

# UNITED BENEFICE MAGAZINE - January 2008

## ST JOHN'S CUTCOMBE

Jan 13 <sup>th</sup>	8.00am	BCP HC	
		Readers	Mr E Beckett & Mr J Webber
		Sidesman	Mr R Neal
Jan 20	10.30am	BCP Morning Prayer	
		Readers	Lady Burns & Mrs M Russell
		Sideman	Mr J Howe
Jan 27 <sup>th</sup>	11.15am	FAMILY SERVICE not HC	
		Readers to be arranged	
		Sidesmen	Daniel and Nick Matravers
Feb 3 <sup>rd</sup>	6.00pm	EVENSONG	
		Readers	Mrs W Schofield & Mr R Webber
		Sidesman	Mr P Webber
Feb 6 <sup>th</sup>	7.30am	ASH WEDNESDAY CW HC at Exton	

## FLOWERS & BRASS

Jan 3 <sup>rd</sup> & 12 <sup>th</sup>	Mr & Mrs Foley
Jan 19 <sup>th</sup> & 26 <sup>th</sup>	Mr & Mrs Lincoln

## CUTCOMBE FRIENDSHIP CLUB

Tuesday 8<sup>th</sup> January Teas – Enid Mantin

Tuesday 22<sup>nd</sup> January Teas – Yvette Lee

## MOORLAND HALL 100 CLUB - DECEMBER DRAW

£20 No. 76 Mr & Mrs P Lock      £10 No. 130 W Sherring  
£5 No. 90 Cutcombe W.I.

## CHRISTMAS DRAW

£50 each:      No. 76 Mr & Mrs P Lock      No. 16 Mr & Mrs R Goodwin  
No. 140 Mary Bromiley      No. 47 Pam Anson      No. 84 Bertram Sample.

£20 each:      No. 111 Mr & Mrs D Escott      No. 78 Rose Peto  
No. 143 Marlene Allinson      No. 19 B Clarbull      No. 154 Little Worrals.

£10 each: No. 74 Ms S Lyle No. 100 Colin Slade  
No. 61 Mr & Mrs P Sloley No. 98 Cutcombe 1<sup>st</sup> School  
No. 73 Mr G Taylor

## **ST JOHN'S CHURCH**

A big thank you for all those who gave and supported the Christmas Whist Drive, Auction and Bingo. The Whist Drive made over £400. The results of the Auction (on a cold but dry day) and Bingo are not known yet.

## **DUNKERY PRE-SCHOOL**

On behalf of Dunkery Pre-School I would like to say “thank you” to everyone for their support to our bingo fundraiser. Although the weather was appalling the evening was great fun and all importantly we raised £200. Without the support of people like yourselves the Pre-school would not survive so again many thanks. *Linda Hopkins*

## **CUTCOMBE PARISH COUNCIL**

Parish Council met on the 11<sup>th</sup> December. 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. Remember to leave any community notices or correspondence for the Clerk in the yellow folder at the Londis shop.

### **2008/09 Budget**

At the meeting Council resolved to increase the precept by 3.6% to £5,800 per annum, this should enable Council to go ahead with various community projects including joining the Parish Lengthsman scheme, a co-operative scheme between parishes to employ a local person to undertake community and environmental work.

### **Snowdrop Valley Park and Ride Scheme**

The Parish Council has agreed to organise the scheme for 2008 and is seeking to appoint a rota co-ordinator and staff to provide information about the scheme and local facilities as well as assisting visitors during

February. Anyone wishing to apply please contact Sally Parish on 01643 841891 by 14<sup>th</sup> January. The contract for running the minibuses to and from the valley has been awarded to WebberBus.

### **Beware!**

Lock up your quad bikes, sheds, trailers and garden tools: at the December meeting local WPCSO Sue Hurley reported that there has been a spate of local thefts of these items. Anyone with any information should contact the local police on 0845 4567000 (call centre) or Sue on 07920 477017.

The next Parish Council meeting will be on Tuesday 15<sup>th</sup> January 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](mailto:marlene@marleneallinson.wanadoo.co.uk)

### **SNOWDROP VALLEY 2008**

For the first time in its ten year history the Snowdrop Valley Park and Ride scheme will be run by Cutcombe Parish Council with support from Exmoor National Park Authority, Badgworthy Land Company and Exmoor Farmers Livestock Auctions.

The scheme will start on **Saturday 2 February** and will run until **Sunday 24 February** 2008 inclusive, when Drapers Way and Steart Lane will be closed to all motor traffic except residents, emergency services, postal and other deliveries, and disabled drivers.

Buses will run from the Rest and Be Thankful car park every half an hour from 10:30am to 4pm with the last bus back from the valley at 4:50pm. The fare is for the round trip or part of the trip and payment will be made to the bus driver – correct change would be appreciated. Adults £4; children 5 – 15 £2; children under 5 free. For the comfort of all passengers only guide dogs and hearing dogs may travel on the buses.

On Wednesday 13th February there will be a cattle market in the village so parking will be restricted. At all other times the Rest and Be Thankful car park will be used as a short stay car park. Long stay car parking can be found in front of the market office/cattle pens opposite the Rest and Be Thankful or at the sheep market 150 yards from the cross roads heading towards Dunkery Beacon.

The walking route into the valley will be way marked with snowdrop symbols and visitors should wear appropriate clothing and footwear for winter walking.

Disabled drivers (blue badge holders) and minibus drivers with passengers unable to use the bus service should drive to Wheddon Cross where they will be given a special pass, verbal directions and instructions for parking. A donation towards the running of the scheme would be appreciated.

Any alterations to the scheme (for example in the event of bad weather) and details of extra events and community fundraising will be notified on [www.wheddoncross.org.uk](http://www.wheddoncross.org.uk) or via the Dulverton National Park Centre on 01398 323841.



## **WANTED!**

### **Staff to run Snowdrop Valley Park & Ride Scheme**

This year Cutcombe Parish Council is organising the scheme which will run 2 - 24 February 2008 inclusive.

We are looking for staff to provide information about the scheme and local facilities to visitors as well as assisting with parking.

Also required is a staff rota coordinator who will ensure that adequate staff cover is in place for the duration of the scheme.

**No previous experience necessary**

**No money handling involved**

**Full training given**

**£6 per hour wage**

Further information or to apply ring Sally Parish 01643 841891

Closing date Monday 14 January 2008

## **MY EXMOOR SCRAPBOOK**

There are still some copies of Matthew's books available if anyone is interested. Please contact me on 831513 for a copy. *Cynthia*

## **A BIT MORE HISTORY**

*Taken from History of the Hundred of Carhampton*

Cutcombe is an extensive parish, bounded on the north by Stoke-Pero, Luccombe, Wootton-Courtenay, and Timberscombe; on the east by Carhampton and Luxborough; on the south by Exton and Winsford; and on the west by Exford and a detached part of Timberscombe. This is the largest parish in the Carhampton Hundred; it extends from east to west seven miles, and from an actual survey made in 1824, contains

about seven thousand and seven acres of land, of which about one thousand one hundred acres are in commons, roads, and wastes; three hundred and fifty acres in wood, and the rest in enclosed, meadow, and pasture. The commons, consisting of six hundred and fifty-five acres, form part of Dunkery, and the beacon. The name of this parish is written in Domesday Book - Udecomie, Woodeombe.

There is no manor house but Miss Hales, lady of the manor, has lately built a handsome lodge called Raleigh cottage, on a piece of rising ground, above a wood in the principal valley, which commands most delightful views of the surrounding country. Here her steward, Mr. Howe, of Tiverton, holds her manorial courts. The principal landed proprietors besides Miss Hales, are, the Earl of Carnarvon, Sir Thomas Dyke Acland, hart., Beach, esq., who has lately purchased a considerable property of Sir Thomas Buckler Lethbridge, bart., Mr. Edbrooke, Messrs. White, Mr. Evans, Vye, esq., Mr. Escott, the Misses Kent, Francis Pearse, esq., Mr. Brewer, Mrs. Burnell, and Mr. Burnell, of Putham.

The parish of Cutcombe is intersected by deep valleys, the greater part of which are woodland and cultivated meadows; through one of these valleys the new turnpike-road runs from Timberscombe to Bampton. The village of Cutcombe is about eight miles south from Minehead, by the turnpike-road, but there is a nearer way over Grabhurst. Here are four hamlets, namely, Luckwell-Bridge, Codsend, Wheddon Cross, and Watercombe. The first is about two miles south-west of the church, and a fair is held there about Michaelmas for sheep and cattle ; the turnpike-road, before-mentioned, passes through Wheddon-Cross, and a toll-gate has been lately erected there. In Codsend moor a small stream rises, called Quarm Water, or Wester River, which runs under Luckwell Bridge, and after turning, with a tributary stream, two mills, and passing under two small bridges, leaves the parish and falls into the river Exe, near the village of Exton. A second rivulet rises in Hart Cleeve, about a mile and a half south-east of the church, and after driving a mill, and running under an embankment, over which the new road, before-mentioned, joins, near Short House, the residence of the Misses Kent; another rivulet which rises on Dunkery, and after leaving this parish, receives into its channel several other streams, and passing by the village of Timberscombe and the town of Dunster, and

dividing the latter parish from that of Carhampton for more than two miles, to its very mouth, falls into the sea, and is there called the Hone. All these rivulets abound with trout and eels; salmon also come up the Hone, and some fine mullet are caught a little way up from the sea.

Cutcombe is called a hill-country parish ; the soil is generally a white rag, or as it is here called, a shelley soil, lying over a kind of bastard slate, not fit for roofing. The herbage which grows on it seldom burns, even in the hottest summer. The farms here are mostly occupied in the business of the dairy, and in breeding cattle; the proportion of ground in tillage is very small, especially in the western part of the parish, where it is the custom after breaking up a piece of ground, and taking a course of crops from it, sowing with the last crop a fair proportion of grass seeds, 46 to let it lie down in grass for six or seven years, or more, until it becomes mossy, or is growing to furze, when it is again broken up, and the same course renewed. Very little barley is grown in this part of the parish, but on the eastern side, where the land is better, though still high, the farmers grow fair crops of wheat and barley of middling quality. When ground is preparing to be laid down to grass for a long time, a large proportion of the seed sown should be Dutch white clover, which posleues the quality of lying longer in the ground than any other sort.

There are three lime rocks worked in this parish; one on Stowey farm; another on Kersham farm; and the third in a field on the south side of the valley, in front of the church. Most of the farms have a portion of woodland belonging to, but detached from them. This division of the woodlands, or something similar to it, may probably have originated with the swineherds, the Porcarii of Domesday Book, of whom the reader will find an account in the sequel.

## **WEATHER EYE**

Autumn

Breezy.....Sneezy.....Freezy

The first week of November proved to be mild and dry with some sun and a chillyish light NW breeze at times. The second week was more unsettled with some rain and several air frosts – the dahlias being blackened

overnight of 11<sup>th</sup>/12<sup>th</sup> and the weather generally feeling much colder despite some sunshine.

The third week started with morning frosts and hazy sun but by the 17<sup>th</sup> it had become windy with rain overnight on the 18<sup>th</sup> and for most of the day. This proving to be the wettest day of the month with 20mm of rain. The rest of the third week continued showery but became milder.

The last days of the month were unsettled, with the lowest frost of the autumn so far on the morning of the 24<sup>th</sup> with a temperature of -6°C recorded although this quickly thawed. The rest of the month became milder again with some rain (over 0.5") on the 30<sup>th</sup>, but also with some sun. A male Great Spotted Woodpecker visited the bird nuts on the 28<sup>th</sup> (only seen once).

Total rainfall for the month was 82.5mm (well over 3") falling on 14 days making this the second driest November this century, only November 2004 being drier with 73mm (just under 3"). 6 air frosts were recorded.

## **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](mailto:cynthste@talktalk.net)