

UNITED BENEFICE MAGAZINE - August 2008

ST JOHN'S CUTCOMBE

Aug 3 rd	6.00pm	EVENSONG	
		Readers	Lady Burns and Mr R Webber
		Sidesman	Mr P Webber
Aug 10 th	8.00am	BCP HC	
		Readers	Mr E Beckett & Nick Matravers
		Sidesman	Daniel Matravers
Aug 17 th	11.15am	MORNING WORSHIP	
		readers	Mrs G Brooks & Mrs M Russell
		Sidesman	Mr J Howe
Aug 24 th	11.15am	CW HC	
		Readers	to be arranged
		Sidesmen	to be arranged
Aug 31 st	10.30am	UNITED BENEFICE CW HC at Winsford	
Sept 7 th	6.00pm	EVENSONG	
		Readers	Mr R Webber & Mrs W Schofield
		Sidesman	Mr P Webber

FLOWERS & BRASS

Aug 2 nd	&	Aug 9 th	Eve Cummings
Aug 16 th	&	Aug 23 rd	Jill Thompson
Aug 30 th	&	Sept 6 th	Angela Land

IN MEMORIUM

We were sorry to hear the sad news that Pauline Coles has passed away. Our thoughts are with Gordon, Stella and family. **R.I.P.**

CUTCOMBE FRIENDSHIP CLUB

Tuesday	12 th August	at 2.30	Teas:	Yvette Lee
Tuesday	26 th August	at 2.30	Teas:	Jean Webber

MOORLAND HALL 100 CLUB – July Draw

£20 No. 121 James Bruce £10 No 147 Mr & Mrs B Turner
£5 No. 39 Maj.Gen. & Mrs Beckett

CUTCOMBE PARISH COUNCIL

Parish Council met on the 15th July. Draft minutes of all meetings are available on the website www.wheddoncross.org.uk and on the Parish notice boards at Wheddon Cross and Luckwell Bridge. Remember to leave any community notices or correspondence for the Clerk in the yellow folder at the Londis garage shop.

Police Report

Our local Neighbourhood Beat Manager is WPC 564 Clare Adams, who is assisted by WPCSO 7058 Sue Hurley. They report that the Community Policing Vehicle will be brought to the village in the near future in order to run a beat surgery: the date will be published when available. It is hoped to set up a Pub Watch scheme with licensees in the Dunster and Aville Vale area as well as a Rural Watch scheme which will require farmers' agreement to participate: machinery, quad bikes etc. will be photographed and permanently marked by the police. These details will be held on a database and participating farmers will keep a digital disk with the photos stored on it as well as displaying a notice that their property has been marked. The scheme has met with success in the Wellington area where the theft of such items has dropped dramatically.

Grants

The Parish Council awarded two grants under Section 137 of the Local Government Act at its June meeting: to C.L.O.W.N.S and Age Concern. Anyone wishing to access Age Concern services such as toe nail clipping, falls prevention, advocacy, befriending those who are vulnerable and isolated or anyone wishing to volunteer to help should contact Age Concern Somerset, The Market House, Fore Street, Taunton TA1 1JD: tel 01823 423496. A leaflet outlining services is available from the Clerk.

Award for Service to the Community

Somerset County Council Chairman's Award for Service to the Community 2008

If you wish to nominate a person who you think deserves an award for services to the community the Clerk has a form or contact Julia Knight on 01823 356726 e-mail jxknight@somerset.gov.uk Closing date is 8th Aug '08.

Meetings

There will be a meeting of Cutcombe Parish Council on 6th August to consider the plans for the redevelopment of the Cutcombe Market site. The usual monthly meeting of the Parish Council will be on the 19th August. Both meetings will be held at 7.30pm in the Moorland Hall. Agendas will be available on the website and on the Parish Council notice boards 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 on 07964 521206 or e-mail marlene@marleneallinson.wanadoo.co.uk

CUTCOMBE FETE AND FLOWER SHOW

Don't forget Cutcombe Fete on Saturday 2nd August. Please do enter some of the classes – we have lots of cooks, gardeners, craft-persons and flower arrangers in the parish. All entries (except for pre-marked personal craft exhibits) are sold for funds at the Auction. Great fun! Any queries please contact Gill on 841330

STALLS AND DETAILS FOR CUTCOMBE FETE

We have stalls and sideshows – dog show and children's races. A produce, handicraft and home baking marquee, the contents of which are auctioned later in the afternoon, and of course teas in the Moorland Hall and BBQ in the Playing Field.

All contributions – whether it be to the stalls or entries in the competitions are very welcome. BUT please note Bric-a-Brac does not mean 'jumble'. Please only donate goods that are not chipped, cracked or rusty. Mother Brown's Kitchen is the place for chipped and cracked china.

Please bring your goods on the morning of the fete. The various stalls will

be signed so that you will be able to see where to leave things and I will be around to help.

Stall Holders

Plants	Wendy Schofield	841730
Cakes	Judy Morris	841789
Books	Maria Davies	741639
Gifts	Jacky Ablett	841330
MU	Gill Langdon	841330
Bric-a-brac	Kathy Morton	841531
Bottles	Sheralee Matravers	841008

Sideshow

Mother Brown's Kitchen	Angela Edwards
Treasure Hunt	Jan Rice
Smack the Rat	The Morris Family
Find the Fiver	Jeff Howe
Duck Shooting	The Beckett Family
Face Painting	Jeninna Tonks

ACT4AFRICA

Thank you to everyone who came to our coffee morning at Steadway Farm on 4th July and also to those who donated items to sell or gave money as they could not attend. Despite the parish magazine containing our advert arriving after the event we still managed to raise £100. The event was held to raise funds to help former Wheddon Cross resident Meigan Lyons join Act4Africa in their important work abroad. Act4Africa is a health education charity which delivers HIV and AIDs Education and Behavioural Change Programmes in an effort to arrest the AIDS pandemic which is threatening a whole continent. For more information please visit www.act4africa.org.uk and please look out for further fund raising events in the local press. Thank you once again. *Janet Webber & Sally Parish*

Cutcombe Fete & Flower Show

BBQ



Side Shows

Saturday 2nd August 2008

2pm at the Recreation Field, Wheddon Cross

Sports



Teas

Dog Show
Starts 1.30 pm



Produce & Cookery
Competitions



Admission: 50p Car & Driver, 30p Adults, Children Free

CUTCOMBE WI

Apologies for the recent absence of WI news. In May our discussion of the two Resolutions, led by Pam Anson and Sue Wiley, engineered some lively debate before the votes were counted.

Our speaker in June was Sue Came from Age Concern. Sue was both interesting and informative about the many ways Age Concern is able to help people. This might include writing letters, advice on legal affairs, directing people to the correct agency for benefits, care homes etc. Enid Mantin then spoke about her recent attendance at the National AGM of WI's where she represented Watchet, Brompton Ralph and Cutcombe.

July our guest speaker was Michael McDermott who came all the way from Quarne Valley Grange down the road and entertained us with tales of his musical career in the Royal Marines.

There will be no meeting in August although some of us are going to Tinsfield.

Advance notice

September 10th at 8pm – Open Meeting

The Driving Standards Agency is coming to our September meeting with their Arrive Alive campaign. This presentation is aimed at all drivers aged 50 years or over (although younger ones are welcome!). The idea is to keep older drivers on the road safely for as long as possible. I urge you to put this date in your diary now. *Gay*

VILLAGE NEWS

First and foremost, some of our villagers are having a very unpleasant time at the moment. I'm sure that everyone will join me in saying "Get Well Soon" Ron Neal, Ben Howe and Geoff Mackarness. Sybil is "getting there" in her usual inimitable fashion.

Wheddon Cross is flush with babies - kittens. Astonishingly, of the 5 kittens, 3 are ginger but luckily they are all slightly different, so we shall

always be able to recognise our own pussy! Puppies are also waddling around, Diana and Charles Busby have a gorgeous little Border Terrier called “Muska” and Nikki Takle and Tim Stenner have a mixed cutie called “Fern”.

The ever-enterprising Takle/Stenner family have opened a Local Produce Organic food shop in Dulverton. Go and see it and buy some lovely Exmoor meat that has actually grazed near you. Eat a chicken that has seen the sky and dealt with the business end of a worm!! Good luck to our friends.

I can only tell you this very funny story by using Nom De Plumes; 2 venerable gentlemen took up clippers and gloves to cut back a hedge sticking out into a bridle path. Shortly Farmer C came up and said “Oi, what do you think you're doing” Mr A, replied “With the help of Mr B. here we are cutting back these branches, to free the public pathway”. The farmer went away muttering to himself. Soon after, he re-appeared seated on a quad bike and chased my two elderly friends across the field yelling, “Get off my land”. It now appears that the NP map was incorrectly marked and they were actually in the wrong field. Once Mr's A & B had finished rubbing their aching knees, hips and any other joints that they could reach, they recounted the story with much laughter.

Three applications for the redevelopment of Cutcombe Market plopped through the door this week. I suggest that local people take lots of photos, because the landscape here at Wheddon Cross will change irretrievably and the village will change forever.

The Sea Sunday Service was held at Kendle Farm this year. This was a last minute alteration from Liming Close Farm, due to the dodgy weather. The lambing shed provided us all with plenty of shelter and Rector Terry led us singing the sea hymns. The ladies of Exton provided a lovely tea.

The Oil syndicate seems to be really taking off. Those of you still dithering, get signed up now. The price is rising daily.

Those of you who went to school with Chris Wiles, he has just become the proud dad of another child, a boy this time, girl last time.

Anybody who holds a Bus Pass or is disabled will soon have the opportunity to travel free to St. Audrie's Pool for Water Aerobic sessions. These are great fun and no swimming is required. If a person has any trouble in water, we also provide trained helpers in the pool. Watch this spot for more news and updates. We will be doing Press Releases in the local papers and contacting TV and Radio stations. To join the club is easy and you only pay for the sessions you go to at £2 per person. At present we have an enormous waiting list, but from September we will be doing 4 sessions per week. *Mully*

WITH THANKS

Ron and Audrey Delve would like to thank everyone for supporting their Tea Party on Sunday. The weather could have been kinder but it didn't matter. They raised £530 for the Church Funds.

CUTCOMBE LOCAL HISTORY GROUP

The 18th June saw us in Simonsbath walking to Cow Castle and then back to Boeveys for a first class supper. The new owners were pleased to welcome 24 hungry walkers for supper and coffee.

Our walk on July 16th saw 25 intrepid walkers meet at Larkbarrow Gate for a short introduction by Hilary Binding before setting off to find the old ruins of life at Larkbarrow Farm in days gone by. I remember riding out there in the early 50's when the buildings were fairly well intact with the massive stone lintels above the entrance doorway. Before the weather over the windswept moor has taken its toll a few went in search of Tom's Hill but time beat them as we had to get back to make the supper deadline of last orders at one of our favourite supper holts – The White Horse.

In August we meet on Wednesday 20th for our walk and return visit to Jan's at Horner for a Ploughman supper followed by meringues. Look forward to seeing you there. *Jacky*

ON THE MEND

Ron (Neal) would like to thank everyone for their cards, get well wishes and fruit sent to him whilst in hospital. He is at home now and feeling a little better – looking forward to a bit of sunshine to improve the health. ‘Ging’ Hardisty next door has also been in hospital and should be on his way home as I am writing this. Get well both of you soon. Apologies if I miss the ‘poorly’ ones but I do try and keep up with what is happening in the village.

MG CAR OWNERS CLUB

A huge thanks to everyone who helped serve, wash up and make scones for the visit of the MG cars and their owners in June. About 170 people enjoyed a cream tea with three members of the public too. Overall we made £358.50 for the Moorland Hall which is really good. *Sally Parish*

A BIT MORE HISTORY

When I did the article on Arthur and the Home Guard and mentioned that his brother Sydney was also a member I was told that I hadn’t done all my research! We have another ex Home Guard member in the village – Ken Heard.

There were over 20 members of the Home Guard for our area and Ken volunteered and was the youngest member. Some of the older ones were ‘Old Soldiers’ from the World War 1. The members were taught to shoot and Ken tells me he was a good shot. They used to use the bank at Hanger’s Cleeve for target practice.

With its excellent views over the area Heathpoult was very important in home security and anyone passing along the road would be challenged with ‘Halt, Who goes there?’ On one occasion, on duty with Billy Hill, they made their challenge – it was a man called Baker on his bike with his mother following on behind. He shouted back ‘Don’t ye shoot mother!’

On Sundays there would be exercises against neighbouring Home Guards. When competing against Dunster Home Guard they would be set tasks like getting into Dunster without being found by the 'enemy.'

He was called up at the age of 18 and sent to East Lancashire Regiment based in Blackpool and trained on the Blackpool Beaches. Asked why he was sent there and not based locally, it was because this is where men were needed at the time. He also trained at Royal Army Service Corp Transport Section at Buxton, Derbyshire. Soldiers needed to be versatile and skilled to survive.

On June 6th 1944 he was sent from Gosport, Hampshire to Normandy as part of the D Day landing force. A lady gave him a four-leaf clover before leaving for Normandy and this remained with him throughout. Many of the troops were drowned during the landings as well as those killed by enemy fire. We received air cover all the time from the Royal Air Force.

He marched through France and into Belgium and was very grateful for the air cover given by the Royal Air Force that saved many thousands of lives. He remembers on one occasion being sent out on reconnaissance and they went too far. Fortunately for them they saw a light in the distance and found help from a man called Franz de Hooga who belonged to the Resistance and they were directed back to their own lines. Ken was sent to France, Belgium, Holland and Oldenburg in Germany. Part of his job was to check houses for enemy soldiers and clear the way for the rest of the force. He remembers on one occasion falling through a ceiling in someone's house!

Supplies and hard rations were often in short supply. They would be given a rest from time to time behind their own lines and fresh troops sent to the front.

He did meet two friends from home during his time abroad. One being Cyril Hurdley who worked with the waterproof vehicles – ducks that were used for transferring supplies. Near Arnheim he saw Raymond Quartley from Bridgetown who was a Military Policeman. It was good to see a face from home.

He was sent home just before the end of the war on compassionate leave because his father was dying. He then cared for his parents and found work at Hoe Farm helping in the gardens. He worked at Dulverton Sawmills for a time. One day he was sent to Chumleigh and worked with Tony Fowler (who lived in Cutcombe) cutting down some enormous trees. He remembers walking back to Dulverton from Chumleigh A long way! He then went to work for West Somerset Council until retirement. He was always a welcome sight in mid winter when the roads were blocked with snow and those of us living off the main roads were unable to get out. Thank goodness we don't have such hard winters and the heavy snow I wouldn't be seen from New Year to Easter!!!!

WHEDDON CROSS & CUTCOMBE OIL SYNDICATE

This syndicate is now up and running; to date thirty five people have registered their interest.

How will it work ?

We ask you to think ahead. By monitoring your oil consumption you will be able to calculate when you are 'in the zone' for your next delivery . So that orders can be combined the 1st Tuesday of every month has been designated as the deadline for that months order.

Orders will be passed to the delivery company who will confirm the order with you and request delivery instructions and arrange payment.

If emergencies arise or significant orders are received between deadlines we will process them.

Those interested in joining should 'phone Alan Jarrett 01643 841799 or Robert Simmons 01643 841150 .

CUTCOMBE SCHOOL

One of the many highlights of the year has been the development in the school garden. Last night we had the official opening by Brigadier Hugh

Pye from the Somerset Community Foundation. It was lovely seeing everybody enjoying all the hard work Rachael Abraham, Kelly Parham and Terry Fowler have put into the area with the children.

Swimming Pool

Don't forget our fantastic heated swimming pool will be open for use this summer. If you don't purchase your season ticket before the end of term from school then please contact Carol Matravers (07968630244) for information. This pool would not be open for the hard work and dedication of volunteers, in particular Chris Matravers and Carol Matravers. A huge thank you to both of you, from all the school and especially the children.

Some Summer Activities

TENNIS SUMMER HOLIDAY ACTIVITIES

for 2 - 14 years olds (beginners or improvers)

Mondays - Dulverton

Thursdays - North Molton

Fridays - Winsford

Only £12 for 2 children for a three hour session if you apply by the 2 4 1 deal!

SUMMER HOLIDAY ACTIVITIES

at RED DEER NURSERY, Simonsbath

for 2 - 5 years olds

Every Tuesday from 9am - 3pm

18 per the 6 hour session

For more information on any of the above contact Serena Stanbury on 01643 831237/ 07854 104913

4th Sept – First day of the new term

An Exmoor Farmer is overseeing his animals in a remote part of the moor when suddenly a brand-new BMW advances out of a dust cloud towards him. The driver, a young man in a designer suit, Gucci shoes, Ray Ban sunglasses and YSL tie, leans out the window and asks the farmer, 'If I tell you exactly how many cows and calves you have in your herd, will you give me a calf?'

The Farmer looks at the man, obviously a yuppie, then looks at his peacefully grazing herd and calmly answers, 'Reet, why not?'

The yuppie parks his car, whips out his Dell notebook computer, connects it to his Cingular RAZR V3 cell phone, and surfs to a NASA page on the Internet, where he calls up a GPS satellite navigation system to get an exact fix on his location which he then feeds to another NASA satellite that scans the area in an ultra-high-resolution photo. The young man then opens the digital photo in Adobe Photoshop and exports it to an image processing facility in Hamburg, Germany. Within seconds, he receives an email on his Palm Pilot that the image has been processed and the data stored. He then accesses a MS-SQL database through an ODBC connected Excel Spreadsheet with email on his Blackberry and, after a few minutes, receives a response. Finally, he prints out a full-colour, 150-page report on his hi-tech, miniaturized HP LaserJet printer and finally turns to the farmer and says, 'You have exactly 1,586 cows and calves.'

'That's right. Well, I guess you can take one of my calves,' says the farmer. He watches the young man select one of the animals and looks on amused as the young man stuffs it into the boot of his car.

Then the farmer says to the young man, 'Ey Up!, if I can tell you exactly what your business is, will you give me back my calf?' The young man thinks about it for a second and then says, 'Okay, why not?'

'You work for the British Government', says the farmer.
'Wow! That's correct,' says the yuppie, 'but how did you guess that?'

'No guessing required.' answered the farmer. 'You showed up here even though nobody called you; you want to get paid for an answer I already

knew, to a question I never asked. You used all kinds of expensive equipment that clearly somebody else paid for, you tried to show me how much smarter than me you are; and you don't know a thing about cows
..... this is a herd of sheep. Now give me back my sheep dog.'

WEATHER EYE



Before St John's we pray for rain
After that we get it anyway!

Overall June has been a changeable month with a lot of wind. The longest day (21st) was typical, being grey and mild with a SW breeze and light rain in the late afternoon (we got wet at Lanacre!)

A pair of bullfinches was seen at Nutcombe on the 5th, (St Boniface's Day – he was an Archbishop of Mainz and became a martyr in AD 754), but the 8th, St William's Day, (he was the Archbishop of York and died in AD 1154), saw the first day (of 3) of real summer, being hot with lots of sunshine. The 10th, while sunny and hot, also had a stiff North breeze, which became a cool gale by the evening. It used to be believed that if it rained on the 8th then a wet harvest could be expected.

St John's Eve, 9 the 23rd) was also mainly sunny with a fresh westerly breeze most of the day, changing to north-east by tea-time and becoming lighter. Traditionally St John's Wort (*Hypericum Perforatum*) was collected with the morning dew and still on it (and is still collected today) and further sanctified in bonfire smoke. It was then used as a panacea for all ills (ie a cure-all). When it was introduced in North America (where it was known as Klamath weed) it soon became invasive and had the added disadvantage of sensitising white cattle to the sun.

Total rainfall was 61mm (nearly 2'5") falling on 15 days, much drier than June 2007 which had 133mm (over 5")