

UNITED BENEFICE MAGAZINE - February 2007

ST JOHN'S CUTCOMBE

Feb 4 th	6.00pm	EVENSONG Readers Mr R Webber & Mrs W Schofield Sidesman Mr P Webber
Feb 11 th	8.00am	BCP HOLY COMMUNION Readers Mr E Beckett & Mrs G Langdon Sidesman Mr J Howe
Feb 18 th	10.30am	UNITED BENEFICE CW HC Readers Mr G Harvey & Brig. D Godsall Sidesmen Mr R Neal & Mr J Howe
Feb 25 th	11.15am	FAMILY SERVICE without HC Readers To be arranged Sidemen Daniel, Nick & Mark Matravers
Mar 4 th	6.00pm	EVENSONG Readers Mr R Webber & Lady Burns Sidesman Mr P Webber

FLOWERS & BRASS

Feb 3 rd & 10 th	Jan Rice
Feb 17 th	Maria Davies

IN MEMORIAM

Ron Atkins 1935 - Dec 11th 2006

I and my family would like to thank all the kind people of the parish who sent us cards and messages of sympathy and/or came and supported us at the celebration for Ron's life. We were so touched, especially as due to his long illness Ron was unable to get involved in village life. This is indeed a really special place to live - thank you.

Thank you to Terry for the lovely service and to Eric and staff at the Rest and Be Thankful for catering for us so well afterwards. Linda.

CUTCOMBE FRIENDSHIP CLUB

Tuesday 13th February Teas – Barbara Norman
Tuesday 27th February Teas – Eileen Webber

MOORLAND HALL 100 CLUB – January draw

£20 No.16 Mr & Mrs R Goodwin: £10 No.11 Mrs J Rice:
£5 No.26 Eric Norman

THANK YOU

A very big thank you for all the cards, gifts and offers of reassurance I received from the people in and around the village during my recent illness; I am well on the road to recovery now.
Thank you all once again - Marion Shelley

ST JOHN'S CHURCH

The Church Electoral Roll is being completely revised and a new roll prepared. All those on the present roll will receive a new enrolment form from Gill Langdon. If anyone else would like to be included please contact Gill on 841330 – do leave a message if there is no reply and I will get back to you.

Thank you to ARKATVs for the metal ramp they made for us and the care and attention to detail given to make it a sympathetic fit allowing us to have excellent disabled access to our church.

Christmas Auction

A magnificent result – raising £589 for the Church funds. Many thanks to all who bought or contributed.

Wanted!

Any surplus 1lb jam jars with lids urgently for Snowdrop Valley sales of preserves. Please contact Gill or Jacky on 841330.

THE NORMAN'S ARE BACK!

After a number of years of looking for 'the right pub, in the right location with the right atmosphere and friendly locals', we finally found our ideal place, right back in the village where our family roots originated; finally no passports are needed to get from the vales of Wiveliscombe to the Hills of Exmoor.

As many of you know Eric was born and raised at Gupworthy Farm, Wheddon Cross and farmed at Higher Eastcott for many years. He subsequently turned his hand to a number of different ventures from house renovation, landscape gardening, and Barman for a number of local pubs, but his heart was always set on owning and running a Pub of his own. Julie works for the Exmoor National Park Authority and has done for the last 15 years, she will continue to do so and help support Eric in the Pub. As Julie initially trained for the Catering industry at Exeter College her skills in the kitchen are often called upon especially for some of the delicious dishes on the specials board.

Caroline our eldest daughter has decided to join the family business in January to assist Eric in the running of this thriving and popular Exmoor Inn. Following her 4 year Business Studies course she went travelling in New Zealand and then worked for the Met Office in Exeter as a college administrator, she now leaves her job in the Finance Department for Debenhams Head Office. Using her experiences from these jobs and working at Raleghs Cross and latterly for the Valiant Soldier, Caroline enjoys combining office work with the social interaction gained from working in a pub so what better way than to help her parents in their new venture. Francesca (our youngest daughter) although studying in Bristol for her Masters in Social work, still makes time to come home and help as and when she can.

In the 3 months since opening we have been overwhelmed by the support of our staff and customers and really have not had time to really appreciate or take stock of all we have achieved so far, so thank you for all your understanding and assistance while we made the transition into the life of publicans. Although we do not intend to make drastic changes to the pub, we do intend to make some subtle improvements to enhance the

appearance and working environment. An initial step has been to introduce the Carvery on Sunday lunchtimes which has proved very successful throughout the Christmas period and we are looking forward to the launch of the new Spring menu, which has a variety of 'traditional pub grub dishes' using locally produced ingredients!

To coincide with the Snowdrop Valley excursions the Rest and Be Thankful Inn will be open all day for a variety of foods from the various menus, drinks and warmth during this seasonal event! (We will return to our normal hours of opening on the 1 March 2007)

As Cynthia Stevens so eloquently wrote in the parish magazine December 06, we are from 'local stock' and we intend to keep the Rest and Be Thankful in tune with the needs of our customers. Thank you all once again and Happy New Year to you.

We look forward to seeing you all soon.
Eric, Julie, Caroline & Francesca

CUTCOMBE PARISH COUNCIL

Parish Council met on 16th January: minutes and 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.

Snowdrop Valley Park and Ride

At the meeting held on 10th January to discuss the future of the Snowdrop Valley Park and Ride there was a concensus of agreement that the local community will work closely with ENPA to find a way forward for future years. A Steering Group was appointed to discuss the issues involved with a view to monitoring the operation of the Scheme during 2007. A further open public meeting had been arranged for 8th February, 6.30 pm at the Moorland Hall, and it is hoped that as many people as possible will attend.

Parish Plan

The Parish Council's initial application for funding for a Parish Plan was positively received by the Community Council for Somerset but more

details regarding project costs and budgeting have to be forwarded by the end of March. A public meeting has been arranged at the Moorland Hall for Monday 12th February at 6.30 pm and it is hoped that parishioners will attend to learn more about what is involved. Katy Calvert from the Community Council will be coming along to give a short presentation and answer questions.

Dog Fouling

Problems with dog fouling have been interrupting football matches on the recreation ground. The Parish Council is working with the Moorland Hall Committee to try to improve signage and would like to remind everyone that there is a designated dog walking area on the opposite side of the field to the car park and to ask dog owners not to allow dogs onto the playing field. Everyone's co-operation in this matter would be greatly appreciated.

The next meeting of the Parish Council will be held on Tuesday 20th February 2007 at 7.30 pm in the Moorland Hall. The agenda will be available on the website and on the Parish 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.

ROMANY REMEDIES



Romany people used to chew willow twigs for headache relief.

Feverfew leaves can help migraine but I don't know how they are used!

Raspberry leaf tea allays birth pains.

We used to rub nettle stings with dock leaves.

The monks used purging buckthorn for constipation

(seeds have been found in old drains at monastic sites)

Southernwood (Lad's Love) was strewn in houses to kill fleas.

Coltsfoot cured coughs and eyebright was for sore eyes.

Parsnips made your hair shine if you ate them.



COMPUTER DROP-IN SESSIONS

Due to the popularity of the sessions a further two will be held during February at the Moorland Hall on Tuesdays the 6th and 20th from 10.00 am to 12 noon. Cost: £2 per hour. Maximum of 4 people. Tel: Marlene on 841193 to book (one hour or two):
a place cannot be guaranteed if not pre-booked.

All proceeds from the sessions will fund additions to the Moorland Hall Computer Suite.

FOOD OF YESTERYEAR

Lamb's Tail Pie

When I was younger on my dad's farm we always had lamb's tail pie. Mam used to put it in a pie dish and then put a crust on and cook it. She would then leave it until the next day and it would be set in jelly – delicious.

Wool was always a profitable commodity so the tails were plucked, then placed in hot water to clean off the wool that was left. Any remaining strands would be singed off. After several washings these lovely little white strips would be cut into 1" pieces and placed in a dish to which a little minced bacon and a pie crust put on and was then baked. When cold the pie would consist of lovely, thick delicious jelly.

At 86 years of age now, it makes my mouth water just to think about it. Oh, for the food of the old days.....

Where are the lovely giblet stews, hogs puddings, junket and cream and bitter greens?

Also we had woods on the farm and when the baby rooks hatched out the men would have a rook shoot. Then the legs and breasts would be boiled until tender with some parsley, a crust put on and left to set. Then put in the fridge. Another delicacy.

Also we used to make pigeon pie (legs, breast and parsley) also mam would cook them in a pudding basin with suet crust on top. Very tasty!

SNOWDROP VALLEY

Supported by Exmoor National Park Authority and with kind permission from Badgworthy Land Company, the Snowdrop Valley Park and Ride scheme from Wheddon Cross will start on Saturday 3rd February 2007 and run until Sunday 25th February 2007 inclusive when the valley road, Draper's Way, will be closed to traffic.

The scheme, which has now been operating for eight years, helps prevent congestion along the valley road and makes it easier for local people to go about their business. The shuttle bus service will operate continuously from 10am to 5pm approximately every 20 minutes from the car park next to the Rest & Be Thankful Inn. The last bus back from the valley will be at 4.30pm. The fares will be £3 per adult; children under 15 can travel free. The price is for the round trip or part.

Well behaved dogs will be allowed on the bus at the driver's discretion. Visitors should wear appropriate clothing and footwear for winter walking. Disabled drivers and mini-bus drivers with passengers who are unable to use the buses should drive to Wheddon Cross to pick up a pass with instructions.

Refreshments

As usual the Rest and Be Thankful will be open for meals etc with a new landlord, extended opening hours and a special 'Snowdrop Menu' – opening hours 10am-12pm - morning coffee, 12pm-3pm - lunches, 3pm-6pm - afternoon teas, 7pm-9pm - evening meals.

Exmoor House Tearooms will be open daily from 11am – 3pm with morning coffee, sandwiches, teas and cake etc.

The Moorland Hall will be manned by various organisations providing light refreshments, teas, coffees etc throughout February.

Details on the website www.wheddoncross.org.uk/snowdropvalley.htm and on the notice board.

If you haven't already visited Snowdrop Valley make this year your first of many visits. Either walk down to the valley or take the bus and then finish off with refreshments in the village – treat yourselves!

WHEDDON CROSS CARNIVAL CLUB

Our AGM was held on Thursday 18th Jan 07 my apologies for the date not being published in last month's magazine, but posters were put up around the village to advise of the date.

Chair, Secretary & Treasurer were elected as follows: Tracey Stiling, Chris Matravers, Jim Matravers. Minutes & accounts were available on request from myself. All were in order.

This was followed by a short club meeting where ideas were put forward for the theme for this year, more ideas welcome, please let us know if you have any great ideas for us to work with.

A fundraising dart's marathon is being arranged by Chris Adams & will take place at the Rest & Be Thankful on February 24th & 25th starting at 8.00pm, 8 players will play in rotation over a 24 hour period anyone wishing to sponsor a player/s or guess the total scored please see any club member & they will point you in the right direction for a sponsor sheet.

Next club meeting Thursday 1st March 8.00pm at the sports club.
Chris Matravers (secretary)

WEATHER EYE



'Thunder in December
Foretells fair weather'

December was mainly mild, wettish and grey and above all windy. Thunder and lightning accompanied the heavy squally showers during the

day the 3rd and 7th and there was hail at times. A bumble bee was seen on the eleagnus flowers on the 9th.

The 16th was a typically showery day, but was less grey with some sun and gave us lots of rainbows during the morning. By the 18th the wind had dropped and in its place came fog, morning and evening and all day at times too. There were 2 white frosts on the mornings of the 20th and 21st, (both recorded at -3°C air temperature) but these also brought some sun in the day.

‘If Christmas Day on a Monday be
A great winter that year you’ll see’

Christmas itself was still calm but also grey and misty and by the 27th it was milder which brought rain and wind which continued until the end of the year.

Total rainfall for the month was 198.5mm (almost 8") falling on 24 days and there were 3 air frosts.

Total rainfall for 2006 was 1456.5mm (around 58") falling on 203 days. The wettest month was October – 240.5mm and for the first time this century April was the driest with 42.5mm. This was the only month which had less than 2" rain, but January/June/July/August all had under 3" and September was only just over 77.5mm. 2005 had 1253.5 mm. 39 air frosts were recorded in the whole year, the lowest being -5°C on the 10th February and 2nd March.