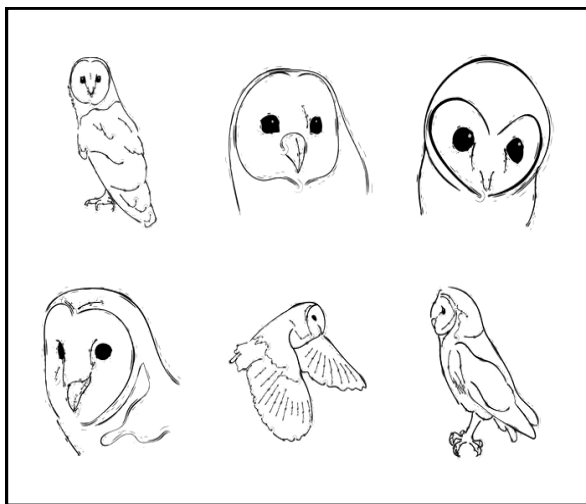


PITCOMBE

news

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November 2020

In this issue:

Autumn Ramblings pg 10

Village Hall AGM pg 16

Parish Council Report pg 21

and more...

MONTHLY MAGAZINE FOR THE PARISH OF PITCOMBE

What's on... ...this month

November

11.00am St Leonards Patronal Service

Sunday 1st

Sunday 8th

1050 am Remembrance Day Service

Tuesday 10th

7.30pm Pitcombe Parish Council Meeting

Friday 13th

Black bin collection

Tuesday 17th

7.30pm Village Hall AGM

Saturday 21st

Start of LOCKDOWN exhibition at Pitcombe
Farmhouse see pg 12 for details

Friday 27th

Black bin collection

Sunday 29th

6pm Evensong

...later

December 20th

4pm Carol Service

welcome

PITCOMBE NEWS

Our cover this month, acknowledges the beloved presence of the owl. The haunting call of the Tawny owl is particularly discernible at this time of year, with the distinctively different male and female calls piercing the silence at dawn as well as dusk. It is interesting to note that the eyes of an owl are completely static, with all movement coming from the neck. An owl's head can rotate up to 270 degrees.

Turning to the contents of this edition, our attention is drawn to the seasonal problem of flooding in Pitcombe. The Highways Authority is designing a scheme to stop water rushing off the A359 and into gardens, but in the meantime, volunteers are being called for to clear the river and the drains.

Breaking news is that at last a new Rector of the Parish has been appointed. Carole Wyatt has written a detailed report all about it. Elsewhere, bulb planting is the seasonal priority, with November being the crucial month for it. Erica Holt has some useful advice on just that in her report on behalf of the Castle Cary Gardening Association.

The Parish Council report deals with concerns relating to the embankment site at Strutters Hill and the Tree Preservation Orders in respect to lime trees on the top of Pitcombe Hill, near Rodberds Barn. Meanwhile, the Village Hall gives notice of their upcoming AGM, ambitiously being conducted in situ, as opposed to the virtual meetings we've been accustomed to.

Finally, do not miss the intriguing report about setting up your very own wormery, guaranteed to upgrade your composting efforts in the most environmentally friendly way. It also provides fishermen with an on-tap supply of bait.

contribute

The next edition will be December 2020 and January 2021. Please send any articles or advertisements to the Editors by 15 November at the latest. Our contact details can be found in the Parish Directory in the centre of this magazine.

Editors: Jane and Anthony Hodges

NOVEMBER SERVICES

Sunday 1st

I I am Patronal Festival Dr Robin

Sunday 8th

10.50am Service of Remembrance

Sunday 29th

6pm Evensong Rev Hillary Jalland

As reported elsewhere in this Pitcombe News, the Reverend Jonathan Evans has been appointed to the post of Rector of the Benefice of Bruton and surrounding parishes. We very much look forward to welcoming Jonathon to Pitcombe when he takes up his ministry with us in February.

Meanwhile our retired clergy have been holding the fort, and we appreciate their support particularly during this covid-19 epidemic. I list below the services to be held at St Leonard's in November, featuring a guest speaker at our patronal on the 1st:

Patronal service on the 1st November at 11:00am with Dr Rob James the Canon Chancellor of Wells Cathedral
Remembrance service on the 8th November at 10:50am with Preb. Mark Ellis;

Evening Prayer on 29th November at 6.00pm with the Rev Hilary Jalland.

If you cannot make it to church, the Rev. Dan Richards holds an on-line service every Sunday at one of the churches in the Bruton Benefice. This can be found on the St Mary's Bruton website at: <https://www.stmarysbruton.org/church/welcome-st-mary-virgin-bruton>

One last thing, I was in St Leonard's last Sunday and noticed how lovely the flowers look. They really add to the beauty of the church. I would like to thank our rota of flower arrangers who every week throughout the year work hard to make such beautiful arrangements.

A NEW RECTOR

I We have a new Rector!

I am delighted to be able to tell you that following the recent interviews at Hadsden Village Hall, the Bishop has appointed the Reverend Jonathan Evans to the post of Rector of the Benefice of Bruton, Brewham, Pitcombe and Shepton Montague, subject to the satisfactory completion of the usual statutory checks made on all clergy taking up a new post.

Jonathan Evans is 51 years of age and was educated at Maidstone grammar school and Oriel College Oxford reading Philosophy and German. He did a postgraduate law diploma at London Polytechnic followed by a bar vocational course and was called to the bar in 1994. He joined Wilberforce Chambers in Lincoln's Inn specialising in pensions law and commercial contract disputes. In 2014 he took silk (QC).

In 1996 he married Alice, whom some members of the PCC met during their tour of the benefice churches and liked very much. They have two sons and two daughters, the youngest son in his A level year.

Two years later he started training for the ministry at Ripon College, Cuddesdon, gaining a postgraduate diploma in theology from Oxford.

His curacy has been at Holy Trinity Christchurch near Bournemouth in the Diocese of Winchester, so this is his first stand-alone appointment as a priest, but he is familiar with the challenge of a multi-parish Benefice because he was a churchwarden at Longparish while working in London.

We are very much looking forward to welcoming Jonathan and his family to our Benefice and ask that you please hold them in your prayers as Jonathan prepares to begin his new ministry among us. Details of a Service of Welcome and Institution will be announced in due course.

St Leonard's will continue to follow the guidance to make our church Covid secure and we ask that you continue to wear a protective face covering when attending Church please.

If you have any queries please don't hesitate to get in touch with either Philip Pidsley Tel: 01749 813842 email: philip.pidsley@btinternet.com or Carole Wyatt Tel: 01963 350222 email: carolewyatt@btinternet.com.

Carole Wyatt, Hon. Sec. Pitcombe PCC

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November Skies

Than these November skies
 Is no sky lovelier. The clouds are deep;
 Into their grey the subtle spies
 Of colour creep,
 Changing that high austerity to delight,
 Till ev'n the leaden interfolds are bright.
 And, where the cloud breaks, faint far azure peers
 Ere a thin flushing cloud again
 Shuts up that loveliness, or shares.
 The huge great clouds move slowly, gently, as
 Reluctant the quick sun should shine in vain,
 Holding in bright caprice their rain.
 And when of colours none,
 Not rose, nor amber, nor the scarce late green,
 Is truly seen, --
 In all the myriad grey,
 In silver height and dusky deep, remain
 The loveliest,
 Faint purple flushes of the unvanquished sun.

by John Freeman

(29 January 1880 – 23 September 1929)

He won the Hawthornden Prize in 1920 with *Poems 1909-1920*

*With thanks to Merida Drysdale who sends us wonderful poems for
 The Pitcombe News*



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What about a Wormery?

Some of you who already have one, will find this article 'old hat', but for those who don't, let me introduce you to the delights of having recently acquired one.

It comes with all the equipment and ingredients for setting one up, including composting trays, start-up bedding, worm food and a bag of worms. The worms take some time to settle in and become accustomed to their new surroundings, so they should be left for two weeks before starting to feed them. The wormery should be kept where the temperature doesn't vary much, a shed or garage would be suitable, although they can be kept outside, as long as the position is sheltered from strong winds and out of direct sunlight.

Feeding the worms is really easy. Basically, they will eat anything that has lived and died! They love vegetables, fruit, bread, rice, pasta, cereals, crushed eggshells, cardboard, paper. Avoid meat, garlic, onions, citrus fruits, bones, dairy products, oil, grass cuttings. The food should be cut up into small pieces to assist consumption. The biggest mistake one can make is to overfeed the worms. Old, unconsumed food creates a poisonous environment and may kill them. Start with small amounts and check to see how much is being eaten before adding more. However, worms will eat half their weight in food waste every day, so keep an eye on the situation.

Smells. A normal wormery should smell

earthy. Bad smells arise when food is allowed to rot. You can help by getting your rubber gloves and stirring up uneaten food as this allows oxygen to penetrate. Otherwise, stop feeding them or remove the rotten food. Reproduction. Worms breed every 3-4 days from spring through autumn. Eggs develop over 3 weeks and from egg to maturity takes about 3 months. Your worm population will therefore multiply but the population regulates itself depending on the amount of space available and how much food they have.

Finally, we come to the *raison d'être* of actually having a wormery. Worms produce their own compost, called vermicompost which is very high in nutrients. It contains 10,000 times the number of bacteria and microbes than normal compost and is high in phosphates, nitrogen and potassium. Therefore, use it sparingly. Use as a top dressing or sprinkle some around the plant roots to give them a real boost. Additionally, the wormery has a sump to collect any liquid residue. As the liquid passes through the bin it becomes charged with nutrients and therefore makes an excellent plant feed.

Happy wormery-ing!

ALH

Gardening Ramblings

Castle Cary Gardening Association

Time for autumn ramblings. It's a strange season with all combinations of warm, cold, dry and wet. This makes it really hard for me to get organised Well, I like to imagine it's the fault of the weather anyway.

This is the bulb planting season and my working week is spent planting bulbs for others. The 500 that go in every year on a tennis court bank are never enough. The real secret to avoiding springtime disappointment is that you do have to let the leaves die down before you tidy. Getting them strimmed out before this will inevitably lead to disappointment.

And yet somehow planting my own bulbs defeats me. All the bulbs that I KNEW I was going to plant on time are still sitting in their bags and nets, gently growing verdigris. The trouble is that the borders and pots are still growing handsome enough plants and it seems brutal to clear them out. As a result, I tend to mush up the herbaceous plants as I squeeze in the bulbs.

However, I do know that come April and May all those fabulous tulips will make me smile. It will frustrate me that I didn't get them planted earlier as there are always ones that are not as gorgeous as they should be. I will also question their spacing, as it's no longer obvious where the dahlia or aster or Agastache were, that got in my way in October. OK, November!

This year I am trying some wildly tarty parrot tulips, Estelle Rynveld and Apricot Parrot. Each autumn I promise myself that I won't buy any more, but those bulb catalogues are so seductive. In the grand scheme of things, it's a pretty harmless addiction.

Happy gardening.

Erica Holt

THE HAPPY COOKER



BAKED APPLE AND CUSTARD POTS

Avid followers of HC will have noted a dearth of cakes and desserts on this page, as the aforementioned does not have a sweet tooth! Here follows an attempt at redressing the balance, and any favourites that readers wish to share here will be most welcome, sweet or savoury. Please send recipes to the editors.

INGREDIENTS Serves 6

650g Bramley apples, peeled, cored and sliced 2tbsp Calvados or brandy

5 medium egg yolks

150g golden caster sugar

500 ml single cream & 2 ground cloves

METHOD

1. Place apples with 100g of sugar in a pan. Cover and cook for 15-20 mins until they're soft, and then mash them with a spoon. If there is any residual liquid, simmer until the puree dries out, stirring to prevent catching. Stir in Calvados or brandy and leave to cool. Then divide the apple between six ramekins.
2. Heat oven to 170* (140*Fan) Gas mark 3. Whisk egg yolks and remaining sugar together. Heat the cream almost to boiling point, then whisk it into the egg mixture, which will thicken a little. Strain it into a jug, stirring in the ground cloves.
3. Gently pour the custard on top of the apple over the back of a spoon, so as not to disturb it. Place ramekins in a roasting dish with warm water, that comes 2/3 up the sides, and bake for 1 hour until set and slightly golden on the surface. The pots can be served at room temp or chilled - in which case they can be made a day or two in advance.

LOCKDOWN: Pitcombe Exhibition

**Pitcombe Studio, Pitcombe
Farmhouse, Bruton, BA10 0AU**

**21 November-5 December 10am-
5pm, closed Mondays and Tuesdays**

Artist, **Alexandra Drysdale** and retired architect, **Allan Howles** are holding an exhibition in Pitcombe Studio of their drawings produced during the first six months of the Covid-19 pandemic.

Entitled **Lockdown**, the exhibition is of landscapes, both rural and urban, local to Bruton and this corner of south Somerset. Being confined to their immediate environment, apart from a brief sojourn in Derbyshire when lockdown was eased, the positive side of lockdown enabled them to explore the beauty of the local landscape and to interpret this in their drawings.

The exhibition also includes artefacts by Alexandra completed over the past year. She calls them "artefacts" because they are neither sculpture nor painting, but a collage of different materials and dimensions. She uses traditional craft techniques such as patchwork and embroidery but in a fine art context.

Alexandra moved to Bruton three years ago, to join her mother and sister, and has made a studio at her mother's home in Pitcombe. She has exhibited widely over a long career, as well as lecturing in Art History. Allan retired from a 40-year career in architecture some five years

ago. He moved to Wells in 1987 to join the architectural practice Beech Tyldesley as a partner, latterly Senior Partner, before going solo. The drawings in the exhibition display his lifelong enjoyment of buildings and landscapes.

All visitors are of course to recognise the rules on social distancing and to wear masks. Hand sanitizer will be provided at the point of entry.

Alexandra and Allan look forward to seeing you there.

alex@alexandradrysdale.com, mob:
07787827793,

www.alexandradrysdale.com



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Parish Council

Chairman	Richard Waller	01749 812754 rjtwaller@hotmail.com
Parish Clerk	Zoe Godden	07742 930521 clerk@pitcombepc.org.uk

St Leonard's Church

The Rector		
Benefice Office Secretary		benefice@stmarysbruton.org
Bell-ringing	Tina Harley	01749 813262 tina.harley@btinternet.com
Church Flowers roster	Tina Harley	01749 813262 tina.harley@btinternet.com
Church Wardens	Philip Pidsley	01749 813842 philip.pidsley@btinternet.com
PPC Secretary	Carole Wyatt	01963 350222 carolewyatt@btinternet.com

Friends of St Leonards

Secretary	Cathie Brook	01963 351492 catherinebrook@aol.com
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Hadspen Village Hall

Chairman	Robin Currie	01749 814899 arctheduke@gmail.com
Bookings Secretaries	Penny Mounsey	01963 359488 penny.mounsey345@btinternet.com
	Jan James	01963 350464 janet.james945@btinternet.com
Secretary	Sheelagh Douglas	07733 102819. sdmdouglas7@gmail.com

Neighbourhood Watch

Co-ordinating Officer	Sue Chamberlain	01963 350616 sechamberlain@btinternet.com
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S H D I R E C T O R Y

PITCOMBE NEWS

hall.pitcombepc.org.uk

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Secretary	Carole Wyatt	01963 350222 carolewyatt@btinternet.com
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BRUTON ART CLASS

Alexandra Drysdale	07787 827793 alex@alexandradrysdale.com
--------------------	--

U3A

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History	Bruce Bower	01747 840335 bowersxb@btinternet.com

PILATES

Shirley Rutter	01749 812176
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Shepton Mallet Treatment Centre	01749 333600

LOCAL COUNCIL

District Councillor	Robin Bastable	01749 812335 Robin.bastable@southsomerset.gov.uk
County Councillor	Anna Groskop	01749 812520 amgroskop@somerset.gov.uk
Roads and Transport		roadsandtransportSD@somerset.gov.uk



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VILLAGE HALL



HADSPEN VILLAGE HALL
ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING
(WITH CHEESE & WINE)

TO BE HELD ON TUESDAY

17TH NOVEMBER 2020 AT 7.30PM

IN THE VILLAGE HALL

*****ALL WELCOME*****

The AGM is open to all residents of Hadpen, Pitcombe and Cole and is an opportunity for all to hear of activities and events at the Hall and to contribute to plans for the future. As it will be held in accordance with the Government's 'Rule of Six', members of the public who want to attend should contact the Secretary in advance so that appropriate arrangements can be made.

As part of the formal business, 9 Trustees are to be elected at the meeting, together with up to 3 co-opted members, all of whom make up the Management Committee of the Hall. The Trustees are required to act in accordance with the legal requirements applying to Charities.

There are vacant positions on the Management Committee, and the Trust is seeking nominations from individuals who would like to be involved in the local community. This has been an unusual year for everyone with the challenges of Covid-19 and the Trust is keen to ensure that the Hall continues to play an important role in the well-being of Hadspen, Pitcombe and Cole.

Nominations will be put forward at the meeting, but any person wishing to be nominated can also tender his/her name in advance to the Secretary, for submission at the meeting.

Sheelagh Douglas - Secretary

Hadspen Village Hall Committee

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Flooding in Pitcombe Village

There is a long-standing risk of flooding in Pitcombe, resulting from the river overflowing and the additional problem of rainfall pouring off Pitcombe Rock. Residents have previously combined to mitigate the problems by clearing the river of potential blockages and keeping drains clear of debris. council wonder if there is anyone in the community who could spare the time to coordinate efforts? There is a lot of local goodwill and clearly everyone benefits from a combined effort – if anyone is willing to play a coordinating role please let me know via the clerk. Thank you all.

The Parish Council is aware of the problems with blocked drains on Pitcombe Rock and we recently held an on-site meeting , organised by Robin Currie , with Highways officers to consider improvements which will address the problem of water rushing off the A359 and down the lane into gardens. A scheme of improvement is being designed by the officers. In the meantime, the most effective action is to clear the drains and control the amount of leaf litter etc on the lane. We have requested an urgent road clean from Highways and this should help.

Several residents have volunteered time to keep an eye on things and take shovel in hand to clear the drains. Thank you all. The Jennings brothers have stepped in to clear the worst blockages – again thank you. There was previously a local group organised to clear the river and the

Richard Waller
Chairman PPC

Vale of Camelot Growers

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Mulled wine and mince pies

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PARISH COUNCIL



The Parish Council assembled on 13th October by Zoom, and several local residents attended. Whilst there were no major new agenda items, some previous matters were reviewed.

The embankment site near Strutters Hill continues to be of concern. The council is still awaiting actions from the planning officers in respect of an enforcement notice to prevent access from the lane near the old railway bridge. We also understand the owners may be preparing a formal planning application in respect of other activities on this site. There are also ongoing concerns in respect of access from Strutters Hill which are being considered by Highways. We will return to this item on the November agenda.

The council had requested an update from Highways on the Grove Cross junction, where local residents have expressed concern about safety. The response was disappointing in that Highways do not have any plans for additional measures to improve this crossing. We were assured that all appropriate signage and lining is in place to forewarn motorists. There the matter rests for the time being.

There was better news about the Tree Preservation Orders (TPO) in respect of the lime trees on the top of Pitcombe Hill near Rodberds Barn. The TPO is now in place and the owners advised. Continued vigilance is recommended to protect all our local established trees.

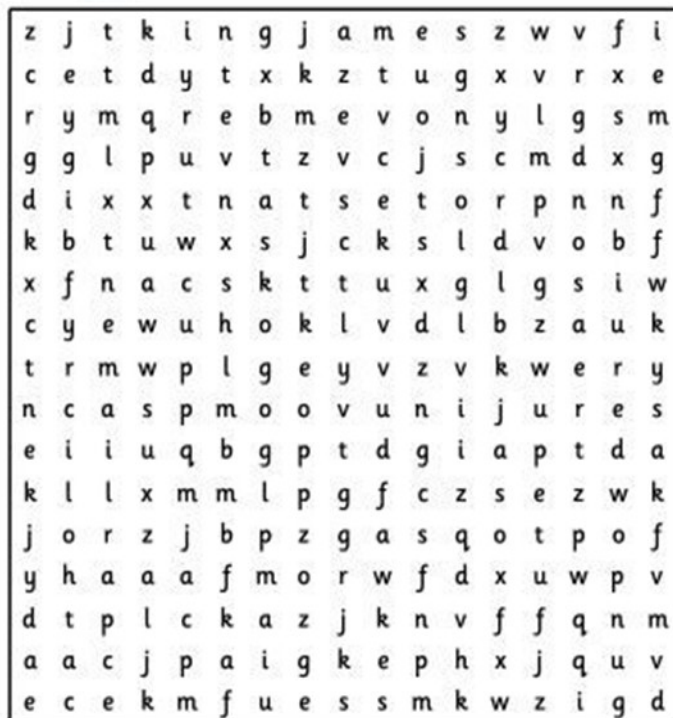
The council was also updated about the flooding concerns in the Pitcombe village area and there is a short report from the Chairman elsewhere in this month's PN. The council recorded its thanks to local people who have cleared drains etc and it was suggested that residents report the state of the drains regularly and vociferously to the relevant county department on their website (<https://www.somerset.gov.uk/roads-and-transport/report-a-blocked-drain-on-the-road/>) so that there is a thorough clearance of leaf and branch debris.

The council is delighted to confirm the return as clerk of Zoe Godden who left us briefly for Castle Cary Town Council. Full minutes of this meeting are available on the PPC website.

Richard Waller, Chairman



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