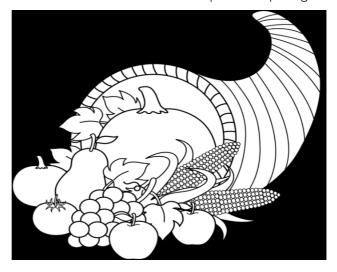
PITCOMBE news

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October 2020

In this issue:
More War memories pgs5,7,12
Neighbourhood Watch pg19
Parish Council pg 21 & 23
and more...

What's on...

...this month

Friday 2nd October Black bin collection

Sunday 4th 9.30am Holy Communion

Tuesday 13th 7.30pm Parish Council Meeting

Friday 16th Black bin collection

Sunday 18th 11am Morning Prayer

Sunday 25th 11am Holy Communion

Friday 30th Black bin collection

<u>...weekly</u>

...later

Sunday 8th Nov 10.50

Remembrance Day Service

Welcome

Scrolling through a list of historically important happenings in the month of October, I came across the name of William Tyndale. He was burnt at the stake on 6th October 1536 on the orders of Henry VIII. He was the first person to translate the Bible into English from the original Greek and Hebrew sources. This was strictly forbidden, and he paid the price, but he believed that everyone should be able to read the bible in their own language.

This segues neatly into what is happening in Pitcombe this month, but thankfully with nothing so brutal to impart. Caroline Donald is launching a new book about the noble dachshund breed, based on her experience with her two such darlings, Mitzi and Heidi. We understand producers have been sniffing around the parish looking for film rights. Also on the reading front, Charles Brook reviews an impressive range of books, some of them read and appreciated and others making up a daunting pile next to his bed to be tackled during the Covid doldrums.

War memories are still encouraging parishioners to put pen to paper and very welcome and interesting they are too. Three such pieces appear this month, threaded through with a keen sense of how the British are able to find humour and pleasure in even the worst conditions.

Elsewhere, gardening is faithfully represented with an educational article by Erica Holt, who always provides much food for thought about some of the intricacies of horticulture. Also, attractive deals are to be had in the form of secondhand gardening tools on sale from TFSR, a charity that ships tools to African countries and sells surpluses locally. Check out their advertisement. There is lots more to entertain and inform in this edition and we wish everyone happy reading.

contribute

Editors: Jane and Anthony Hodges

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



OCTOBER SERVICES

Sunday 4th 9.30 am Holy Communion

Sunday 18th 11am Morning Prayer

Sunday 25th 11am Holy Communion

I am pleased to say that we are now holding regular Sunday services with our retired clergy being supported by guests and lay preachers. As no singing is allowed, we use recorded music for the hymns and canticles. We also ring the bells, although only three to maintain social distancing! St Leonard's will continue to follow the guidance to make our church COVID-19 secure and we ask that you wear a protective face covering when attending church services please.

In October our services will be:

Holy Communion on 4th October at 9.30am with the Rev Dan Richards

Morning Prayer on 18th October at 11.00am with the Rev Hilary Jalland

Holy Communion on 25 October at 11:00am with the Rev

Also, in case you don't get November's Pitcombe News in time, the St Leonard's Patronal Service will be held on the 1st November at 11:00 am and will be taken by Dr Rob James the Canon Chancellor of Wells Cathedral.

We have had a good response to our advertisement for the post of Vicar of Bruton, and with interviews scheduled for the end of September it may be that we will soon have a new incumbent in place.

Philip Pidsley Churchwarden

WAR MEMORIES

A short but sweet experience

Reading recently in The Pitcombe News of peoples' memories and experiences of World War Two, I recalled my Father's tale of his short-lived call up to the Army.

My Father Claude Clothier was born and bred at Bottom Barn Farm, Hadspen now named The Wildings. While living with his parents at Bottom Barn Farm, he received his call up papers. He had to catch the train from Castle Cary to somewhere in Essex. On arrival he was given a medical and then had 3 teeth extracted. It was after this unpleasant experience the Services realised that, as he worked on the land, he was exempt from being called up and could return to Hadspen.

So, he was put on a train that was going to York, but which eventually headed south to Somerset. On arriving back in Castle Cary at 1.00am, Father was feeling in desperate need of a pint, so he went into the town and knocked up Tom Bliss, the landlord of The Angel Inn, which was situated where the Deli is now. He then walked back to Hadspen, arriving in time for morning milking. He had spent 48 hours touring the country as his part of the war effort.

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War Memories

Bath a soldier

We lived on the outskirts of London during the London Blitz. I was 10 years old. My two grown up sisters travelled to the City where their separate jobs were. My father had retired. My sisters were evacuated by their companies to Torquay, where they set up new offices. Meanwhile, I got 'Shelter Fever', as it was named.

When we were in the shelter one night, our home was badly damaged, with all the windows blown out. My father took my mother and me to Torquay. We lived in a very modern house in a part of Torquay called Livermead, where we settled very comfortably.

It was quite rural with fields about, and in one field were soldiers under canvas (poor things). They were living in terrible conditions. Some of the local people got together and set up a 'Bath a Soldier' campaign.

We were allocated a soldier - a delightful 'Geordie' called Harry Potts. My mother showed him the bathroom and other facilities. Presently, he came down absolutely shining. His hair was quite red and this lovely soldier had left the bathroom gleaming. My Dad made him a

cup of tea (only one as tea was very scarce) and he stayed sitting in front of the fire enjoying family life.

After a few weeks, to our dismay, an empty field met our gaze, still muddy. He used to wait, when every afternoon I passed the field, and he gave me some of his sweet ration. We never knew where he went. We thought his group went on the D-Day landings. I often think of him and hope he got home safely. It was our privilege to 'Bath a Soldier'

Paula Sherlock Cole Rd, Bruton



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Castle Cary Gardening Association

something splendid and this everything behind it is looking sideways winter damage. Feed in spring. or giving up due to lack of space or light. Now is the perfect time of year to decide what needs to be moved or reduced or encouraged/discouraged, before it is time to actually do it.

notes. In the deep midwinter or early- plant them out into their final setting. spring, it seems really unlikely that Emptied veg beds are good for this. anything herbaceous could possibly be 8' Happy gardening!. tall as its all brown and short. But now is when all those fabulous late summer perennials are huge. It is also the time to put a reminder into next year's diary, that staking in May would have been a good idea so that the Michaelmas daisies aren't flowering on right angled stems having been staked 'a bit late'.

So, wait until the plants that need moving have largely finished doing their thing, cut them down, dig them out. The soil needs to be moist so that you don't tear

the roots too much. For the new holes,

I have just been asked by someone about dig over thoroughly making the space when is the best time to move things larger than the new plant's root ball. Fill about having got their plantings 'wrong'. the hole with water and let it drain away There is no such thing as a perfect plan as then put compost/mycorrhizal granules plants will do their own thing depending to settle them in and encourage root on the year. What was small and sensible growth, but not feed them. This would one year has got its roots down to encourage top growth at the wrong time year of year and leave them susceptible to

After planting, put a shovel of compost around the top of the newly placed plant to keep it damp and help it with recovery. If you don't want to do it all in one big session, use a nursery bed for displaced I find it easiest to take pictures and write plants to live in for a while, until you can

Erica Holt

'Of making many books there is no end...' (Ecclesiastes 12, 12)

It's hard to believe that more than 600 books are being published in September to catch the Christmas market, but I suppose that, with increasing lockdown looming, we should attack at least some of them. So far, I have read three: Andrew Adonis' biography of Ernest Bevin is a fascinating glimpse into the best prime minister we never had. Described as Labour's Churchill, he was a commanding figure in the 1945 Atlee government, the power behind the throne.

Inge's War by Svenja O'Donnell, the description of her grandmother's escape to Denmark and then war-torn western Germany by boat, train and cart from Konigsberg in East Prussia (now Kaliningrad, a Russian city in Lithuania) before the arrival of the Red Army, is very moving. When you think how we complain at a little restriction of our liberty, it's a salutary read.

You may remember Elena Ferrante's Neapolitan quartet (starting with My Brilliant Friend, 2012): her new novel The Lying Life of Adults is set in Naples again. It was described in the Financial Times as being the 'most intense writing about the experiences of a girl on the cusp of adulthood' the reviewer had ever read. I found it very moving as she comes to terms with the fact that she's not an ugly duckling but a swan with a major power to attract.

Coming up is the biography of Haldane described as a 'timely reminder how effective politics can deliver' — would we had some of that now. Somewhat portly, he was asked by Churchill what the baby would be called. His reply that 'if a boy George after the King, a girl Mary after the Queen and if wind Winston' suggests an amusing as well as an influential man.

Robert Harris has written another 'personal thriller against a tense wartime backdrop'; Munich was great fun, so I am looking forward to V2.

I like to have a book to read downstairs and something soothing on my bedside table so I have pre-ordered One August Night by Victoria Hislop, V for Victory by Lissa Evans, Agent Sonya by Ben Macintyre, Snow by John Banville and the latest Cormoran Strike book, Troubled Blood by J K Rowling writing as Robert Galbraith.

Have a happy Autumn.

Charles Brook

THE HAPPY COOKER





1 garlic clove, crushed

aked stuffed mushrooms

Serves 8 as a starter or 4 as a light supper

INGREDIENTS

8 large flat mushrooms, cleaned 2 tbsp parsley - chopped

2 shallots, finely chopped 1/2 tbsp thyme leaves

50 g butter 25g pine nuts

3 anchovies, finely chopped 25g ball mozzarella, drained and torn into

pieces

100g fresh breadcrumbs 40g parmesan, grated

1. Heat the oven to 220*C/gas mark 7. Remove the mushroom stalks and chop. Set the cups aside

- 2. Gently fry the mushroom stalks and shallots in the butter for 5 mins until softened. Add the anchovies and garlic and cook for 2-3 minutes until the anchovies have melted.
- 3. Stir in the breadcrumbs, herbs, pine nuts and cheeses and mix thoroughly.
- 4. Brush the outside of each mushroom with oil. Arrange in a roasting dish, gill-side up, and fill with the mixture.
- 5. Bake for 10-12 minutes until tender and golden.

War Memories—VI Day

is greener...' moment? Probably not scavenging in the garden. because the Met Office confirms that 'the early part of August was mostly sunny and warm....and became more settled towards the end of the second week', although it does go on to say that 'skies were often cloudy and temperatures were mostly below the August average'. So that's nothing new.

shortly thereafter from cancer, which was attributed to his using a portable X-ray powered by his car battery in the mining valleys and the radiation leakage therefrom. VJ felt to the family like emerging from a long dark tunnel and we had every expectation of my father returning from the SE Asia campaign - which was not realized when he was sent to Hong Kong.

Bonfires had not been allowed during

I remember our customary summer the war, even on Guy Fawkes day, so holiday at my grandparents' house on building the biggest fire we could the Gower peninsula near Swansea in manage in my aunt's riding school 1945 as being sunny. Was this a 'grass field took lots of beachcombing and

I must have been allowed to stay up until it got dark and I remember being dressed in warm clothes for the ceremonial lighting of the fire which seemed huge to a small 5-year-old. But what I remember above all else is that fishermen's nets in those days were suspended on hollow metal spheres about the size of a child's Swansea had been very hard hit in football with a square metal handle. the blitz and my grandfather, who There were lots of those on the beach had retired from being a consultant which my brothers, 4 and 6 years surgeon, saw the destruction of his older than me and on holiday from nursing home as well as most of the prep school, tossed one at a time adjoining hospital in 1941. He died onto the fire. They made a really thyroid satisfactory celebratory bang.

Charles Brook

Odd Jobs

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		rjtwaller@hotmail.com
Parish Clerk		
		clerk@pitcombepc.org.uk.
St Leonard's Church		
The Rector		
Benefice Office Secretary	Jane Bennett	benefice@stmarysbruton.org
Bell-ringing	Tina Harley	01749 813262
		tina.harley@btinternet.com
Church Flowers roster	Tina Harley	01749 813262
		tina.harley@btinternet.com
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		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
Hadspen Village Hall		
Chairman	Robin Currie	01749 814899
		arctheduke@gmail.com
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Pilates Shirley Rutter 07733 085 077

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Local Government

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



Dachsy Mania



If we were to conduct a survey of all the dogs in the vicinity (I am cheating a little on parish boundaries here), I'm pretty sure the breed that would come out as most popular is the dachshund - perhaps competing with jack russells. The dachshund, however, would like to claim its superiority, and that of its human companions' for having such excellent taste (modesty is not one of their characteristics). Coming in three coats - wire-haired, smooth and long-haired; two sizes - miniature and standard (we shall leave the tiny and in-between ones to the Germans) - and a multitude of coat colourings, by my calculation they knock Heinz into the shade with more than 150 varieties.

The editors of this very magazine play host to a fine chap called Tiger and you may have come across my two wire-haired lovelies, Mitzi und Heidi (they like to keep the Germanic "und"); a brindle and a red. They certainly make themselves very known to anyone who dares walk by on their way to the village hall: that dachsy bark sure is loud, for which - as ever - apologies to the neighbours. They are also playing rather a starring role in my little book Dachshunds: The Long and the Short of Them, which comes out this month, and I thought I would give a flavour of it in an extract from the introduction.

"Although some might mock their petite stature - as the 20th-century American writer HR Mencken famously put it, "a half-a-dog high and a dog-and-a-half long - those of us who share our lives with these pocket rockets know they are a dog-and-a-half full of character. Once bitten, so to speak, that's it: you are likely to be a lover for life.

Since dachshunds came into my life in 2012, my house has filled with dachysnalia given by generous friends: socks, oven gloves and apron, notepads, birthday cards, tea towels, mugs, key rings, a collection of Christmas tree decorations - all are decorated with sausage dogs. I even have an eraser in the shape of one, though am yet to receive a pair of earrings.

This paraphernalia is not just because they are an amusing shape: dachshunds are everywhere, the dog *du jour* and the go-to for advertising campaigns if you want a cute canine. A standard wire-haired called Maisie won Best in Show at Crufts this year and promptly celebrated in true dachsy style, by leaving a small present for the judges and 11 million viewers on the green carpet as she did her lap of honour. There are meet-up groups, dachsy cafes, Facebook groups and Instagram stars: walk along any fashionable street [Bruton and Cary included] and you are bound to meet at least one, prancing along on the end of a lead with head and tail held high and a bounce in its step."

To celebrate the book's launch, there will be a small doggie event in the pavilion at Hauser & Wirth on the afternoon of October 11, Covid-19-willing; it is rather a matter of "watch this space" at the moment. Bailey Hill Bookshop in Castle Cary is also stocking it and they have also just taken on a dappled dachsy puppy; so free cuddles with every copy! If you would like a signed copy or to buy one from me directly, please do get in touch: caroline@carolinedonald.com - at £9.99, Mitzi und Heidi think it will make the perfect Christmas present. But they would say that, wouldn't they?

Caroline Donald 17

SECOND-HAND GARDENING AND HAND TOOLS FOR SALE ALL PROCEEDS TO CHARITY

Need tools for your garden or around the house? If so, call 'Tools For Self Reliance' Castle Cary. We have a large stock of second-hand tools that will meet your requirements at low prices while raising vital funds for our charity.

TFSR refurbishes old hand tools and sewing machines and puts them directly into the hands of people in Africa so they can earn themselves a living. We collect our tools from public donations, but not all items we are given (especially gardening tools) are suitable for Africa, so we sell those ones instead for shipping and other vital costs.

- **Gardening tools** we have for sale include: forks, spades, shovels, hoes, rakes, cultivators, shears, loppers, secateurs, axes, leaf blowers.
- Other tools for sale include work benches, sack trucks, bow saws and electric drills. We have many other items too, so do call even if what you want isn't on this list.

To buy tools from TFSR Castle Cary, contact us to arrange individual viewings of our stock. Please call:

- Melissa 07815 031778
- Simon 07587 180639

Got any old tools to donate?

We continue to collect donations of tools both to send to Africa and raise funds for our work. If you have any unwanted sewing machines (especially Singer hand machines), hand tools or gardening tools, please call <u>Amon Cohen on 01749 813239</u>. And, needless to say, cash donations (including by bank transfer) are always welcome!

Neighbourhood Watch

14/09/20 9788 Somerset: HM Courts & Tribunals Service Scam

Dear Members.

We have been made aware very recently of a new scam.

An email is titled HM Courts & Tribunals Services and will state in the subject "Your Fixed Penalty Notice Ref:" followed by a series of numbers.

In the actual email itself it will explain the total cost is £25 with a delivery date of 7am to 7pm.

The location for the supposed offence simply states "United Kingdom"

I have attached a copy of the scam I received earlier to familiarise yourselves, the "Click here to Pay" link has been deactivated.

Please, if you receive this in your inbox do not fall for it and advise others that may be unaware.

Look at the link below if you wish to verify what you have received, or seen.

penalty-charge-notice-scam.pdf





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Fall leaves, fall

Fall, leaves, fall; die, flowers away;

Lengthen night and shorten day;

Every leaf speaks bliss to me

Fluttering from the autumn tree.

I shall smile when wreaths of snow blossom

where the rose should grow;

I shall sing when night's decay

Ushers in a drearier day.

Emily Bronte

1818-1848

PITCOMBE PARISH COUNTY

Report on Pitcombe Parish Council Remote Meeting held on Tuesday 8th September 2020 via Zoom.

The PPC continues to meet by Zoom and will do so pending the revised guidance for parish meetings which of course reflects the safety concerns over coronavirus. It was great to see a number of members of the local community join the call and raise points of concern and questions. The full minutes of the meeting are available on the Parish Council website. I have reported on a few matters of general interest.

The site of the old railway embankment has been of concern for some time and especially the issue of the access to the site from the A359. We have been waiting for the SSDC to resubmit enforcement proceedings as the first attempt was rejected. A site visit was conducted by officers and it has been reported that enforcement against the continued access to the site from A359 will proceed. We hope eventually that this will mean the potentially dangerous use of the verge and entrance will stop. Other activities on the site continue to be subject to the decisions of council officers and we will continue to press for the interests of the local community to be protected.

There was discussion about the use and occupancy of the woodland area by the railway viaduct amid concerns that parties and overnight stays were taking place without the necessary planning consent. The council is concerned that this may well breach planning regulations and will be taking the matter up with SSDC. A report has already been made using the online process established by SSDC.

Readers may be aware that there is ongoing a proposal to convert Somerset to a unitary authority which means we would no longer have both South Somerset District Council and Somerset County Council. Instead, we would have one authority. The PPC is being briefed on this matter and anyone who has a particular interest can investigate on the various websites or contact your own councillors for further information, ie Robin Bastable or Anna Groskop.

Report continued on page 23



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Parish Council Report continued

Continued from page 21

Local residents have previously pressed particularly to speak up for Pitcombe share the concerns of the community involved. about this matter and indeed a proposed solution was drafted with the assistance of the management of the Newt. However, the stumbling block remains the cost of any such improvements. We will lobby our councillors to consider this matter and we have written to the Highways department for an update on their intentions.

As there have been a number of planning applications and proposals the Pitcombe village area recently, residents have suggested the idea of reviewing the extent and content of the Conservation This Area. process may worthwhile but could be somewhat expensive to undertake and consuming to carry through. The PPC is looking for local leadership in the first instance to investigate such a review. If you would like to be involved, perhaps forming a committee to set things in motion, please contact me or the clerk to the PPC.

Finally, we continue our search for an additional person to join the PPC and

for action to improve safety at the Grove please give this some thought and let the Cross junction. The PPC continues to clerk know if you would like to be

> I would like to thank all the councillors for their hard work in these meetings, and also outside, whether it be supporting people through the Covid lockdown or helping unblock drains so that flood water does not ruin houses or gardens. Thank you all.

> > Richard Waller Chairman

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Somerset Wildlife Trust

Golledge Electronics renew Corporate Partnership with

Somerset Wildlife Trust

Somerset Wildlife Trust are pleased to opportunities for announce that Golledge Electronics have renewed their corporate membership to the Trust for another year.

Headquartered in the south west, and close to Golledge's site. distributing to over 50 countries worldwide. Golledge is the UK's leading supplier of frequency control products, Jonathan Golledge, MD of Golledge and is a long term supporter of the *Electronics* Trust's work across the county - in restoration its grassland decline of pollinators and wider insect passion for the environment, populations.

The company takes its corporate the natural environment very seriously, environmental initiatives. including making a substantial contribution business, and is committed to promoting -standing support of their great work.' environmental good practices to its staff and the wider community.

The partnership will continue to provide

Golledge volunteer the Trust's on (according to the Government's social distancing guideline) and to be involved with other initiatives that champion the natural environment in communities

comments. 'Golledge Electronics have been proud to support Somerset Wildlife Trust over the past 14 programmes which help reverse the years. We share Somerset Wildlife Trust's achieving a sustainable future, and are delighted to continue our support throughout the current challenging times. COVID-19 has impacted all our lives to responsibility to the local community and differing extents and many of us, including our Golledge employees, have and has put in place a wide range of looked to nature to help us maintain our mental health throughout the outbreak. carbon offsets schemes, as means of Somerset Wildlife Trust helps to ensure we can continue to look to nature in this reducing its carbon footprint as a way, and we are proud to renew our long

> Taken from a recent press release by Somerset Wildlife Trust

Bin Collection in 2021

There are changes afoot regarding our rubbish collection in 2021 and these may be viewed on the following link. https://www.somersetwaste.gov.uk/recycle-more/

Our rubbish will be collected every three weeks starting in 2021. Before it begins in our area, every household will be issued with the new calendar and a blue bag. Tetrapak, and all those containers which lately many have been taking to Dimmer, will become part of the kerbside collection. Where medical waste (and this includes nappies) separate arrangements can be made.

This is tremendous news as more recyclable material will be collected kerbside, and is a sign that Somerset responded well to the 'Slim your Waste campaign'!

The next **Q&As sessions at facebook.com/Somersetwaste** are as follows:

Saturday 10 October 11am-12noon

Thursday 29 October 7pm-8pm



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