

Pitcombe News



October 2007

The PITCOMBE NEWS welcomes contributions from its readers.



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The DEADLINE for the October issue is
Friday 19 October

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

PITCOMBE NEWS

This month's profile on page 6 is of the instantly recognisable Philip Mellor with his head of wonderfully thick, curly silver hair, the envy of every man in Hadspen certainly, and of most of the women too!

Willie Constantine is another recognisable character as he flies through the valley on his bike. He raised £338 from his sponsors on a ride last month for Somerset Churches. He and his wife Jean, who raised money for the Village Hall last month, make a nonsense of the word retired. As well as fundraising, being on various Committees, they both play golf and tennis, Jean does exquisite needlework and in their spare time, they run a B and B.

Leaves you feeling a bit breathless, doesn't it?

Charles Brook has written a very interesting guide to the Human Rights Act. It is more than possible that one or three or even more of you will respond. We welcome your replies in no more than 350 words please, by e or snail mail.

As usual, we have the indispensable computer bytes article. Maria Samuel does all the spade work (if that's the right way of putting it) to make things easier for you. If only the manuals were written in such user friendly prose.

As the gardening season draws to a close (well, it does for the less stalwart of us), Camilla Carter takes a break from her gardening column. With 101 things to do, she is trying to cut down to 100. We hope to reorganise her again in 2008.

In the meantime, is there someone who could fill in? Help with DIY projects comes to mind, or a bridge problem maybe. Use your imagination, mine is running out.

So, all in all, we have an interesting mix for you this month which we hope you will enjoy reading.

The PITCOMBE NEWS may also be viewed at a click on

www.pitcombepc.org.uk/news.htm

Book mark it now.

Susan Chamberlain

HADSPEN VILLAGE HALL

Last night was tinged with sadness as it was the last Management Committee meeting to be held in the old Village Hall but despite our feelings of nostalgia it was business as usual moving forward the project of building the new village hall.

There are still some grant applications in the pipeline as we are actively fundraising for phase 2 – the new entrance and car park in the orchard. We were very pleased to be informed last week that Hall & Woodhouse together with the Blackmore Vale Magazine have awarded us a small grant which will be presented to the office holders on Saturday evening, 29 September at the Brewery at Blandford. They don't give any information about the actual grant until the evening but every little bit helps!

I am pleased to confirm that the builders, R B Snook Building Ltd., will be demolishing the old hall week commencing 8 October and have given a completion date of 4 May 2008. The Committee will be emptying and dismantling all the Hall equipment on 2 and 3 October for storage at Grove Farm and various other places before the demolition machinery moves in. The Short Mat Bowls Club will be moving their equipment to North Barrow Village Hall where they will hold their club nights and play their winter season Yeovil League matches.

Those of you who visit the Pitcombe Trust website may already know that David Jury is very kindly designing and building a website for the Village Hall. Once the work on the new hall gets underway you will be able to follow progress by logging on to HYPERLINK "<http://www.hadspenvillagehall.org>"

During the last month we enjoyed a wonderful photographic trip around south east Asia with Colin Anthony who very generously travelled from Essex to entertain us, then went to the climatic extreme with photographs of the glaciers and wildlife of South Georgia with Hamish and Gill Craig which again was a thoroughly entertaining evening. Thanks to everyone who has contributed and supported our series of lectures over the last ten months.

Peter Wyatt, Chairman

Two dates for your diary

Thursday, 22 November at 8.00pm

Hadspen Village Hall AGM – venue to be announced next month.

Saturday 8 December at 10.30am

Join us for coffee and biscuits at Shepton Montague Village Hall and take part in our Gourmet raffle. (More details in next month's edition).

The Parish Council Meetings in future will be held at a meeting room in Sunny Hill School

***The next Council Meeting ***

Tuesday 9 October at 7.30pm

PROFILE

For the last few years, Philip Mellor has recited, most movingly, Laurence Binyon's, "For the Fallen" at the Remembrance Day Service at St. Leonard's. He is well qualified on two counts, for he is both a veteran of WWII and of the theatre.

Philip was 17 when war broke out and training to be an architect. But within a year, he had volunteered for the Army and found himself in the Royal Engineers. After preliminary training he was sent to OCTU in Aldershot for six months, emerging as 2nd Lieut. Mellor and attached to a RE Unit outside Norwich. There he trained by blowing up trees and rather more intently by mining and fixing charges to hundreds of bridges in East Anglia which could be blown up if we were invaded.

In early 1942, he set sail for N. Africa to join the elite 78th 'Battleaxe' Division. In April, the campaign to take Tunisia began which they succeeded in doing a mere six months later. After a celebratory parade in Tunis, Philip and his platoon set sail for Sicily.

The remarkable ENIGMA machine was up and running by this time and was used to mislead the Germans into thinking that they would be landing on the Northern beaches. Instead they waded ashore on a southern beach to be met by nothing more hostile than a friendly Italian selling watermelons. Refreshed, they took their equipment ashore, including the D4 bulldozers, Gert and Daisy and the much larger D8, Tiger Lil. The biggest problem they encountered was the proximity of Mount Etna which meant that the mine sweepers would not work properly. Instead, Philip and his sappers had to prod the ground ahead, oh so carefully, with the blade of a bayonet.

After the conquest of Sicily they crossed to the toe of Italy and started the long drive north. One of the early barriers was a blown bridge over the Biferno, which had to be replaced with an 80 foot Bailey Bridge. It took about 12 hours all the while under fire from German Tiger tanks. Philip was awarded a Military Cross for this distinct act of bravery.

Bailey bridges were very skillfully designed from a set of standardised components enabling them to be assembled quickly and easily. There wasn't usually a lot of time to spare. A panel could be carried by 6 men, and linked to other panels by a locking pin. How many panels

were needed depended not only on carefully measuring the gap but also assessing the traffic and weight the bridge would have to bear. As each section was built, the bridge would be pushed out on rollers and carefully lowered to the ground at the other end.

After bridging the Trigno and 4 other rivers, they crossed to the west coast and came up against the formidable Monte Cassino. Under cover of smoke shells and at night, Philip and a section of his men were ordered to clear mines around Castle Hill. Following heavy shelling and the loss of some of his men, they were forced to retreat. Three times the Brits attacked but it was the air attack from the Americans that eventually gave the allies success and it was the Polish army that finally took the monastery.

From Monte Cassino the idea was to push through the Liri valley to Rome. Easier said than done. The route was mined. Sappers to the fore again. Whenever there was anything particularly difficult, or "a bit tricky" as he puts it, Philip turned to the Geordies. They were the most reliable of men, they would and could do anything. This was the case when the North Irish Horse tanks got bogged down in a minefield. And once again, slowly, ever so slowly, prodding the ground with bayonets, he and his men guided the tanks through yet another minefield. This act of heroism won Philip a second Military Cross.

Still driving northwards, they made their way to the River Po unopposed building roads and bridges as they went.

For his last posting, the by now, Major Philip Mellor, M.C and bar, took command of a company in Pola, Yugoslavia. Driving to Trieste, from where he was due to be 'demobbed'. he stopped to take a photograph of the Italian liner REX to the great consternation of some Yugoslav soldiers who promptly arrested him. It was sorted out and he was let go but the camera, a Leica, was confiscated. On reporting this to HQ, he was told to live at their expense at the best hotel in Trieste until it was returned, which was nearly 4 months later. Meanwhile with nothing to do he became involved with the Northern Forces Italian radio network doing everything from writing, to adapting plays to performing in them. And so, his second career was born.

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COMPUTER BYTES

Windows Vista:

A common way of opening programs from the Windows Desktop is by double-clicking on the relevant application icon. Launching programs with a single click is much easier. To be able to do this, first open any folder, open the TOOLS menu and choose FOLDER OPTIONS. On the GENERAL tab, use the 'CLICK ITEMS as follows' section to alter the clicking preference: select 'Single click to open an item' and then click OK to close the Folder Options dialogue box. Now, all Desktop icons will open with a single click, if you don't like it, simply follow this tip to reverse the change. Bet you won't!

Windows – (general): On the Launch Pad

The Quick Launch toolbar enables you to open programs with just one click. It sits to the right of the START button and can be turned on or off by right-clicking a blank area of the Taskbar, selecting TOOLBARS then QUICK LAUNCH. To add a program icon to this area, right-click it on the Windows Desktop or START menu, drag it on to QUICK LAUNCH, release the mouse button and choose CREATE SHORTCUTS HERE. To remove unwanted icons, right-click DELETE. To make your QUICK LAUNCH icons larger, right-click any black part of the TASKBAR, select VIEW then LARGE ICONS.

Rail Information:

Helpful for day to day journeys. National Rail Enquiries includes the Online Journey Planner. The Live Departures and Arrivals board warns of delays on the networks and it is possible to buy tickets as well. There are special pages for mobile devices and timetables that can be printed.

www.nationalrail.co.uk

Permanently Erase Unwanted Files – ERASER 5.84 Freeware)

If selling your computer, you may want to delete personal information. Eraser makes sure that files cannot be recovered.

www.computeractive.co.uk/2140558

A (very) simple guide to the Human Rights Act

Amongst the chattering classes there is much confusion about the Human Rights Act and much misinformation in the media. I suspect that this is because very few people have actually read the Act. Had they done so, I do not think that they would be so quick to criticise judicial decisions.

My view is that no sentient being can seriously object to the provisions of the Act since it protects the society we enjoy. Sometimes its aims can be distorted but such occasions, which receive massive publicity, do not undermine the guiding principles to which I think all can subscribe.

There are three types of Rights, absolute, limited and qualified. There are no circumstances when breaching an individual's absolute rights can be acceptable. These include the right to life, the prohibition of slavery, the prohibition of torture and inhuman and degrading treatment, the right to a fair trial (which is part limited, see below) and the prohibition of punishment without lawful authority. Do you dissent?

The prohibition of forced labour, the right to liberty and security, the right to marry and the right to a fair trial are limited rights. This means that they can be interfered with only if the method of interference is set out in the article itself. For example, the right of an individual to liberty (Article 5) can be interfered with by a custodial sentence, by detention to bring someone before a Court or by a remand in custody or the imposition of a bail condition that is designed to prevent further offending or a failure to attend Court.

Respect for private and family life, freedom of assembly, thought, conscience, expression and religion and prohibition of discrimination are all examples of qualified rights. They can be interfered with only to achieve one of the aims in the article. For example, the respect for private and family life (Article 8) can be interfered with in the interests of national security, public safety, the economic wellbeing of the country, the protection of health and morals and the freedoms of others. Does this not seem eminently sensible?

This is clearly a huge field and one set about with traps for the unwary but there seems to me little logic in overhauling the Act.

Charles Brook

NOTES FROM A HADSPEN GARDEN

Over the summer I have had the opportunity to visit several stunning gardens. Without doubt, the best was Bloxworth House in Dorset. It is the home of garden designer Martin Lane-Fox who has remodelled the garden within the last ten years, making it breathtakingly beautiful. If any reader gets the chance to go next year they should grab the opportunity immediately.

The next best was Caroline Egremont's private garden at Petworth House. She is also a professional garden designer and her enfilade through the old walled gardens was magnificent. The vast pergola has been planted with long white wisteria which was at its best when I was there. The swimming pool was so discreetly hidden behind vast yew hedges that she had to cut a small opening to enable her friends to find it. Changing rooms for the pool were designed from two squares of yew hedge each fitted with a simple bench, his and hers, very elegant.

Peter Carey's (of the internet gardening company Crocus) garden in Herefordshire was interesting. His garden designer Tom Stuart-Smith had built a length of shallow stone edged steps about 14 feet apart to overcome a slope up to the house, producing a simple but stunning effect. Diggers moved a huge area of ground to open a view to the lake from the house. Peter's grandfather had had the lake dug in the 1940's; it had been a dream of his while a prisoner during the WWII.

Highgrove in comparison was rather disappointing. There are without doubt some beautiful parts to HRH's garden however too much was going on; too many friends having had a fiddle, too many designers, too much of everything, it leaves the visitor feeling exhausted. That is not to say that I didn't really enjoy my afternoon there or enjoy the thoroughly good tea that we were spoiled with after the visit.

The same could be said for Roy Strong's garden The Laskett. One longed to say "Roy keep the clipped avenues, the engraved slate plaques to the cats and loved ones, the stag with gilded antlers but please simplify the connecting areas. Not every square inch needs to be clipped and trimmed". A piece of grass planted with wild cyclamen or something similar would have been more soothing to the soul.

Many may moan about this summer but I have had a lovely time. I only have to do an autumn tidy up to be able to settle in for the winter and plan next season.

Camilla Carter

VOLUNTEER DRIVERS ARE URGENTLY NEEDED

Do you own a car and have some spare time to help members of your community? We urgently need volunteer drivers to take local people to hospital appointments in various locations such as Bristol, Dorchester, Yeovil, Taunton and Bath. We are especially short of drivers in the Milborne Port, Henstridge, Templecombe and Wincanton areas, but welcome drivers from anywhere within the District.

Drivers are paid a mileage allowance, currently 38p a mile, to cover fuel and other costs and the scheme holds insurance which will protect your insurance excess and no claims discount.

All journeys are on a voluntary basis, you choose the ones you are happy to undertake. This is a worthwhile and rewarding way to help members of your community.

Applicants will need to undergo Criminal Records Bureau checks before taking up post.

For further details please ring: Andy Chilton on 01963 34594

ALLEGRIAS COFFEE MORNING

On 6 September a successful sale of Allegrias products took place in Hadspen Village Hall. There was a good attendance by local ladies and their friends who took the opportunity to sample the tempting clothes and jewellery. Fortunately they were generous enough to spend £1,000 in a couple of hours which raised £100 for the Village Hall Fund and a further £90 was generated by the raffle and delicious coffee and cakes provided by Carole Wyatt and Liz Thomas.

This was an excellent result and I am grateful to all those who attended, spent their money and helped in one way or another. Not only did it boost the current fund-raising, but it provided a social morning for the community.

Jean Constantine

MEMORIES OF MARY ATKINS (nee THICK) 25/12/1928 – 02/09/2007

Born in Bruton on Christmas Day 1928, Mary lived next door to a young Lewis Atkins until 1943 when the family moved to the 'Railway Hotel' in Cole. Mary went to Pitcombe School briefly, and attended Sunday School in Pitcombe, and church as she became older. After passing the 11+, Mary went to Bruton School for Girls (Sunnyhill). Little did she know then, that she would return to work there for around 20 years, after marriage and the birth of her son Martin.

Lew (Will) Atkins remained a close friend of Mary's, and in September 1956, they were married in Bruton Church. They rented a small flat in Castle Cary for a year or more, but it wasn't long before the bungalow at Derwent, Pitcombe, came up for sale and Mary returned 'home'.

The Somerset & Dorset Railway played an important part in Mary's life. Not only did she help run the 'Railway Hotel', but her brother Fred was signalman at Cole Station, and her father Bob, ran a coal business from the pub. Mary relied on the railway for transport. Then in 1966, heavily pregnant with Martin, she took her final ride on a S & D steam train, a very sad day for her. When Martin started school, Mary became House Keeper at Sunnyhill in which she took great pride, many of the boarders seeing her as a mother figure. Recently we came across a photo of a Sunnyhill girl, on which was written 'To my lovely Mum, I will love you forever', simple words that sum up my feelings today.

Mary's husband Lew ran a small haulage business for many years. When he joined the workforce at Sunnyhill as Maintenance and Grounds man, Mary was really happy and from then on they really were inseparable. On reaching retirement age, Mary waited a few more years so that they could retire together.

Latterly, Mary was a huge support to the family and myself. She was blessed with two lovely granddaughters – whom she called 'Granny's little Buttercup and Butterfly'. Together, Mary and Lew were known as 'Old Mummy and Old Daddy', a role she loved dearly.

Finally, earlier this year, Mary received devastating news. All she said was, 'why me?' Her battle with cancer was so brave, she never complained, and handled herself with such dignity. Her husband and family continued to care for her, and on 2 September 2007, a day after their 51st Wedding Anniversary, she passed away peacefully at home.
(As told by Niki Atkins – Daughter-in-law)

St Leonard's Church

Services for October 2007

Date	Service/Time	Readings	Readers
Oct 07	No Service		
Oct 14	Holy Communion 9.30am 19th Sunday after Trinity	2 Timothy 2:8-15 Luke 17:11-19	Charles Brook Clergy
Oct 21	Morning Prayer 9.30am 20th Sunday after Trinity	Genesis 32:7-14 Luke 18:1-8	Ken Elliott Peter Wyatt
Oct 28	Holy Communion 11.00am Last Sunday after Trinity	Ephesians 2:19-22 John 15:17-27	Carole Wyatt Clergy

Special Services at St. Leonard's

Patronal Festival - Sunday 4 November 6.30pm

This is an important day for St. Leonard's as it is our Saint's Day. Evensong will be sung at 6.30pm and will be enhanced by the choir of St. Mary's Bruton. As usual on this occasion there will be a drink and light refreshments afterwards.

The Churchwardens and PCC hope that there will be a full church on this day, and there may be visitors from other parishes.

Remembrance Sunday 11 November at 10.50am

Please note the time. The service starts at this time in order for the two minutes silence to take place at exactly 11 a.m.

As you know Preb. John Parfitt has taken this service for many years but he is now very committed in his new parish and despite being retired he is taking several services each Sunday.

We shall be pleased this year to welcome Canon Frank Fisher who has been to Pitcombe before.

On this occasion medals are usually worn. Over the last ten years or so this service has attracted one of the largest congregations of the year.

We will try to have plenty of parking spaces available but it is advisable to be early

.Ken Elliott

CHURCHWARDEN'S NOTES

Another month is passing us by, and we look forward to Christmas and our annual Carol service. By the time you read this Harvest Festival and supper will have come and gone, this being the last event in the OLD Village Hall.

Just as we can have a new beginning in Christ, so let us all have a new beginning in the new village hall.

We said farewell this last month to Mary Atkins, who will be sadly missed by the community.

'We ought to pay much more closer attention than ever to the truths that we have heard, lest in any way we drift past them and slip away.'
Hebrews 2:1

May God be with you and I look forward to seeing you all at the Patronal Festival and Remembrance Service.

Wendy Crane, Churchwarden.

A note from the Churchwarden temporal

The contract for re-roofing St Leonard's, erecting a lightning conductor and renewing the drains was signed on 10 September. The work, which will take 16 weeks to complete, is scheduled to start some time between the middle of October and the middle of November, probably around November 1.

The first task will be to build a box round the organ and we don't yet know whether it will be playable. There may have to be a keyboard and speakers but the churchwarden at High Ham told me that their new electronic system sounds better than the organ they threw out. This is to afford the organ some protection from the dust. We do not yet know whether the boards on the ceiling of the church are tongued-and-grooved or butt-jointed: neither will completely stop a cascade of dust when there is hammering on the roof but the latter will be less effective.

All in all, there will be a need for Dunkirk spirit at the Patronal Festival, on Remembrance Sunday, at the Carol Service, on Christmas Day and at any other services or events (no Village Hall either!). Boiler suits, wellies and hard hats will be dress order.

We plan a celebration for April/May.

Charles Brook

HELP

Recipes WANTED

Do you have a recipe for the best apple pie, shepherd's pie, roast potatoes, Yorkshire pudding, grilled steak, roast lamb or something else that is equally delicious?

Please share it. We have the best ingredients available, let's make the most of them.

Editor

SPONSORED BIKE RIDE 2007
IN AID OF
FRIENDS OF SOMERSET CHURCHES & CHAPELS

A cool morning and clear sky augured well for my double marathon length cycle ride round the Churches and Chapels of South Somerset on Saturday 8th September.

An early start saw me at the door of Bruton Methodist at 0955 hrs where I was met at the gate by the first of the 'duty staff' for the day. Nobody, not even forms at Sexeys Chapel at 1002 but everything was ready at St. Mary's Bruton at 1005. I arrived at my own church St. Leonard's, Pitcombe to be met by Ken and Sue Chamberlain and Charles Brook. St. Peter's Shepton Montague was next at 1025 followed by the long haul to Wincanton to visit six churches, including SS Peter & Paul. Then to the other side of the A303 and a long ride to St. Nicholas, Holton from where the countryside became more beautiful on my ride to St. John, North Cheriton. The sun burst forth as I walked up the path at 1120 to be greeted like the prodigal son by a large group of parishioners who were sitting on the grass polishing the brass! I remarked that this was worth a photograph and a digital camera was produced as I was their first visitor of the day.

At Maperton's SS Peter and Paul, I met a group of cyclists going the other way, whom I had seen the previous year, who advised me that an amusing sight awaited me at St. Michael's, Blackford and sure enough when I arrived at the church there was a lady at the porch seated on an exercise bicycle and requesting sponsorship! Very original.

St Mary's, Compton Pauncefoot was open and as I entered the porch brilliant sunshine was streaming through a beautiful stained glass window in the opposite wall, quite breathtaking. At 12 o'clock I was half way to St. Thomas-a-Beckett at South Cadbury and then on to Holy Trinity Church at Sutton Montis, Holy Cross at Weston Bampfylde and St. Mary Magdalene at Sparkford. At St. Barnabas, Queen Camel the church bells were ringing joyously as wedding guests posed for photographs and beautifully adorned bridesmaids with exotic bouquets wandered among the happy crowd in the glorious sunshine. Not the time or place for a shabby sweating cyclist to barge in so I slunk away down a side alley and cycled off to All Saints at West Camel where I arrived on the dot of one o'clock. This was church number 21 and i was

now two-thirds of the way through.

Turning northwards I crossed the busy A 303 to call at Holy Cross, Babcary. Foolishly I had left my OS Map at home and had some difficulty in finding SS Peter & Paul at Charlton Adam and St. Mary at Charlton Mackrell. At one point I wasn't quite sure which Charlton I was in, never mind where the churches were! I had to swallow my pride and ask the way (twice!).

With some relief, and only six churches to go, I headed off for St. Mary Magdalene at Keinton Mandeville arriving at 1424, followed by St. David at Barton St. David. In another idyllic setting is St. Peter's at West Lydford with a stream running close by and I left the scene with much reluctance at 1500. By this time the sun was quite strong and when I arrived at St. Thomas-a-Beckett, Lovington I was feeling very hot and I gave myself my first long pause of the day and sat in the sunshine for 10 minutes before heading off to my penultimate church of All Saints at Alford. This is another lovely setting, set well back from the road in this tiny village which motorists shoot through missing this beauty spot. I arrived at church number 30, All Saints Castle Cary at 1615 and then back home to Cole by 1630.

Statistics (no lies!) Total mileage 52.7 miles, Total cycling time 4 hours 52 mins. Total journey time 6 hours 45 mins. Average speed 10.8 mph. Max Speed 34 mph. Many thanks to the 'faithful few' who manned the Churches and put the forms out for signing and supplied the visitors with food and drink.

Willie Constantine

31 OCTOBER ALL HALLOWS EVE

Hallowe'en, the last day of the year according to the old Celtic calendar. The night when witches fly abroad and ghosts, fairies, evil spirits and other super natural beings flit around the houses demanding 'trick or treat'.

The fine art of pumpkin carving is practised by all ages to make Jack o'lanterns and candles placed inside to cast an eerie glow. And every one wonders, 'do we really like pumpkin soup?'



WELCOME TO OUR 2007–2008 SEASON

Unless otherwise stated, all films are shown on
Fridays in the Jubilee Hall, Batcombe

**FOR YOUR DIARY, THE DATES THIS SEASON ARE:
12 October, 9 November, 7 December 2007
11 & 25 January, 15 February, 14 & 29 March, 11 April
2008**

Doors open 7.15pm – Screening 7.45pm

Licensed Bar ~ Soft refreshments
Free parking ~ Wheelchair Access ~ Hearing Loop

Friday 12th October 2007

VOLVER

(dir. Pedro Almodóvar)
2006 / 121 mins / 15

A rich, warm and colourful tragi-comedy focusing on relationships between women, particularly mothers and daughters. It stars a mesmerising and glamorous Penélope Cruz as Raimunda who has a teenage daughter and an abusive husband. With her sister she tends their parents' graves and visits their ailing aunt but an act of violence shatters the family's life and then secrets start being unearthed ... Despite its focus on death, there is plenty of life, laughter and charm in this delightful film by the renowned director Pedro Almodóvar.

(Spanish with subtitles)

For more on our films: ELIZABETH HUNT
01749 850 304

For membership enquiries: ROB SAGE
01749 850 934 robsage@fish.co.uk

10 THINGS TO DO IN OCTOBER

1. A month to spend in the great outdoors but first check out the South Somerset food festival. It's everywhere you want to be, from 29 Sept — 7 Oct. Pick up a booklet a TIC or check out **southsomersetfoodfestival.com**

A couple of things to do at Hestercombe. **hestercombe.com**

2. **3 and 15 Oct** the great seed giveaway. Take your own envelopes and a pencil. Seeds from plants in the herbaceous borders.

3. **13 October** is Den Building Day for dads and lads. Use your imagination and survival instincts to build a simple shelter.

and three at Stourhead. **national trust.org.uk /stourhead**

4. **October 6 and 7** Stourhead open weekend. A chance to see exactly what goes on behind the scenes. Tree felling and climbing demonstrations, hands on conservation in Stourhead House, rural crafts and displays from many of the suppliers, contractors and wildlife conservation groups.

5. **October 13 and 14** Craft Fair in Stourton Hall

6. Check the website for autumn colour walks. It is one of the great walks at this time of year.

go north young man, young woman

7. **October 19 — 28** Mendip Food Festival TIC's or

mendipfoodfestival.co.uk for details

8. **October 12 — 19** for something more sedentary, try Wells Literary Festival. **wlitf.co.uk** or **01749 672 552** for details.

9. Then again, stay close to home, don the wellies and tramp through the parish and back again.

10. **October 28** Batten down the hatches, turn the clocks back

and spend an extra hour in bed. Bliss!!!!!!