

Pitcombe News



Harvest Festival, St. Leonard's, Sept 28 at 6.30pm
Harvest Supper, Village Hall, Sept 29 at 7.00pm

September 2008

The PITCOMBE NEWS welcomes contributions from its
readers

Articles for publication should be sent to the
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www.pitcombe.org.uk/news

**The DEADLINE for the October issue is
Sunday 21 September**

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

How dire would August have been without the Olympics? What with gloom in the skies and, with his best friend doom constantly in the news, life was really rather dreary. Then along came Team GB. Nothing could have been better and to have bragging rights over the Aussies as well ... How good can it get? Better is the answer, in 2012.

While you are waiting for the next Olympics a lot of activity will be taking place around here this month. The U3A has an open day on Thursday 4th, there is croquet at Hadspen House on Saturday 6th, an evening of great fun for everyone at King's School on Friday 12th, and the Batcombe Film season starts on the same date. The Harvest Festival will be held on Sunday 28th followed by the Harvest supper in the Village Hall the following evening. Details of all the events are inside.

The PITCOMBE NEWS now has a roving correspondent in the shape of Sue Smith who will appear regularly on page 16 with your favourite things. Kathleen Apperly is first up, you could be next.

Carole Wyatt's South American diary sees her in Tango country this month. It's been a fantastic and hugely interesting journey with her and Peter.

On the inside of the back cover, the dates of the Batcombe films being shown throughout the season are listed so that you can put them in your diary, assuming you are organised enough to have a 2009 one already. How do you manage it?

And now it is all over bar the parades and the honours. No more meals on laps or even with laps. Life returns to normal. For those of you who haven't ventured outside much, you haven't missed a thing.
Susan Chamberlain

NEIGHBOURHOOD WATCH

Name change

Following consultation it has been decided that the Somerton Sector will now be known as

South Somerset Rural Neighbourhood Policing Area (South Somerset Rural Sector).

Crime Trends

The Crime Year (April 2008 – April 2009) has got off to a really positive start with significant reductions so far in several crime categories within the sector.

*Dwelling Burglaries reduced by 26%

*Non Dwelling Burglaries reduced by 19%

*Theft from Motor Vehicles reduced by 28%

With the rise in the cost of scrap metal there has been a spate of lead thefts in the area which reflect patterns both regionally and nationally. Our response has firstly been to target offenders and we have had several successful prosecutions in relation to offences where lead had been taken from schools/churches. In addition we have worked with scrap yards and South Somerset District Council to stop stolen lead being sold unknowingly to traders.

Anti-social Behaviour

Anti-social behaviour is a common problem across the Sector and this issue will be a priority for the Neighbourhood Teams over the next 3 months. Teams will join together to target 'hot spot' areas at key times (Friday/Saturday nights). Anti-social behaviour affects the quality of life for communities and I am committed to dealing robustly with offenders. Fixed Penalty Notices (which can be issued by PCSO's) will be given to people who commit offences such as urinating in the street. Hot spot areas will be determined through consultation by the Beat Teams at meetings/beat surgeries, etc.

Extracted from the South Somerset Rural Sector Summer Newsletter from Inspector Andy Pritchard.

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**COME TO THE FIRST SUPPER
AT
THE NEW VILLAGE HALL**

**MONDAY 29 SEPTEMBER
7.00PM**

and
AUCTION OF PRODUCE

**£8.50
including a glass of wine**

entry by ticket only

first come, first served

from

Peter Wyatt 01963 350 222

Willie Constantine 01747 813 103

Ken Chamberlain 01963 350 616



HADSPEN WINE CLUB



Members so enjoyed the visit to Yapp Brothers last year that, for the July meeting, they again found themselves sitting around the snooker table in Mere with a glass of fizz (a delicious Cremant de Limoux) in hand to listen to the wit and wisdom of Meirion Williams on the “Contemporary” wines of the Languedoc and Provence.

The subject was chosen as quality wine production in France is moving south. No longer is the the Pays d’Oc just a bulk wine producer. A new generation of winemakers is rapidly changing perceptions of wines from the area. Most are younger vintners who are bringing new methods, frequently imported from the New World, growing different grape varieties, introducing new marketing skills and making some seriously good wines along the way. Quite often, they are small family operated vineyards run by people in their 30’s. The wine scene in Provence is similarly on the move.

In addition, some of the best known wine producers in Burgundy and Bordeaux are branching out from their long established home bases and, attracted by the exciting environment for wine production that now exists in the Pays d’Oc, establishing themselves there.

While the area is primarily a red wine region, there are also many quality white wines being produced. Grenache and syrah are the predominant red wine grape varieties as is sauvignon blanc among the whites. The blends often contain small percentages of lesser known Mediterranean grapes such as clairette and rolle. And, new vintners are now introducing more of the Bordeaux varieties, particularly cabernet sauvignon.

As usual, we tasted seven wines. Besides the fizz, we had four reds and two whites. Four were from Languedoc and three from Provence. Most were from small family run vineyards. One was from Cotes de Thongue in the Languedoc, an *appellation* that has been brought to prominence by young independent producers growing Bordelaise grape varieties. Another Languedoc *appellation*, Faugeres, has wines grown in a distinctive soil of friable schists. (And, since you ask, any wine club member will be able to tell you precisely what schist is).

The most expensive wine we tasted was a smooth, well balanced and elegant red wine from Domaine Richaume in Provence which vineyard perhaps typifies what is happening in the wine industry of Southern France. It was started in 1978 by Henning Hoesch, a German expatriate on 2 hectares and a strong focus on organic viticulture. He has now handed over

control to his son who studied oenology in California and Australia. The vineyard is now 35 hectares.

By the time we left, we had not only learned about the new wines of the South of France but also picked up from Meirion's excellent presentation, lots of fascinating little bits of wine lore. It is amazing how much there is to learn and how much can be learnt from an experienced professional. If only we could have recorded it all. *KLC*

WHO'S FOR CROQUET?

The Friends of St. Leonard's are organising a knock-out croquet competition at Hadspen House on Saturday 6 September starting at 11.0am

Tickets, adults £6, children 5-16 years £3, include a glass of Pimms or soft drink.

You are invited to bring a picnic.

Make up a team of 4 (family and/or friends), invent a team name, enter and come along.

No experience necessary!

Each match will take about 15 minutes and each team will play at least twice.

Contact Tina Harley 01749 813 262

South America – Argentina

Buenos Aires is a city of grand colonial architecture and European influences. It sits on the shores of the muddy River Plate which at over 100 miles wide gives the appearance of a rather dirty looking sea but, that aside, it is city of contrasts. There are lots of places to visit, the charming old city quarter of San Telmo with its cobbled streets lined with low buildings, tango bars and antique shops, the lively district of La Boca with its brightly coloured corrugated houses full of artists and musicians. Then there is the bustling banking and business centre of town and the historic Government House, Congress Building and Recoleta Cemetery whose most famous occupant is Eva Peron.

Everything about Buenos Aires is intense and passionate from its political life to the tango. The tango originated in the slums of Buenos Aires at the end of the 19th century from the descendants of African slaves and Italian and Spanish immigrants. The dance was invented before the lyrics were introduced, usually performed by two males waiting in line at the local bordello! Today it is dramatic and fashionable and practised by angry looking young men with their glamorous partners. A visit to Buenos Aires would not be complete without visiting a Tango salon for dinner and a show.

We spent an interesting day out on the pampas at an Estancia about 100km from the city where as well as growing soya beans and cereals they breed 'polo type' ponies. The gauchos demonstrated their horsemanship by controlling some eight or nine ponies each merely by whistling. We were then treated to a display when three gauchos at a time galloped through a very large door frame structure and speared hanging rings of approximately 1" diameter with a stick no bigger than a pencil! It takes such skill and precision that we would find it exceedingly difficult on foot, never mind on a galloping horse! This was followed by a barbeque for about 200 people, including the usual fantastic steaks that melt in the mouth, which we enjoyed throughout Argentina - not a good place to be vegetarian.

Our next flight took us to Iguazu Falls, where Argentina, Paraguay and Brazil meet and where the Iguazu River joins the Parana River. The falls plunge over hard granite rock into a wide gorge in a series of gigantic waterfalls two miles in length to more than 240 feet be

low. The most spectacular is the roaring Devil's Throat where fourteen falls combine to fall 330 feet pounding the water below with such force that there is a constant cloud of spray and rainbow above them. The tiny umbrella I had packed in my rucksack proved well worth having here!

This area is a National Park and there are walks through the forest and around the falls on boardwalks. We saw toucans with their huge orange beaks, black vultures, cormorants, forked tail fly catchers, large white herons, turtles, racoons, monkeys and all sorts of lizards. There are beautiful flowers, ferns, tropical plants and many different butterflies, some really large. However we didn't see any alligators which can often be seen lying on the rocks in the river. We were fortunate that our hotel was in the National Park but access was barred to the grounds and park after 6.00pm in the evening because of the pumas and jaguars that roam the area at night.

It is also worth crossing the border to the Brazilian side as this affords more panoramic views of the immense falls. As we also took a helicopter trip over them - we covered most aspects!

Our next and final destination was Rio de Janeiro, Wow! Rio is enormous - it has a population of approximately 6 million. As in Buenos Aires and Iguazu the weather was hot and sunny but with lovely warm balmy evenings. Our hotel was situated at the end of Copacabana Beach where it joins Ipanema Beach. It is no exaggeration to say that the locals live their lives in the open air on these magnificent beaches, on which there are endless games of volley ball, football, people power walking, running, working out, bronzed muscular men flexing their muscles, families socialising, young children playing, people drinking coffee or beer, dancing, many hawkers selling their wares, even shoe shine boys cleaning flip flops! We discovered that in Rio you don't have to be gorgeous to be on display - just uninhibited!

But more of Rio, the samba and Carnaval next time
Carole Wyatt





A BIG
THANK YOU

from

Ian & Helen Adlam and Martin & Celia Jennings
for your prayers, get well cards, letters and phone calls
wishing Elli-may a speedy recovery.

She is continuing to get stronger every day and
is heading towards making a full recovery,
which is wonderful and a great relief.

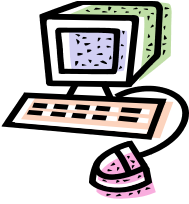
The staff of the Bristol Children's Hospital were
absolutely fantastic with 24 hour care and knowledge,
as was the Ronald McDonald House which provided
accommodation for Ian and Helen.

TAI CHI

Unfortunately the Hadspen class will not be re-starting at the Village Hall as had been previously hoped. Lynda will continue to run a class at South Cadbury Village Hall on Monday mornings 1000-1100 am. Sorry to disappoint those who have supported the class, and to those who have shown interest in joining us.

Jean Linden 01749 813 145

COMPUTER BYTES



Microsoft extends XP support period: Since my last article on this subject, it seems that Microsoft has caved in to customer pressure and will extend support for Windows XP until 2014. This means that XP users will continue to get security upgrades and fixes.

See the whole Control Panel: If you regularly use the Control Panel, you can have Windows show it as a list of icons in the Start Menu. First, right-click START, then select PROPERTIES from the menu that appears. In the dialogue box, click the CUSTOMISE button, and then click on the ADVANCED tab. In the list of options that appears below, under Control Panel, select 'DISPLAY AS A MENU;' then click OK and OK again. The next time you click on Control Panel in the Start menu, a new menu will open!

Useful Information: The EU is raising awareness about the European Emergency Number 112, which works in every member state except Bulgaria. Although the number does not replace national emergency numbers, it can help travellers get in touch with the emergency services more quickly. EU legislation (yawn!) requires Member States to ensure that all mobile and landline telephone users can call emergency services free on 112. Member states must ensure that citizens are aware of 112 and telecoms operators must provide caller location information to the emergency services to allow them to find accident victims. The European Commission has launched a website explaining how the service works. www.ec.europa.eu/112.

Broadband Performance Tester: This site will check your Broadband connection speed through your ISP. The Home page is self explanatory and all you need to do is follow instructions. Once you have inserted your telephone number into 'the box' the test itself will take around one to two minutes. www.speedtester.bt.com

Maria Samuel (woodcott13@btinternet.com)

St. Leonard's Church



Services for September

Date	Service	Readings	Readers
7 Sept 9.30 am	Morning Prayer Trinity 16	Ezekiel 33:7-11 Matthew 18:15-20	Agneta Hickley Willie Constantine
14 Sept 11.0 am	Holy Communion Trinity 17	Romans 14:1-12 Matthew 18:21-34	Philip Pidsley Clergy
21 Sept 9.30 am	Rotating Service LAMYATT Trinity 18		
28 Sept 6.30 pm	Harvest Thanksgiving Trinity 19	Deuteronomy 8:7-18 Luke 12:16-30	George Bunting Charles Du Cane

PITCOMBE PARISH COUNCIL

**THE NEXT MEETING WILL BE HELD ON
TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 9 AT 7.30 PM
IN HADSPEN VILLAGE HALL**

Churchwarden's Notes

What celebrations we have had in the last month or so!!

First the Rededication service and party afterwards – many thanks to everyone involved in this, from providing flowers and food, to reading the lessons and being there to be with friends and to meet Archdeacon Nicola Sullivan.

Then only a week later the church was decorated for the wedding of Paul Scott and Lindsay Banbury (both of whom are nurses working in Cardiff). The sun managed to shine for a short while, whereas the wedding blessing of John Burrow and Rachel Kim didn't have that luxury. That took place at the beginning of August, when it poured down. But that didn't deter family and friends, some of whom had come from Korea from thoroughly enjoying the occasion.

We also welcomed into the church Tarquin Stanford and Keona – Mae Wilcox through baptism during July.

A VERY LARGE REMINDER that the HARVEST FESTIVAL will take place on 28th September at 6.30pm.

If you have produce to donate please bring it to the church on Saturday morning after 10.0am. This is your chance to give, as all the proceeds will go to the farming support charities when it is auctioned at the Harvest Supper, Monday 29 September.

A hearing loop system has now been installed. This will be of great help particularly when the church is full.

Does anyone know the way? Yes! Jesus does! He has promised to lead all who will follow Him. 'Only Jesus has the power to save! His name is the only one in all the world that can save anyone' Acts 4:12.

God Bless,
Wendy Crane, Churchwarden

ICED AVOCADO SOUP

110gr carton plain yoghurt
250ml jellied chicken stock
275ml cream
A few drops of Worcester sauce
Salt and pepper (to taste)
1 lemon
2 large avocado pears (or three small ones)

Remove all the flesh from the avocado pears and cover with lemon juice immediately to prevent discolouration. Put in the liquidiser with yoghurt and stock. Whizz until the mixture has the consistency of thick cream; then fold in the cream and the seasonings. Serve very cold garnished with chopped chives.

Serves 8



&

TUNA FISH PATE

225gr tin of tuna
1 tbsp mayonnaise
110gr salted butter
Lots of black pepper, coarse ground

Drain oil (or brine) from tuna. Heat butter till liquid but not boiling. Put in liquidiser with fish, mayonnaise and black pepper. Whizz until very smooth and rather runny. Pour into dish and put into fridge for at least 24 hours before serving. Serve with hot brown toast or homemade Melba toast.

Courtesy of Super Scoff (thank you Kathleen A!)



KING'S SCHOOL, BRUTON

Inside Out & Funny Business

Friday 12th September 7.00pm

Fraser Hooper, award winning exponent of physical theatre, provides his own inimitable recipe for dispelling the gloomy summer at the Fitzjames Theatre, Bruton. His double bill performance of INSIDE OUT and FUNNY BUSINESS is a highly recommended family occasion, guaranteed to start the new school term on a laughing high note.

Tickets: £10.00/£8.00 concessions or £20.00 family

For further details please call Susan Duncan, 01749 814289

SOUTH SOMERSET FOOD FESTIVAL 27 SEPT TO 5 OCT

local happenings Sat 27 - 5 Oct

prize winning cheese tastings at WYKE FARMS FARM SHOP

www.wykefarms.com

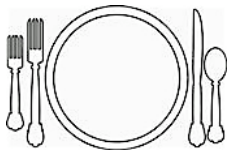
special menus with food sourced from within 1 mile of the pub at
THE MONTAGUE INN www.themontagueinn.co.uk

sat 27 2- 4pm only

Salad leaves without digging but with Charles Dowding at Lower
Farm Shepton Montague www.charlesdowding.com

For full details go to www.southsomersetfoodfestival.com

THE THREE HORSESHOES AT BATCOMBE



It was a miserable Saturday night and our favourite local restaurant was full, making life even more miserable. Where to go? Batcombe, he said. Batcombe? We hadn't been there for a very, very long time. Going back to an empty refrigerator was not an option, and so Batcombe it was. How could we have neglected it for so long, we had a excellent supper there.

We sat in the bar, where all the tables were taken, at a good sized scrubbed table. It was so smooth, I would swap it for the one in my kitchen any day of the week.

The pub is run, and has been for the last 3 years by Shirley Greaves and Bob Wood. Most of the ingredients they use are organically and locally sourced with the vegetables, whenever possible coming from their own garden. The menu is not too long 7/8 starters and mains, and supplemented at the weekend by blackboard specials. Unusually we both chose the same, grilled plaice, which was perfectly cooked and fresh tasting. A particularly good mix of vegetables was excellent and again, beautifully cooked. That was quite enough for me, but he had an extremely good creme brulee. They make good coffee too.

The downside is that it isn't exactly cheap, but the portions, quality and service were both so good it was well worth it. As we were not that hungry we did not have a starter, which range in price from £4.75 - £7.25. Mains are in the £12.75 - £21.50 (fillet steak) range. The wine list is short but good, with 8 served by the glass. They are also well known for their local beers and cider on draught. Lunch is Brasserie Style with a bowl of soup for £4.75 but most dishes are in the £9/£10 area. A very good place to know and to go.

La Gourmande

Food served: daily (closed Monday): 12:00 - 14:00 19:00 - 21:00

Tel: 01749 850359

www.thethreehorseshoesinn.co.uk

CAMELOT U3A

For those of you who have not heard of the The University of the Third Age (U3A) it was founded as a national organisation in 1982. It is a unique and exciting self help educational and leisure movement for people over 50 and especially for those who are no longer in full time work. Not only does it offer the opportunity to learn for enjoyment, but encourages shared learning experiences in a wide range of interest groups with the added prospect of new friendships.

Camelot U3A was started in 1992 and has members from all over South Somerset. There are now many available programmes which reflect the members wishes and resources. There is plenty of choice in the arts and crafts, languages, music, history, literature, poetry, creative writing, rambling, maths, cycling, theatre, travel and monthly lunch groups.

There is also a regular meeting held on the last Thursday of each month, (except July August and December) when members can meet for a cup of tea and listen to an interesting speaker. The first meeting after the summer break will be the Annual General Meeting on Thursday 18 September. Please note that this occasion is *not* on the last Thursday of the month. The Speaker, David Andrews will talk about the history of popular songs.

Future Thursday meetings will be:-

30 October:- A Career in Films by Sarah Maude.

27 November - The Tudor Rose by Bill Moore

If you are interested in joining the 2008/2009 session, come along to ENROLMENT DAY on Thursday 4 September, and sign up for the group or groups of your choice. This meeting and the monthly meetings are held at the Constitutional Hall, Castle Cary at 2.30pm.

Membership is £15.00 per annum for as many activities as you have time for and includes the monthly meetings, a free cup of tea and a biscuit and the monthly newsletter.

For further information ring the Membership Secretary, Margaret Dickinson 01963-350626

FAVOURITE THINGS

Questions from Sue Smith.

Responses from Mrs Kathleen Apperly, Hadspen Valley House,
Hadspen

What are your three favourite places?

Venice
Madagascar
My home in Hadspen

What are your three favourite foods?

Smoked Salmon
Lobster Mayonnaise
Roast Grouse with all the trimmings

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

Rick Stein to cook my dinner and he would also be an amusing talker.

Placido Domingo to sing for me, particularly Tosca.

Richard Gere, instead of after dinner mints!!

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

Venice – Because there is nowhere in the world like it for me.



**BATCOMBE FILM SOCIETY
2008 PROGRAMME**

The Jubilee Hall, Batcombe
Doors open 7.15pm
(6pm on Themed Evening)
Screenings 7.45pm

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

FOR YOUR DIARY, OUR FILMS THIS SEASON ARE ON:

12th September, 10th October, 14th November, 12th December
2008, 9th January, 23rd January, 13th February,
6th OR 13th March (date TBC), 28th March and 17th April 2009
PLUS a special event on 25th October 2008
This programme may be subject to alteration

Friday 10th October 2008

THERE WILL BE BLOOD (dir. Paul Thomas Anderson)

Saturday 25th October 2008

10TH ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION!

NEIL BRAND: *THE SILENT PIANIST*

Friday 14th November 2008

THE DIVING BELL AND THE BUTTERFLY (French with subtitles)

Friday 12th December 2008

SON OF RAMBOW

**For membership and advance reservations, please contact
ROB SAGE 01749 850934 or robsage@uwclub.net**

**For more information on our films, please contact
ELIZABETH HUNT 01749 850304**



**WELCOME TO OUR 2008-2009 SEASON
& OUR TENTH ANNIVERSARY**

(Look out for an extra special event on 25th October
in association with TAKE ART)

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

Friday 12th September

JUNO

(dir. Jason Reitman)

2008 / 96 mins /

12A

We open the season with a delightful comedy drama starring Ellen Page as teenager Juno MacGuff. She becomes pregnant and as the baby's father has left all responsibility as to what to do next with her, Juno decides to find a couple to adopt the baby. This brings her into contact with uptight yuppies, Mark and Vanessa and as the relationship develops, Juno gains a maturity and self-awareness beyond her years. A film with a witty script and great charm.

Licensed bar - Soft refreshments
Free parking - Wheelchair access - Hearing loop

For more on our films/special events: ELIZABETH HUNT
01749 850 304

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