

UNITED BENEFICE MAGAZINE - November 2007

ST JOHN'S CUTCOMBE

Nov 4th	6.00pm	UNITED BENEFICE at Winsford COMMENDATION of the FAITHFUL DEPARTED
Nov 11 th	9.45am	BCP HC Readers Mr E Beckett & Mr J Webber Sidesman Mr R Neal
	10.45am	ACT OF REMEMBRANCE Readers Brig D Godsall & Mr A Gaskell Sidesmen Mr R Neal & Mr J Howe
Nov 18 th	6.00pm	EVENSONG Readers Mrs W Schofield & Mr R Webber Sidesman Mr P Webber
Nov 25 th	11.15am	FAMILY SERVICE Readers to be arranged Sidesmen Daniel and Nick Matravers
Dec 2 nd	6.00pm	UNITED BENEFICE ADVENT CAROLS at Winsford

FLOWERS & BRASS

Nov 3rd & Nov 10th Kathy Morton
Nov 17th & Nov 24th Anne Clarbull

MOORLAND HALL 100 CLUB - October

£20 No. 89 Mr & Mrs S Higgins £10 No. 54 Mr & Mrs Colin Stevens
£5 No. 71 Mr J Howe

CUTCOMBE FRIENDSHIP CLUB

Tuesday 13th November Teas – Jill Wood
Tuesday 27th November Teas – Eve Cummins

CUTCOMBE FETE

Apologies for the lateness of these figures but we find there is no really central place to display them in the village. (Any suggestions welcome). I hope you all enjoyed the day and congratulations to all who came and spent and helped in so many ways to produce this fine result. *Gill Langdon*

Cutcombe Fete takings 2007

Gate	£124.75	Auction	£1,179.00
Dog Show	£84.00	Obedience	£17.00
Draw	£694.00	Café	£220.00
Barbeque	£134.00	Face Painting	£134.00
Gift Stall	£87.65	Cake Stall	£74.70
Guess weight cake	£20.50	Spinning Jenny	£23.00
Archery	£21.50	Smack Rat	£25.00
Bottle Stall	£116.00	Mothers Union	£42.55
Bric-a Brac	£105.44	Table top skittle	£44.10
Plant Stall	£81.33	M Brown's Kitchen	£57.60
Madame Gypsy	£212.00	Treasure Hunt	£19.50
Shooting Ducks	£20.80	Ice cream	£99.20
Books	£77.01	Find fiver	£33.00
Child's bottle stall	£14.25		

CUTCOMBE W.I.

Four members attended The Group Meeting and were well pleased with their entry in the competition 'Tray predicting Autumn' as they won and the cup took pride of place at our October meeting.

Our skittles match, which we won, was against Watchet WI and was played at The White Horse, Washford. A most pleasant evening.

Our monthly meeting on October 10th was very well attended despite my getting the wrong date printed in the parish magazine. Some history and the life and times of those working in the woollen industry was brought to us by Mr Canham with 'The Mill Worker's Tale'. What very long and often repetitive hours those workers in the mills put in to produce a variety of wonderful carpets and fine tweeds. Interesting audio clips and swatches of cloth to feel rounded off his talk.

Our November meeting is on the 14th. Our speaker is Mr John Rivoire who is a well-known bird watcher and runs evening classes in Minehead will be giving us an illustrated talk.

CUTCOMBE PARISH COUNCIL

Parish Council met on the 16th October. 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.

Vandalism at the Bus Shelter

The Parish Council has arranged for the graffiti to be painted over and the broken glass to be replaced at the Bus Shelter. *Remember, this vandalism comes at a cost to everyone in the Parish:* if you see anyone involved in any vandalism please report the incident at once to the Police by telephoning 0845 456700. If we are all vigilant about reporting local vandalism something can be done.

Waste Management

Public consultation evens are taking place on the key issues involved in waste management: What is the best strategy for the management of Somerset's waste?

Where should waste management sites be located in Somerset?

What are the most appropriate ways of managing waste at different sites?

A number of evening events are being arranged at local supermarkets: contact the Clerk for dates and times and have your say.

Tackling Climate Change

Defra's publication Ways to tackle climate change is available on loan from the Clerk or view it at

<http://defra/environment/climatechange/uk/publicsector/index.htm>

The next Parish Council meeting will be on Tuesday 20th November 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

THANKYOU to all friends and neighbours!

An omission on my part from last month's magazine – how I came to forget, I do not know!

My thanks should have read *three* people to mention, the third being Wendy, who looked in every evening, locked me in and took a key, then came every morning to see I was not lying on the floor or something. It was a huge comfort for myself and my family, knowing someone was looking in at these times, so a very big thank you Wendy, and my humblest apologies for not including you last time. *Sybil*

ENVIRONMENT CLUB

A transformation has taken place in Cutcombe school garden, clearing has begun (thanks to Minty & his digger risking the stormy conditions!) and we are now ready to embrace the autumn & winter wildlife with our new after school club. This will be on Monday evenings from 3.30 – 4.30pm.

If you have any old plastic or china pots, planters, spare timber, old bird boxes or gardening equipment that you would be happy to donate we would be very grateful. We are also seeking help from people with skills or interests that they may be able to share with the children on one off sessions eg help to make some bat boxes etc.

Weather Permitting we are going to have a final clearing session on Sunday Nov 4th from 2-4.30pm followed by a bonfire, soup and hotdogs. We have some pallets that we would like to turn into raised beds and a

compost bin so if you are good with wood and can spare an hour or two we would love to see you. Helpers would be great but if you can't make that come and join us for supper in the garden.

If you would like to come along or can offer some other form of help please call Terry Fowler on 841007 or Rachael Abraham on 841791.

BREAKFASTS IN THE HEART OF EXMOOR

On the 7th and 14th October we once again cooked breakfasts in the Moorland Hall as part of the Exmoor Food Festival. In total we served up 225 breakfasts which made £675 for the Moorland Hall so thank you to everyone who came.

Thank you to everyone who came to help – whether for an hour on one Sunday or for both mornings, you were very much appreciated and without you we would have struggled. I really enjoy the breakfasts despite the hard work as I get to spend time with people I don't see that often. We have a laugh and catch up on gossip whilst we work – Hell's Kitchen is isn't!

This is the fourth year that we have participated in the festival and we saw many of our 'regular' customers who come each year – they all said 'see you next year' so I guess we'll be doing it again in 12 months time!

Thank you once again Sally Parish

WHAT IS THE FUTURE FOR CUTCOMBE PARISH?

**Affordable Housing? A Better Environment? Reduced Crime?
Increased Tourism? Healthier lifestyles. ...?**

How do we maintain a thriving community? What can be done to improve the future for us all – young and old? Now is the time to let your views be known. We are all being asked to help draw up what is known as a Parish Plan; a guiding document that will tell the Parish Council, District Council, National Park etc. what we as a community want for our future.

This can cover whatever subjects we want – e.g. economy, transport, environment, church, tourism, sport, crime, enhancements, and any other topics parishioners may wish to add. It will put our Parish one step ahead in the battle to secure funding and support for our future needs.

An independent steering group has been set up by the Parish Council to produce this plan, and ensure that as many people as want to, within the Parish, have their say.

The first job is to determine the main areas for discussion. This will be done by having four meetings with a broad spectrum of parishioners in November.

The input from these meetings will produce the basis for a wider consultation with everyone in the Parish – probably in the form of questionnaires, drop-in sessions or door to door survey, which will take place around February/March of next year.

There seems to be an ever decreasing amount of money and resources to go around, and while a parish plan doesn't mean we will get everything asked for, it does seem to be a key way of putting ourselves ahead.

If you would like to know more or, even better, are keen to help in producing the plan do please get in touch with any person below.

Sally or Tim Parish	(01643) 841891	tim.parish@metronet.co.uk
Enid Mantin	(01643) 841470	enid@mantin.wanadoo.co.uk
Ian Wigley	(01643) 841183	ian.wigley@btinternet.com
Chris Harding	(01643) 841684	warrsfarm@btinternet.com
Linda Atkins	(01643) 841230	lindaatkins@dunkeryhill.co.uk

VILLAGE NEWS

Harvest Festival Service

We had a very large congregation for our first lunchtime Harvest Service. Considerable discussion was held as to whether continue with the evening service or change to a time when more people are about. Times change and the Church with it. 103 people came to the service this year, many after

consuming a hearty breakfast at the Moorland Hall and sang with gusto and enjoyment.

Harvest Supper

We had a splendid evening at the Harvest Supper and auctioned off the produce from the Church. Mr. Peter Huntley did his excellent auctioneers job, consider how diverse the items? How does one price a jar of lemon curd with a bunch of onions! The auction made £500 and a percentage of this will go to a children's sports charity in Africa. Thank you, all our lovely helpers and cooks, who work so hard to put Supper on the table. Everything was eaten except for some salad leaves and the hound puppies got a real treat of plate scrapings.

Funeral

We had a very sad day, when we held the Memorial Service for David Norman, which has been reported in this magazine.

Wedding

How lovely to have a village wedding, Robin Howe and Emma Phippen tied the knot at St. John's Cutcombe in the presence of all their friends and family. The PCC and this magazine wishes them calm seas, with the odd little current to keep things lively!

Afternoon Tea 5th December & Xmas Shopping at "Thistledome"

Mully & Charles Woolmer invite you to Tea, Cakes, Bring and Buy for Air Ambulance and St. John's Cutcombe.

Mully's sister will be bringing her Sterling silver and semi precious stone jewellery for you to Try on & Buy at Warehouse prices. Funky jewels for teens, Heirloom pieces for older ladies. Also High Fashion watches & ropes of freshwater pearls. All at very affordable prices.

On going to press, we watch with bated breath, as work starts on the R&B Thankful. Good luck to the Normans!

I see the last bit of lurid green tarpaulin disappearing as Tim and Sally finally get their roof on. In by Christmas!!

Daphne Brace looks as though she is burrowing to Australia on her plot. She looks snug in her caravan though, fit for any weather!

Thank you all for your forbearance on the closure of the crossroads for sewer repairs. It was a year ago that Peta, from Exmoor House Hotel, mentioned seeing and smelling sewage pouring from our garden down the hill to the crossroads!!!

VILLAGE NEWS EXTRA

October saw several properties being burgled in the parish. Do remember to lock up your sheds, garages, windows and doors. Also be observant – if you see a stranger where they shouldn't be, an unknown vehicle or something unusual – note down the vehicle number or description of the person you see.

VISIT TO YPRES

I have always wanted to visit Ypres where my Great Uncle, Samuel Melhuish, was killed on September 20th 1917. My daughter, Anna, had found a company who provided personalised battlefield tours and we arranged to be in Ypres on 20th September. We left Anna's home in Surrey early on the 19th and, after travelling through the Channel Tunnel, (a first for me!) headed for Acquin, near St. Omer, from where Samuel wrote his last letter to his family at North Wheddon. His regiment (Hampshire) commenced their three day march to Ypres and the front line on 14th September and I particularly wanted to follow this route. Our guide had obtained maps of the area in 1917 and downloaded them on to the 'sat nav' in our vehicle. We travelled through small villages in flat countryside, so different from West Somerset, and only took THREE hours to reach Ypres!!

That evening we attended, with at least three hundred visitors, the Remembrance ceremony held at the Menin Gate where, every evening at 8 o'clock, local fire brigade members play the Last Post which they have done since 1927 apart from the years of the Second World War. On the Menin Gate are inscribed the names of 55,000 casualties of the Ypres Offensives (1914-16) who have no known grave, and we found A.G. Crockford's name, a relative of Eric Clarbull, who was killed on 10th November 1914.

Samuel has no known grave and, on the 20th September, we visited the area where he was killed, then called Tower Hamlets. The area now consists of small farms with Limousin cattle, sheep and lots of maize. The regiment had commenced their assault at 5.45a.m. and suffered very heavy casualties within the first half hour. From regimental records and our guide's maps we followed the line of battle and traced, as near as we shall ever know, where Samuel was killed.

We visited Tyne Cot cemetery, three miles outside of Ypres, where Samuel's name is inscribed. There are 36,000 names here together with 11,500 graves and it is the largest War cemetery in the world. The Queen opened a wonderful museum there in July of this year to commemorate the Third Battle of Ypres (1917 - 18)

I found the visit so worthwhile and, obviously, emotional but am pleased that I made the effort to do it. *Gill Tapp*

A SNAPSHOT IN TIME

Charles Woolmer' Story

Born 16th August 1954 during a hurricane in Boston, USA. His mother Kate had rushed from Singapore to America so he would have American nationality (how things have changed) His parents Stanley an Architect and his mother, a teacher met and married in Singapore after the 2nd WW.

Stanley had been a prisoner in the notorious Changi Prison and the building of the Bridge over the River Kwai. Kate had escaped out of Singapore (Japanese hot on her heels) through Indonesia, to South Africa on the famous 'Exeter'. She spent the remainder of the war in America as a journalist. Stanley helped rebuild Singapore after the war and built 'low cost homes' for 4 million people!!

When Charles was 6, Stanley was asked to go to Ghana by our government, but this only lasted 9 months. Stanley then became Island development Officer in Jersey, Channel Islands and wrote the planning law! The family remained there until Stanley's death in 1974.

After Manchester University, Charles spent the majority of his working life in the developing commercial computer industry in Central London. He married first "Carla" his Indian wife and secondly "Mully" who was keen to leave London yuppydom. As an early practitioner of home working and with developments in rural communications, these have enabled him to move to deepest, darkest, rainiest, windiest, sunniest and loveliest Exmoor

RECIPE FOR NOVEMBER

Cucumber Relish

3 large cucumbers

2 onions (or 1 bundle spring onions)

2oz salt

1tbs mustard seed (or 1tsp mustard powder)

1pt cider vinegar

1lb sugar

1 1/2tsp turmeric (1tsp curry powder works too)

8 cloves (allspice if you prefer)

Thinly peel and slice cucumber and onion, sprinkle with the salt, mix well and leave for 3 hours.

Put all other ingredients in pan and heat until sugar melted.
Drain and rinse Cucumber, add to pan and boil for 1 minute.
Strain and put cucumber in jars.
Return liquid to pan and boil for 10 mins, when cool add to jars and top up
Can be eaten as soon as it doesn't burn the mouth - enjoy!!

CUTCOMBE LOCAL HISTORY GROUP

November 21st will see the first of our indoor meetings. We will be in the dining room of the Rest and Be Thankful for a short talk followed by a good supper. Please let me know the numbers by Friday 16th Nov. *Jacky*

CUTCOMBE SCHOOL

Our Open Day was very well attended by parents and friends of the school and visitors to the school enjoyed seeing the children and staff carrying out their normal school day.

At the beginning of October the whole school took their harvest gifts to the church and performed their own Harvest Service.

The children in Class Two went with Timberscombe School on a cultural trip to Colston Hall where they were introduced to a spectacular symphony orchestra. They listened to the delights of the harp and oboe while also the booming drums and timpani.

Class 2 are enjoying French lessons with Mrs Weaver. The school has started Indoor 5 A Side football after school on Fridays against other schools.

Don't forget to save your Tesco vouchers and either bring them into school or give them to one of the parents.

TIME TO MOVE DANCE PROJECT

If you're active, creative and over the age of 50, then you may be interested in Take Art's Time to Move dance project.

From the beginning of October, dance classes are starting at nine halls and community centres across Sedgemoor and West Somerset open to active

over-50-year-olds, including in Wheddon Cross and Monksilver. Throughout the year, there will be opportunity for members of these groups to perform and work with filmmakers.

Last year, classes ran successfully in Minehead, Porlock and Shipham and resulted in performances at the Regal Theatre in Minehead, in Shipham and at London's Southbank Centre. Jan West from Porlock commented:

' I was attracted to this new adventure. I liked the idea of doing something active and creative that wasn't 'fuddy-duddy' or 'bop-bop.' This has been a breath of fresh air. It's so rare to have an opportunity like this in our village.'

Classes will take place on Tuesdays at Moorland Hall, Wheddon Cross, 11am-12.30pm and at Monksilver Village Hall, 2 - 3.30pm. Classes cost £2 per session, pay as you go. No previous experience necessary. To find out more about the project or to sign up, please call Hannah at Take Art (01460 249450), hannah@takeart.org.

The Time to Move project is being led by Take Art, Arts Development Agency in partnership with Somerset County Council Community Directorate, Somerset Primary Care Trust, Reminiscence Learning, Age Concern, Somerset and the Sport and Active Lifestyles teams for Sedgemoor and West Somerset.

SMALL WORLD

I received this email in early October and of all the people in the world who could have received it the email came to me and straight to the people Rose-Marie was trying to contact!

I came across your website while doing a search on information for Wheddon Cross. My father, who is now 82 years old, was a German prisoner of war, and for a time worked at a farm called Higher House Farm just outside of Wheddon Cross. The farm was owned by the family of Wilfred and Violet Stevens. We were wondering if the farm is still in existence? I am attaching a couple of pictures, one of the farm in the valley, facing north, Dunkery Beacon would be up on the hill in the distance, and a picture of my parents, Hans and Maria Behrmann, standing beside the Beacon. Both pictures were taken in 1949. Would you by chance know if the farm is still owned by the Stevens family? I would appreciate any information you could give me.

Thank you for your reply to my letter about Wheddon Cross history. Yes, I do have a few more stories to add. With me in that photo at Dunkery Beacon are my wife, Maria, and another German girl whose name and where she lived I have forgotten. Yes, there were more German POW's in the neighbourhood. Next door at Hawkington was Reinhold Kasiankowski, a nice fellow from the former province of Silesia, and at the Melhuish Farm in Wheddon Cross was Helmut Schmidt, another young fellow from Berlin. Yes, I have heard of the Foot and Mouth in England, but why were the cattle all destroyed? There was Foot and Mouth in Germany shortly before the war. They were treated for 6 weeks when the disease waned. All entrances to farms and dairies had a deep layer of peat moss on the ground saturated with some chemicals where everyone entering the building had to step in with their shoes to prevent the disease from spreading. Six weeks later the disease was gone.

Attached you will find a picture of Maria with two orphan lambs. And you know what happens to them: they get spoiled rotten, always in between your feet. I remember one incident. We were sitting at the table having lunch. I was talking to Mr. Stevens, and when he put his cup down I noticed it was filled with water. I asked how come? Mrs. Stevens replied she was running out of tea. Remember there was food rationing for many years after the war. I was so embarrassed, since I had tea. "Mrs. Stevens," I cried out, "From now on, no more tea for me, my tea ration is for you and the boss only. We drink coffee in Germany and I'll have coffee from now on." Coffee was not rationed and was only five shillings per pound, and it mattered not to me if I had tea or coffee.

Just before Maria and I got married I reluctantly had hand in my notice to the boss because we had to have accommodation which I found at Lower Foxcombe in Exford. A lady had a farm where she had horse riding and also a cottage that was vacant. Before I came to Higher House, old Grandpa Stevens lived in the cottage. There was also a young married couple living in the cottage. At that time England had a desperate shortage of housing and many young couples were forced to live with their parents. Mr. Stevens said he would find the couple somewhere else to live so I could move in. That I could not agree with my conscience, that an English couple would have to move so that a former enemy soldier could move in. But I kept in touch with the Stevens family and offered them my tea ration. He came over with his car and picked it up, bringing me a bag of apples from his garden in return, which Maria and I relished. I was bitter at first when the Americans brought us to England, but when I lived at Higher House farm I came to like your country. The landscape was pretty, especially the highway up towards Wheddon Cross and down towards Timberscombe which was lined with azaleas which looked so pretty.

Next week I will be 83. Coming to Canada was an experience, but we were young and eager to get established and worked hard for it. One of my greatest regrets is that I forgot Higher House farm for a time and the good people there. I should have mailed a few pounds of good tea to Higher House, it's nagging at my conscience. *Cynthia* Pictures etc on the village website.

WEATHER EYE

September blow soft
Till the fruits in the loft

The first couple of weeks of September were fine and dry (apart from the 2nd which was drizzly around teatime giving 1mm of rain) with some lovely autumnal sunshine, although often with a cool NW breeze. The Tour of Britain Cycle Race swept through on the 11th, in hazy sunshine and warm temperatures.

The third week was a bit more changeable, with some light rain towards the end and a strong (cold) NW wind on the 17th, which is St Lambert's Day and is a traditional date for the Egremont Crab Fair (as in crab apples) in Cumbria. This fair traditionally includes such events as gurning (pulling grotesque faces while wearing a horse collar) and Cumberland and Westmorland style wrestling.

The last days of the month were more autumnal, with well over 1" of rain (30.5mm) falling overnight on the 24th, and lower temperatures, more showers and a chilly N/NE wind at times. St Michael's day, on the 29th, (he is the Patron Saint of Grocers) was grey and misty all day, and is the Michaelmas Quarter Day, when rents were due and hiring days were common throughout the country. (The devil is also said to put his feet on the blackberries on this date or spit on them – or perhaps both!

Total rainfall for the month was 69mm (well under 3") falling on 9 days, making this the driest September since 2003 (which had 47mm under 2")

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! 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

