

## UNITED BENEFICE MAGAZINE - October 2006

### ST JOHN'S CUTCOMBE

Oct 1st	6.30pm	<b>Harvest Festival</b>	
		Readers	Miss S Parfitt & Mr R Webber
		Sidesmen	Mrs R Peto & Mr P Webber
Oct 8 <sup>th</sup>	8.00am	Readers	Mr E Beckett & Mrs G Langdon
		Sidesman	Mr J Howe
Oct 15th	6.30pm	Readers	Mrs S Thompson & Mrs W Schofield
		Sidesman	Mr R Neal
Oct 22nd	11.15am	<b>Family Service No HC</b>	
		Readers	To be arranged
		Sidesmen	Daniel and Nick Matravers
Oct 29 <sup>th</sup>	10.30am	<b>United Benefice CW HC</b>	
		Readers	Mr R Harding & Mr A Gaskell
		Sidesmen	Mr J Howe & Mr R Neal
Nov 5 <sup>th</sup>	<b>6.00pm</b>	Readers	Lady Burns & Mrs M White
		Sidesman	Mr P Webber

### HARVEST TIME

On Saturday 30<sup>th</sup> September we will be decorating the church. Any flowers, fruit or vegetables would be gratefully received and auctioned after the Harvest Supper on the Monday. If you can help, no experience necessary, please come along on the Saturday morning.

**Sunday 1<sup>st</sup> October** do come along to our Harvest Service at 6.30pm and join in the singing of our favourite hymns.

**Monday 2<sup>nd</sup> October** Harvest Supper in the Moorland Hall at 7.30pm. Remember last year with the hall barely finished how enjoyable it was – let's make it even better this year.

Reserve your seat with Gill - telephone 841330.

### FLOWERS & BRASS

All hands on deck please to decorate the church for Harvest on Saturday morning 30<sup>th</sup> September

Oct 7<sup>th</sup> & 14<sup>th</sup>  
Oct 21<sup>st</sup> & 28<sup>th</sup>

Tracy Stiling  
Yvette Lee

## **CUTCOMBE FRIENDSHIP CLUB**

Tuesday 10<sup>th</sup> October Teas – Barbara Norman

Tuesday 24<sup>th</sup> October Teas – Eileen Webber

## **MOORLAND HALL 100 PLUS CLUB –**

### **No draw this month – 2 next month.**

Another year's subscriptions are now due. There will be a change this year in that the subscription will run from the 1st October for 12 months. It will still be £12 and you should all be receiving the paperwork shortly. The delay has been partly due to building work on our house with us and all our worldly goods at my sister-in-laws at Porlock for the last 20 weeks! It does take a while to get the money in so if you could be prepared it would be much appreciated, it does raise somewhere in the region of £800 every year for Hall funds. New members are always welcome. Please give me a ring Rachel Turner 841831

## **THE EARL OF WESSEX VISIT WHEDDON CROSS**

It was a great honour that Prince Edward agreed to fly into Wheddon Cross to perform the official opening of the Moorland Hall on 15 September. But unfortunate that Eric and Ann Clarbull had already booked their holiday and therefore had to miss the occasion. Representatives from all parts of the village community attended a briefing rehearsal on the 13<sup>th</sup> so that the layout and procedures for this big day could be checked. On the day we were blessed with perfect weather, with bright sunshine and a picture book vista of Dunkery. Thanks to Maria Davies, arrangements of wild and cultivated flowers beautifully adorned the hall. Outside the Young Farmers helped people to park in Roger Webber's field alongside the hall and there seemed to be a lot of police as well as the Royal Flight landing crew to be seen on the football pitch. Exactly on time the Cutcombe First School appeared all smartly turned out and then had a competition to see who could produce the biggest smile and

wave their flag the highest. The brightness of the day was increased as Prince Edward dismounted on time and was obviously in a cheerful mood as he was greeted by the Lord Lieutenant Lady Gass, who then presented Steven Pugsley Chairman ENPA, Jeremy Browne MP and Roger Webber. Members of the village and some visitors lined the path to the hall and the schoolchildren were on song and delighted that he stopped to talk to them. Enid Mantin deputised for Eric and introduced Edwin Beckett who escorted HRH on the first section of the tour. Dr Lee Burton was still conducting his surgery but all had agreed that it could be interrupted for HRH to see the Therapy Room and learn that internet would soon offer the opportunity for satellite surgery's to gain access via the National Health computer system to patient's records. Edgar Webber was presented as the 'Snowdrop King' for his success in raising funds by selling pots of snowdrops during Snowdrop Valley visitor period.

After meeting the major funding organisations in the Conference Room he moved into the ICT room where Marlene Allinson, Parish Clerk and computer trainer was presented, before Charles Woolmer on webcam to a friend in the South of France could brief our visitor on the weather to be expected later in the day when he flew to Monaco. Terrie Fowler was presented as the member of the Project Group responsible for the computer suite ahead of the Prince being introduced to Ron Delve representing the Senior Billiards Club. Our architect and builder were controlled by Cynthia Stevens who showed off her photographs of the work as it had progressed throughout last year. HRH showed a lively appreciation of the problems of managing storage and had a very clear briefing from Chris Matravers which included pointing out the power plug for pop groups. In the first section of the main hall contained stalls provided a colourful backcloth illustrating the work of the Exmoor Pony Society, Exmoor Beekeepers, and CLOWNS and the Prince showed a keen interest on meeting Mrs Gill Langdon and Mrs Jackie Ablett, Mr and Mrs Phil Johnson, Mrs Kathy Morton and Mrs Jennie Rawle at their respective stalls.

Sally Parish was then presented as the latest bride of the village and the Activity Member of the Project Group to introduce members of a range of users lining the hall. The Prince talked to every group including Short Mat Bowls, Keep Fit, Young Farmers, Cutcombe Friendship Club, and the WI. He had a couple of minutes left to meet representatives of the British

Legion, Mrs Sally Thompson, and Ken Heard before being invited by Enid Mantin onto the stage where the plaque was hidden by velveteen satin. The audience moved forward being led by the toddlers from the Dunkery Pre-School group waving their flags. Enid made a heartfelt, moving introduction before inviting him to undertake the formal opening of the extended and modernised hall and Prince Edward made a sincere and witty response before unveiling the wonderful plaque with gold lettering on a large piece of Welsh Slate. Enid then presented HRH with a rare first edition of the book 'Survival of the Fittest'.

Rose Peto awaited the departing party to offer a small glass of refreshing ginger ale and the Prince could then see the trays of food prepared for the party to follow. HRH delayed departure to talk to the Dunkery toddlers and their mothers before leading a cavalcade of cars off towards Dunster. Without doubt this was a flawless and memorable occasion and a tribute to the community as well as to a successful modernisation of our Moorland Hall. But above all everyone noted the interest and pleasure that HRH The Earl of Wessex showed throughout the visit. We were therefore sad the Eric could not be with us as he done so much of the preparatory work - but we assure him the we did not let him down and thoroughly enjoyed the refreshments provided by Linda Pugsley and her helpers.

Afterwards the celebratory party was interrupted in order that Enid could make the announcement that the conference room was being renamed the Edwin Beckett Meeting Room and presented Edwin with the brass plaque. Sally Parish then presented Enid with a bouquet of flowers in tribute to her contribution both on the day and over many years. Finally Roger thanked everyone involved in presenting the community so well.

That night one of the girls from our school told her mother as she hugged her teddy bear in bed

' Just remember Mummy, a real Prince talked to **me** today in Wheddon Cross'.

*View photographs on <http://www.wheddoncross.org.uk/royalvisit.htm> or a contact sheet on the notice board*

## **EXMOOR FOOD FESTIVAL**

This year Exmoor's Food Festival will take place between the 7<sup>th</sup> and 15<sup>th</sup>

of October. Once again Wheddon Cross is host to delicious mouth watering experiences.

**Exmoor 'Tapas' at Exmoor House, Wheddon Cross**

on October 9<sup>th</sup> – 11<sup>th</sup> from 12.30.

We are offering a 'sampler' lunchtime menu of tasty Exmoor style Tapas for you to try: such as local smoked pheasant breast; orange and walnut salad; a selection of local cheeses and homemade chutney; Exe trout tart; a selection of roast local vegetables. Followed by a taster plate of Exmoor puddings such as Exmoor elderflower cheesecake; Miles coffee ice cream; fresh figs with local honey and yogurt. Price £10 per person

**Booking essential.** Please telephone Paul or Peta on 01643 841432

**Exmoor Breakfast** on Sunday 8<sup>th</sup> and 15<sup>th</sup> October in the Moorland Hall from 8am till midday. Price Adults £6 Children £4.

For more details contact Sally Parish 01643 841891

Following the success of last years BeastFeast you have the opportunity once again to taste the delights of true Exmoor produce on a 4-course safari supper. This takes place on Thursday 14th October as part of the Exmoor Food Festival. Starting at North Wheddon Farm you will choose between wild rabbit pate complemented with homemade red onion chutney; a warm salad of own smoked chicken finished with dry cured bacon & balsamic vinegar dressing; or toasted English goat cheese with an Autumn berry sauce & light salad. Then it's off to the Moorland Hall for either roast Exmoor beef; roast Exmoor lamb; or a casserole of leeks and dumplings. Don't forget to leave space for the pudding course at Exmoor House - Sheppy's Somerset cider & apple cake; individual pavlova with Exmoor blackberry compote; Exmoor honey cheesecake; or coffee crème brulee made with Miles' coffee. Then it's back to the Moorland Hall for coffee and an after dinner speaker. Tickets are £25 per person with a discount available to anyone staying at North Wheddon Farm or Exmoor House (£18) so why not tell your friends and family to come and visit - at least you won't have to cook! All proceeds from the event go to the running of the Moorland Hall.

Book early to avoid disappointment - call Sally on 01643 841891. And remember to work up an appetite!

## **CASINO NIGHT**

Ever fancied yourself as an international man (or woman) of mystery, but the Casino Royale is just too far away? Why not come to the Casino Night in the Moorland Hall on Friday 3rd November! For only £25 (cheques to Friends of Cutcombe School) you will receive a free drink on arrival, a superb dinner, live jazz music from a brilliant duo and plenty of pretend money to splash on the three, yes three, gaming tables. There will also be an auction, and a bar. The evening starts at 7:30pm and finishes at midnight. Dress is black tie and the evening is open for 18s and overs only. To book your James Bond themed table contact Rachel on 01643 841791 or Sally on 01643 841891.

Proceeds from this event will be split between three of Cutcombe's important facilities - the church, the school and the Moorland Hall so please invite your friends and family! If you are unable to make the evening but would like to help, why not donate something for the auction. Aston Martins are optional.....

## **DULVERTON PATIENT GROUP**

We held an open meeting at Exford on 11<sup>th</sup> Sept. the intention was for patients to come along and see what we are about, what we do and to have some input and hopefully, want to join us. Those who came made some interesting comments. We also recruited one new member. The next open meeting will be in Brushford later in the year.

Good News! The Dulverton Surgery Website is now live and can be found at [www.dulvertonsurgery.co.uk](http://www.dulvertonsurgery.co.uk) It is very informative and user friendly and best of all you can order repeat prescriptions on-line. You will need your Patient Number which you will find on the prescription list that comes with your medications and away you go. It's great because you can use it any time, instead of having to think about when the Prescription Line is open or going down to Dulverton.

The Group is your link between Patients and The Practice, your Cutcombe and Wheddon X representatives Linda Atkins on 841230 and Maria Davies on 841639 are always pleased to hear from you.

### **Flu clinics 2006**

Town Hall clinics – 10am – 3pm on Monday 6<sup>th</sup> Nov & Monday 20<sup>th</sup> Nov.  
No appointments needed – just turn up.

Wheddon Cross - 3pm-5pm Thursday 16<sup>th</sup> Nov. No appointments needed

Exford - 3pm–5pm Monday 27<sup>th</sup> Nov. No appointment needed

Winsford - 3pm–5pm Thursday 30<sup>th</sup> Nov. No appointment needed

PLUS – there are numerous flu clinics being held in the Surgery – patients can start making appointments now.

## **CUTCOMBE PARISH COUNCIL**

Parish Council met on 19<sup>th</sup> September: minutes and draft minutes of all meetings are available on the website [www.wheddoncross.org.uk](http://www.wheddoncross.org.uk) and are posted on the Parish noticeboards at Wheddon Cross and Luckwell Bridge.

At the meeting on 19<sup>th</sup> September Council was pleased to note that some improvements have been made to roads and pavements around the Parish, although there is always a lot more which needs to be done.

A new rose bowl has been purchased for the War Memorial and is now in place.

With regard to the Restricted Byways pilot study being conducted by ENPA, please remember to complete a questionnaire detailing your use of Putham Lane, if you have not already done so, as these should be returned to the Clerk or Paul Hawkins at Exmoor National Park by 9<sup>th</sup> October. It is important that as many people as possible submit forms to make the study as representative as possible.

The Parish Council has been monitoring the use and possible use of the new Parish Council noticeboard and has approved recommendations on how to make best use of the available space: please see the notice posted on the board at the Londis shop for details. Notices should be handed in to the shop for collection by the Clerk. Guidance on how best to prepare

notices in order to maximize available space have been posted on the Parish Council section of the website

The Parish Council would like to say a whole-hearted thank you to Colin Stevenson for his services as Parish Clerk and Responsible Finance Officer over the last four years. Colin has now officially retired from the position and we wish him all the best.

The next meeting of the Parish Council will be held on Tuesday 17<sup>th</sup> October 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.

### **CUTCOMBE LOCAL HISTORY GROUP**

We enjoyed a wonderful evening walking around some of the old parts of Dunster and bringing back memories of how we knew Dunster sixty or so years ago! We remembered the old shopkeepers and how Bond's the butchers used to deliver out to the shop kept by Berty Western at Luckwell Bridge twice a week on Fridays and Tuesdays and all the other shops who put items on the bus for collection at the bus stop! We will revisit Dunster another day to finish our tour.

We then made our way back to the Lion at Timberscombe to a delicious meal in good company.

Our next meeting will be in the Moorland Hall on the third Wednesday in November at 7.30pm. Please ring Jacky for details.



## COMPUTER DROP-IN SESSIONS

As sessions are proving popular, a further two will be held in October at the Moorland Hall on Tuesdays the 3rd and 17<sup>th</sup> from 10.00 am to 12 noon.

Cost: £2 per hour. Maximum of 4 people.

Tel: Eric on 841535 (evenings) to book 1 hour or 2: *a place cannot be guaranteed if not pre-booked.*

An experienced tutor will be available to help you. All proceeds will be used for the upkeep of the computer suite.

## STAIN GLASS WORKSHOP

Community funding acquired by Jan Ross will enable run a taster Stain Glass Workshop on October 5<sup>th</sup> at 3pm and 7pm with tutor Avril Silk. The funding will pay for the hire of the hall and some of the materials. Ideas for the end product are Four Seasons and the Coleridge Way. Do come along to one of the workshops and take part in this exciting community project. Contact Eric for more details.

## RANGER REPORT

Just in case you were wondering why you hadn't seen Richard Eales (one of our assistant rangers) around for a while, he fell off his mountain bike back in August and badly fractured his collarbone. He is, however, determined to be back as soon as possible...!

### **Off Roding on Exmoor**

Following on from my article in the last Parish magazine, I have had a few enquiries about the use vehicles on the new 'Restricted Byways'. The rules are quite clear; vehicles using these routes without private access rights or landowner consent will be committing an offence under the Road Traffic Act 1988. So, if you own the ground or have access rights then you can continue to drive on restricted byways, otherwise you will have to

approach the landowner and gain their explicit consent. Landowners should be aware, however, that they might be liable for repair costs if vehicles allowed onto a byway cause damage.

On the same subject, I have been asked to point out that Julian Branfield does not own the Restricted Byway from Hawkridge to Castle Bridge; this has been owned by Leyland Branfield for the last 5 years or so. Therefore please do not go to Julian and Helen at East Hollowcombe with enquiries about vehicle use on this route.

### **MIRE Project**

A project to improve the upland bogs on Exmoor began in August with the appointment of a new member of staff. David Smith will be working in partnership with the Environment Agency, English Nature, and South West Water, and over the next 3 years will spend £256,000 on habitat restoration to improve the hydrology and ecology of upland peatlands (blanket bogs and valley mires) on Exmoor.

Upland bogs and mires are important for three main reasons:

- 1) Peatlands are a huge carbon store – restoration of these areas could play a major role in fighting global warming
- 2) These are important habitats for all sorts of plants and animals
- 3) They act as massive sponges – we seem to be experiencing sudden, heavy downpours on a more regular basis and it has been shown that these areas help prevent storm surges further down stream, which helps lessen flooding risks.

A pilot programme has already been carried out at Blackpits and Exe Head – further work will be done this winter in blocking up old drainage ditches. If you would like more information then do please contact David Smith at Exmoor House.

### **Playing Fields Bridleway**

A quick update on the actions being carried out to improve the bridleway from the playing fields to Luckwell Bridge. Jim and Pat have had the vegetation cut back, and Defra has now given its permission to rebuild the surface through the top section (permission was needed as there are signs of badger activity). This means that remedial work can now be carried out to improve the track condition.

## **MOTHERS UNION**

We held our September meeting at Olive Yeo's and in our prayers we prayed for all indoor M.U. members.

Our talk after the offices was about talents given to us by God based on the bible reading in our service about David and Goliath and how with the talents God had given him he won over Goliath. We have all got different talents and in our daily life we should try to do our best to help people around us.

Olive served a lovely tea and she was thanked for the use of her house. Our next meeting on 5<sup>th</sup> October will be at Rose Peto's you would be very welcome if you would like to come.

## **ST JOHN'S CHURCH CUTCOMBE**

St John's PCC meeting was held on Thursday 21<sup>st</sup> September in the Moorland Hall. Amongst the subjects discussed were the Deanery Worker, the Harvest Supper on 2<sup>nd</sup> October (please contact Gill Langdon for tickets), Harvest Service, Church Bingo on 2<sup>nd</sup> December and the Church Whist Drive on 5<sup>th</sup> December. The meeting closed at 9pm.

## **CUTCOMBE SCHOOL**

Would you like to interview the new Head for the Parish magazine and Cutcombe School's website was the message on the answer machine – Monday morning about 10am suit you? Well it didn't quite work out like that – I ended up giving Bryan the notebook to write down his list of sporting interests, achievements and qualifications etc and his first impressions of our community.

Well here goes.....Our new Head Bryan White was born in Toronto, Canada in 1974 and moved to Tenby in Wales as a child. He went on to study Physics and Music at Cardiff University and then to Exeter for a Postgraduate Teaching Degree. Bryan is married to a local girl also a teacher with one child - Rhys.

A keen sportsman he has represented Wales in swimming, water polo and surf lifesaving. Also a keen musician he has played the tuba in the National Youth Orchestra and sang in the National Youth Choir and is now playing hockey for Taunton Vale. Having taught locally at South Molton, Barnstaple and Stogumber we are delighted to have him as our new head.

What are your first impressions I asked – happy friendly children and staff, great building and lovely weather! I would like to take advantage of the very talented people in the community with the following skills – football coach, card making, listening to the children read and any other skills on offer.

My first wish list is for any old booster seats, as we need them under the new laws to transport the children.

Our school topics this term include

## Ourselves



body-teeth-healthy eating

## Comparing our area with Botswana

Three dates for your diary are: Harvest Festival 2<sup>nd</sup> October  
FOCS Casino Night 3<sup>rd</sup> November and Christmas Play 15<sup>th</sup> Dec at 6pm

## **WITH THANKS**

A very big thank you to everyone who sent cards and gifts, visited me in hospital and at home and for all the help given in looking after Pickles. I am very much better so hopefully soon will be back in circulation.  
*Sybil*

## WHEDDON CROSS CARNIVAL CLUB

Carnival season is here again & we're nearly ready. We started early this year with our AGM when we voted in a new chairperson Tracey Stiling as Mick Rice did not wish to stand again, Jim Matravers & myself remain as treasurer & secretary.

A couple of meetings later we decided this year's theme would be Snow White. We actively started building a whole two months earlier this season, but as we have been a bit more adventurous with moving carts more lights & an aluminous name board for the tractor, we still weren't ready any earlier, with less children coming forward this year to take part there are less parents to call upon for painting etc, therefore increasing the workload as well.

On Saturday 23<sup>rd</sup> September we held our village preview night, which we hope you all enjoyed albeit for a last minute hiccup with the carts & the generator opting to reduce power output part way through. My apologies if you didn't receive a flyer about the evening, but Jill Thompson met a small dog on her way round & got rather attached to it, (no offence intended) so Daniel & Nick took over delivering them. Thank you to them they managed to deliver over 140 in the evenings after school

I would like to take this opportunity to say a big thank you to all who made a contribution to our funds which totalled over £70.00 also to all our sponsors for their continued support, your help is much appreciated.

The football sweepstake we held during the World Cup raised £180.00 the winners were D Waterman, J Howe, A Chilcott & J Geen

The carnivals we hope to take part in this year are as follows

Wellington	Sat 30 <sup>th</sup> September
Dulverton	Sat 7 <sup>th</sup> Oct
Taunton	Sat 21 <sup>st</sup> Oct
North Petherton	Sat 4 <sup>th</sup> Nov (if everything is 100%)
Tiverton	Sat 25 <sup>th</sup> Nov

Watch this space for the results.

Finally after the sad passing of Mr Les Harrison the club has decided to dedicate this year's float in his memory, our condolences & best wishes go to his family at this sad time.

*Chris Matravers*

# Casino Night



*Black Tie*

**Friday 3rd November 2006**

**At the Moorland Hall, Wheddon Cross**

**an Auction of Promises**

**£25 per ticket**

**Ticket includes £20000 fun money & Dinner**



**Tickets on sale from 1st August**

*Over 18's only please*

**Please call Sally 01643 841891 or Rachael 01643 841791**

**Proceeds to FOCS, The Moorland Hall & St Johns of Culcombe**

*Live Jazz Band*



*Large tables*

*available*



# Breakfast at the Heart of Exmoor

Join the village of Wheddon Cross for an Exmoor Breakfast on  
**Sunday 8<sup>th</sup> October and Sunday 15<sup>th</sup> October 2006**  
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 garage 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

## WEATHER EYE



### August rain gives honey and wine

August started much fresher and cooler than July had been and the first week was windy with some sun. Cutcombe Fete, on the 5<sup>th</sup>, was warm and mainly sunny with a light breeze which dropped in the evening. A strong NW wind blew during the day of the 6<sup>th</sup>, followed by calm at dusk. The 7<sup>th</sup> brought heavy drizzle, a low cloud in the morning followed by hot sunshine later in the day, which set the pattern for the second week, which proved to be a mix of sunshine, with a cool north-easterly wind at times and some drizzle.

The third week again proved unsettled, with the 17<sup>th</sup> having a thunderstorm in the early evening and proving to be the wettest day of the month with just under 0.5" rain. A humming bird hawk moth was found on the 16<sup>th</sup> flying in the greenhouse, where it stayed overnight, but it flew out during the day, not to be seen again.

Into the fourth week, and the weather still remained unsettled, with heavy showers and thunder around midday on the 23<sup>rd</sup>. Bank Holiday Monday, on the 28<sup>th</sup> (St Augustine's Day) brought a cool NW wind, with some sun and heavy rain fell first thing on the 29<sup>th</sup>, although only totalling 0.25". St Augustine, Bishop of Hippo, (not to be confused with St Augustine the first Archbishop of Canterbury) was born in AD354 at Tagaste, (Africa) and died in AD 430. It is reputed to have been said of him that 'a pot without bacon is like a sermon without St Augustine'. The month ended grey but dry.

Total rainfall was 59.5mm (well over 2") falling on 18 days, which was 2.5mm less than August 2005 but on 6 extra days.

### COPY FOR THE MAGAZINE

Do please keep sending in bits and pieces of interest. If possible please send them to me at [cynthste@talktalk.net](mailto:cynthste@talktalk.net) or ring me on telephone 01643 831513 and arrange somewhere for me to collect your article. *Thanks Cynthia*

