

# *Pitcombe News*



the old apple tree

*October 2008*

The PITCOMBE NEWS welcomes contributions from its  
readers

Articles for publication should be sent to the  
EDITOR: SUSAN CHAMBERLAIN  
Orchard Stables  
Higher Hadspen  
Castle Cary BA 7 7LX  
01963 350 616  
sechamberlain@btinternet.com

[www.pitcombe.org.uk/news](http://www.pitcombe.org.uk/news)

**The DEADLINE for the November issue is  
Friday 24 October  
to [david@pitcombe.org](mailto:david@pitcombe.org)**

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

Many, many, many congratulations to David Jury. The Pitcombe Parish website, which David conceived and now looks after so ably, won not one, not two, but THREE prizes, including the one for overall best in show at this year's Community Council for Somerset Village Communications Competition. Read about his very successful evening at the Community Council's prize giving evening on page 4.

The PITCOMBE NEWS is so proud of him that we too have awarded him a special prize — one month's guest editorship of the magazine. How full can his cup get! David will be in charge for the November edition so please send your material directly to him at [david@pitcombe.org](mailto:david@pitcombe.org)

Rather sadly, the diary of the Wyatt's South American journey comes to an end this month. To think it all started when Peter chose to present wines from Chile to the Wine Club. His research led him to the Embassy and various trade organisations which sent some rather enticing material and the rest is ... the diary we have so enjoyed following. The moral of the story is, join the Wine Club and then, choose the wine growing area for your presentation very carefully.

It's soup time again, although it didn't really go away this summer, when you think about it. Maria Samuel has found some warming autumn soup recipes. Go to page 14.

Congratulations to Willie Constantine too, who rode over 50 miles on his bike to raise money for Somerset Churches and he could still sit down and write about it. See page 12.

Our Tokyo correspondent has been in touch again with a delightful fable about a cat and, what else, but mice. See page 9.

I am off on holiday for a month. Undoubtedly, Indian summer will arrive the day we leave. Enjoy!

*Susan Chamberlain*

# PITCOMBE PARISH COUNCIL

THE NEXT MEETING WILL BE HELD ON  
TUESDAY 14TH OCTOBER AT 7.30 PM  
IN HADSPEN VILLAGE HALL



As the times of collection of both refuse and recycling materials are variable, we recommend that you put both out the night before.

Unless, of course, you get up early enough to put them out by 7.0am in which case you might check that your neighbour has put them out too.

---

We know it can be difficult at times but, we have been asked to remind dog owners to endeavour to stop their dogs from fouling the driveways and gardens of others.

---



## HADSPEN VILLAGE HALL

The hall is now fully operational with new crockery and the cutlery order just despatched. Those of you who check our website [www.hadspenvillagehall.org](http://www.hadspenvillagehall.org) will know that bookings are steadily coming in as more people see the new hall. Congratulations to David Jury on all his work creating our website, the quality of which has now been duly recognised by his collection of awards.

The AGM will be held on Friday, 14<sup>th</sup> November at 8.00pm in the Village Hall followed by Cheese & Wine. We hope the evening will be well attended. This year four Committee members, Vice-Chairman Mike Taylor, Secretary Carole Wyatt, Fran Madelin and co-opted member Constance Earl will be standing down, so we are looking for some new members to join the board of Trustees. If anyone is interested in standing for election please contact me.

Last month I did promise I would give a full account of the costs of the new village hall but unfortunately we are unable to do so as we have yet to receive the final snagging bill from the builder, so perhaps in the next edition.

### **Date for your diary**

**Saturday, 13<sup>th</sup> December**

Christmas Party

*Peter Wyatt, Chairman*

## HADSPEN VILLAGE HALL ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

**to be held on**  
**Friday, 14<sup>th</sup> November 2008 at 8.00pm**  
**Followed by Cheese & Wine**  
**Everyone Welcome**

## Community Council for Somerset. Village Communications Competition 2008

Back in May of this year I was speaking to Carole Wyatt about the village hall website and Carole mentioned details she had received from the Community Council for Somerset about a website competition which the Community Council hold every year. Carole suggested we should enter the competition with the new Hadspen village hall website. I must admit to a little initial personal reluctance but after thinking about it for a while, I came to the conclusion that it might be a good idea to have the website judged and assessed by an outside body as perhaps, a way of improving what we already had. So I sent off the entry form, not just for the Hadspen Village Hall site but also for our Pitcombe Parish site.

Towards the end of August I received a letter from the Community Council inviting me, as an entrant in this years competition, to the organisation's AGM at which the competition results would be announced and presentations made. It was to be held in the Williams Hall, Stoke St Gregory. So on Wednesday 10<sup>th</sup> September I duly attended and was at first surprised by the attendance, the hall was full, an audience well into three figures. The guest of honour was the Mayor of Taunton.

The evening started with a general presentation of the work undertaken by the Community Council and their achievements during the past year, which I found interesting and informative. I was not aware of the extent of the help they provide to the rural community. After the official business ended the meeting broke for refreshments before culminating in the launch of the new Community Council website and the results and awards of the communications competition.

The website awards were split into three categories, small, medium and large villages/towns based on population. As the awards were announced I was quietly pleased when the Pitcombe Parish website was awarded a "highly commended" in the small village category for which I was presented with a certificate. Then having returned to my seat I was very surprised to hear Hadspen, as the winner of the same category, yes we had won! So another walk from back row to the front to receive the award of a certificate, a box of chocolates, and a gold membership of the "TheNationalPages", free internet ad

vertising for the village hall. So I rather contentedly returned to my seat with the spoils and applauded as the winners of the medium and large categories received their awards. There was one final category, the overall best website, yes, and much to my disbelief the winner was Hadspen. So for the third time I made the walk between back row and the front to receive this time a certificate, a bottle of champagne, and a winner's trophy, a wooden shield with smaller silver shields engraved with the names of all past winners of the competition.

The judges then ran through the reasons why they had chosen Hadspen as the overall winner. Amongst the points mentioned were the clarity of the design, the gallery, the events calendar, the ease of navigation, the text resizing facility, the site search function and our maths equation spam prevention method on our contact and feedback forms.

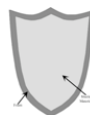
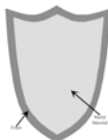
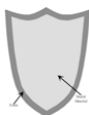
I must say the journey home despite the foul weather was quite enjoyable.

Finally, I will say these awards are for the community and I would like to thank Carole for all her help when the website was first set up and for keeping the events diary up to date, Willie Constantine and Jim Linden for their excellent photography, and all residents of the parish who make such enterprises worth while.

You can see copies of the award certificates by visiting the photo gallery at [www.hadspenvillagehall.org](http://www.hadspenvillagehall.org) and you can view the announcement of the awards on the Community Council website by visiting

[http://www.somersetccc.org.uk/community\\_projects/comunications\\_comp\\_2008/results\\_2008](http://www.somersetccc.org.uk/community_projects/comunications_comp_2008/results_2008)

David Jury [david@pitcombe.org](mailto:david@pitcombe.org)



## South America - Brazil

And so we come to the end of our odyssey.

Having left the Tango behind in Argentina, we were now in the home of the Samba and the Carnaval, which is organised by the Samba Schools. They are an integral part of each of Rio's neighbourhoods and people practice for months before Carnaval in February – we only just missed it. As well as providing a famous spectacle, these Samba Schools help communities by running projects for youngsters where they are involved in sport, samba dancing and playing music, the idea being to keep them out of trouble, away from drugs and off the streets. We were visited in the hotel by one such group of youngsters who entertained us and insisted we join in the fun - I can assure you it is very infectious and needs a lot of energy to keep up with them!

Rio is set amongst spectacular scenery, with its bays, inlets, pointed mountains and forests dominated by the statue of Christ. On some of the steep mountainsides favelas (shanty towns) have grown, but now as the population becomes better off they are becoming more permanent with concrete blocks replacing galvanised iron.

We were fortunate that visibility was reasonably good when we visited Sugar Loaf Mountain. It is a two-stage cable car ride to reach the summit some 1300 feet above sea level affording wonderful views over the city, beaches and harbour. And, of course, the magnificent figure of Christ the Redeemer can be seen as you look back inland.

The following day we set off in open air jeeps to visit the Corcovado mountain, the final part of the climb being by escalator to the summit where at 2,330 feet stands the 105 foot high statue of Christ the Redeemer. Covered with a mosaic of soapstone, it is, of course, Rio's most famous Art Nouveau monument. The panoramic views were quite amazing although quite hazy for photography. The road down from the statue winds through the Parque Nacional da Tijuca, a tropical reserve that includes 60 miles of narrow roads through the forest's thick vegetation with trees in full blossom, even a monkey or two. We saw hang-gliders and para-gliders flying overhead having taken off from one of the high peaks to eventually land on the beach

and a few of us thought that if you were going to do it, you couldn't choose a better place.

Eventually six of our party got together and asked our Brazilian Tour Guide if he could arrange for us to 'fly'. By the time we had reached the beach at the bottom of the mountain it was all arranged! We met up with the boss of the outfit, quite a character – a Brazilian lothario and past hang gliding champion who had been married seven times! We were paired up with our allocated instructors (none English speaking), signed our lives away, and headed back up the hairpin bends at top speed while the driver talked on his mobile phone and steered with one hand!

I was partnered with a lovely young Brazilian and was told I was taking off first. To cut a long story short, I can only say that the most disconcerting part was being told in a mixture of sign language and pigeon English to 'run off the end of the mountain, don't look down, and keep running until I tell you to stop!' That actually was the most scary part, the mountains are so sheer that the ground literally disappears beneath your feet. However, flying for 15 minutes between the mountains, over the forest, hotels with swimming pools on the roofs, a golf course, out over the sea and then eventually landing on the beach (not too elegantly) was mind-blowing. As I was first I could watch Peter come in and crash land!

The following day we were on the plane back to the UK with many happy memories of a fairly hectic but wonderful and unforgettable three and a half weeks in South America.

*Carole Wyatt*





## COMPUTER BYTES

### **Broadband Speeds:**

A postscript to the article in last month's Computer Bytes page -'Broadband Performance Tester'- the following 'Expectations site' tells you what speed to expect at your address! (highlight, cut and paste onto the address field in Internet Explorer) If you find that, in reality, your speed is much slower, it could be caused by congestion or poor phone wiring ..... apparently many of our our phone sockets have a 'bell wire' which may slow our speed substantially; these bell wires are no longer necessary and can be disconnected at the master socket (unless you know what you are doing please don't attempt this procedure, get BT or your provider to come and sort it out).

<http://www.productsandservices.bt.com/consumerProducts/displayTopic.do?topicId=16738>

**Fit more onto a page:** When producing short documents, it's a pain if one or two lines are forced onto an extra page. The simplest way of fixing this is to slightly decrease the sizes of the margins (on the FILE menu, click PAGE SETUP) and use the MARGINS tab). Other techniques include using smaller fonts, decreasing the line or inter-paragraph spacing and squeezing characters closer together by opening the FORMAT menu, selecting FONT and using the options on the CHARACTER SPACING tab. In WORD 2007, the FONT menu which contains the Character Spacing options is on the Home ribbon.

*Maria Samuel* ([woodcott13@btinternet.com](mailto:woodcott13@btinternet.com))

A nerd is very similar to a geek, but  
with more RAM and a faster modem  
anon



## A FABLE

One day, a cat dies of natural causes and goes to heaven, where he meets the Lord Himself. The Lord says to the cat, "You lived a good life, and if there is any way I can make your stay in heaven more comfortable, please let me know."

The cat thinks for a moment and says, "Lord, all my life I have lived with a poor family and had to sleep on a hard wooden floor."

The Lord stops the cat and says, "Say no more, " and a wonderful, fluffy pillow appears.

A few days later, six mice are killed in a tragic farming accident and all of them go to heaven. Again, the Lord is there to greet them with the same offer. The mice answer, "All our lives we have been chased. We have had to run from cats, dogs, and even women with brooms. Running, running, running. We're tired of running. Do you think we could have roller skates so that we don't have to run anymore?"

The Lord says, "Say no more" and fits each mouse with beautiful new roller skates. A week later, the Lord stops by to see the cat and finds him snoozing on the pillow. The Lord gently wakes the cat and asks him, "How are things since you got here?" The cat stretches and yawns, then replies, "I have never been so happy. It is wonderful here. Better than I could have ever expected. And the 'Meals on Wheels' are simply delicious!" *(from our correspondent in Tokyo)*



# St. Leonard's Church



## Services for October 2008

Date Time	Service	Readings	Readers
5 Oct 9 30am	Morning Prayer Trinity 20	Isaiah 5:1-7 Matthew 21:33-46	Peter Wyatt Ken Elliott
12 Oct 11.00am	Holy Communion Trinity 21	Philippians 4:1-9 Matthew 22:1-14	Carole Wyatt Clergy
19 Oct 9 30am	Rotating Service <b>PITCOMBE</b> Morning Prayer Trinity 22	Isaiah 45:1-7 Matthew 22:15-22	Charles Brook Jenny Elliott
26 Oct 11 00am	Holy Communion Last after Trinity	Thessalonians 2: 1-8 Matthew 22:34-46	Constance Earl Clergy

## CHURCHWARDEN'S NOTES

Well another summer has gone!! Holidays are over and life returns to normal; or does it? We look forward to celebrations at Christmas and family get-togethers, but let us not forget those who are in pain, physically and mentally from the international situations that have arisen this year.

*'I waited patiently for the Lord; he turned to me and heard my cry.'*  
*Psalm 40:1.*

Lord give me patience – and give it to me NOW. Ever felt like that? I know I have; in dealing with the many demands of the children when they were younger; waiting in a traffic queue when you have an urgent appointment (before mobile phones).

We live in an 'instant' society and waiting doesn't come easy to any of us, all of us need prayerful and practical ways to help us deal with it. The Bible tells many stories of people who have had to wait patiently. We are no different; but we do need the power of the Holy Spirit to guide us, therefore our daily prayers are most important, not just to us but to God, our Father. He cares for each one of us.

*'Be still in the presence of the Lord, and wait patiently for Him to act.'*  
*Psalm 37:7*

Dates for your diary:

**November 2** Patronal Evensong at 6.30pm.

**November 9** Remembrance Service at **10.50am** – please wear appropriate medals. and wherever you are do try to observe the two minutes silence at 11.00.

**November 19** PCC meeting at 2.15pm. The Ring House, Hadspen.

God be with you  
*Wendy Crane, Churchwarden*

FRIENDS OF SOMERSET CHURCHES & CHAPELS  
Saturday 13 September 2008

This was to be my 10<sup>th</sup> year on the Bike ride so I had been keeping a very close watch on the weather patterns for some weeks beforehand hoping that finally there might be signs of an `Indian Summer' to give me a sunny or, at the very least, a dry day for the ride. My prayers were answered with a fine morning and an encouraging forecast from the Met. Office.

I `clocked in' at **Bruton Methodist** at 0955 just as the duty Staff arrived. Then on to **Sexey's** Chapel where to my amazement everything was ready at 1000, as they thought the riding began at 0900! Then I rode down the hill to **St Mary's**, Bruton and on to **St. Leonard's** by 1015. The bells were ringing as I approached **St. Peter's**, Shepton Montague and just as I was getting off my bike at the church, Brian Shingler put his head out of the belfry window and announced that the welcoming peal was for me!

I arrived at Wincanton **Baptist Church** at 1044 and did **3 other churches** there but not the **Society of Friends** as the door was firmly shut. It was a long ride from Wincanton to **St. Nicholas**, Holton and **St. John**, North Cheriton but by the time I got there at 1130 the sun had come out. A short ride brought me to Maperton's **SS Peter and Paul**, and then on to **St. Michael's**, Blackford where the lady on an exercise bicycle was again requesting sponsorship!

It is a beautiful ride to **St Mary's**, Compton Pauncefoot on the edge of a valley with North Cadbury Church clearly visible on the other side. **St. Thomas -a-Beckett**, South Cadbury, **Holy Trinity** Church, Sutton Montis, **Holy Cross** Weston Bampfylde, **St. Mary Magdalene**, Sparkford, **St. Barnabas**, Queen Camel, (no wedding there this year), and **All Saints**, West Camel all followed in quick succession for a total so far of 21. By 1250 I was now two-thirds of my way through my list. Time to turn northwards, cross the busy A 303 and call at **Holy Cross**, Bab Cary.

This year I had remembered to bring my OS Map and managed to find my way to **SS Peter & Paul** at Charlton Adam and **St. Mary**, Charlton Mackrell where I decided to have my sandwiches in the churchyard in sunshine and perfect peace. Then off to **St. Mary**

**Magdalene** and the **Methodist Chapel** at Keinton Mandeville arriving at 1415.

It is a short ride to **St. David**, Barton St. David and as the weather was so perfect I decided to cycle on to **All Saints**, Kingweston, the most westerly part of my route and 10 miles, as the crow flies, from Bruton. It is next door to Millfield School's playing fields. Then a 20 minute ride to **St. Peter's**, West Lydford where some ladies were decorating the Church with beautiful floral displays ready for the Harvest Festival next day.

The time was now 1520 and as I was approaching my 30<sup>th</sup> Church, **St. Thomas-a- Beckett**, Lovington, I was overtaken at great speed by a group of five ladies in 'full Lycra' on racing bikes heading off in the direction of N. Barrow apparently on a frolic of their own! I spent about ten minutes in the glorious sunshine in the churchyard before a nice flat ride to **All Saints**, Alford.

My last church, the 32nd on my list, was **All Saints**, Castle Cary where I arrived at 1630 followed by 'the longest mile, the last mile home' back to Cole by 1645.

The total mileage was 51.5 miles and the journey time 7 hours, but it was a glorious day to the end.

A great 'Thank-you' to those who manned the Churches and put the forms out for signing and supplied the visitors food and drink and to my sponsors whose generosity will hopefully bring the total 'fund' to £350.

*Willie Constantine*

"The trouble with weather forecasting is that it's right too often for us to ignore it and wrong too often for us to rely on it."— Patrick Young

## WARMING AUTUMN SOUPS



### **Potato and Fennel:**

1 onion  
15gr/1/2oz butter  
2 large potatoes, peeled and diced  
4 fennel bulbs, thinly sliced  
1.2 litres/2 pints vegetable stock  
300ml/1/2pint full cream milk

Sweat the onion and potatoes in the butter over a very low heat for 10 minutes, stirring occasionally to prevent sticking. Add the fennel, stock and some salt and pepper and bring to the boil, then reduce the heat and simmer for 20 minutes. Puree in a blender, then stir in the milk and reheat gently. Adjust the seasoning and serve.

### **Tomato, lentil and orange:**

1 onion, peeled and finely chopped  
50gr/2ozs butter  
1 orange  
50gr/2ozs red lentils  
1 garlic clove, peeled and crushed  
400gr/14ozs can of chopped tomatoes  
300mls/1/2pint vegetable stock  
Chopped fresh mint and extra grated orange zest to serve

Gently cook the onion in the butter for 10 minutes without colouring. Meanwhile, grate the zest from the orange, then peel it, removing all the pith, and chop the flesh. Add the garlic to the pan and stir to coat it in the butter, then add the orange pieces and the zest. Stir in the tomatoes, lentils and stock, bring to the boil, then reduce the heat and simmer for 20 minutes or until the lentils are cooked. Puree in a blender, then reheat gently and season to taste. Serve garnished with chopped mint and orange zest.

*MS (Avoca Cafe Cookbook)*

THE CREATION OF MAN  
according to a Navajo Indian legend

The gods and the spirits of the Sacred Mountains created Man. He was made of all rains, springs, rivers, ponds, black clouds and sky. His feet are made of earth and his legs of lightning. White shell form his knees, and his body is white and yellow corn; his flesh is of daybreak, his hair darkness; his eyes are of the sun. White corn forms his teeth, black corn his eyebrows, and red coral beads his nose. His tears are of rain, his tongue of straight lightning, and his voice is of thunder. His heart is obsidian; the little whirlwind keeps his nerves in motion, and his movement is the air. The name of this new kind of being was "Created from Everything."

---

**KING'S, SCHOOL, BRUTON  
JOHN DAVIE ROOM**

Saturday 11th October 8.0pm

recital by Russell Shipley, Clarinet  
and Maria Morton, Soprano

A talented duo. Russell trained in the US  
and spent time as a bandsman in the US Army  
before coming to King's to teach clarinet.

Maria trained in Hungary.

---

## FAVOURITE THINGS

Questions from Sue Smith.

Responses from Mrs Ursula Collins, Lilac Cottage, Cole.

What are your three favourite places?

Northern Cyprus  
Carmarthenshire  
Slovenia

What are your three favourite foods?

Fillet steak with large helpings of mushrooms  
Avocado pear with tamari and oil dressing  
Crème Brûlée

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

Oscar Wilde whose wit would be absolutely essential  
Rudolph Nureyev to leap over the dining table and sweep me off my feet  
Dalai Lama for his sincerity and gentle humour

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

Carmarthenshire - for its ruined castles, coastline and high moorland - and a no-frills airline is not required!



Kidwelly castle

**MOTIVATION CHRISTMAS MARKET  
Hadspen Village Hall**

**Saturday, 22<sup>nd</sup> November 2008  
10.00 am – 3.00 pm**

Now that our wonderful new Village Hall is up and running, it is time to turn my attention to **MOTIVATION** which, as most of you know, is a charity run by our son, David Constantine. The purpose of Motivation is to provide wheelchairs and support for the disabled in developing countries.

Please come and enjoy a sociable morning with coffee and light refreshments and start your Christmas shopping from local producers, ranging from food to presents. Motivation Christmas cards will also be on sale along with 'Allegrias' fashion items and jewellery, crafts, and plenty of edible goodies to tempt your palate.

*Jean Constantine 01749 813 103*

**FINAL THOUGHT**

**WHY IS THE MAN WHO INVESTS ALL YOUR MONEY CALLED  
A BROKER?**



**WELCOME TO OUR OCTOBER SCREENING &  
A TENTH ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION EVENT**

Jubilee Hall, Batcombe

Friday 10<sup>th</sup> October

Doors open 7.15pm - Screening 7.45pm

***THERE WILL BE BLOOD***

**(dir. Paul Thomas Anderson) 2008 / 158 mins / 15**

Set in turn-of-the-century California, this is a dark, uncompromising saga of greed, corruption and obsession. After trying silver mining, charismatic but ruthless prospector, Daniel Plainview (Daniel Day-Lewis) means to make his fortune in oil and begins purchasing land in the small town of Little Boston. However, he finds his plans obstructed by Eli Sunday (Paul Dano), a preacher determined that his church also benefits from the profits of the oil, and a desperate stand-off develops between the forces of ambition and faith. Daniel Day-Lewis won an Oscar for Best Actor.

Saturday 25<sup>th</sup> October 2008

Open 7.00pm - Performance 7.30pm - Interval + finger buffet

**SPECIAL EVENING IN ASSOCIATION WITH TAKE ART**

***NEIL BRAND: THE SILENT PIANIST***

To celebrate Batcombe Film Society's 10<sup>th</sup> anniversary, in association with Take Art, we are delighted and privileged to welcome back pianist Neil Brand for a very special evening. Neil has been described as the 'doyen of silent film pianists' (Radio 4) and recently co-starred in a UK tour with Paul Merton's Silent Clowns. Providing improvised accompaniments to clips from the best of silent cinema, he demonstrates how music works with film, reveals some of the secrets of his profession and gives an insight into his 25-year career. This will be a memorable and highly entertaining evening which includes a finger buffet.

Tickets from Rob Sage (01749 850 934) & Elizabeth Hunt (01749 850 304)

Suitable for 12 years and above

BAR-SOFT REFRESHMENTS-FREE PARKING-WHEELCHAIR ACCESS-HEARING LOOP