

UNITED BENEFICE MAGAZINE - October 2007

ST JOHN'S CUTCOMBE

Oct 7th	11.15am	HARVEST FESTIVAL	Readers	To be arranged
			Sidesmen	Mr P Webber & Daniel Matravers
Oct 14th	8.00am	BCP HC	Readers	Mr E Beckett & Mrs G Brooks
			Sidesman	Mr J Howe
Oct 21st	6.00pm	SONGS OF PRAISE	Readers	To be arranged
			Sidesman	Mr R Neal
Oct 28 th	11.15am	FAMILY COMMUNION CW	Readers to be arranged	
			Sidesmen to be arranged	
Nov 4th	6.00pm	BCP EVENSONG	Readers	Mrs W Schofield & Mrs M Russell
			Sidesman	Mr P Webber

Our thoughts are with Lesley and Barbara Norman and all their family following the sad news that their son David has passed away. David was very well known throughout the Exmoor community and farmed at Gupworthy with his parents and brother Eric for many years. R.I.P.

FLOWERS & BRASS

6 th October	Angela Land
13 th October	The Howe Family
20 th & 27 th October	Jill Schofield

MOORLAND HALL 100 CLUB

August draw

£20 No.45 Mr & Mrs R Delve £10 No.20 Biddy Trouton
£5 No. 38 Mr & Mrs D Croydon £5 (re-drawn from last month) No. 3 Wendy Schofield

September draw

£20 No. 40 Helen & Caroline Davies £10 No. 140 Mary Bromiley

£4 No. 2 George Trinkle

CUTCOMBE FRIENDSHIP CLUB

Tuesday 9th October Teas – Enid Mantin
Tuesday 23rd October Teas – Yvette Lee

CUTCOMBE CHURCH

A date for your diaries. Cutcombe Harvest Supper and Auction will be held on Monday October 8th in the Moorland Hall. We look forward to seeing you all there.

HARVEST FESTIVAL

We will be decorating St. John's Cutcombe on Saturday the 6th October from 10am onwards. We will be delighted to receive your produce but don't worry if you cannot make it on Saturday. Just bring it with you on Sunday and the children will gladly receive it from you.

Harvest Service, Sunday 7th Oct, is at a new time this year, 11.15am.

In fact, I suggest that you go to the Moorland Hall for a Heart of Exmoor Breakfast, then gather your friends and come along for a jolly good "Thanks Giving Service" That should work off breakfast.

Monday 8th Oct is the Harvest Supper and Auction of Produce from the Church, at 7.30pm. It will be a 3 Course Meal with Cider or Fruit Juice for £7.00 per person. Bring a bottle of wine if you wish to, in fact make a party up of friends and bring both. The Auction run by Peter Huntley is always fun, for those bidding and - those just watching the competition to outbid - heat up. If you wish to pre-book a table, or help us know how many are coming - tel. Gill Langdon 841330

After 4 years as cleaner of our Village Church, St. John's Cutcombe, Tracy Stiling has decided to call it a day and has handed in her mop! On behalf of Cutcombe PCC I would like to thank Tracy for her sterling work wielding the mop and duster.

We now have an opening for a new cleaner for our Church. We are prepared to pay a sensible hourly rate for 2 hours per week light cleaning, comprising hoovering the Church and porch; dusting and polishing the

pews etc. Brasses and Flowers are already done by volunteers. Please contact, Churchwarden Gill Langdon 841330, or Churchwarden Jon Trouton 841224.

VILLAGE NEWS

On the 1st Sept 07 Peter Francis and Lesley Lyle were married at St. John's Cutcombe. Best wishes to them from Cutcombe PCC and this magazine, long marriages seem to be the norm on Exmoor so they will be celebrating their 25th before you know it.

Jim and Cynthia Stevens (Codsend) became grandparents at the end of August. Daughter Karen produced little tiny (Exmoor seems to produce tiny ones) 6lb 3oz Geoffrey Thomas; his name is bigger than he is. Congratulations to parents Karen and Graham (Boo).

The 2nd Sept 07 saw a United Benefice Service and the Christening of Bernard William Brink Schofield. Another little one with a name larger than themselves. May he grow into the lovely big strong English names. On Sunday 23rd September we had an enormous Family Service at St. John's Cutcombe, during which the Baptism of pretty little Dulcie May Harding took place. Her parents Caroline and Mike Harding live at Warrs Farm, Luckwell Bridge. As the church was packed Dulcie had a full house to wish her into the Christian Faith.

9 children started in September at Cutcombe School, yes nine; at this rate we will soon have to build extensions! They are Herbie Abraham, Lily Buckingham, Ella Hirst, Luke Delve, Joshua Kendall, Joseph Priest, Albert Schofield, Todd Turner and William Walsh.

HULLO to all friends and neighbours!

It has been a *long* haul, but am finally on the up – I think. (Drove my car last week – first time for 20 weeks - so feel liberated!!)

Can I say a very big **THANK YOU** to everyone who sent cards, flowers etc. and visited not on one occasion but on each of my trips to hospital. I really did appreciate it.

It would take up too much space to name everyone individually, but I must mention two people; firstly Edgar for looking after my greenhouse and keeping an eye on the garden, and the other is Enid for taking in on full board and looking after Pickles.

I will do my best to stay home now and if possible be sensible!!

Thank you so much to you all. *Sybil*

P.S. My trip to the USA and back on the QM2 was fantastic and worked wonders.

CUTCOMBE W.I.

We played skittle at Hawkrige on July 16th and won! This was a fun event, very friendly and relaxed with our hosts providing an enjoyable Ploughman's Supper to finish.

August 9th saw eleven of us heading out across the moors in the community bus for our summer outing. The drive over the moors, the heather in full bloom, visiting Oare Church and a cream tea under shady canopies on the lawn at Brendon – what more can you ask for?

On September 12th three of us accepted an invitation from Exton and Bridgetown WI to a falconry display on the cricket field followed by tea in the village hall. The demonstration was amusing, entertaining and informative. George Pile, seemingly remaining quite relaxed as Elmo, his Bengal Eagle owl, flew to the top of the pavilion and stayed there, staring into the distance with her back towards him, resolutely ignoring his pleas to return to him and continue the performance. Once down she continued to entertain by not doing quite what George expected. In all George flew three birds. It was a delightful afternoon in a perfect setting for a falconry display.

Also on the 12th we had our monthly meeting with Mrs Sheila Hurst who came to tell us about the Hearing Dogs for Deaf People. We learnt how the charity started, the training of the dogs to the right person. We came away feeling this was another charity that changes people's lives for the better. Many deaf people, especially those living alone, can become very

isolated and feel cut off from the world. Hearing Dogs become wonderful companions and taking them for walks opens up the outside world.

Our next meeting is on October 16th. Our speaker will be Mr Canham with The Mill Worker's Tale – a talk with an audio presentation about the woollen industry in Devon and Somerset.

FRIENDS OF MINEHEAD HOSPITAL

Bridget Clarbull would like to thank everyone for the kind donations she collected for the League of Friends of Minehead Hospital this summer. The final total handed to the hospital was £712.80 and the money will be used for extra equipment etc for the patients.

GENEOLOGY

If any one is doing research into their family, we have some records going back to; Banns 1824, Burials 1880, Baptisms 1897. There are standard Fees charged for this set by the Diocese. *Contact Mully Woolmer, Church Treasurer 841892.*

CUTCOMBE PARISH COUNCIL

Parish Council met on the 18th September. Draft minutes of all meetings are available on the website www.wheddoncross.org.uk and are posted on the Parish noticeboards at Wheddon Cross and Luckwell Bridge. Remember to leave any community notices or correspondence for the Clerk in the yellow folder at the Londis shop.

Parish Plan

Cutcombe has been awarded funding by Defra via the Community Council for Somerset to produce a Parish Plan. A meeting of the Steering Group took place on 27th September: see the Parish Council noticeboards and the Wheddon Cross website for further details.

Broadband at the Moorland Hall

A new broadband service at the Moorland Hall, using the ISP Newnet and funded by the Parish Council and the Moorland Hall Committee, is now fully operational. Anyone wishing to use the broadband service, free of

charge, should contact Eric Clarbull on (01643) 841535 or Marlene, details below.

Putham Lane

The Exmoor National Park Authority would like feedback from walkers, riders and any other users of Putham Lane regarding the trial non-slip surface which has been applied. Apparently this will bed into the surface of the rock over time and not look so stark. Please feed any comments back to Paul Hawkins, ENPA on 01398 322172 or e-mail PDHawkins@exmoor-nationalpark.gov.uk

The next Parish Council meeting will be on Tuesday 20th November at 7.30 pm in the Moorland Hall. The agenda will be available on the website and on the Parish Council noticeboards in Wheddon Cross and Luckwell Bridge several days beforehand. Please remember that all parishioners are warmly welcomed at Parish Council meetings and time is set aside at the beginning of each meeting for public questions and statements.

Contact the Clerk, Marlene Allinson, for any further information: (01984) 639901 or e-mail marlene@marleneallinson.wanadoo.co.uk

CUTCOMBE LOCAL HISTORY GROUP

On an autumnal evening 20 members of our group met at the Yarn Market, Dunster for a walk up to Conygar Tower, built by members of the Luttrell family as a ‘retreat’ over 200 years ago. The members then divided into groups according to walking inclinations along the many paths before returning. This was followed by a return visit to the Lion Inn at Timberscombe for a very enjoyable supper in splendid company, good food and drink and even a quiz!

This was our last walk for the year. We don’t meet in October but we will be having an indoor meeting and short talk on one of the names on the War Memorial followed by supper. Details next month. *Jacky: telephone 841330*

MOTHERS UNION

Our meeting in September was held at the home of Olive Yeo in Monksilver. It was a beautiful afternoon so we had a pleasant car ride to Olive’s home. We welcomed two visitors this month to our meeting and

after the Office had been read our afternoon discussion was on what our role in the Mothers Union was, as this can differ from one area to another and from town to country branches. One of the things we do is support the Women's Refuge at Christmas time by sending them gifts that they would be unable to afford at this time of year, we also send eggs at Easter time for the children at the Refuge. Our meeting closed with a vote of thanks to Olive for a very fine tea and use of her home.

This year we have had a number of baptisms in the Benefice. We give each newly baptised child a Baptism Card followed by an anniversary card until the child goes to school.

Our recent Baptism are:

Anezka Butler from Winsford Parish
Frederick Butler from Winsford Parish
Ruby Lobb from Luxborough Parish
Dulcie May Harding from Cutcombe Parish
Bernard Schofield from Cutcombe Parish

We would like to thank everyone who supported our stall at Cutcombe Fete and for the gifts given.

ALL CHANGE

We welcome Kevin and Jenny Snewings to Sniffwells Cottage and hope they will be very happy living in our community. Also Alan & Kay Jarrett, who have moved into Chapel Cottage. They are more local than you think. They have moved from High Wycombe but actually lived Roadwater, Stogumber, met in Taunton and married (Old Cleeve).


BREAKFASTS IN THE HEART OF EXMOOR

Yes it's that time of year again when we try to raise a substantial amount for the running of the Moorland Hall by cooking breakfasts on the 7th & 14th October as part of the Exmoor Food Festival. Prices remain the same (£6/£4) and the quality suppliers haven't changed either. If you've not yet experienced the wonderful taste sensation then come along for one or both

(preferably both!) mornings and set yourself up for the day. There is no need to book, just get a group of friends and family together and enjoy the atmosphere!


If you are looking for something a bit different, why not volunteer to help? Each morning we need waiting staff, washing up stars, toast watchers, drink makers, a draw ticket seller, and a door person (taking money, not throwing out undesirables!). This year we have a few new pieces of equipment which should make things easier.

If you can help or want to donate a draw prize please contact *Sally Parish on webber_sally@hotmail.com or 841891*




Breakfast at the Heart of Exmoor

Join the village of Wheddon Cross for an Exmoor Breakfast on
Sunday 7th October and Sunday 14th October 2007
8am - midday at the Moorland Hall, Wheddon Cross



Earn your breakfast or burn it off with a
self-guided walk - free leaflets provided


Grand Draw



Sunday papers available from Londis in village

Adult Exmoor Breakfast £6
Child Exmoor Breakfast £4
(Vegetarian breakfast available)

All proceeds go to the Moorland Hall



No bookings - first come, first served!

All produce used has been made, grown or purchased locally

A SNAPSHOT IN TIME

Most of us are fascinated by our ancestors. We completely forget that we too will become ancestors. Because we live in such a diverse village I thought it would be a really good idea to collect together an Archive of the Parish of Cutcombe at the present moment in time. The reasons why we have come to this village from “outside” are varied and often, funny. As is the habit of the “farming families” house musical chairs. All of us have a story to tell and here is the first of them. - *Mrs Eileen Webber's Snapshot in Time.*

I was born, 30/6/24 at Higher Crosses, Exton. We had larger families in those days and being 1 of 8 was not unusual; 5 sisters and 2 brothers (twins) my grandmother had 21, she started in 1877 and was still having babies in 1905.

My dad was a carter, who ploughed and sowed the fields with 2 horses and did all the other farming jobs as well. He worked really hard for 24 shillings a week. He was charged tuppence a pint for skimmed milk, separated it was, no cream in it. We used to eat a lot of rabbit, don't know if they were charged for catching them! My parents kept several chickens and also a pig for killing; not a bit of it going to waste, sausages, chitterlings and brawn. She used to stuff and roast rabbits, lots of stews too, probably why I can't eat rabbit now. We really enjoyed them when we came home from school. She cooked on an open fire with a 3-leg crock-pot and a kettle. Mum used to sit and fry on a “Brandice” they were called, a really hot job, especially in summer. She used to brown the cakes by putting red hot coals from the fire on top; it was a big shallow pot with 3 short legs. I remember her lovely treacle pudding, always something hot and filling for when we came in from school- we didn't starve. For school dinner we had pork or dripping sandwiches with butter scrapped on. Sometimes our lunches were stolen from our satchels by the Hollands, that used to live in an old shack at the very top of Exton Hill about ¼ mile from Exton Cross. We used to walk the 3 miles to school in all weathers and were never late once. Our teacher, Mrs Burge a kindly soul, would warm us up something to tide us over when our satchels were stolen. I used to clean for her on Saturdays to earn a few pennies.

On Sundays we would go to Exton Church Sunday School, taught by Mrs Ladds, a real Christian Lady, in the afternoon we would walk to Gupworthy Chapel, about 2 ½ miles, it didn't do us any harm, I would like to walk it now! My mum was from a family of 21, she was the 13th child, always worked hard, and was a very good needlewoman, knitted lots of jumpers for us. She used to go to jumble sales and alter things to fit us. My granny lived until she was 92, what a great age then, she used to work so hard and used to go up to the farm to do all their dirty washing.

My dad used to take us up in the field and make us do races, we ran and jumped. We had no radio even and played cards, whist, and draughts – my dad liked that best and was really good. He used to play his mouth organ and dance with us. We lived a very happy life all together. I left school at 14 and went to work for 7/6 pence a week.

My first job was at Brushford and I came home every other week on my 3-gear bicycle. Dad had a big garden and supplied all our vegetables. We sometimes used to walk

through Kendle Greens, where Robert & Pauline Takle now farm. The people who lived there were Mary, Winnie and their brother Arthur Lock. I remember, Mary was married at Exton Church, they walked back to Kendle about 5 or 6 yards behind each other, and we thought this was quite funny! And she didn't get dressed up for it! We used to take eggs, cream and butter to their customers in the village. One day my sister, Ursula, dropped the eggs on Exton Hill and laughed and sang as they rolled all the way down the hill. I think she said she was sorry.

In 1944 I was married to Sydney Webber at Cutcombe Church. We took Watercombe Farm and lived there till 1947. When Arthur Webber married Nora Kennely they wanted to start on their own, so we moved into Dunkery View with Sydney's mum, dad and sister Betty. Betty was a good help with Richard, Susan and Angela and the twins Roger and Jennifer, 5 children in all.

I have lived here for 60 years now. We have farmed turkeys, geese, ducks, chickens, pigs and ran a dairy herd until I was 73. The poor price for milk and the insurance, forced us to close the dairy in 1997. I milked cows and fed the calves, sometimes fetched them from the field. Our milk was green top milk and I hand-washed the bottles. We still grow our own vegetables and I still feed the family every day.

Sydney died in 1993, sadly missed. He was Chairman of various charities and on the Rural District Council for many years. He was School Governor here and at Minehead and NFU Chairman; PCC secretary for 28 years at Cutcombe, all this and more and farmed as well.

Wheddon Cross has changed over the years, this house and Exmoor House next door, were once Tailor's shops and my husband learned his trade as tailor with his dad. His mother came from farming stock and that's how we came to buy a couple of sheep, a cow and calf and over the years, built it up to what it is today. My son Roger now runs the farm, he left school at 14.

More reminiscences to follow.

MOORLAND HALL SHORT MAT BOWLS

A new season of bowling has started and we look forward to taking part in the West Somerset Short Mat Bowls League. Three of our members took part in a charity bowling day at West Somerset Community College, this turned out to be a very enjoyable day.

Preparations are going ahead for our annual dinner later this month, details will be given out on club night.

For those new to the Parish, and to those that don't know, we meet on Tuesday evenings at 7pm in the Moorland Hall, Wheddon Cross. New members are always members. You don't need to have bowled before,

just come along and bring a pair of slippers with you and introduce yourself. Thus is a good way of entering into the life of our community here so that you are not just living at, but living in the Cutcombe, Wheddon Cross and Luckwell Bridge community.

Childminding
Opening Soon



Full and Part-time places available

For further information please contact Anita on
01643 851245

WEATHER EYE



*A rainy August
Makes a hard crust bread*

The first week of August was changeable, with warm sun at times, 0.5" of rain on the 2nd and a cool breeze occasionally. Cutcombe Fete day (on the 4th) was dry with some sun later on in the day. The second week started

sunny and quite hot but deteriorated to sunshine and showers with the evenings of the 13th and into the 14th being really wet.

This set the pattern for the third week, which was showery with some sun, although the morning of the 20th was really wet, giving 1" of rain. This proved to be the last rain of the month and the remaining days (apart from the 31st) were mainly sunny and quite hot.

Bank Holiday Monday (on the 27th St Monica's Day) was typical and also had a light N/NE breeze. The 31st was mainly cloudy, with very little sun and was not nearly so warm.

Total rainfall for the month was 95mm (nearly 4") falling on 10 days and was the wettest August since 2004 which had 157mm.

Current rainfall total for the year is 1197 (almost 4 feet) making this the wettest year so far at this point this century, despite an almost totally dry April (17.5mm on one day). 2000 end of August total was 1186.5mm and all the other years this century were well below 1000mm.