Northern Europe is represented by lovely landscapes by Ruysdael and Cuyp. Among the outstanding exhibits are the *St Andrew Altarpiece*, the *Esterhazy Madonna* by Raphael and Leonardo da Vinci's *Studies for the Heads of Two Soldiers in the Battle of Anghiari*.

Two other quite different paintings that caught the eye were "The animals entering the ark" by Jan Brueghel the Elder and a wonderful portrait of the 90-year-old Pope: Leo XIII by Philip de Laszlo, a Hungarian-born British painter, painted in 1900.

This exhibition occupies the extensive space on the first floor of the academy and it might have been better to have mounted a smaller and more selective exhibition, but there are enough gems to make the experience worthwhile. To 12 December. *MS*



WORD OF THE MONTH – Agrestic

Pertaining to fields or the country; rural; rustic.

The funniest and most **agrestic** of all his paintings were, undoubtedly, the cows. Robert Hughes

Singapore — Bangkok by Eastern & Oriental Express

It seems particularly appropriate this month to continue Carole's account of her holiday on the E & O as she describes a visit to the River Kwai area, where so many lives were lost during WWII. (Ed)

The area around the Bridge over the River Kwai is rather commercialised as you would expect, but our party went on a large raft towed down the river by a long tail boat. During the trip an Australian, in charge of all the Allied graves in that area, gave a talk about the Burma/Thai railway, and how Japan came to invade Burma and the Malay Peninsula and build the railway to support the Army in its attempts to invade India.

In January 43 all work on the railway ceased for a short period as the Japanese surveyors' calculations were out by a kilometre. However by May 43 the Japanese army in Burma, now almost cut off from a supply line by sea, needed a speedy completion of the railway from Thailand to sustain their battles of attrition with the British 14th Army and therefore decreed that the railways must be completed by October 1943. Failure to do so would be regarded as treason.

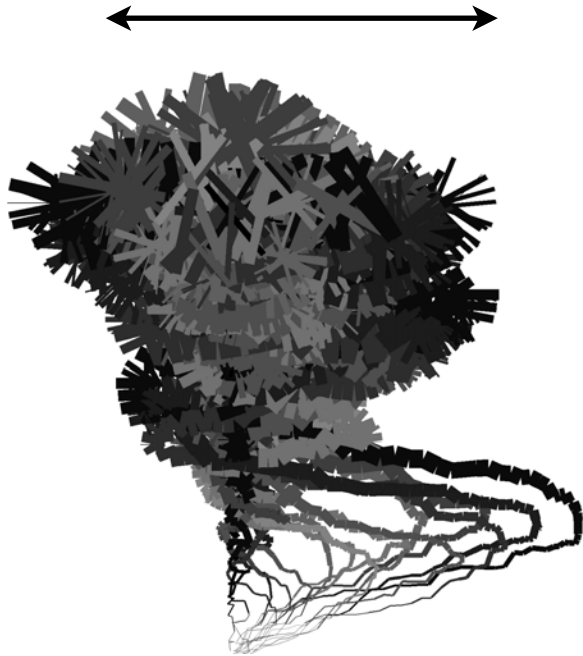
'Speedo' went into action at the start of an early monsoon season, an unabated torrent of rainfall that lasted until October. This disastrous start saw completed tracks and bridges washed away by raging flood waters. The routes for bringing food supplies were blocked. These conditions caused new outbreaks of diseases such as cholera and led to a desperate struggle by both prisoners and Asian labourers for survival. They had non-stop work shifts of a minimum 18 hours rising to 30 when considered necessary; rock removal rates were raised daily and sickness of prisoners only recognised if patients were actually prostrate. The monsoon rains weren't considered relevant. The two lines met at Konkuita in October. The Burma teams had constructed 152 km of track and those from Thailand, 263 km.

Official Japanese figures state that the total POW labour force employed on the job was 68,888. In addition, some 200,000 Asian workers were 'recruited' at a wage of 1 Straits dollar a day. British records claim that

13,000 Australian, 30,000 British, 18,000 Dutch and 700 American POWs worked on the railway and that more than 16,000 died in its construction. Many were interred in cemeteries established by the POWs themselves beside the numerous camps along the line, others were buried where they fell. Although precise numbers are not known at least 80 - 100,000 Asian labourers also died.

We went on to visit the War Museum and one of the cemeteries. It was beautiful and well kept, a very fitting tribute. Their remains were actually buried there. The bodies had been exhumed from the mass burial grounds and because the Japanese kept very good records they were able to rebury them using dna technology.

We eventually arrived in Bangkok Railway Station at about 4.30pm, disembarking somewhat heavier than when we embarked, and caught a taxi, driven by the only taxi driver in Bangkok who didn't speak any English! But, we did arrive at our hotel down by the river and enjoyed the next three days exploring Bangkok. ACW



**Make your own Christmas cards
call GILES 01749 812 393
to learn how**

CHRISTMAS PARTY
Hadspen Village Hall
Saturday 11 December
Full details next month

Reserve your tickets now call
Cole - Willie Constantine 01749 813103
Hadspen - Liz Thomas 01963 350556
Pitcombe - David Jury 01749 812149



hft (HOME FARM TRUST) ANNUAL CHRISTMAS FAIR
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SAT 27 NOVEMBER
10.0am - 1.30pm entrance 50p

**Come and shop at our wonderful stalls including our famous DELICA-
TESSEN, CAKE STALL, TRASH and TREASURE and CHILDREN'S TOYS
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TLEMEN'S WARDROBE STALL.**

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St. Leonard's Church



November 2010

<p>7 Nov 6.30pm</p>	<p>PATRONAL FESTIVAL</p> <p>Visit of BISHOP OF BATH AND WELLS</p> <p>2nd Sunday before Advent</p>	<p>Old Testament Job 19 v 23 - 27</p> <p>New Testament Luke 20 v 27 - 38</p>	<p>Peter Wyatt</p> <p>Ken Elliott</p> <p>Psalm 17 v 1 - 9</p>
<p>14 Nov 10.50am</p>	<p>REMEMBRANCE SUNDAY</p> <p>First Sunday before Advent</p>	<p>Old Testament Micah 4 v 1 - 5</p> <p>New Testament Revelations 21 v 1 - 7</p>	<p>George Bunting</p> <p>Charles Ducane</p>
<p>21 Nov 9.30am</p>	<p>CLUSTER SERVICE Lamyatt</p> <p>Christ the King</p>		
<p>28 Nov 11.0am</p>	<p>Holy Communion BCP</p> <p>First Sunday in Advent</p>	<p>Epistle 1 Corinthians 1 v 3 - 9</p> <p>New Testament Mark 13 v 24 - 37</p>	<p>Charles Brook</p> <p>Clergy</p>

Diary Notes

Please note that the service on the first Sunday of the month will in future be Matins at 9.30am.

The Christmas Carol Service, will be held on Friday 17 December
Ken Elliott, Lay vice-chairman Pitcombe PCC

ST. LEONARD'S CHURCH

Two important events are shortly to take place at St. Leonard's. The PATRONAL FESTIVAL with a visit from the Bishop of Bath and Wells. The service of Evensong takes place at 6.30 p.m. on Sunday 7 November. There will be a small choir from St. Mary's Bruton who will sing an anthem but there will be plenty of opportunity for the congregation to raise the roof as well.

Following the service there will be a reception in Hadspen Village Hall when the Bishop hopes to meet as many parishioners as possible. He also hopes that there will be plenty of young people present.

REMEMBRANCE SUNDAY, November 14. Please remember to be seated by 10.50 so that the service can start at that time. This is to enable the Act of Remembrance to take place with the Last Post at precisely 11.00. Medals should be worn and those of relatives may be carried.

This is always one of the best attended services in the year and will be conducted by Canon Alan Watson. Many people have always preferred a service in a small country church to the rather more flamboyant parades and bands. We hope that again there will be a large congregation.

Carol Singing Saturday 18 December



Oh come all ye faithful
Sing yourself into the Christmas spirit and
help raise funds for St Leonard's. Refreshments and
laughs along the way. For details contact Katherine Clark:
01963 359008 or hadspencottage@btinternet.com

The River Brue's Historic Bridges

In his book "Bridges of Britain" Geoffrey Wright writes:

"Most bridges are fascinating, many are beautiful, particularly those spanning rivers in naturally attractive settings. The graceful curves and rhythms of arches, the texture of stone, the cold hardness of iron, the stark simplicity of iron, form constant contrasts with the living fluidity of the water which flows beneath."

I cannot add anything to that — it is exactly what I see and feel when walking the rivers of Somerset and discover such a bridge.

From source to sea there are 58 bridges that span the River Brue, they range from the simple plank bridge to the enormity of the structures that carry the M5 Motorway. This article will look at the history behind some of those bridges.

From the river's source the first bridge of note is Church Bridge in South Brewham, with its downstream arch straddling the river between two buildings. The existing bridge is circa 18C but there was a bridge recorded here in 1258. Reaching Bruton, we find Church Bridge described by John Leland in 1525 as the " Est Bridge of 3 Archys of Stone", so not dissimilar to what we have today, but in 1757 the bridge was much narrower "barely wide enough for a carriage" and was widened on the east side sometime in the early part of the 19C. Close by we find that wonderful medieval Bow Bridge or Packhorse Bridge constructed in the 15th century with its graceful slightly pointed chamfered arch. On the west side of Bruton we have a much younger structure, Legg's Bridge built in 1930 is an early example of a single wide span arch reinforced concrete bridge. It was built by Edward Stead, County Surveyor and was one of many such structures built by Stead in Somerset. The original bridge was noted in the early 18th century as being of 3 arches.

At Gants Mill and Cole Farm the river flows beneath the viaducts of the Victorian railways built in the 1860's before arriving at probably the oldest existing bridge on the river, Wyke Champflower Bridge, constructed sometime in the 15C with two pointed arches with double arch rings built of very rough masonry and a massive cutwater on the upstream side and a buttress downstream. It's a wonderful and important bridge noted by its scheduled monument status. In the reign of Charles II it was noted in the Quarter Session Records as being in a great decay — "On information that an ancient common bridge in Weeke Champflower near Brewton on the highroad from Weymouth to Bristol is in great decay; the Court desires

Peter, Bishop of Bath and Wells, Maurice, Viscount Fitzhardinge, and Robert Hunt, Thomas Wyndham, George Horner, Richard Crosse, Henry Bull,

Esquires, and Thomas Holt, D.D., justices, to view the bridge before next Sessions, enquire who ought to repair it, and, if it be a county bridge, ascertain the cost of repairing it."

Next we find Ansford Bridge constructed in 1823 to replace a bridge located downstream and known as Woodmill Bridge with a "great stone arch" this bridge fell in 1696 and was replaced with one of two arches. The existing bridge is a single arch.

Bridgefoot Bridge which carries the Fosseway over the Brue was built in 1820 at a cost of £248 to replace the Fosse bridge which was a little way downstream and demolished around the same time. Currently the downstream side is as the original single segmental arch with a 25 ft span.

At the Quarter Sessions held in 1632 it was reported that "the two Comon bridges lying over the river at West Lidford are now become founderous and are like to be further Decayed without some speedy Course bee forth with taken to repair them." Here, at West Lydford, we have a bridge of true beauty, mainly due to the workmanship of one Richard Carver, a stonemason who restored the bridge in 1846 by rebuilding the abutments and four cutwaters, repaired the arches, and built blue lias parapets with five segmented floodwater arches.

Next time I will be looking at the bridges between Lydford and the sea at Highbridge. You can find images of a number of bridges on my Somerset Rivers website, www.somersetivers.org, and remember, the next time you are crossing one of these bridges, the history that lies beneath.

David Jury

Things I cannot live without

The pencil sharpener with the red nail polish (sexy siren) dot. Why the dot? Because I bought two identical ones so that one would always be to hand. Sexy siren is brilliant, the other, not to put too fine a point on it, is rubbish.



The Jubilee Hall, Batcombe
Doors open 7.15pm
Screening 7.45pm

Friday 12th November 2010

WELCOME

(dir. Philippe Lioret)
mins / 15

2009 / 109

Bilal (Firat Ayverdi) is a Kurdish teenager stuck in Calais and desperate to join his girlfriend in London. At the local swimming pool he meets Simon, a disaffected swimming instructor (played by Vincent Lindon), and in an effort to impress his estranged wife Simon risks everything by taking Bilal under his wing. Although the film's title is ironic and the subject suggests a grim portrayal of the lives of migrants, this is only the backdrop to the touching father-son relationship that develops between Bilal and Simon. Winner of three awards at the 2009 Berlin International Film Festival and a box office hit in France.
(French with subtitles)

Licensed Bar ~ Soft Refreshments

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**Membership and advance reservations:
ROB SAGE 01749 850934**

**Information on our films:
ELIZABETH HUNT 01749 850304**



HADSPEN CHRISTMAS MARKET

on
Saturday 20 November
from 10 am to 3 pm

at
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

