

UNITED BENEFICE MAGAZINE - March 2008

ST JOHN'S CUTCOMBE

Mar 2 nd	10.30am	MOTHERING SUNDAY UNITED BENEFICE Family Communion at Winsford
Mar 9 th	8.00am	BCP HC Readers Mr E Beckett & Mrs G Brooks Sidesman Mr R Neal
Mar 16 th	10.30am	PALM SUNDAY United Benefice Family Communion Readers to be arranged Sidesmen Daniel and Nick Matravers
Mar 20 th	7.30am	BCP HC & strip the Altar at Exton
Mar 21 st	10.00am	GOOD FRIDAY United Benefice Medication at Winsford
Mar 23 rd	11.15am	EASTER DAY CW HC Readers Nick Matravers & Mr J Webber Sidesmen Mr J Howe & Daniel Matravers
Mar 30 th	10.30am	UNITED BENEFICE at Exton CW HC
Apr 6 th	6.00pm	EVENSONG Readers Mr R Webber & Mrs W Schofield Sidesman Mr J Howe

IN MEMORIUM

After a long life Joffre Webber passed away at Eastleigh Nursing Home in Minehead. He was born at Dunkery View and farmed all his life – for many years at Week Farm, Bridgetown with his brother Bill. A sportsman from his youth he enjoyed being a spectator when he retired to Bouverie Close. Our sympathy to all the family. R.I.P.

FLOWERS & BRASS

March 23 rd	Pam King
March 30 th	Mary White
April 4 th	Mary White

We will be decorating the church for Easter on Saturday 23rd.
Do come and help. Flowers and foliage appreciated please.

CUTCOMBE FRIENDSHIP CLUB

Tuesday 11th March Teas: Eve Cummins

Tuesday 25th March Teas: Barbara Norman

MOORLAND HALL 100 CLUB – February Draw

£20 No. 32 Sybil Williams; £10 No. 127 Mr & Mrs D Davies;
£5 No. 20 Bidy Trouton.

CUTCOMBE PARISH COUNCIL

Parish Council met on the 19th February, too late for details of the meeting to appear here. 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.

Snowdrop Valley Park and Ride Scheme

The Park and Ride Scheme is running as we go to press and there seems to be plenty of visitors as the weather has been mostly cold but bright and sunny later on in the day. The Parish Council is hoping to be successful in its £5,000 bid to the Defra Sustainable Development Fund for a grant to underwrite the Scheme. This will be a one-off application and the money will have to be managed year-on-year in order to keep the scheme running. The application will be considered by an independent SDF Advisory Panel of individuals from communities and businesses across Exmoor, which then makes recommendations to the Exmoor National Park Authority and monitors and reviews the progress of those schemes which have received grants. As the bid has to be made in the new financial year, the Exmoor National Park Authority and the Parish Council have agreed to underwrite the scheme for the time being. It is hoped that our bid will be successful: more details of the SDF fund can be found by logging on to the website www.exmoor-nationalpark.gov.uk

and searching for Sustainable Development Fund.

Local Affordable Needs Housing

In late 2008 the choice-based lettings scheme will be introduced: local people in need of affordable housing *must* register with the Council otherwise they may be overlooked when a property becomes empty, and *all Parish Councils have been urged to take this message back to their parishioners*. More details can be found on West Somerset Council's website: www.westsomersetonline.gov.uk follow the link for Housing.

Magna Housing

In response to questions from parishioners, the Lettings Policy of Magna Housing has been obtained and is reproduced here: *When letting its empty homes, Magna West Somerset will:* 1. *Comply with the Housing Corporation's Regulatory Code and Guidance, relevant housing legislation and the requirements of the Supporting People regime;* 2. *Promote fairness and equality for all in the provision of housing and make sure we do not knowingly create an unfair disadvantage for anyone, directly or indirectly;* 3. *Manage the demand for affordable rented housing;* 4. *Balance the needs of applicants and the wider responsibility that we have to maintain long term community stability and sustainable tenancies;* 5. *Give choice to applicants as far as is reasonable in the circumstances;* 6. *Ensure the efficient and effective use of our properties;* 7. *Set challenging lettings service standards in consultation with tenants and housing register applicants.* For more details see Magna's website at: www.magna.org.uk/housing

Luckwell Bridge Triangle Improvement Scheme

We are pleased to report that Cutcombe's funding bid to the West Somerset Area Working Panel has resulted in a £1,500 grant towards this scheme, unfortunately only half of the amount requested as we are now at the end of the financial year and there were 14 applications considered at the January meeting! Progress on the Scheme will be reported later in the year.

The next Parish Council meeting will be on Tuesday 18th March 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

VILLAGE NEWS

It was the last week of January and Crash bang wallop, 2008 is here at Wheddon Cross, Lorry 1, Bollard 0. The lorry might have done a double, as there is a suspicious scrape along the wall of the Old Post Office. Lorry didn't stop.

And another almighty wallop 2nd week of February, a good gouge this time out of the wall of The Old Post Office, nearly hit the guttering that has only just been replaced from the last hit. Unluckily for the lorry driver, Roger Webber caught him red handed!!

Whilst on Snowdrop Car Park Duty, Robert Simmons reported a pheasant fixed to the grill of a Snowdropper's car. After much discussion (Robert jokingly tried to charge the visitor £3 for the bird) said bird was detached from grill. After even more discussion on how to dispatch bird, bird got better and flew off. Very happy and relieved Snowdropper.

With our Rector still very unwell, our Services at Cutcombe have been led by others. They are interesting and informative and I now know how to kill an Eel (better to buy one at the fishmonger, far less messy). Get better soon Terry.

We had the death of one of our oldest farmers, Joffre Webber. He was brother to Edgar and Arthur, one of 8, what very large families they used to have. The family have very generously passed the Funeral plate to St. John's Cutcombe.

The glorious weather has brought people here to Wheddon Cross by the thousands. It all looks to be a bumper year for Snowdrop Valley. It has certainly been manic at the Moorland Hall when I have been helping. *Mully*

CUTCOMBE SCHOOL

Children's Art Day

A children's Art Day painting with watercolours is taking place in the Moorland Hall on Saturday 29th March from 10am until 2pm. Alex Adams, a local artist from Minehead, is running the session and kindly agreed to come away from his usual patch to make the day accessible to others. The day is open to anyone aged between 6 and 16. Places are limited so call Rachael Abraham ideally before Easter on 01643 841791 if you would like a place reserved. We could do with a couple of adults to stay and help so if you are able to please let me know. The cost is £8 per child and children will need to bring a packed lunch. *Rachael Abraham*

CUTCOMBE W I

The AGM was held during the December meeting. This was followed by some poetry readings and 'Recognise the baby' photo competition – won by Linda Atkins. A light supper was provided by the committee and enjoyed by all.

January - unfortunately, I missed Bryan Steven's talk 'Chemin de Liberte' which was well received. One of our members has since told me it was so interesting that she learnt a lot about the Second World war she didn't know – very moving in parts and illustrated with beautiful slides.

February saw us enjoying Alison Sims talk on 'The Sultanate of Oman. Alison lived and worked there in the mid seventies and has visited frequently since so has first hand knowledge of her subject. Her slides show just how diverse the countryside is and included some wonderful character studies of the population as they go about their daily lives.

Our March 12th speaker will be Mrs Pam Gilbert on 'Fun with Beads'. A must surely for those interested in decorative needlework.

CUTCOMBE LOCAL HISTORY GROUP

We will be holding our AGM on Wednesday 19th March in the Edwin Beckett Room at 7pm. Please bring ideas for the summer programme and

walks followed by supper. Subscriptions due. New members always welcome.

A BIT MORE HISTORY

Over the years we have had many interesting characters living here. Some of us can still remember ‘Tich’ Bellamy who sadly died quite a few years ago. Ken and Margaret have kindly put a few memories to paper for us to read.

Leslie (Tich) Bellamy was born in one of the cottages that used to be at Blagdon Cross. If you look carefully there are still parts of the stone walls present which are often covered in blue periwinkle flowers certain times of the year. He was brought up by Mr and Mrs Moles and later by Mr and Mrs J Melhuish at Blagdon Farm. After leaving school at 14 he went to work at North Quarme and then Little Quarme. When he was 17 he went to work for Mr M C Houlder at Triscombe Farm where he worked for 35 years until Mr Houlder’s death in 1957.

Always interested in horses he hunted 3 days a week always riding to the meets and home again. On one occasion he rode from Barnstaple Station arriving home at midnight and then he had to feed the horses before he could go home – no horse boxes in the those days!

Tich was known to be a bit of a ‘lad’ when he was young, one day while working at Triscombe , Tich and his mate Alan (Lordie) Down decided they would play a trick on the girls who were in service in the big house. Tich and Lordie knew they would be going for a walk down the drive at Triscombe. They took a white sheet off the bed and hid in a gutter, when the girls came pass they placed the sheet over their heads and jumped out in front of them causing one of the girls to faint. Tich said ‘dam’d we haven’t killed her’. They both ran on down the drive to the main road. A cyclist came along and they quickly put the sheet over their heads again and jumped out in front of him. He was frightened and rode like mad up to the Rest and Be Thankful. Tich and Lordie put the sheet in the hedge and decided to go up to the pub for a drink. When they walked into the Rest and Be Thankful the landlord said to them ‘Have you seen a ghost Tich?’ He replied – ‘No, why?’ The landlord said this man (looking very pale)

swears he has seen one down Triscombe Drive! Their lips were sealed! Tichie was always up to mischief as a lad at school and after he had left school. *Ken and Margaret*

DOOMSDAY BOOK

Anyone interested in local history might like to visit http://www.nationalarchives.gov.uk/documentsonline/details-result.asp?Edoc_Id=7574297&queryType=1&resultcount=1 where you can get a PDF file for the Cutcombe entry of the Doomsday book. It cost £3.50.

WEATHER EYE

If the grass grows in January
It grows the worse for it all the year

January started with a weather forecast of snow (which we didn't get), although during the first week the temperature gradually dropped to give frosty mornings and grey dour days with a NE wind. The 4th was foggy, which lifted in the afternoon and turned to rain in time for chicken shutting up just before dark, bringing hail showers overnight and on into the 5th, although slightly milder temperatures.

This set the pattern for about the next three weeks, with heavy, frequent showers, windy at times, and with one day being mild, the next day chillier with hail at times. The last week or so proved much drier (with only 5.5mm of rain overall) and some sunshine, although the 31st was very wet and windy in the morning.

The sunflower seed feeders have proved very popular with the birds, attracting lots of chaffinches, green finches, the occasional goldfinch and even a couple of bramblings some days. A mistle thrush has been working well on the snails and a coal tit and 2 great tits have been regular visitors as well as several blue tits, blackbirds and sparrows.

Total rainfall for the month was 218.5mm (well over 8.5") falling on 25 days, the wettest 24 hours was the 15th with 36mm. 4 air frosts were recorded and several ground frosts. This January was drier than January 2007 by almost 0.5" but with the same number of wet days and air frosts.

COPY FOR THE MAGAZINE

Please leave any material for the magazine at Dunkery View on the Friday morning before the deadline date set in the previous month's magazine, preferably before 9am! I can't promise to collect them after that time so if late you will either have to bring them to me or they may not be included. emails by Friday if possible but can be dealt with up to Monday lunchtime. If there is a problem please ring me on 831513 or email cynthste@talktalk.net