

May 2024

PITCOMBE

news



May 2024

May Crossword

Lessons 3 and 4 Teach yourself Cryptic

Parish Council

Village Hall updates

MONTHLY MAGAZINE FOR THE PARISH OF PITCOMBE

What's on...

May 2024

Sunday 5th

11am Holy Communion

Thursday 9th

7.30 The Holdovers— Film night Shepton Montague St Peter's Church—information on pg 13.

Friday 10th

12 noon Kathleen Apperly's Funeral St Leonard's—see page 7 for more information

Sunday 12th

9.30am Holy Communion

Tuesday 14th

7.30pm Parish Council meeting HVH

Sunday 19th

11am Morning Prayer

7.30 pm Haydn's creation performed by Wincanton Choral Society at St Luke & St Teresa's Catholic Church—information pg 21

Sunday 27th

6pm Evening Prayer

Weekly

Wednesdays at 7.30

Short Mat Bowls Hadspen Village Hall

For your Diaries

Saturday 13th July—Parish Summer Party—Olympic themed! Details In June PN

Sunday 29th September—Harvest Lunch

welcome

PITCOMBE NEWS

Editorial

There is a wise old saying about the weather which is worth recording here:

Oak before Ash we're in for a splash; Ash before Oak we're in for a soak. It relates to which tree is first to flower at the start of every summer. We're reliably informed by a local observer that this year, the oak was the first to flower. On the basis that a *splash* is milder than a *soak*, we are in for a spell of drier weather. Not that global warming would have existed when this bon mot was formulated, but we can live in hope.

Jackdaw nesting season is in full swing, mainly to the frustration of thus afflicted householders. Jackdaws arrive with a beakful of twigs but only select the straightest and most flexible to build their nests. The remainder are discarded, usually filling up the roof guttering at an alarming rate (true story from one of our readers). St Leonard's is also suffering from jackdaws nesting on its porch. The protective netting consequently installed makes it a challenge for those attempting to enter the church for ecclesiastical reasons.

The Parish Council has written a magnum opus on its duties and responsibilities. It is a remarkable report and should be held up as a textbook example to all Parish Councils. The Chairman, Richard Waller is to be congratulated on its comprehensive coverage of the Council's work and the extent to which it performs tirelessly on our behalf.

Elsewhere, we are entertained by the really interesting talks and visits organised by our impressive raft of gardening groups. They are adept at producing renowned experts in their particular fields who speak with great passion and humour, adding much to the learning and enjoyment of their members.

Have a happy May, punctuated by Bank Holidays on the first and last Mondays of the month.

MAY 2024

ST LEONARD'S

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

- Holy Communion on 5th May 11:00 – Rev'd Hilary Jalland
- Holy Communion on 12th May at 9:30 - Rev'd Jonathan Evans
- Morning Prayer on 19th May at 11:00 - Rev'd Dan Richards Pentecost
- Evening Prayer on 26th May at 6:00pm - Rev'd Jonathan Evans
Trinity Sunday

I apologise for the netting over the front porch, but it's easy to open if you wish to borrow a book, or if visiting the church on a Saturday or Sunday. It's just a temporary measure to stop the jackdaws from nesting in the porch, they do make such a mess if they manage to get in as they leave large piles of twigs and droppings. We will remove the netting soon to enable the swallows to nest in the porch – they make considerably less mess!

Sometime ago we removed the matting in the nave as it was looking its age, leaving exposed the blue lias slab flooring, and an unsightly area of grating that covered the old heating system. I am pleased to say that we now have permission to replace the grating and the deteriorating stonework with new blue lias slabs. This work will commence in the near future. Meanwhile, enjoy the spring weather and with a bit of luck it won't rain so much!

Philip Pidsley, Churchward

RECTOR'S BIT

Christianity offers a Gospel ('Good News') founded on the idea of reconciliation, of peace achieved by non-violent means, of mutual love. World events currently seem to be dominated by fear, violence and destruction, whether the focus is on our ecology, our politics or the horrific warfare raging in so many places.

Is this Gospel message simply naïve then, with its insistence on the priority of love over hatred and its Easter assertion of the victory of life over death? I think not, but it is undeniably hard to proclaim such a Gospel in such contrary times.

Dorothy Day (1897 – 1980) was a remarkable woman: a journalist and writer, a political radical, a Roman Catholic, a peace activist and a worker for social justice. She wrote this in the dark days of World War II: 'Whenever I groan within myself and think how hard it is to keep writing about love in these times of tension and strife which may at any moment become for us all a time of terror, I think to myself, "What else is the world interested in? What else do we all want, each one of us, except to love and be loved?".'

There is deep truth in that. Even amid the worst hostilities and violence, nations and individuals claim to be peace-loving and peace-seeking. Ultimately, we do all want to love and be loved. The Gospel is not naïve; it connects with our deepest yearnings: as St. John wrote, God is love, and perfect love drives out fear (1 John 4: 16-18).

Rev. Jonathan Evans

Plea from the Editors

Your editors are away in August returning 8th September and would welcome an offer of guest editorship for the September edition of our parish magazine. Details of template etc happily shared.

And more information regarding September:

Our magazine is very kindly and efficiently printed by Anne Tuck and Denise Brown in the Sexeys Resources Centre and they are not back in school until September, so that edition will only be ready after the 8th September at the earliest. Be sure to get advance notice of September information to the editors by the 20th June

Message from Kathleen Apperly's family

THANK YOU VERY MUCH

To **Sue Smith** for her wonderful article in the February Pitcombe News about our mother, **Kathleen Apperly** to celebrate her 100th birthday in January. We had a great party with Mum that day.

Sadly, after that she declined quite rapidly and died peacefully on 24th February.

Thank you to all her many friends who have supported her in the nearly 50 years that she has lived in Hadspen.

We will be celebrating her long and busy life at a **Thanksgiving Service on Friday May 10th at 12 noon at St. Leonard's Church**, Pitcombe. We hope that many of her friends in the area will join us to remember her life, both at the church and afterwards for lunch at the Montague Inn, where Mum enjoyed many happy family occasions.

Please wear bright clothes!

Due to the very limited parking at St Leonard's Church, we have been given permission to park at The Montague Inn before the service. There will be transport from there to the church and back afterwards. Please share cars if possible.

There will be a retiring collection after the service in aid of St Leonards and Save the Children.

David Apperly, Clare Hartwell

TEACH YOURSELF CRYPTIC – LESSON THREE : ABBREVIATIONS N to Z**(useful for the April Crossword!)**

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...

The Post Office has some unknown quantities. That's lousy! (4)

The solution to this is **POXY**. Lousy is the definition part of the clue (Lousy is a synonym for poxy) and this is confirmed by Post Office which gives you PO and the unknown quantities of X and Y (after algebra).

I've listed below 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).

PA	Father	SP	Odds
PH	Phone or pub	TA	Thanks
PR	Advertising	UM	Hesitation
SH	Quiet	X or Y	unknown
S or SM	Small	Z	Last

LETTER	Can be clued by	LETTER	Can be clued by
OP	Work (opus)	R, Q or K	Queen or King
ON	Working	RA	Artist
PC	Copper or correct	RE	Scripture
PO	Post Office	RY	Railway
PM	Afternoon or Prime Minister	ST	Street or Good Man

See Pages 18, 19 and 20 for May Crossword and Cryptic Lesson4!

Bruton Flower Club

Our April meeting was a great success. Twenty-five members and visitors enjoyed a **colourful demonstration by Jo Jacobs**. Her recycled containers were amazing, including a forged plastic hub cap supported by a stand of pan scourers, and a giant tomato puree tin from an Italian Restaurant.

Jane Hodges from Bruton Horticultural Society also came along with details of the Flower classes at their summer show. We are hoping to put in some entries this year. The more the merrier as they say.

If you would like to know what **flower arranging** is all about, then come along to our **May meeting** and make a small bouquet or hand tied bunch. Lots of ladies on hand to show you what to do or just have a look to see how it's done. The meeting is at Hadspen Village Hall on Monday 13 May at 7.30pm.

Our coffee morning is on Saturday 18 May at 10ish at Bruton Community Hall, if you fancy tea, biscuits and a chat with friends. There will be a sales table of cakes and bakes and perhaps a few plants and a raffle as well.

If you would like more information about Bruton Flower Club, then do contact me on 07788 311191 or paws4judy@gmail.com.

Judy Hayter

Note from the compiler of the PN

Apologies for having inadvertently left out lesson 3 of Teach Yourself Cryptic AND three crossword clues in the April PN!

Village Hall News



A timely meeting of the Village Hall Committee, on 22nd April, allowed us to cover a wide range of topics and fix some upcoming dates for everyone's diaries. Our Summer Party will be held on 13th July. We have yet to exercise any influence on the weather on that day but can assure readers of a range of interesting outside events, live music, delicious seasonal grub, a Paris Olympics theme and a convivial atmosphere. You are all, of course, warmly invited.

Other dates we fixed included the Harvest Lunch on 29th September and much further down the line, our annual Christmas Party scheduled for 7th December. All these events are designed to bring our parish community together in a relaxed and congenial manner and to make full use of the facilities available of our Village Hall.

We welcomed a new member of the Committee, Nicky Bolton, who is kindly taking up the position of 'internal maintenance', replacing Penny Mounsey who retired recently after long and dedicated service. We wish Nicky all the very best in her new role. Also attending the meeting was Anna King, who has been a huge help in re-vamping our website and improving the levels of information available online about the facilities and activities at the Hall.

Our most recent event was the Quiz Night, very cleverly designed and run by local resident, Steve Bruce-Jones. It attracted a full complement of eager quizzers and a keen element of competition, with teams of six, vying with each other for top marks in each round. The indefatigable Sarah Waller provided a luscious Chilli Con Carne supper at the interval and a cash bar kept the players well refreshed.

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THE HAPPY COOKER



Asparagus with almonds

HC is unable to avoid the thrill of our short but plentiful asparagus season. It was a toss-up as to which of three favourite recipes would be shared here: Asparagus with almonds, asparagus omelette or asparagus pasta with lemon - all of which are to be found in Sarah Raven's excellent Garden Cookbook! The first mentioned appears here; simple and delicious—it is the perfect May first course.

Ingredients

Serves 4

1kg English asparagus

About 100g butter

Grated zest of 1 lemon and juice of ½ lemon

Plenty of toasted slivered almonds

Flaky salt

Method

1. Break off the bottom tough or bendy ends of the asparagus. Cook in loose bundles standing upright or steam them lying on their sides.
2. Meanwhile melt the butter, and then add the lemon juice.
3. Remove the asparagus as soon the thickest bit of the stalk is only just cooked and still has a bite to it. Drain and lay on a warm flattish dish. Pour over the lemon and butter mix, and scatter over the lemon zest and toasted almonds and salt.

Bon Appetit!

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THE HOLDOVERS

2023/15/133 minutes

With no family and nowhere to go over the Christmas holidays in 1970, unpopular classics teacher Paul Hunham (Giamatti) is stuck at school to supervise Angus, a bright teenager whose bad behaviour always threatens to get him expelled. Joining Paul and Angus is head cook Mary (Oscar-winner Randolph) - an African American woman whose own son was recently lost in Vietnam. These three shipwrecked people form an unlikely Christmas family, sharing comic misadventures during **two** very snowy weeks in New England

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For more information please contact Sarah Maude on 01749 812 149

sarahjmaude@btinternet.com

Parish Council

Chairman	Richard Waller	01749 812754 rjtwaller@hotmail.com
Parish Clerk	Anne Tuck	07538 502812 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 benefice@stmarysbruton.org
Bell-ringing	Thelma Hartley	01749 812996 thartnell19@gmail.com
Church Flowers roster	Jean Constantine	01749 813103 wicon@talktalk.net
Church Wardens	Philip Pidsley	01749 813842. philip.pidsley@btinternet.com
PPC Secretary	Carole Wyatt	01963 350222 carolewyatt@btinternet.com

Friends of St Leonards

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

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Short Mat Bowls Club

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U3A

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Avon and Somerset Police

Emergencies 999

Non Emergencies 101

Healthcare

Bruton Surgery 01749 812 310

Wincanton Health Centre 01963 435700

Shepton Mallet Treatment Centre 01749 333600

Local Government

County Councillors Lucy Trimmel Lucy.trimnell@somerset.gov.uk

Tom Power Tom.power@somerset.gov.uk
somerset.gov.uk/roads-travel-and-parking/report-a-problem-on-the-road/

Roads and Transport

Pitcombe Parish Council 16 April

The Parish Council met slightly later in the month and tackled a lengthy agenda in the welcome glow of evening sunshine; benefitting from the clock change and a period of more settled weather after the eternal rainfall we have endured since the cricket season ended. We were joined by our two County Councillors and a small number of residents.

Following the resignation of Charlotte White from the council, we have been following the process to co-opt a replacement. Previously, we thanked Charlotte for her hard work on behalf of Pitcombe residents and indeed our whole community in supporting the work of the Parish Council. We were delighted to welcome Emma Craigie to the meeting as she had expressed a willingness to be co-opted and councillors were unanimous in approving her co-option. This returns our council to its full allowable size of seven and provides a vital connection with our Pitcombe residents.

In view of Emma's arrival, it seemed appropriate to remind our residents of exactly what our councillors do for the community. The agenda for each monthly meeting is always published in advance and that is a pretty good guide to our main role. We always give the public an opportunity to ask any questions or raise any concerns which they think the council should consider. Most importantly, at the beginning of each meeting we are required to declare any interest we may have or be perceived to have in the matters to be discussed at the meeting. This illustrates the general obligation we have to declare interests and excuse ourselves from any matter which might be considered a conflict of interest. Our councillors are scrupulous in meeting this standard, especially in questions of planning.

As a council, we liaise with the Somerset Council which has far wider responsibility and the resources to provide services we may rely on. County Councillors regularly attend our meetings, and this is a parish councillor's opportunity to flag concerns about local issues like flooding or maintenance of roads, drains, footpaths or potholes. In the current financial crisis, we are attempting to defend the provision of such services, as well as specific provision such as the recycling centre at Dimmer.

Parish councillors can also represent the views of our community on local planning applications. It must be borne in mind that our powers are restricted to either supporting an application or opposing it on relevant grounds within planning law; we cannot just say we don't like something proposed. Even if we choose to oppose, this is not sufficient to stop an application proceeding; the authority to approve an application resides at County level and our representation will be considered but not necessarily followed.

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We spend time on some very modest local issues which nevertheless make a significant contribution to our residents' quality of life: keeping footpaths open, reporting matters like failed street lighting, addressing problems like potholes and overhanging branches threatening power cables.

The biggest issue of all recently has been the incidents of flooding in both Pitcombe and Hadspen, which have caused distress, damage to property, financial losses and increased anxiety. Councillors have been very busy with pressing authorities to support our community, investigating improvements to the response to future flood risk, requesting urgent maintenance of the infrastructure to prevent flooding and drawing up plans to mitigate flood risk. We have hosted public meetings and supported the work of groups such as Pitcombe Flood Group. One councillor is currently spending a lot of time and hard work drafting a flood action plan for the Hadspen valley.

We do try and support some of the more positive activities in the community such as the Hadspen Village Hall, and the Pitcombe News as required, and have been supportive of grant requests for local amenities, including community transport and the local libraries. Councillors are always open to be approached by local organizations seeking our support. Where people have concerns, such as the ongoing state of the bridge in Pitcombe or the traffic hazards arising from thoughtless parking at the Elm Field cricket ground, we engage with Highways and the Police etc. to lobby for action.

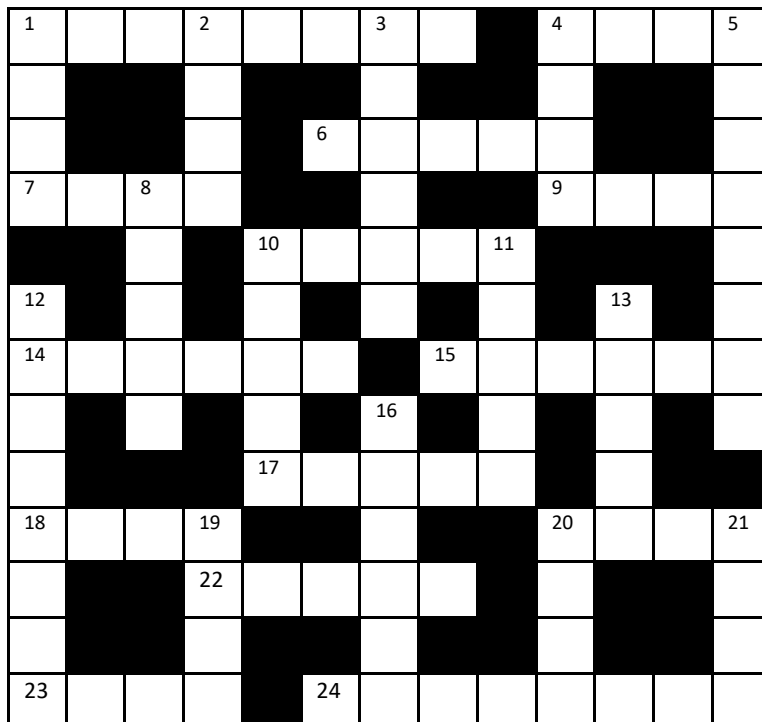
Please remember we do not have the authority or the resources to solve these matters ourselves.. Perhaps rather boring, but essential, is our role in overseeing the Parish Council's financial affairs, which are reviewed each month in the public meeting to ensure the precept is wisely spent and each penny is accounted for. The accounts are also subject to an annual external audit process.

So how much do these parish councillors receive in remuneration for their hard work, I hear you ask. Not a single brass razoo as the Aussies have it...no expenses and no special treatment so I am very grateful on your behalf for their community spirit in turning up every month, and their diligence in- between meetings, in reading briefings, attending other ad hoc meetings and engaging with our residents. In conclusion, I'd like to invite all readers to come along to the Annual Meeting we hold in May to raise any matters we may have missed. Hopefully, Emma, this description has not changed your mind about the co-option and best of luck with your new role as a member of Pitcombe Parish Council!

The minutes of the meeting will be available on the website in due course.

Richard Waller, Chairman

MAY CROSSWORD



(cryptic clues in *italics* – see Teach Yourself Cryptic Lesson 4)

Across

1. This publication is one (8)
4. *Track a fibber going west* (4)
6. Muffler (5)
7. Artform mastered by Marcel Marceau (4)
9. Helen's home city (4)
10. *Some of Mr Bean or another comic?* (5)
14. Lives (6)
15. Get smaller (6)
17. *King heads body of church, or was it jack?* (5)
18. *Male sheep follows parking for buggy* (4)
20. A child's bed (4)
22. Acute or obtuse? (5)
23. Coin producer (4)
24. Devices for making or breaking a circuit (8)

Down

1. Subtract ten from 8 down to cause injury (4)
2. 0.4047 hectares (4)
3. Sugar-rich liquid from flowers (6)
4. Flat-bottomed boat (4)
5. Socially acceptable for a woman (8)
8. A short pithy statement (5)
10. A method of printing patterns on cloth (5)
11. *In Loch Restil its yellowy brown* (5)
12. Angels (8)
13. Woods who uses woods (5)
16. *Pull around everything to get candle material* (6)
19. *Take public transport up to the market* (4)
20. Stylish (4)
21. Hitting implements (4)

Solutions to April Crossword

Across: 1.Predicts, 4.Best, 6.Ditty, 7.Loop, 9.Sami, 10.Rishi, 14.Orange, 15.Repair, 17.Total, 18.Ecru, 20.Hymn, 22.Graph, 23.Spry, 24.Brightly.

Down: 1.Pool, 2.Drop, 3.Thirst, 4.Boys, 5.Taciturn, 8.Organ, 10.Right, 11.Ideal, 12.Corrects, 13.Rainy, 16.Stupor, 19.Ugly, 20.Hash, 21.Nosy

TEACH YOURSELF CRYPTIC – LESSON FOUR : POSITIONS, DIRECTIONS AND CONSECUTIVE LETTERS (useful for the May Crossword)

a) Positions

The cryptic parts of clues (i.e. not the definition part) can often assemble a word from its elements using words to signify the position of each element. For example in the following clue ...

I'm inside the French tree (4)

The solution to this is **LIME**. I'm gives IM, the French gives LE and 'inside' is a positional clue to how IM fits inside LE. Tree is the definition.

As well as 'inside', the position of various elements could be indicated by around, outside, before, after, following etc

b) Directions

Parts of cryptic clues can be given by words that are read in the wrong direction (i.e. upwards for a down clue or from right to left for an across clue). An example would be this across clue...

The Spanish! I'm going west for some distance (4)

Cryptic Lesson 4 continued:

The solution is **MILE**. The Spanish gives EL, I'm gives IM. The whole sequence of letters is read right to left (going west) so that ELIM becomes MILE which is confirmed by the definition part of the clue – some distance (mile).

If this were a down clue the word 'west' in the clue would become 'up' (i.e. reading the letters upwards) for the same solution.

c) Consecutive letters

A particular type of cryptic clue is where the solution is found by reading consecutive letters across a number of words. An example would be...

Can the music contain a national song? (6)

The word 'contain' leads us to look inside the words 'can the music' where we find the hidden word **ANTHEM** which is the solution confirmed by the definition (national song)



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Castle Cary Gardening Association

The garden designer, Julie Haylock, gave our last talk and rather than tell us what to plant where, she very sensibly and helpfully told us what to consider and how to choose. It was a lovely evening and we all learnt how to think things through – and that there is no ‘perfect’, plants can be moved.

On May 1st our next speaker is Derek Dexter with his talk called ‘Fuchsias – my way’. He is really entertaining we are told. As the members free plug plant from Castle Gardens this summer is a fuchsia, we should all be able to return a handsome example for the Show. I seem to be incapable of persuading tender fuchsias to flower so I am hoping for idiot-proof instructions. Derek has obviously got the knack as he has been growing and winning prizes for his fuchsias for over 22 years.

Derek will also be bringing some plants to sell. If anyone else fancies learning the tricks of the trade, come along to Caryford Hall. Doors open at 7pm for the talk to start at 7.30pm and we will provide a free cup of tea/coffee/hot chocolate and a biscuit. There is the monthly raffle and guest entry is only £2, annual membership £10. Membership has many benefits all of which are detailed on our website www.castlecarygardening.com

Saturday May 11th is our Annual Plant Sale at the Market House from 8am until midday. The plants are all grown locally by members, so we can provide experienced advice as well as knowing they are suitable for ‘around here’. There will be vegetable plants, annuals and perennials, some dahlias as well as a few shrubs and even small trees. Happily, TFSR are joining us again with their lovingly refurbished tools. And as if that’s not enough, there are refreshments, a raffle and the launch of our Show Schedule. This plant sale is our only fundraiser which subsidises the Annual Show on August 3rd, also at Caryford Hall. So, if you lost a plant this winter or a hole has mysteriously appeared in the border, come along and buy an interesting replacement – or three.

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 May 25th



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Bruton & District Horti Soc

Our two March events included a most entertaining talk by **Angie Blackwell**, who has a garden and florist shop near Ilminster, speaking to us about **seasonal floral arrangements**, which gave us an insight into some rather more modern and innovative aspects of arrangements than some of us might have expected. Our March **visit was to Castle Gardens**, Sherborne for a brief talk about some of the latest products on the market, particularly the need for peat-free composts, followed by discount shopping.

In May we will have **our annual Coffee Morning and Plant Sale on Saturday, May 4th at 9.30am in Bruton Community Hall**. We hope that, despite so much wet weather earlier this year, there will be plenty of plants and produce for sale. May is always a busy month for a variety of plant sales in the area, but we hope you will be able to attend.

We also have a visit to **The Old Rectory, Pulham, south of Sherborne, on Wednesday, May 15th at 2.30 pm**. This is an 18th century garden, which has been featured in Country Life and has splendid views, yew hedges, circular herbaceous borders, an exuberantly planted terrace, box parterres, mature trees, a pond, spring bulbs, a bog garden and 10 acres of woodland walks. It is wheelchair accessible. The cost for non-Society members is £12 which includes tea and cake.

Our annual coach trip this year will be to the Savill Garden, Windsor Great Park on Thursday, June 5th. This will be a whole day visit to a 35-acre haven of gardens, woodland and seasonal displays where generations of plant-hunters have brought back numerous specimens for nurturing. Highlights include the Golden Jubilee Garden, The Dry Garden - the first of its kind in the UK – and a contemporary Rose Garden. The cost for non-Society members will be £35 (if an RHS member £25). Coach timings and pickup venue to be confirmed. If anyone would like to join us for these visits, they would be very welcome and should contact Janet Jones at JJstonethecrows.org.

Jan Juneman, (Acting Chair)



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