PITCOMBE news



March 2024

In this issue

Colin Poffley— an obituary

Parish and Garden Club Matters

Palm Sunday and Easter Services

MONTHLY MAGAZINE FOR THE PARISH OF PITCOMBE

What's on...

March 2024

11am Holy Communion

Sunday 3rd

9.30am Holy Communion

Sunday 10th

Mothering Sunday

7.30pm

Tuesday 12th

Parish Council Meeting HVH

10am Spring clean St Leonards

Saturday 16th

Volunteers needed please

Sunday 17th

11am Morning Prayer

Saturday 23rd

7pm Quiz Night—Village Hall

Sunday 24th

4pm Evening Prayer

Palm Sunday

Easter Sunday

Sunday 31st

11am



Wednesdays at 7.30

Short Mat Bowls Hadspen Village Hall

welcome PITCOMBE NEWS

We are reminded by St Leonard's that Easter Sunday is on the very last day of March (31st), which seems quite a while away, but it's not. It's also the day that the clocks go back! Relevant to this are some sage thoughts from our rector, Jonathan Edwards, about making space in our lives during Lent in preparation for Easter.

Gardens take a prominent place in this edition, as the first hint of spring emerges. There is a useful list of things to get busy with, which mainly consists of the planting of edible crops and the sowing of half-hardy annuals. Exhaustive but hopefully not exhausting.

The foremost social event this month is the Village Hall's Quiz Night on **23rd March.** Details are described on page 10 and a poster appears on the back cover. Hesitate no further in putting your teams together and registering your interest.

Elsewhere, Moviola advertises an interesting film to be shown at St Peter's Church, Shepton Montague on 14th March about the transport of hundreds of children to safety as the war began in 1938.

Finally, if you're short of ideas about what to cook for dinner, look no further than the Happy Cooker for inspiration. A very rich and special vivid green parsley soup is on offer.

Happy Marching!



All our welcome to attend our services at St Leonard's, with services every Sunday in March having times as follows:

Holy Communion on 3^{td} March 11:00 – Rev'd Jonathan Evans

Holy Communion on 10th March at 9:30 - Rev'd Jonathan Evans Mothering Sunday

Morning Prayer on 17th March at 11:00 - Preb. Mark Ellis

Evening Prayer on 24^{th} March at 4:00pm - Rev'd J Evans Palm Sunday

Holy Communion on 31st March 11:00 – Rev'd Dan Richards Easter Sunday

This year Palm Sunday is on the 24th and Easter Sunday is on the very last day of March, when the clocks go back.

I mentioned a while ago that St Leonard's was in the process of buying a small piece of land so that we can extend the graveyard opposite the Church. This has required a surprising number of time -consuming administrative tasks, and I thank those who have spent so much their time moving this forward. I am very pleased to say that we are nearing the end of the process, and you may have seen notices next to the church from the Somerset Planning Department notifying the change of use of the land. Hopefully once this has been done, we will be nearing the end of the project – I'll keep you informed!

I would like to remind everyone that there is a bookcase in the porch of the church containing used books, both fiction and nonfiction. You are very welcome to take away any of these books to read, and perhaps, if you have any books that you no longer want, then leave them on the shelves for others to read.

Philip Pidsley, Churchwarden

RECTOR'S BIT

'Are you giving up anything for Lent?' That tends to be the usual question. Although in recent years, the benefits of taking on an additional practice has also become more popular – doing more of something wholesome, rather than doing less of something unwholesome. Both approaches to Lent are fine and can be very beneficial, whether purely in terms of physical health and wellbeing or in terms of a mental discipline.

But they don't necessarily get to the heart of what Lent is about. Lent is not primarily about diet, nor about a warm sense of satisfaction if we stick to our aims and achieve our goals.

There is another way of thinking about Lent, which is 'making space'. Whether it is by actually giving something up or not, we can 'make space' in our lives – setting aside some time, reserving some mental energy so that we are not consumed by the rush and the pressure of day-to-day life, with all its tasks and commitments. We can make a little space to reflect, to notice, to think, to pray.

The heart of Lent is preparation for Easter; getting ourselves ready to encounter God in the anguish of Gethsemane, the darkness of Golgotha and the joy of the Easter garden. To be ready for that, truly and properly ready, we need first to make space in our hearts. This Lent, try making some space in your mind each day for reflection, contemplation and prayer.

Rev. Jonathan Edwards

Colin Poffley

It is around fifty years since Colin and Terry moved up to Cole Crest in Pitcombe from Bruton. It has been their family home throughout this time.

Colin was a committed Catholic and family man. The picture on the back page of his funeral service card shows Colin and Terry with their lovely family, with Cole Crest in the background. The proud parents (and grandparents) had been married for over 60 years.

The family had some special holidays together, most notably at Carlyon Bay near St Austell and Noss Mayo in South Devon.

The couple made many friends locally through their mutual love of golf and Bridge. In recent times Colin has enjoyed playing Short Mat Bowls in the Village Hall.

When we first knew Colin, he was with a firm of accountants at the top end of Sherborne. He was subsequently approached by the Hunt family of catering fame and became their accountant. He served on their Board of Directors for many years.

I was privileged and pleased to spend time with Colin when he was resident in South Cary House opposite our home in South Street.

He was a good man and will be sadly missed by his family, and by many who befriended he and Terry during their many years spent in Pitcombe.

Michael Genton

SOLUTION TO FEBRUARY PUZZLE

Р	Α	V	Ε	D			С		R		S	
Α		Α		R	_	G	Н	Т	Ε	0	U	S
S	U	S	Н	ı			Ε		F		В	
Т		Ε		F	0	S	S	ı	L	_	S	Ε
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Т	R	Α	٧	Ε	L	L	Ε	R		Ν		-
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С	0	R	R	0	D	-	Ν	G		Ε		G
	M		T		E			S	E	D	G	Ε



The colder months can be a tough time for wildlife, food is scarce, and hibernators are looking for shelter. Here are our top tips for maintaining your garden for wildlife in autumn and winter.

1. Make a wood pile for wildlife

As it starts to get colder, you might start to prune the trees in your garden. Don't throw away the cut-offs though, instead use them to make a wood pile for wildlife. This will help out our 'sleepier' species, such as newts, certain beetles and plenty of other insects, who are looking for a place to get cosy and shut down for the winter.

2. Plant a tree

This is still a great time to plant a tree. Flowering fruit trees can create whole ecosystems. One apple tree can provide homes for earwigs, spiders, moths, beetles, birds. which means they're also a 'priority habitat' for rare species.

3. Plant spring flowering bulbs

Pick ones that are good for pollinators like bluebells and get your garden buzzing in early spring! Make sure that you choose native species and only buy the bulbs from a reputable garden centre or shop – never take bulbs from the wild.

4. Maintain your bird boxes

Help out the birds visiting your garden by installing and maintaining bird boxes for them to roost in over winter.



Bruton Flower Club

'Nearly 20 of us met at Hadspen Village Hall for our first meeting of the year. We had a practice evening with a theme of "Valentines". The arrangers ranged from experienced ladies to absolute beginners. Everyone is always welcome, and we have people on hand to guide you if you require help. You can imagine that by the end of the evening the hall looked very colourful, and everyone went home pleased with their arrangements.

Our next meeting is a craft evening on 4 March at the Hadspen Village Hall, starting at 7.30pm. The theme is always kept as a surprise by Ellen who runs our craft events, but they are always fun. Materials are all provided. The visitor's fee is £3.00 including tea and biscuits. If you would like any information about this event, or Bruton Flower Club generally, then let me know.

Judy Hayter 07788311191.

Village Hall News



It's Quiz Night at the Village Hall on Saturday 23rd March, when the cobwebs of winter will be blown away and the grey matter of good Pitcombe burghers will be put to the test. Little did we know we had something of a quiz expert in this Parish, in Steve Bruce-Jones who has kindly offered to put on a special evening for us. Steve is already known for creating the Crosswords that appear monthly in the Pitcombe News, where his discerning talents are all too apparent.

A light supper (chilli con carne) will be served at half time, with a cash bar open before we get started and during supper. Questions will cover a broad range of local and topical interests, as well as popular subjects like cooking, sport and general knowledge – something for everyone. Light-hearted fun, but with a competitive edge.

Guests should make up of teams of six, with team names submitted in advance. Those attending individually will be grouped into teams of six, wherever possible. After each round, results will be posted electronically on a screen to heighten the challenge.

Prizes will be awarded at the end. A poster appears on the back cover of this edition, with all the details, including where to get hold of tickets, which are priced at £8.00 a head. It is time to start organising your teams and getting those intellects into shape! **HVH**



THE HAPPY COOKER



Parsley Soup

A rich and special vivid green soup that reminds us that that parsley is not just for chopping and sprinkling, but an excellent ingredient in its own right. HC's grandmother always said that parsley was excellent for flushing the kidneys too! Proper bunches needed so head to the market for a properly generous quantity.

Ingredients

6 tbsp butter

2 large leeks, sliced.

250g/8oz bunch fresh parsley, stalks and leaves separated, both coarsely chopped.

1 large potato, peeled and chopped.

1 litre or 4 cups hot stock or water.

150 ml or 2/3 cup of double cream.

salt, pepper, grated nutmeg.

Method

- 1. Melt the butter in a large pan. Add leeks and parsley stalks and cook gently for 20minutes. Add the potato and stock, salt and pepper and simmer until the potato is cooked through about 20 mins.
- 2. Meanwhile bring a pan of water to the boil and add the parsley leaves. When the pan comes back to a rolling boil, drain and refresh the parsley in plenty of cold water.
- 3. Put the blanched parsley leaves with the soup in a food processor (you may need to do this in batches) and pulse until smooth. For total silky smoothness, push the soup through a sieve back into the rinsed out pan. Add the cream and reheat gently until piping hot but not boiling. Thin with boiling water if necessary and add salt, pepper and nutmeg to taste. Serve hot in warmed bowls.

The Windhover

To Christ our Lord

I caught this morning morning's minion kingdom of daylight's dauphin, dapple-dawn-drawn Falcon, in his riding

Of the rolling level underneath him steady air, and striding High there, how he rung upon the rein of a wimpling wing In his ecstasy! then off, off forth on swing,

As a skate's heel sweeps smooth on a bow-bend: the hurl and gliding

Rebuffed the big wind. My heart in hiding Stirred for a bird, - the achieve of, the mastery of the thing!

Brute beauty and valour and act, oh, air, pride, plume, here Buckle! AND the fire that breaks from thee then, a billion Times told lovelier, more dangerous, O my chevalier!

No wonder of it: sheer plod makes plough down sillion Shine, and blue-beak embers, ah my dear, Fall, gall themselves, and gash gold vermillion.

Gerald Manley-Hopkins 1844-89

Parish Council				
Chairman	Richard Waller	01749 812754		
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Parish Clerk	Anne Tuck	07538 502812		
		clerk@pitcombepc.org.uk.		
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	mobile	07305 736042		
		rector@stmarysbruton.org.		
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		benefice@stmarysbruton.org		
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Non Emergencies 101

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Lucy Trimmel <u>Lucy.trimnell@somerset.gov.uk</u>

Tom Power Tom.power@somerset.gov.uk

somerset.gov.uk/roads-travel-and-

parking/report-a-problem-on-the-

road/

An Evening at the Cinema!

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in St Peter's Church, Shepton Montague Thursday 14th March

at 7.30pm

Doors open 6.45pm for drinks & snacks

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Cryptic Lesson 2

TEACH YOURSELF CRYPTIC - LESSON TWO:

ABBREVIATIONS A to M

In some cryptic clues a word can signify a particular letter or sequence of letters that make up part of the solution. An extreme example of this would be the following clue...

Document, loud one the french (4)

The solution to this is **FILE**. Document is the definition part of the clue (a file is a document) and this is confirmed by "loud" which gives you F (forte), "one" which gives you I and "the French" which gives you LE.

I've listed opposite some of the commoner abbreviations often found in crosswords and to these you can add roman numerals (for letters I,V,X,L,C,D and M), compass points (N,E,W,S etc), the phonetic alphabet (alpha for A etc), chemical elements (Fe for iron, Au for gold etc), US states (CA for California), Units of measurement (km, lb, in etc) and Greek letters (pi, mu, etc).

In the March puzzle all 9 italicised cryptic clues make use of abbreviations in this list.

Next month Lesson 3: Abbreviations N to Z

LETTER	Can be clued by	LETTER	Can be clued by
Α	First, article (+AN)	EG	Example
AC	Current	EL	The spanish
AD	Date (or BC)	EU	Europe
В	Born, bishop	EX	Former
BA	Graduate, degree	F	Strong/loud
BR	British	FF	Very loud
С	About/approx.(+ CA)	GG	Horse
C or CT	caught	GI	Soldier
СН	Church (or CE, RC)	Н	Hotel,hospital
СО	Company, firm	1	One
D	Daughter, died	IC	In charge
DA	Lawyer	IE	Example, such as
DC	Current, Washington	L	Lake
DD	Theologian	LA	The french (LE/ LES)
DN	Down	LO	See
DR	Doctor (and GP,MD,MO)	К	King
EA	Each	MA	Master
ED	Editor/journalist	MC	Medal,compere

Pitcombe Parish Council

We were joined for the first time formally by our new councillor, Rob Shylan. There were a few residents present who were given the opportunity at the commencement of the evening to raise any concerns or ask questions. It was clear that two inter-related concerns had brought them to the meeting: the ongoing concerns about flooding in Pitcombe and the state of the bridge at the centre of the village. We also talked about a planning application to carry out work to the old silk factory building at Gants Mill , the latest situation with the BSG site , the continuing budget crisis at Somerset Council and an update on the flood issues impacting the Hadspen valley.

It was recognized again that Lucie Reader has been very active on behalf of the Pitcombe community in respect of flood warnings and mitigation. Lucie was not present but she has continued to work with neighbouring parishes and organizations to provide earlier warnings of potential flooding which can also be applied to the Hadspen valley. If you are not benefitting from these early notifications please contact Lucie, Annette Hobhouse or myself to be connected. There was a wider discussion about the factors which may increase the risk of flooding and it was explained that the Parish Council continues to press the County Council to maintain all the relevant drains and gullies to ensure they can cope with excess rainfall. The water flowing out of the site of the redeveloped Old Vicarage was mentioned and the clerk will draw this to the attention of planning authorities to ensure compliance with the conditions about surface water built into the approval.

Concerns were expressed very eloquently about the potential increased risk of flood waters originating from a development of the former site of Bruton School for Girls. The text provided by a local resident was used to bring this risk to the attention of both the Trustees of BSG and the planning officer responsible for this site in order to try and preempt problems. There will of course be further opportunities to address these concerns within the formal planning process when any development proposal is brought forward. It was also suggested by a member of the public that a covenant in respect of flood risk could be built into the future title of the BSG site and that was also supported and put forward to the planners and Trustees by the council.

There was also considerable discussion about the state of the bridge over the river Pitt, the exposure of vulnerable residents in the event of a failure of the bridge, the lack of alternative access to the far side of the river and possible short term repairs which might protect the bridge. The council is entirely supportive of these concerns and has regularly raised these matters with the Highways authority and the specific department responsible for bridges. We have received the support of our County Councillor Lucy Trimnell with this matter and she updated us most recently with this matter; unfortunately telling us we are in a long list of infrastructure projects and we continue to be regularly inspected and at the moment there is no immediate prospect of repair works. We have asked Lucy to continue to press for proper attention to this matter. Two further actions were agreed: to report the damage to the bridge on the official Highways portal and to challenge the relevant officers to confirm what assessment of risk had been taken in respect of the vulnerable residents likely to be impacted by any failure of the bridge. There was consideration of doing some repairs locally but it should be understood that the bridge is not owned by the parish council and there would be massive legal implications for undertaking works which we are not able to comply with.

The council also considered the application by its relatively new owners to develop and so secure the structure of the old silk factory within the Gants Mill site. This building fell into a state of disrepair in the 1990s and was substantially repaired and restructured at the time making the space water tight and suitable for dormitory usage by Mill on the Brue. It is now proposed to upgrade the accommodation for residential use and at the same time remove a lot of modern structures which are no longer used for farming and are very ugly in the context of the wider settlement. Having satisfied itself that there would be no greater risk of flooding arising from this work, the council agreed to support the proposal.

There was little substantive news about the future of the BSG site. We have received assurance from the Bursar that the risk of vandalism is monitored and any incursions brought to the attention of the police. We are not aware of any progress with the change of objects of the Trust or any sale agreement. We continue to have an open channel of communication with the Trustees and the Bruton Town Council.

Annette Hobhouse briefed the council on a meeting with Somerset Rivers Authority for support in mitigating flooding in the Hadspen valley. This had been an opportunity to ensure the SRA was fully aware of the flooding which has taken place.

Parish Council Matters continued

Annette is taking forward various actions to bring the community together with efforts to reduce the risks and mitigate the impact. Thank you Annette.

Finally, we received some further information about the financial crisis at Somer-set Council and the immediate concern we addressed was the proposed closure of the recycling centre at Dimmer. This site is of great benefit to our local area as many of our residents dispose of garden and household waste at the site and it also provides a solution to waste materials which may otherwise be fly-tipped. As a council we have made a firm representation to oppose the closure of the site as it is such a valuable resource. Time will tell what happens. This is not an exhaustive account of the evening but hopefully does justice to the main points.

Richard Waller

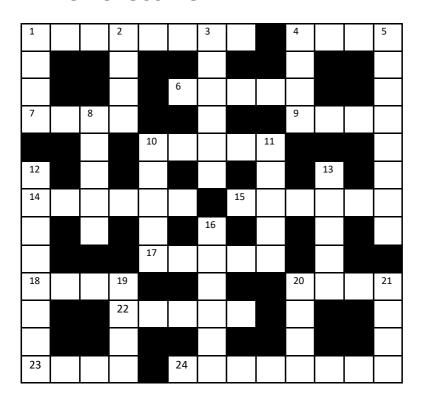
Chairman PPC

- 18. In place of (4)
- 20. see 1 across
- 22. Cut (5)
- 23. Garden store (4)
- 24. Loyalty (8)

Down

- 1. Fruit (4)
- 2. Firm at paint layer (4)
- 3. Art of miniature trees (6)
- 4. Spa city (4)
- 5. A Bronte or a Dickens? (8)
- 8. Loudly I throw at suspect (5)
- 10. Caught above fielder (5)
- 11. Old Testament books (5)
- 12. Pardons (8)
- 13. Shalom (5)
- 16. Sudden involuntary explusion of air from nose and mouth (6)

MARCH CROSSWORD



(cryptic clues in italics – see guidance below)

Across

- 1 and 20ac. You're reading it (8,4)
- 4. Graduate of the navy? Store house (4)
- 6. One northern group has a training day (5)
- 7. Split, as in East Africa? (4)
- 9. Hotel I've used for honey store (4)
- 10. Approximate position of nutter? (5)
- 14. Conduct oneself well (6)
- 15. Heavenly host (6)
- 17. Rugby and three directions for ancient letters (5) (contd opposite)

Jobs in the Garden

Edible crops

- Sow tomatoes, chillies, aubergines, if not already done.
- Sow courgettes and cucumbers under cover.
- Sow hardy annual veg under cover: leeks, coriander, dill, peas, beetroot and salad leaves in gutters.
- Sow broad beans direct.
- Sow perennial globe artichokes.
- Plant asparagus crowns and early potatoes.
- Cover soil to warm up and dry it out, then direct sow carrots parsnips and radishes.

Finish pruning and planting fruit trees and bushes.

Flowers

- Mid-month sow half-hardy annuals
- Plant dahlia tubers in pots inside
- Take chrysanthemum cuttings.
- Plant bare root roses, avoiding frost.
- Plant herbaceous perennials.

Plea from St Leonard's

Volunteers needed please, to spring clean the church on Saturday 16 March at 10 a.m.



Castle Cary Gardens Association

Our last speaker, Mickey Little from Avon Bulbs, was really entertaining! His enthusiasm and knowledge of his subject was palpable. Snowdrops seem to have some particular magic, and he successfully conveyed this to a very well attended meeting.

Our next talk on March 6th is to be Somerset's Butterflies & Day Flying Moths - and their food plants. The speaker is Les Cloutman, a well-known ecologist and local naturalist. He is hoping to bring some relevant plants to sell too. Gardens are really important sanctuaries as we can choose, up to a point, how we care for them. As I mentioned last month, the UK has one in seven of our native species facing extinction and more than 40% are in decline (according to WWF), so fingers crossed for some more biodiversity. Remember, caterpillars are infant butterflies and moths so think first before exterminating them.

A note for your diary: Our Plant Sale is on Saturday May 11th at the Market House in Castle Cary finishing at midday. So why not come along and buy some great value, locally successful plants grown by our knowledgeable members. Then have a coffee and choose some (more) beautifully refurbished hand tools from TFSR (Tools For Self -Reliance). We will also be launching the Show Schedule that morning, so do collect your copy.

Our monthly meetings are on the first Wednesday of the month. We meet at 7pm for 7.30pm at Caryford Hall in Maggs Lane starting with free refreshments and finishing with the raffle. The talks last around an hour. 2024 membership will be available and still only £10 with discretionary discounts from Dave Marsh and Julian Shave. If you only want to come to the occasional meeting, we only charge £2 for a visitor. www.castlecarygardening.co.uk

Erica Holt, Chairman

Castle Cary Repair Café

Bring your broken items every 4th Saturday of the month. The repair Café offers a free service.

Enjoy coffee with cakes and meet friends while volunteers help you repair electrical, mechanical, wooden items, clothing, and bicycles!

Future dates – all Repair Café sessions are held in The School Room of the Methodist Chapel from 10am to 12noon.

Saturday March 23rd

Saturday April 27th

Saturday May 25th



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Bruton & District Horti Soc

This Society is fortunate to have a blazing programme of Horticultural excitements planned, and they have already started! The AGM was dealt with in the usual speedy manner and made way for Charles Dowding's excellent and highly informative talk 'How to no dig and how much compost to use'. Well known globally, but fortunately for us, living locally, the attendees were rapt by the knowledge Charles shared. His No Dig approach to veg growing makes ever more bountiful returns.

The Winter Lunch, which provides a hearty and congenial antidote to dark winter days, took place later than publicised so that members were free to attend our former President Roger Lowe's funeral. Janet and their family and friends are all in our thoughts.

As always, the visit to East Lambrook Manor Gardens in mid-February, to see the snowdrops was well supported! These symbols of new beginnings lift our spirits as the days lengthen with their promise of growth and warmth. It may interest readers to learn that snowdrops are not native to this country but arrived here with letters from soldiers fighting in the Crimea. Remarkable how they have proliferated in a couple of hundred years. Matt Simpson's talk 'Home Grown Hydroponics' inspired several of our members and there was much discussion following the talk.

On Monday 18th March Angie Blackwell will give a demonstration on seasonal flower arrangements at 7.30 in the Bruton Community Hall, and later that week on March 20th The Gold Club evening at Castle Gardens where we have a talk and the opportunity for discount shopping!

We always welcome guests to any of our events and information on all we are and do, is available on our website www.brutonhorticultural.org



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