

### *Some Mitchel Troy History*

The English name of the parish derives from the name of the river, the Welsh Troddi becoming Trothy and then Troy. The addition "Mitchel" is thought not to derive from the church's dedication to St. Michael, but rather as a variant of the word "much" or "mickle", as also found at Mitcheldean in Gloucestershire, and used to differentiate the village from the nearby manor of Troy Parva.

### **Church of St. Michael**

The parish church of St. Michael is built mainly in the Decorated style of about the 13th century; a 19th century inscription claims it was built in 1208. The cleric and writer Adam of Usk was the rector in 1382-85. The church was thoroughly restored in 1870.

### **Troy House**

Troy House, about 1½ miles north east of the church, was largely rebuilt after about 1680, on the site of

an earlier building, for the Duke of Beaufort, after the family seat at Raglan Castle had fallen into ruin. The house remained in the Somerset family until it was sold in 1901, after which it became a convent school and later, from 1935, an approved school. In 2008, proposals have been received for its conversion into residential apartments. To find out more about the history of Mitchel Troy visit

[http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Mitchel\\_Troy](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Mitchel_Troy)

### *A New Local Cheese*

Hand made cheese is being developed by the Ryder family at Lower Gockett Farm, Lydart, Monmouth. It is made from locally sourced cows milk and will be ready for distribution in the Summer of 2009 so keep your eyes peeled for another delicious local product.



### *Carol Singers raise money*

Dressed in 'County Living style' hats and scarves and wielding candle lit lanterns (not particularly good for seeing with but pretty to look at) our aim was to bring the community together with old fashioned carol singing and raise money for the new website. Our confidence to sing loudly and in the right tune increased with each new house. Many thanks for your generosity, mince pies and encouraging smiles. The jolly teenagers proved to be excellent backing singers 'la-laaing' in interesting places! The Vicar of Dibley would have admired our gung-ho spirit and should television crews want to capture us on footage we will be available at the end of the year for another episode. All are welcome to join in. We raised £45. Thank you.

### *Carol Service*

The candle-lit carol service before Christmas was very well attended and enjoyed. Nearly every seat in the church was taken and the singing, led by a small choir from St Mary's was very enthusiastic. We even had descants to several tunes sung by some of the congregation.

All the readers read very well in spite of being a little taken aback by the size of the congregation!

After the service there were mince-pies and sherry which were enjoyed as we wished each other 'Happy Christmas'

### *War on Moles!*

Please send in your ideas for the elimination of the dreaded mole.



We had 42 mounds on our front lawn in December and a load more in the orchard. What to do!?

Contact Clare with your success stories on 740647

### *The Big Garden Birdwatch 24/25th January*

#### **Big Garden Birdwatch is 30!**

The world's biggest wildlife survey is celebrating its 30th birthday and you're invited to simply spend one hour over the weekend of 24-25 January counting the birds in your garden or local park. By taking part you help us to learn more about our garden birds and how they are faring across the UK.

#### **Before the day**

It couldn't be easier to join in the Big Garden Birdwatch fun.

We've got 10 top tips and plenty of information to help you get ready for a successful and fun birdwatch hour.

#### **On the day** (24 or 25 January)

Sit down, relax and enjoy watching the feathered visitors to your garden. You only need spend 1 hour counting them! Then submit your results before 16 February 2009. All information can be found on the web at [www.rspb.org.uk/birdwatch](http://www.rspb.org.uk/birdwatch)

