

# PITCOMBE *news*

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## SEPTEMBER 2020

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*Parish Council Updates - p 6*

*War Stories - p 9*

*The Happy Cooker- p 21*

*and more...*

MONTHLY MAGAZINE FOR THE PARISH OF PITCOMBE

# WHAT'S ON...

## ...IN SEPTEMBER

Saturday 5

Black bin collection

Sunday 6 - 9.30am

Holy Communion

Tuesday 8 - 7.30pm

Parish Council meeting

Friday 18

Black bin collection

Reminder: Green bins for Garden refuse are now collected the same day as Black bins

## ...LATER

Sunday 20 November - 11.00am

Harvest Thanksgiving



Your COVID-19 Update  
is included at the end of  
this magazine

### *contribute*

Editors: Jane and Anthony Hodges  
Layout and design: Max Doughty

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

# welcome

## PITCOMBE NEWS

In this new world of data overload, the expression, 'the days are drawing in', can be expressed more precisely by looking at the length of the days in, for instance, September. On 1 September the day's length, as measured between sunrise to sunset, will be 13 hours 32 minutes. On 30 September the day's length will be 11 hours 39 minutes, a difference of 2 hours. Armed with this information you will be in a position to impress the people who tell you, 'the days are drawing in'.

Welcome back after the summer break. You will not be alone in thinking that things look more confusing now than when it (the summer break) started, in terms of the pandemic. In contrast, the Pitcombe News, contains well-grounded contributions from the Church Warden, the Village Hall and the Parish Council. Another regular, The Happy Cooker, quickens the senses with another appetising recipe.

Meanwhile, those with happy memories of the Old Village Hall will be amused by a picture of a group of amateur performers cavorting on the stage. Who are they?

Our War Memories theme continues, with VJ Day (15 August) inspiring contributions from our readers about their experiences and those of their relatives during those war years. Many thanks to those who have shared them with us.

An apology: We omitted to include the report of the Parish Council meeting, held on 9 June, in the Jul/Aug edition of the magazine. It therefore appears in this edition, along with a report on the July meeting. Sorry! ■

## ST LEONARD'S

**A**fter a few weeks in June when we were able to open St Leonard's daily for private prayer, I am pleased to report that worship resumed at St Leonard's on Sunday 19 July with a service of Matins. As no singing was allowed, recorded music was used for the hymns and canticles. The service was well attended and appreciated by the congregation.

A week later Holy Communion was held, led by the Dean of Wells, the Very Reverend John Davies, and with a sermon given by Reverend Canon Professor David Thomas. Of course, in these COVID-19 times, Holy Communion was taken spiritually by John Davies on behalf of the congregation. On this occasion the organ was played by David Slater the Bruton organist and the bells were rung (although only three to maintain social distancing!).

In September our services will be:

- Holy Communion on 6 September at 9.30am
- Harvest Thanksgiving on 20 September at 11.00am.

We always appreciate produce or groceries for our Harvest Thanksgiving and would be grateful if you could leave your contributions in the Church porch on Saturday morning, 19 September if you have any please. These will be distributed after the service in the usual way.

St Leonard's will continue to follow the guidance to make our church COVID-19 secure and we ask that you continue to wear a protective face covering when attending Church please.

We will be holding just two services each month until things return to some semblance of normality by which time, hopefully we will also have appointed a new incumbent if there is a good response to the Benefice advertisement. ■

**Philip Pidsley**  
Church Warden

## LETTER FROM THE RIGHT REVEREND PETER HANCOCK, BISHOP OF BATH AND WELLS

I am writing this whilst receiving treatment in hospital, although by the time you read this, I hope that I may be back home having completed my first course of chemotherapy. The first thing I want to say, and I am sure this is echoed by so many, is what wonderful treatment and care I have received from everyone in the hospital. Their kindness, concern and professionalism are beyond words.

What is an unusual experience for me however, is that I have not been allowed to leave my room and the doors and windows have been kept firmly shut. Looking out of my window and craning my neck upwards I am just able to get a glimpse of the sky outside. Without that I would not know whether it was sunny or cloudy or raining outside. Not that I am in any way complaining. I am safe and receiving the best care imaginable. It is also important whatever may happen to keep a sense of proportion. I vividly recall hearing Terry Waite speak when he came to the diocese on one occasion. It is unimaginable what he went through in those 1763 days in Beirut – the first four years of which were spent in solitary confinement, blindfolded, in a basement room with no windows, with no books or papers, chained to a radiator and sleeping on the floor. His courage and faith are remarkable and have inspired so many people since. I remember him once being interviewed and being asked what the happiest moment of his life was, one that he would cherish forever. He replied: 'When my blindfold was taken off during my release in November 1991. I'd been in the dark – in a basement or blindfolded - for years. For the first time in five years I saw the sky, the grass, the colours, and I felt the wind on my face.'

Terry Waite is also very clear about how the prayers of so many others supported him through those years. As I write I am also very aware of all the prayers that have and are being said for me. That is both humbling and encouraging and once I am getting out and about again, I look forward to being able to thank you personally.

With my thanks, best wishes and prayers for you ■

***Bishop Peter***

# PITCOMBE PARISH COUNCIL

9 JUNE 2020

The Pitcombe Parish Council assembled by zoom on 9 June and we were joined by several members of the public as well as our District and County Councillors. The minutes of the meeting are available on the PPC website as usual. I have attempted to capture a few items which may be of general interest.

Lots of concern has been expressed about the development activities on the site of the old railway embankment adjoining Strutter's Hill. The South Somerset District Council attempted to enforce action to stop this activity but unfortunately due to drafting errors the enforcement notice was quashed. PPC has urged the SSDC to resubmit a valid enforcement action as soon as possible to prevent the unauthorised access and development of this site and we will continue to press for the development to cease and the site to be protected. PPC will continue to pursue this matter and local support is appreciated.

Another very controversial issue is the felling of six ancient lime trees on the site of Rodberds Barn at the top of Pitcombe Hill. Many residents were appalled at the destruction of these beautiful trees which had been enacted without any form of approval from the relevant authorities. A Tree Preservation Order has now been placed on the remaining limes and the landowner is fully aware that further felling is prohibited. The felled trees must remain on site until an investigation into this felling has been concluded by the Forestry Commission. In the meantime, the PC has decided to consider the implications for trees across the parish which may need our protection from random felling activities and Caroline Donald supported by Julia Barnard is investigating the matter. Members of the community are warmly invited to support this work by identifying any examples of trees worthy of special consideration; please contact either Caroline, Julia or the clerk. ►

▷ Some years ago, a temporary permissive footpath was established from the corner of Rye Ash field to the road from Cole to Hadspen to avoid the field adjoining Cole Manor. This temporary diversion has fallen into disrepair and is in any case not very easily accessible to all. The PPC has therefore decided to fully reinstate the footpath on its traditional course exiting into the lane alongside Cole Manor. Appropriate signage will be reinstalled. In the meantime, it would be sensible to discontinue using the broken stile, uneven steps and missing hand-rail, which were installed higher up the lane to provide an alternative route.

On the topic of footpaths generally, it has been reported that a lot of our footpath signs, including finger posts, are missing or in a poor state of repair. The Council would like to identify where there are gaps or repairs required so that all can benefit from clearly marked access to our countryside while respecting the ownership and farming activities they are crossing through. If you have any examples you would like to report, please contact the clerk by email in the first instance with a clear explanation of the location so that we can compile a full list. We will then contact the relevant department for signage to be restored.

Thanks to all who attended. These notes are not intended as an alternative to the full minutes which are publically available. While we continue to be under the constraints of the lockdown, access to the zoom version of future meetings for all members of our community is available via the clerk. If you would like to join in future meetings, please email Holly on [clerk@pitcombepc.org.uk](mailto:clerk@pitcombepc.org.uk).

## 14 JULY 2020

The meeting convened by Zoom (we are really getting the hang of this now) and the usual agenda items were covered – full minutes of the meeting are available on the Parish Council website.

Sadly, this was the last meeting attended by our clerk, Holly Callow, who has made a family move to France. Holly leaves with our thanks and appreciation for her service. We agreed a process of recruitment for ►

## Pitcombe News

▷ her successor – if you are reading this and know someone suitable or have an interest in the role yourself then please contact the clerk by email. Zoe, our former clerk, has agreed to act as locum until we find a successor.

The Council regularly discusses the safety of the roads in our community and the speed with which people race through the lanes. We heard an update regarding 'Bruton's Safer Walking and Cycling Group' and whilst the Council agreed with the principle of improving the environment for walkers and cyclists it was noted that certain practicalities of living in a rural environment must be accepted, such as the high percentage of people who use vehicles to travel due to the lack of regular public transport.

Councillor Groom advised that he had reported a fly tipping incident and that he was very pleased that the Council had dealt with it so quickly and efficiently. Councillor Groom suggested that occasional reminders of how to report fly tipping should be included in the Pitcombe News. Here is the link to make a report: [southsomerset.gov.uk/services/environmental-health/nuisances/report-fly-tipping/](https://southsomerset.gov.uk/services/environmental-health/nuisances/report-fly-tipping/)

We received an update regarding the Forestry Commission's response relating to Rodberd's Barn. There has been no further update and Councillor Currie reported that progress was slow as certain processes had to be adhered to by The Forestry Commission. Councillor Donahue thanked Councillor Currie for reporting the felling so swiftly and felt that it had made a great difference. Councillor Donald further reported that she had spoken to SSDC regarding the possibility of carrying out a tree survey in the Parish but had been told it would be a waste of time as they had satellite imagery which they used to effectively monitor trees.

The Council discussed the prevalence of ragwort and other noxious weeds in our area. It was decided that guidance should be displayed on the Parish website and notice boards regarding the control of noxious weeds. ►



▷ Finally, it was noted that Hadspen Village Hall plans to reopen on 1 September 2020 and will send out further information soon. In line with current government guidance, the Council agreed to continue to hold meetings virtually until the guidance was updated. ■

**Richard Waller**

*Chair*

## WAR STORIES

### WAR MEMORIES

**D**espite extreme youth, I do have memories of wartime. We lived in Raynes Park, near Wimbledon. From January 1943 to January 1944 there were buzz bombs –VI flying bombs, also known as doodlebugs. You heard them going over and when they ran out of fuel the noise stopped and you waited to hear them land and explode. The bombs had wings, like drone missiles and the anti-doodlebug method was to tip them over with a wing top, so they fell in the sea. When the siren went off, my family went under a steel table with an iron grid mesh all round, my father and my eleven year-old brother at one end and my mother and baby Alison at the other. I was well placed to tickle my brother's toes and remember my delight at the rumpus this caused.

To escape the bombs, we moved to stay with my aunt in Essex for six months, moving back in 1944 when my mother could stand her sister-in-law no longer and the buzz bombs had stopped. The nearer bomb bases had been taken over, so the buzz bombs no longer had enough fuel to reach West London. While we were evacuated, the church at the end of our road in Raynes Park was flattened by a bomb. I remember walking along our road to look at the bomb site. I had no understanding of danger or near miss, being only a toddler. At the end of the war there was a huge bonfire on Wimbledon Common to celebrate. As a three year-old, I remember it as mountainous and with an old park bench outlined high up in the flames. ►

**Alison Bleasdale**

## EXTRACT FROM AN ARTICLE IN THE SUNDAY TIMES 16 AUGUST 2020, COMMEMORATING VJ DAY

▷ One element that has faded from memory is the role of a 90 000 strong contingent of Africans who joined the campaign in the Far East. Among them was a platoon of Maasai tribesmen from Tanganyika, modern-day Tanzania, who fought for the British and were commanded by Lieutenant Neville Richards. “Without them, we would have been in great difficulty,” said Richards, aged 100, in an interview with The Sunday Times shortly before his death last year. “My troops had a tremendous warmth of spirit and warmth of heart. England was greatly helped by them”

The soldiers fought in 1944 in the Kabaw Valley in northern Burma, where they faced horrendous conditions: thick forest, churning mud, tropical disease and incessant downpours. Infested with malaria and scrub typhus, the area was known locally as “the Valley of Death”.

Richards, the last surviving officer from Britain’s African regiments to have served in the Second World War, ended up as the only white platoon commander in the company after one officer was shot in the neck, lying untreated for days in the rain until he was rescued, and another suffered a breakdown.

His soldiers subsisted on daily half-rations of a tin of corned beef and two crackers. The extended earlobes that dangled to their shoulders presented an unexpected problem in the dense jungle. “Their earlobes would get snagged in bayonets or in branches so they would have to roll them up” Richards said, recording a forgotten chapter in a neglected conflict.

*Neville Richards was my brother’s father-in-law, living out a full life as a farmer in Rhodesia (now Zimbabwe) and latterly, in Cape Town, South Africa. ►*

**Anthony Hodges**

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## ANOTHER PANDEMIC

▷ This is a story about a different pandemic, one in 1894. Although it took place far away in Hong Kong over 125 years ago, it might be of interest as it has some resonance with concerns of the UK today.

In that year the British Crown Colony was hit by a severe outbreak of the dreaded bubonic plague – similar to the Black Death of the 1340s in Europe. In May 1894 the first signs of the disease began to appear in the Colony and guess where from? You are probably right - its starting point was Canton having caused 80 000 deaths across China by the time it arrived in Hong Kong - where 3000 were to die before the plague was brought under control in July of that year. It then moved on to India where one million would subsequently die.

Panic stricken people fled through the Colony and abroad as the disease, born mainly by flea infested rats, and also other animals, spread from street to street. The Colonial Government were overwhelmed by the suddenness and virulence of the disease, and without the knowledge of what to do, were short of medicines, hospital space and doctors and nurses. They cleared harbour and other warehouses to set up temporary treatment centres, and these quickly became overcrowded and insanitary. The Government with great relief sensed that a mass of people was prepared to volunteer their help and accepted assistance from civilians (lawyers, bankers, traders, government officials, customs officers, police and so on) but also the military based in Hong Kong. Volunteers came forward from sailors from the Royal Navy ships and the army garrison. The largest military unit was a battalion of the King's Shropshire Light Infantry (KSLI), and about 500 of the battalion volunteered for duties.

Volunteers were billeted in tented camps and for duty were grouped together in parties of 12 under a leader, a sergeant in military terms, with officers controlling several groups. The parties had to strip down each day and washed with disinfectant, and then dressed with cleansed and loose clothing. The first party would search through houses, one by one, along built up and narrow infected streets, looking for sick ►



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**EMERGENCY SERVICES**

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Police Non-emergencies	101

**HEALTHCARE**

Bruton Surgery	01749 812310
Wincanton Health Centre	01963 435700
Shepton Mallet Treatment Centre	01749 333600

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▷ people and dead bodies. As carts were filled with the sick or dead, they were carried away to treatment centres or for mass cremations. Follow up parties of volunteers would then progress down the same streets as Cleansing Parties. They stripped out beds, bedding, clothing and anything that could have been infected and set fire to piles of the stuff in the streets. They then disinfected the houses with lime wash and earned the nick name 'the Whitewash Brigade'. The work they opted to do was dirty, difficult, extremely dangerous and exhausting. At day's end the volunteers returned to tented camps, stripped off their clothes which were usually boiled, often just burned, then washed with disinfectant again, and redressed. Records indicate that following this rigorous process few volunteers were lost – within the KSLI only one officer and one soldier died and 9 caught the disease.

On 5 December 1894 all the volunteers were paraded before the Governor. Parliament had been told of their extraordinary work in the day to day fight against the disease. Specially produced plaques and silverware were presented to all and paid for by a grateful community. Many of the presentations to the KSLI have found their way into their regimental museum in Shrewsbury Castle.

A committee was formed in Hong Kong, and working with others in London, invited artists, medallists and others to submit designs for a 'plague medal'. A design by Frank Bowcher, a distinguished medallist and sculpture was selected. At state level the UK Government (oddly) remained uninvolved and so the medals were funded by the Hong Kong community and were struck in gold for senior organisers and officials, and silver for all others. It seems that about 800 medals were struck in all; 50 or so in gold for senior officials; and 750 in silver for all the other civilian and military volunteers – about 150 for civilians and the civil services, and 600 for the military (Royal Navy, KSLI and other artillery and engineer soldiers). The medals came with a yellow and red striped ribbon, though only the military ones appear to have the ribbon integral with a suspension ring.

Photographs of the medal are overleaf. ►



▷ On one side of the medal is a soldier figure fending off death with a nasty looking spear pointing at a sick Chinese figure on a table. A nurse, symbolising Charity, has her right hand on the patient's heart, and her left hand holds a bottle of medicine. There are work tools on the ground – a tar brush, bucket and whitewash. There are Chinese characters for 'Hong Kong' to the left. On the obverse, large lettering explains the award, and recipients' names engraved round the edge – though no existing role of all the recipients survives.

Any matters in this story of relevance to us today?

As it happens my Great Grandfather was there during the plague, and with his wife and 8 children, 6 born in Hong Kong. He was 57 at the time. He volunteered for duties to deal with the disease. For his selfless service he was amongst those awarded the silver medal – the one in the photo above. His name was James Billington Coughtrie (1837 – 1920), (Royal Academy and Royal Watercolour Society). He was working in Hong Kong and had been so for some time for the Bank of Hong Kong and Shanghai. This award apart, he was, and has become, a comparatively well-known watercolourist of English landscapes and Chinese junks. ■

**Alex Harley**

# RE-OPENING OF THE VILLAGE HALL

## 1 SEPTEMBER 2020

It is with great pleasure – and with some trepidation – that the Village Hall Committee will be making the Hall available again to regular and new users, effective 1 September.

A great deal of work has been undertaken to review the existing Health and Safety Policy, with all necessary electrical and fire and general safety checks being carried out, but most importantly a specific COVID-19 risk assessment has been completed. Covid-19 special conditions of hire have been put in place and issued to all users. We are following all Government guidelines and procedures advised by Action with Communities in Rural England (ACRE) in order to minimise the risks as far as possible.

The main areas covered include:

- Self-isolation. Those who have the CV symptoms, should not come to the Hall
- Procedures if someone falls ill at the Hall
- Social Conditioning measures and wearing of masks
- Travel to the Hall
- Parking
- Procedures for entering and exiting the Hall and observing Notices
- General use of sanitiser/anti-bacterial cleaner
- Toilet facilities/hand washing
- Use of plastic chairs and furniture positioning
- Catering arrangements
- Rubbish disposal

If anyone would like a copy of the full set of procedures (which were circulated to Users, Volunteers, Cleaners and Committee Members), please contact the Secretary, Sheelagh Douglas, [sdmdouglas7@gmail.com](mailto:sdmdouglas7@gmail.com)



▷ Footnote:

The Committee is keen to make available the Hall facilities to anyone wishing to use them. However, it should be appreciated that opening up in these particular circumstances is a significant undertaking with a major responsibility on The Committee to maintain as safe an environment as possible not only for users but also our own Committee members, volunteers and the Hall cleaners. We also recognise our wider duty to protect the community and hope that all users will assist us by following the procedures set out in our special conditions of hire during the Covid-19 pandemic.

The Committee is considering an outdoor event, once the conditions are right. ■

# THE HAPPY COOKER

## CARROT SALAD WITH YOGHURT AND CINNAMON

**S**erves 4

### INGREDIENTS

- 1 kg long, thin baby carrots, unpeeled but scrubbed, stalks trimmed to 3cm (if baby carrots are unavailable, larger ones sliced into batons work fine)
- 3 tbsp olive oil
- 1 and 1/2 tbsp cider vinegar
- 1 tsp honey
- 1 garlic clove, crushed
- 1/8 tsp ground cinnamon
- 120 g Greek-style yoghurt
- 60 g creme fraiche
- 5 g dill, roughly chopped
- 10 g coriander, roughly chopped
- salt and black pepper

### METHOD

1. Steam carrots for 8-12 minutes, until cooked through but still retain a bite.
2. Meanwhile, whisk together olive oil, vinegar, honey, garlic, cinnamon, 1/2 tsp salt and lots of pepper in a large bowl. Once combined, add the carrots as soon as they are cooked. Mix well and set aside to cool. (Can be prepared up to this point a day ahead. Refrigerate, then bring to room temperature before continuing to Step 3).
3. Mix together the yoghurt and creme fraiche in a medium bowl with 1/4 tsp of salt. Add this to the carrots, along with the fresh herbs. Stir through gently - you don't want to overmix. Lift everything carefully into a serving bowl and serve.

With thanks to Ottolenghi in SIMPLE. ■

## WHO ARE THEY?

**W**hile the new Village Hall is lovely and is creating its own memories, memories linger on of events at the Old Village Hall.



This picture was taken of a group of brave souls who regularly set themselves up for the valley's amusement at the yearly Festival Supper. The performance captured here was a lively rendition of a Spice Girls number.

So, your competition for this month is to identify the performers. Who are they and where in the valley did they/do they live?

Answers on a postcard please... ■

**Sue Smith**

## LETTER FROM THE CRANES

Just when you thought it was safe to read the Pitcombe news, more random thoughts from north of the border. We have now been up here for 4 months and things are settling down; either that or we are becoming more immune to the rafts of conflicting rules regarding lockdown.

The weather is going through a lot of sunshine and showers. That's OK but does tend to spoil a nice walk on the beach. Having said that, yesterday the temperature topped 30 °C and it was quite uncomfortable, today back down to 18 °C. We did manage to take Bobby for a good walk along the beach, but I think he was glad to get back to the car and cool off.

With the partial lifting of some restrictions we are now able to go a bit further afield for our walks and we are able to visit our daughter and her family in Auldearn. For the first time since we got up here, Wendy managed to get out for a haircut, and I was really glad to get to the barbers in the local town of Forres last week.

Amongst Wendy's 70th birthday gifts, our daughter and family provided her with 70 different plants for the garden and so she has spent more time out there putting them all where she wants them – the whole garden is quite significantly different from that which we saw when we first arrived – lots of colour and some very healthy, vigorous plants as well as the hanging baskets. The variations in the flower beds shows that Wendy's time working with Penny wasn't wasted.

The grass has been cut again, the gazebo is up, garden table ensconced and all that makes it really nice to sit out in the evening (with glass of wine or G&T) to watch the sun go down. Magic!

Our resident flock of noisy and messy sparrows have decided that the rain-filled seed tray that Wendy left by the back door is now their drinking hole – we have lots of laughs watching them hopping onto it then bowing down to the water for a drink or two. Mind you they were ►

## Pitcombe News

▷ most unimpressed when a starling decided to take a bath in it – the chattering and shouting from the sparrows went on for ages!

In the local town and adjacent to the council waste site there is a social enterprise and charity organisation called Moray Waste Busters. They collect, clean and sometimes repair all manner of reusable items for sale, including the kitchen sink! Furniture, re-conditioned-bikes, electrical items and household and garden items. Then recycle or upcycle in a scheme to reduce unnecessary landfill.

They raise awareness of reducing waste by carrying out educational visits to local schools and groups as well as providing volunteer placements for local people. We have been there a couple of times over the months and landed some really good bargains - a leather and real wood (none of your MDF) two-seat, high-back sofa in excellent condition; a huge wooden table; a 6 drawer chest; a wardrobe; a beautiful glass fronted cabinet and a large desk, all delivered. Our next visit might involve me getting a bicycle – Wendy seems to think I need more exercise but 7 miles to the pub, even if it is downhill is taking things too far!

We wish you all well and trust you have all managed to stay clear of the bug. ■

***Terry and Wendy Crane***



# THANKS FOR THE WELCOME!

**W**e bought Cole Style Farm from Mark and Linda Cottle in December 2018, but it was not until April this year that our building works were completed, and we were finally able to move in. The house has been completely renovated and the outbuildings rationalised. We therefore look forward to being able to welcome many of our neighbours to visit now that the lockdown is easing.

Covid 19 made the last few months of the build particularly difficult as both materials and contractors became harder to come by and we still have lots to do in terms of interior decoration and landscaping. But this is what we enjoy and a big part of why we bought Cole Style in the first place. We also own the surrounding field between the railway and the River Brue and we look forward to managing this to encourage wildlife and biodiversity rather than for commercial agriculture. We have planted 700 native trees supplied by the Woodland Trust and a small area of orchard with heritage varieties.

We want to say a big **THANKYOU** to the many residents of the parish who have made us so welcome – you have shown how the beauty of this part of the country is matched by the warmth of its residents and we look forward to getting to know more of you as the years go by.

Until retirement beckoned, we lived in Bath for the last 20 years following time in Malmesbury, Sydney, Kent and Nottinghamshire. We have three grown-up daughters (in Bath and Leeds) and a new grandson who has just started to crawl. We attend the parish church in Shepton Mallet and have joined Wells Oratorio Choir. Please drop by any time to say hello and introduce yourselves.

Your new neighbours ■

**Steve and Carolyn Bruce-Jones**

*Cole Style Farm*

*01749 938921*

## NEIGHBOURHOOD WATCH

One of our Coordinators advised us that another of their members received an automated telephone call claiming to be from Amazon stating that they had opened an Amazon Prime Account.

They were then told if they wished to cancel, they should press 1 on their keypad. The call is then transferred to a fraudster posing as an Amazon operative who will advise them the purchase went through as a result of a "Security Flaw" on their computer. They will then ask for remote access to your computer to "rectify this problem". This is to steal your personal information.

**NEVER ALLOW ANYONE TO REMOTELY ACCESS YOUR PERSONAL COMPUTER IF THEY HAVE CONTACTED YOU. ■**

## Odd Jobs

For all those jobs you  
never get around to doing!

General Household and Garden Maintenance inc. Lawn Mowing (4x4 Ride on with high grass mulch deck or collector), Fencing, Removals and Deliveries  
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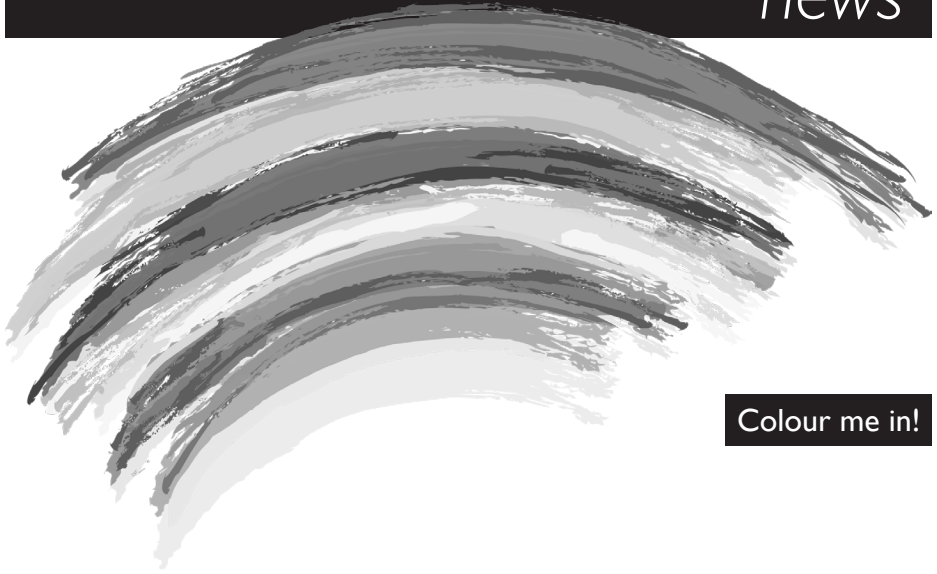
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# COVID-19 UPDATE

September 2020

from the:  
PITCOMBE  
*news*



Colour me in!

**Welcome to this COVID-19 Update from the Pitcombe News.**

Like before, we have only included specific changes that have occurred since the previous issue, along with the key websites and phone numbers in case you've lost them.

We believe all information in this issue to be correct at the time of going to print (22 August) but please check the websites overleaf for the most up-to-date info and for much more detail. If you need further information but do not have internet access, the helplines will be able to assist you.

We hope you are safe and well.

## CURRENT RULES

To protect yourself and others, when you leave home you must:

- wash hands - keep washing your hands regularly
- cover face - wear a face covering over your nose and mouth in enclosed spaces
- make space - stay at least a metre away from people not in your household

If you are feeling unwell, get a test and do not leave home for at least 10 days.

Indoors (including when dining out or going to the pub): you can meet in groups of up to two households (or bubbles) whilst maintaining social distancing with anyone you do not live with or who is not in your support bubble.

Outdoors: You can meet in groups of up to six people who you do not live with or who are not in your support bubble, whilst maintaining social distancing. You can also meet people in groups of more than six people if everyone is exclusively from two households (or bubbles).

## USEFUL WEBSITES

This is a very fast-changing situation so, if you can, please check the websites below for up-to-date, reliable information.

*gov.uk*

*nhs.uk*

*yourcovidrecovery.nhs.uk*

*who.int*

*pitcombepc.org.uk*

*brutontowncouncil.gov.uk*

*castle-cary.co.uk*

## PHONE NUMBERS AND LOCAL HELP

**Bruton Coronavirus Local Resources line - 01749 717002**

**Bruton Phone Buddies - 01749 321742**

**Cary Cares - 01963 351362, [carycares@btinternet.com](mailto:carycares@btinternet.com)**

**Spark Somerset - 01460 202970, [sparksomerset.org.uk/covid-19](http://sparksomerset.org.uk/covid-19)**

## LOCAL SHOPS

### BRUTON

**Bruton Convenience Store** - 07402 326301 or Facebook Messenger  
Monday - Saturday 08:00 - 19:00, Sunday 08:00 - 18:00, free deliveries available to people who are self-isolating and people who cannot leave their homes if needed. This is especially for the elderly.

### CASTLE CARY

**Co-op** - 01963 350482

Monday - Sunday 07:00 - 22:00

'Vulnerable customers, those that care for them and NHS workers':  
priority Monday - Saturday 08:00 - 09:00, Sunday 10:00 - 11:00.

## SUPERMARKETS

**Sainsbury's** - Frome

Monday - Saturday 07:00 - 22:00, Sunday 10:00 - 16:00

'Elderly, vulnerable and disabled customers' priority: Mondays, Wednesdays, Fridays 08:00 - 09:00. 'NHS and care workers' priority: Monday - Saturday 07:30 - 08:00.

**Tesco** - Shepton Mallet

Monday - Saturday 07:00 - 22:00, Sunday 10:00 - 16:00

'The elderly and most vulnerable' priority: Wednesdays, Sundays (for browsing) 09:00 - 10:00.

**Waitrose & Partners** - Gillingham

Monday - Friday 08:00 - 21:00, Saturday 08:00 - 20:00, Sunday 10:00 - 16:00. 'Elderly and vulnerable shoppers' priority: Mondays, Wednesdays, Fridays first hour.

## WASTE AND RECYCLING

All materials are now being taken at Somerset's 16 recycling sites, although "shop-style" safety restrictions remain.

Materials taken include all those with charges (tyres, gas bottles, soil and hardcore, vehicle parts), and those requiring advance online payment (asbestos, plasterboard).

All sites are open on their usual summer hours.

Kerbside collections of textiles, clothes and shoes remain suspended due to the impact of coronavirus on the international textiles trade.

[somersetwaste.gov.uk](http://somersetwaste.gov.uk)

We really want to make these updates as useful to as many people as possible. If you have any corrections or suggestions on what we should include next time, please contact Jane Hodges on 01963 351429 or [janepamelahodges@hotmail.com](mailto:janepamelahodges@hotmail.com).

If you require this in a larger format, please contact Jane Hodges on 01963 351429 or [janepamelahodges@hotmail.com](mailto:janepamelahodges@hotmail.com) This issue is also available as a PDF at [pitcombepc.org.uk](http://pitcombepc.org.uk).



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