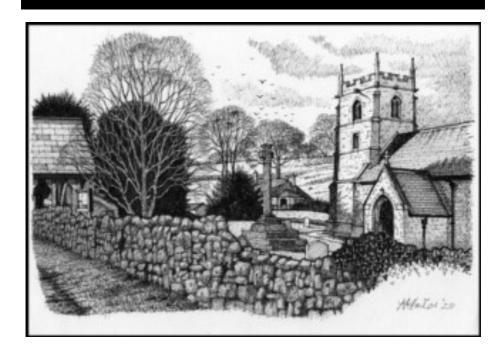
PITCOMBE news



September 202 I

MONTHLY MAGAZINE FOR THE PARISH OF PITCOMBE

What's on... September 2021

Sunday 5th 9.30am Holy Communion

Sunday 12th 11am Morning Prayer

10am Yarlington Treasure Trove Sale Yarlington

House in aid of Somerset Sight

Tuesday 14th 7.30pm Parish Council Meeting

Wednesday 15th 7.30pm Short Mat Bowls HVH

Sunday 19th 11 am Holy Communion

Monday 21st 7.30 pm Bruton Horti Soc Talk HVH

Wednesday 23r 7.30 Short Mat Bowls

Sunday 26th 6pm Harvest Festival

September 4th—12th

10am to 5pm Exhibition at Pitcombe Studio—

details within

(closed on 6th Sept)

Cover picture: St Leonard's

Pitcombe by Alan Howles

welcome PITCOMBE NEWS

A very warm welcome back after the July/August break. Here's hoping a pleasant, relaxing and loving time was had by all. Here's a seasonal poem to set the scene:

> There are flowers enough in the summertime, More flowers than I can remember— But none with the purple, gold, and red That dye the flowers of September! -Mary Howitt (1799-1888)

Advice about things to do in September seems widespread: Gather up the harvest, get a haircut, make jam, prune, brew beer/cider, diet, pick vegetables/plant vegetables, see the dentist. No need, therefore, to wonder, what next?

The Rev'd Jonathan Evans in 'Rector's Ruminations' has a more sage and sensible list of suggestions about September, which clearly should be treated with more earnest intent.

In this edition, the gardening clubs report on their well-attended summer shows and visits. The Bruton Assoc. happily describes their first society outing for well over a year, in July, and a memorable annual summer party in Tina Harley's beautiful The Village Hall reports on its long-awaited Summer Party, where the weather was sympathetic and the Parish turned up in impressive numbers to make the afternoon a great success.

Richard Waller, while faithfully producing a Parish Council Report (despite there not having been a meeting in August), found time to submit an amusing, but most informative piece (based on personal experience) on bumblebees. Read, mark, learn and not get stung!

Contributions please to the Editors by 15th of the month—contact details in the Parish Directory page 14

Pitcombe News

JULY & AUGUST 2021

We welcome everyone to our services at St Leonard's, and I am very pleased to say that, following the easing of Covid-19 restrictions, we are now able to sing the hymns. We do however maintain a cautious approach in line with Church of England guidelines, in asking the congregation to wear a mask when moving around and when singing, but masks are not obligatory when sitting down.

I am also very pleased to say that we are now lucky enough to have two organists, Clare Leavold, who plays at our Morning Prayer service, and Diana Carrington, who plays at our Evening Prayer service. A very warm welcome to both of them. That leaves the two Holy Communion services, on the 1st and 3rd Sunday of each month, for which we still have vacancies. If anyone knows someone who would like to play for us, then please contact me on the email/phone number on the contact page of this Pitcombe News.

Services at St Leonard's in September are as follows:

- · Holy Communion on 5th September at 9:30am Rev'd Jonathan Evans
- Morning Prayer on 12th September at 11:00am Rev'd Dan Richards
- · Holy Communion on 19th September at 11:00am Rev'd Dan Richards
- · Harvest Festival on 26th September at 6:00pm Preb. Mark Ellis

We would be pleased to receive produce for the Harvest Festival which will be distributed to local good causes afterward the service. The church will be open from 10:00am on Saturday 25th if you wish to donate. A glass of wine/soft drink and light refreshments will be served at the church after the service to celebrate the harvest home.

Philip Pidsley, Church Warden

Rector's Ruminations

September often feels to me like a pivot-point in the year. For some, it is a time of new beginnings – a new academic year, or the resumption of a pattern of work after a summer break. For others, it might herald a time of endings – the harvest being brought in, the garden gently slowing down its growth and preparing for the rest of autumn. Certainly, the daylight hours are reducing, and we notice the darker evenings, the colder mornings, the changing colours of the landscape and plants.

So, on what do we set our focus in this month? Too soon, surely, to anticipate winter. Perhaps we catch ourselves looking back at summer with nostalgic longing for the warmth. Or are we able to rest in this moment, this transitional time, and enjoy it for what it might bring? There is a lovely connectedness about the autumn, as we sense once again the cycle of the year; growth and fruit giving way to fall and winter storage, the generation of next year's seed, the rest before next year's growth.

My prayer for this autumn is that I will not feel regret at the passing of summer or dread at the darkness of winter, but will know the comfort and the joy of the connectedness of all things, and to know God in that. As St. Paul wrote: 'He himself is before all things, and in him all things hold together' (Col 1: 17).

Rev'd. Jonathan Evans

THE SATNAV Pam Ayres

I have a little Satnav, it sits there in my car

A Satnav is a driver's friend, it tells you where you are. I have a little Satnav, I've had it all my life Its better than the normal ones, my Satnav is my wife.

It gives me full instructions, especially how to drive "It's sixty miles an hour", it says, "You're doing sixty five".

It tells me when to stop and start, and when to use the brake and tells me that it's never ever, safe to overtake. It tells me when a light is red, and when it goes to green

It seems to know instinctively, just when to intervene. It lists the vehicles just in front, and all those to the rear and taking this into account, it specifies my gear.

I'm sure no other driver, has so helpful a device for when we leave and lock the car, it still gives its advice. It fills me up with counselling, each journey's pretty fraught

So why don't I exchange it, and get a quieter sort? Ah well, you see, it cleans the house, makes sure I'm properly fed It washes all my shirts and things, and keeps me warm in bed! Despite all these advantages, and my tendency to scoff, I only wish that now and then, I could turn the bugger off.

PARISH COUNCIL



To paraphrase Eliot rather badly, August is the quietest month – or is it? We don't traditionally hold a council meeting in August, but some matters continue to arise and we will be revisiting the Pitcombe Farm application at our September meeting along with the application for a glamping site off Lime Kiln Lane and a further application from the Newt. All are welcome to attend our meetings and to contribute and full details of dates, times and venue are available on our website http://pitcombepc.org.uk

Often we find contentious planning matters bring out residents in impressive numbers and yet we can struggle to fill our councillor vacancies — on which note I would like to make a further appeal to anyone interested to contact myself or the clerk to have a chat about serving on the council for a while. The demands on your time will be generally limited to an average one meeting per month and you will be able to represent the views of your community and contribute to the overall preservation and continuity of our way of life in this wonderful little corner of Somerset. We anticipate a number of vacancies arising shortly and we have yet to find a replacement for Lucy Donahue. Please do give this some serious thought and lend a hand.

We have all missed the opportunity to meet and spend time with our fellow residents in the course of the past year or so and gradually we may be gaining the confidence to go out and socialise again. It was a novel and very welcome experience to meet so many others at the recent Village Hall Gathering where music, good food and drink were provided and a really large , diverse crowd turned out. Everyone seemed to have a good time and relish the chance to socialise with other people — marvellous! Such a great event took a lot of time and effort from the Village Hall Committee and its supporters so congratulations and thank you on behalf of everyone who attended.

We have a locum clerk looking after for us for the time being until hopefully we are able to recruit a permanent person – interviews are scheduled for early September. So, the business of the council will hopefully be conducted effectively in this period but if there are any minor delays or glitches in communication they will hopefully prove temporary. Richard Waller Chairman

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 (Large, Long Wheelbase Van)



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Village Hall

The long-awaited Pitcombe Summer Party eventually took place on Saturday 7th August and was a very happy affair. Weather forecasts all week were dire for that day, until 'that day', when strong winds and frequent showers were replaced by light breezes and the absence of rain. And so, it was.

Luckily, the need to breakout from the confines of lockdown outweighed any reservations about the weather and a very respectable turnout was the result. Around 140 good burghers of the Parish attended and eagerly sought out friends and neighbours to catch up on happenings over the intervening months.

Our local maestro, Dave Eastoe, and his fellow musicians (arranged by Chris Mounsey), were, as ever, on hand to provide a wonderful backdrop of contemporary tunes and melodies, all greatly appreciated by the assembled party goers. Many thanks to his and his ensemble's skills and generosity.

Andrew Barclay produced a splendid feast of pork on a spit, roasted and served on site, perfectly cooked, with loads of the essential crackling. Sarah Waller and her enthusiastic team served a fine array of salads to accompany the roast, the overall meal being quite delicious.

The Village Hall Committee had invested in a number of new gazebos, and these proved useful for enabling us to provide outside accommodation and protection from potential adverse weather conditions.

Other logistics included the mowing and clearing of the field adjacent to the Hall for parking by Martin Jennings. He also oversaw the orderly arrangement of cars and was standing by to haul any unlucky drivers out of the mud in the event of stickier than anticipated conditions. Fortunately, his services were not required! Having farmers on the Committee was seen to be strategically savvy, because Gerald Spratling was able to provide straw bales for additional seating and comfort. Thank you, Gerald, particularly as you were unable to attend yourself.

The performance by Dr Turberville's Morris Dancers added a lively accompaniment to proceedings. Much enjoyed by an enthusiastic audience, judging by the numbers that volunteered to join in one of the dances.

Photographs of the occasion will be published on our website http://pitcombepc.org.uk/hall for all to peruse and to copy over to your systems as required.

The Village Hall Committee would like to thank everyone who attended the Party in giving their support to the occasion. These events are only as good as the community as a whole, makes them and this party was testament to your backing. Suitably encouraged, your committee will strive to put on future events that have popular appeal, with the Christmas Party next on the list!

Pitcombe News





Where do bumblebees live?

A friend of mine, knowing me to be a bit of an amateur beekeeper, asked me to investigate a neighbour's bee problem. All they were able to tell me was that the house is empty and for sale and there was a bee problem round the back. So, on a sunny afternoon I wandered round the garden expecting to find a swarm of bees... only to find the 'problem' was absolutely charming. A bumblebee nest had been established in a wooden birdbox attached to a shed at just above head height.

I hope you can see the bumblebees in my photo standing guard at the entrance and probably fanning cool air into the nest to keep the temperature right. What a fantastic opportunist use of the bird box as an ideal nest, safe from predators and with a super flight path.

There may be anything from 50 bees to a few hundred in this box. In some cultures, this choice by the bees represents a blessing on the house and good fortune for the human occupants. My advice, therefore, was to leave well alone and the harmless bees (well out of reach of inquisitive children) will eventually abandon their nest in August or September.

This was my second encounter with bumblebee nests this summer as my-brother-in-law had consulted me about bees nesting underground in the midst of his compost heap. It was exciting to see them buzzing in and out of a hole as purposefully as a honey-bee colony. My advice: dig round them and try not to disturb the nest. **Richard Waller**

Treasure Trove Sale

Here is a date for your diaries: The Yarlington Treasure Trove Sale, at Yarlington House on Sunday 12th September in aid of Somerset Sight.

Gates open 10.00am

Always a fun morning out with good stalls and lots of friends around.

THE HAPPY COOKER



Spinach, tomato and garlic soup

Quick, easy and low in calories! This can be made a day ahead and only requires reheating gently to serve..

INGREDIENTS

- 1kg frozen chopped spinach, thawed and drained
- 4 tomatoes, skinned, de-seeded and chopped
- 3 tbsp olive oil
- 2 med. onions, skinned and very finely chopped
- 2 garlic cloves, skinned and finely chopped
- 1.2 litres chicken or vegetable stock

salt and freshly ground black pepper

METHOD

- 1. Heat the olive oil in a saucepan and add the onions. Sauté for about 5 minutes, stirring occasionally to make sure that they cook evenly.
- 2. Add the chopped garlic and cook for a further minute or two before stirring in the spinach and the stock.
- 3. Simmer the soup gently for 15 minutes, season to taste and stir in the chopped tomatoes; check seasoning again and serve.

Bon Appetite!

Pitcombe Parish Directory

Parish Council

Chairman Richard Waller 01749 812754

ritwaller@hotmail.com

Parish Clerk Patrick Pender-Cudlip 07742 930521

clerk@pitcombepc.org.uk.

St Leonard's Church

The Rector Rev'd Jonathan Evans 01749 812775

mobile 07305 736042

rector@stmarysbruton.org.

Benefice Office 01749 813080

bene-

fice@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

phil-

ip.pidsley@btinternet.com

PPC Secretary Carole Wyatt 01963 350222

car-

olewyatt@btinternet.com

Friends of St Leonards

Secretary Cathie Brook 01963 351492

catherinebrook@aol.com

<u> Hadspen Village Hall</u>

Chairman Robin Currie 01749 814899

arctheduke@gmail.com

Bookings Secretaries Penny Mounsey 01963 359488

pen-

ny.mounsey345@btinter

net.com

Jan James 01963 350464

ia-

net.james945@btinternet.c

)m

Secretary Sheelagh Douglas 07733 102819.

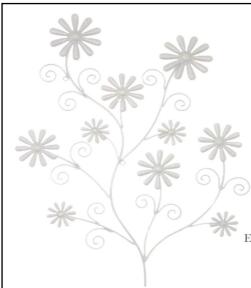
sdmdouglas7@gmail.com

Neighbourhood Watch

Co-ordinating Officer

L		
Pitcombe News		
Co-editors	Jane Hodges	01963 351429 janepamelahodg-
		es@hotmail.com
		antho-
	Anthony Hodges	ny.hodges@hodgesassociates.o
Short Mat Bowls Club		
Secretary	Carole Wyatt	01963 350222
	·	carolewyatt@btinternet.com
<u>U3A</u>		
Bridge	Kate Mair	01963 351544
		kateandbillmair@hotmail.com
Sally Ridout	Bruton Art Society	01963 370020
		s.ridout18@btinternet.com
History	Bruce Bower	01747 840335
		bowersxb@btinternet.com
Paul Parsons	Ballroom Dancing Lessons	07805 571590
-		paulparsons7@googlemail.com
Avon and Somerset Police		
Emergencies		999
Non Emergencies		101
<u>Healthcare</u>		
Bruton Surgery		01749 812 310
Wincanton Health Centre		01963 435700
Shepton Mallet Treatment Ce	ntre	01749 333600
Local Government		
District Councillor,	Robin Bastable	07976 317179
		rob- in.bastable@southsomerset.go v.uk
County Councillor	Anna Groskop.	01749 812520
		amgroskop@somerset.gov.uk
Roads and Transport		roadsandtrans- portSD@somerset.gov.uk
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Pitcombe News



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Exhibition of drawings and wall hangings

Exhibition of drawings and wall-hangings to launch the opening of Pitcombe Studio

Artist Alexandra Drysdale and retired architect Allan Howles are holding an exhibition at the new Pitcombe Studio of their drawings and wall-hangings produced during the Covid-19 pandemic. The drawings are mostly local to Bruton. The positive side of the lockdowns enabled them to explore these landscapes and to interpret them in their drawings.

Alexandra's wall-hangings combine original and traditional techniques such as patchwork and embroidery but in a fine art context. They seek to find a balance between Modernist ideals as exemplified by Mondrian with the joys and frustrations of domestic life.

Alexandra has exhibited widely over a long career, and in 2019 she was Artist-in-Residence at Bruton School for Girls. She is also a freelance lecturer in Art History both at home and abroad.

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.

The exhibition is at Pitcombe Studio, Pitcombe Farmhouse, Bruton BA10 0AU, from September 4th to12th from 10am to 5pm daily except on Monday 6th and by appointment at other times. Contact details: alex@alexandradrysdale.com, tel 01963 441414 or 07787827793.

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Recycling in South Somerset

A note from your editors to say that we will no longer be putting the rubbish collecting days in our monthly calendar at the front of this magazine. There are at least 2 different collection days in our Parish and so the dates become confusing.

Hoping that the new system is settling down for one and all - and South Somerset District Council is able to recruit new drivers speedily, so that Green Bin Collection may resume from 20th September as promised.



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Castle Cary Gardening Association

We were able to hold our Annual Show, held at Caryford on August 7th, this year, and although it was a much-reduced event, it was a real success. We only had vegetables, flowers, plants and floral art, no refreshments and no raffle.

However, it was well attended and those who made it through the rain (well, August was that sort of a month!) said they were really enjoyed themselves, especially the newcomers who went home with two cups and a token.

As a result of this trial run, we are hoping to be able to meet for our monthly meetings in person too, as opposed to the current zoom. Sadly, our September speakers are unable to give their talk and, so far, I have not been able to find alternatives at such short notice. However, we are hoping to meet as usual at Caryford Hall at 7.30pm on October 6th to hear Sally Nex, the RHS journalist, talk to us about how to reduce the use of plastic on the garden.

Membership and full programme details, gardening thoughts and tips are all available on our beautiful new website $\underline{www.castlecarygardening.com}$. Wishing you all Happy Gardening.

Erica Holt

Bruton & District Horticultural Soc

Fifteen members met up at Bristol Botanic Garden on 14 July for the first horticultural society outing in well over a year on a beautiful warm sunny day. We learned that the Botanic Garden moved from a previous site only about 15 years ago to Holmes House, where there are 300, year-old oak trees in the gardens. We had a good volunteer tour guide (a retired Botanist) and a shadow trainee who gave us very interesting and informative details as we strolled through areas relating to 500 million years of plant evolution. The Avon Gorge and Somerset Levels areas have their own particular plant species, and we saw differences between Western, Chinese & Mediterranean Herb gardens. Covid restrictions meant the glasshouse areas were not accessible. After a very light lunch we sat chatting before having our own wander round.

Our annual garden supper was on 19 July, in Lady Tina Harley's lovely garden at The Manor House in Cole. This was 'Freedom Day' when limits on outdoor gatherings were removed. There were over 50 of us and as it was in the open air. We were all very relaxed and delighted to be able to meet up again. It was during the heat wave, but we were able to sit in the shade of the large-leafed catalpa tree in the middle of the lawn.. As usual there was a fine spread of food and of course wine.

On 27 July we had a visit to Hestercombe Gardens, just north of Taunton. There was a woodland walk with fine views up to the top of the lakes, then down the other side. The Lutyens/Jekyll formal garden was full of colour. The house and garden used to belong to the county council, who sold it for one pound to the current owners, who are planning to use the house for art exhibitions. While the landscape and formal gardens are gorgeous, the house itself is less easy on the eye. We made good use of the restaurant for lunch or tea.

At the time of writing, we are looking forward to our show on 21 August in the Sports Hall at King's School. Our autumn meetings will be held in Hadspen Village Hall, as Bruton Community Hall is being used as a Vaccination Centre. Head out of Bruton through Cole as if using the lower back road to Castle Cary. Pass the orchards, then fork left on a right-hand bend and the entrance to the hall is immediately on your left. Postcode BA7 7LW. There will be distanced seating, hand sanitizer and good ventilation. Masks will be needed at pinch points but not when seated.

On Monday 21 September at 7.30pm, there will be a talk on low maintenance gardening from the Castle Gardens Gold Club, at Hadspen Village Hall. Everyone welcome. **Alison Bleasdale 01749-812393**

Air cover during WWII

For an island nation, the use of Aircraft, as well as Naval vessels, was vital for the protection of the country during WWII.

Air Chief Marshall Herman Goring attempted to destroy as many aircraft as possible on the outbreak of war in 1939 by sending large squadrons of Bombers to attack airfields as well as civilian targets to demoralise the Nation.

This tactic was realised by the then **Air Chief Marshal Dowding** whose strategy was not to have all his Aircraft in the sky at the same time. This infuriated Herman Goring who eventually gave up as every time he sent aircraft over, they were met by British Fighter aircraft, the immortal SPITFIRES and HURRICANES.

Regrettably, this tactic was not fully recognised by everyone in this country and there was a certain amount of criticism. ACM Dowding was a quiet man and made no attempt to show any reaction to this, tempting as it would have been.

A great man and who needs this recognition.

Willie Constantine

Eds: Thank you Willie for sharing your memories and knowledge; they are much appreciated



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September

We sit late, watching the dark slowly unfold:

No clock counts this.

When kisses are repeated and the arms hold

There is no telling where time is.

It is midsummer: the leaves hang big and still:

Behind the eye a star,

Under the silk of the wrist a sea, tell

Time is nowhere.

We stand; leaves have not timed the summer.

No clock now needs

Tell we only have what we remember:

Minutes uproaring with our heads

Like and unfortunate King's and his Queen's

When the senseless mob rules;

And quietly the trees casting their crowns

Into the pools.

Ted Hughes

1930-1998

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