

GITTISHAM GAZETTE

A monthly Community Newsletter

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VILLAGE OUTING

Thanks to the perseverance of Sue Fallows, the outing scheduled to happen on 27th September took place, much to the enjoyment of everyone who went. We travelled in a smart and very comfortable coach, through the lovely Devon countryside to Rosemoor Gardens near Torrington, north Devon. The journey took just over an hour and a half, arriving at Rosemoor shortly before 12 o'clock. Owned by the Royal Horticultural Society, the gardens are spectacular; ranging from formal rose gardens to the original garden worked by Lady Anne Palmer who donated the land to the RHS in 1988. On our arrival most people headed for the restaurant for a quick coffee or an early lunch...the pasties were particularly popular! We had 3 hours at our disposal to wander and admire the multitude of varieties of shrubs, bushes, plants, flowers, vegetables and trees. Archie Down was especially impressed by the vegetable garden, neatly laid out with a wide selection of different kinds of carrots, beans, leeks, potatoes—you name it they had it! Look out Doris, you may well be getting some different veggies to be cooked next year! Everyone was back on the coach for a 3.00pm departure, then back to the Village Hall for a delicious Cream Tea, thanks to Jayne Bramley who, not having been on the trip, was able to make the scones and boil up the kettles ready for the thirsty travellers upon their return. A most enjoyable day out for everyone, even those who had not known where they were going! Thank you to the Hall Committee for the idea of an outing, it was much appreciated.

Editor's note: *The 'alternative' outing is being held on 1st November, see "Dates for the Diary".*

DATES FOR THE DIARY

October 14th Team Skittles

At Feniton Bowling Club 7.00 for 7.30 Cost £6.50 for supper. Let Carol McCann know if you are able to come (851113). We need some really good skittlers as it is now several years since we won!

October 18th Coffee Get-together outside the church, weather permitting, 10.30—12.00. If it is too cold or wet outside the coffee etc. will be inside. Also a Bring & Buy stall. This is the final meeting for this year.

November 1st MYSTERY TOUR! 10am Roll up, Roll up for the magical mystery tour! A coach is taking residents of the parish on a day out in Devon. With on board entertainment, an exciting picnic stop and activities, there will be fun for all the family. Please contact Carol Hall Ring 850793 or email: partdrillers@hotmail.com

200 CLUB

The winners this month were:

1st Prize	Lady M-A Denham
2nd Prize	Mrs D Merchant
3rd Prize	Ms R Bartlett
4th Prize	Mrs A Hutchings
5th Prize	Mr a Babbage

FLORENCE HILL married Will Wolsley at Chelsea Old Church on Friday 3rd October. We wish them both every happiness for many years to come.

HONITON GRUB CLUB COMES TO GITTISHAM

On 1st November a 3 course meal is on offer at the village hall for £20 per head. The evening will commence at 7.30pm and diners are invited to bring their own drinks. The meal is being provided by Pickleshack.co.uk and anyone interested can go to the website to view their menus.

To book a place ring 07923986577 or email joshmcdj@hotmail.co.uk

BLACK BUTTONS WANTED

Carol Hall is busy making crocheted red poppies for Remembrance Sunday and she needs more buttons for their centres. At least the size of a 1p please. All donations very much appreciated. Part Drillers or 850793. Thank you

HOLY DUSTERS (October)

Doreen and Ernie Wensley
Tom and Margaret Ballantyne

PEOPLE IN THE NEWS

HAMISH HALL— Congratulations to "Iron Man" Hamish Hall for coming 10th in his first ever race. He took part in the "Brutal", held in North Wales. Starting at 7am with a lake swim, then a 120 mile cycle and finally a quick stroll to the top of Snowdon and back down for tea and medals. Non-stop for 15 hours. He weighed himself the day after and found he had lost 20% of his body fat - wow!

ALAN AND CHRISTINE BROOM would like to thank everyone who kindly sponsored them for the Marie Curie WALK TEN at Killerton Gardens on 23rd August. They raised a total of £335 for Marie Curie Cancer Care. Every £20 pays for one hours care.

BARBARA MULLETT is raising money for the Day Hospice in Honiton by doing a sponsored walk on Sunday 5th October. Donations gratefully accepted.

MARY WARD is out and about again now...it is so nice to see you looking so well. We hope your health continues to improve.

PARISH COUNCIL – SEPTEMBER AND OCTOBER REPORT

Seven parish councillors met for the September & October meetings. Susie Bond (EDDC), Sara Randall-Johnson (DCC) and Claire Wright (DCC) were also present.

DCC / EDDC Report.

Susie Bond explained that EDDC's recycling contract was up for renewal and a number of 'think tanks' are looking at what facilities should be provided in the future. She invited members of the public to make suggestions; so far cardboard collection is high on the list of preferences. Claire Wright reported that the local Clinical Commissioning Group had announced it intends to close all inpatient beds at Ottery St Mary (12) and Axminster hospitals. The minor injuries unit at Ottery will also shut if plans go ahead, along with Sidmouth's MIU. A 12-week consultation has been launched on these and other proposals across Devon, which NHS managers say is intended to move care closer to people's homes. Claire Wright said she'd asked those behind the proposals to present the financial case, as she herself is unconvinced that it will save money as intended. She and Cllr Roger Giles have called a public meeting to discuss the plans and what should be done about them, on Tuesday 7 October, starting at 7.30pm, at the Institute, Yonder Street in Ottery. Sara Randall-Johnson added that beds would remain in Honiton inpatients. On a more positive note, Claire Wright said, the church was set to take over responsibility for the youth centre. There was no update on what will happen to the library in Ottery. Sara Randall-Johnson said it looks as if Honiton youth centre will run on a three-year lease with the community college, which should enable all current users to continue going there.

Crime. One crime in September: a dog escaped from a private address into a field in Gittisham and started attacking livestock.

Finance. Members noted the finances this month.

Planning applications.

- a) St Michael's Church Gittisham: installation of bunded central heating oil tank (amended plans)

Members had no objections.

Residential development, inc. land west of Hayne Lane.

Having deferred the review of the outline application to build 300+ homes west of Hayne Lane, EDDC's planning inspection committee (PIC) met on 5th Sept and approved the application (4 votes to 3). Councillors expressed their concern at the way they felt the process had been managed, with the parish council only finding out about the meeting (and therefore the opportunity to speak) by chance. Neither had the consultant's report prepared for the parish council in July been included in the latest officer's report, which would inform the decision-making. This was rectified at the PIC meeting but no explanation given as to why it had been left out initially. There was also a great deal of frustration and disappointment as to why EDDC had chosen to ignore the advice of statutory consultees such as the NHS, the two Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty and Natural England who had expressed their reservations about this development. Members also felt that some of the photography included in the officer's report was misleading. David Fallows has written to EDDC's monitoring officer to complain. The complaint has also been copied to Neil Parish MP, along with a statement for the Department for Communities and Local Government asking it to call in the application. David Valentine explained that this complaint letter is the first step in a process that potentially ends with the local government ombudsman. EDDC has to respond, and if the parish council is not happy with its response it can go to the ombudsman. If the ombudsman judges that EDDC did not follow procedures correctly or reasonably, this would not affect the decision to grant the application approval but could result in compensation. Susie Bond said the Strategic Housing Market Assessment report should be published around Christmas. This document is important, as it assesses how many houses are needed in East Devon. David Valentine added that if figures show the need for housing is not as high as previously presented, the five-year land supply will reflect this and it could mean the committee might have to reconsider its decision. A lot rests on timing of other decisions, which is not yet clear.

Drains and ditches. The clerk said the Devon Association of Local Councils (DALC) had advised what paperwork was needed to contract a lengthsperson. The parish council would have to specify the safe working practices it expected to see used, and the contractor would need public liability insurance which would have to be seen before starting work. DALC provided details of how Chagford and neighbouring parishes had made this work for them, so the clerk said she would see if other parishes wished to make a bid for the next round of Parishes Together funding. Claire Wright said she was aware of the poor state of the road at Westgate which increasingly has the potential to put both properties and vehicles at risk. She also agreed to chase up the flood gauges which should have been installed by the railway bridge.

Telephone box. David Fallows said a number of good suggestions had been put forward at the public meeting on 20th Sept, the defibrillator and the oral history centre having the most potential. It was agreed these two could co-exist in the same space. Due to the cost of the defibrillator, members agreed fund-raising should help pay for part of it. The cost is thought to be in the region of £2,500. Claire Wright said she would put some of the county budget towards it. Maggie Walker suggested the defibrillator training should also include some general first aid. Russell Hayman argued that with increasing numbers of older people living in the parish, and only 12 ambulances based in East Devon, the service would be under pressure. A defibrillator therefore has the potential to save lives.

PARISH COUNCIL – SEPTEMBER & OCTOBER REPORT (continued)

Play area. Members discussed options for the wild area and David Fallows said he would speak to Bill Griffiths and Hamish Hall about designing a structure of some kind. This would have to be built to a suitable standard and also insurable. The clerk agreed to chase up the issue of the crushing hazard on the see-saw with the manufacturer. Russell Hayman said he had moved the large sand bag in the wild area onto the boules pitch.

Snow wardens. Mike Edmonds said he would ask around the Vale to see if anybody would be interested in volunteering, as somebody who was keen to do it is now about to undergo a major operation.

Next meeting. This will be on 11th November at 7.30pm.

IN SUPPORT OF OUR PARISH COUNCIL A MARCH IS BEING ORGANISED—SAY “NO” TO UNSUSTAINABLE HOUSING DEVELOPMENTS IN EAST DEVON

Come and join the march...see page 4

CHURCHWARDENS’ REPORT—Carol McCann

We asked the Archdeacon’s office to re-commence advertising the house for duty post there have been 3 ads and applications closed on the 3rd October, hopefully we will have some applicants.

On the 28th September ten parishioners from Gittisham went to the Ordination service at St Gregory’s Seaton where our curate Philip was ordained priest with two others. It was a very moving service officiated by our new Bishop of Exeter Bishop Robert. I was invited with others from the Honiton Choir to join an amalgamated choir we had some lovely things to sing under the direction of Adrian House, choirmaster of Seaton. Following the service those from the Honiton team of churches reconvened at the Mackarness Hall for a lovely lunch. On the Tuesday evening Rev. Philip presided over his first Eucharist with a full congregation. Two of Philip’s colleagues from his training college who were ordained Deacon this year assisted him. Afterwards nibbles and drinks were served in the Narthex.

Services for the next few weeks, all at 11.00 unless stated otherwise, 12th Parish Eucharist, 19th Lay-led Morning Worship, 26th Parish Eucharist. November 2nd Family Eucharist with refreshments, 9th is Remembrance Sunday a short service starts at the Lychgate at 10.50 with the laying of wreaths and after the 2 minute silence carries on in church with a Eucharist, 16th lay-led sung Matins.

Our last monthly coffee get-together will be Saturday 18th October hosted by the Fuller Family hopefully by the green but if inclement then in church from 10.30 – 12 noon.

I am still collecting items of adult clothing and sensible shoes – male and female – plus blankets, sleeping bags, towels and toiletries etc. for the homeless through St. Petrock’s in Exeter. I have a contact who comes to Honiton fortnightly. If you could offer anything, please let me know. I have also heard from the food bank who have written to say they are desperate for certain items – Long life full fat milk, sugar, fruit juices and squashes, savoury rice and noodles, pasta sauces, tinned tomatoes, vegetables, fruit, custard, rice puddings, sponge puddings and biscuits. There is a blue collecting box next to the font in church. But if you would like me to collect any items, please phone me on 851113 Many thanks.

Other events within the team,

Tuesday 14th Team Skittles at Feniton Bowls Club 7.00 for 7.30 Gittisham needs some players if you would like to play please let Carol know with haste as I have to let the caterers know. £6.50 with food or £1.50 without. There will be a draw.

25th & 26th Poppy Quilt, WW1 on display in St. Pauls

26th Team Evensong 6.30 at St. Paul’s Honiton with the Sheldon Singers.

Honiton Mission Community Open Meeting to be held at Gittisham Church on Wednesday 22nd October 7pm for 7.30, (refreshments from 7pm) with a talk on ‘Dementia Friends Awareness’ by Heather Penwarden. Everyone is invited to come along and find out how to cope with the difficulties of dementia. If anyone would be able to offer some help serving the refreshments please ring Carol 851113. Many thanks.

Richard Saunders

Richard is still in Exmouth Hospital in the Geoffrey Willoughby Ward and although he is making progress it is slow and he will probably be there for some time. His walking is coming on but he still needs help. His left side is still quite weak but he can use his arm and hand with difficulty. He is in the main cheerful and still has his great sense of humour. If anyone would like to visit Richard but has no transport, I go about 3 times a week and I would be delighted to take you with me.

SUPPORT YOUR VILLAGE HALL

The Village Hall Committee would like to hear from you....We would like to have new volunteers on the committee to bring fresh ideas and inspiration. Please all rush at once! Thank you.

Sue Fallows

Editor's note: Come on, folks, they deserve your support!

100 YEARS OF WORDS AND MUSIC

A most enjoyable evening was spent by everyone who attended this event held on 6th September. The "Full House" notices were out that evening, not for the first time! It is always heart-warming to see people enjoying themselves and generally having a good time...joining in the familiar songs, laughing at the Chairman's jokes and tucking in to the buffet. Together with the raffle and ticket sales the event raised a total of £600; £300 has been donated to the village Church and £300 to the East Devon Day Hospice appeal. Jan Sutcliffe would like to thank everyone who made the evening such a great success, from audience members to artistes and helpers behind the scenes.

HONITON PLAYERS

The Honiton Players will be performing "Jayne Eyre" at Honiton Community College on the 23rd, 24th and 25th April 2014. Open auditions will be held in the Narthex of St Pauls Church Honiton on Monday 20th October at 7:30pm and on Friday 24th October at 8:0pm. All are welcome to attend. Rehearsals commence on Monday 5th January and will continue on Mondays at 7:30pm and Fridays at 8:0pm.

For more information or a copy of the script please ring Trevor Patch on 01404 42504.

SAY "NO" TO UNSUSTAINABLE HOUSING DEVELOPMENTS IN EAST DEVON

The building of 300+ houses east of Hayne Lane has already been given planning permission by East Devon District Council despite objections raised by Gittisham Parish Council, Honiton Town Council, the local NHS Trust, Natural England, two adjacent AONBs and Devon County. On Saturday 8th November it is proposed to hold a peaceful protest march in and around the Gittisham Parish to highlight the very real concerns of many people in Gittisham and beyond.

Watch for further details in the local press and other media.

PLEASE JOIN US ON THE MARCH .

BEES—by Roy Abbott

Well its the end of the season now for us beekeepers. It has been a good year for the bees with a nice early spring which gave them a good start with a lot of pollen and nectar so they got on with a lot of brood rearing to produce a nice lot of bees to forage for even more nectar to make us some lovely honey. The girls worked hard all summer long and gave us a good amount of surplus honey to take, we always leave them with plenty for their stores for the long winter ahead. Now all the drones (male bees) have been ejected from the hives as they are not needed until next year when they will produce some more, We actually had to give a couple of our colonies some extra feed as August was far from nice with all the rain and cooler temperatures, the girls didn't get out very much and there was a lot in the hives then so they ate their winter rations; the number of bees in the colonies have dropped a lot now as they rear winter bees which are able to get through the winter, as they haven't worked this year, So now we have reduced numbers of bees, they all have a great deal of stores in the hives; the hives have been checked over to make sure they are sound and weather proof so now it is all up to the girls to get through the winter, which I hope is not too cold, reasonably dry and as short as possible.

We do have some very good honey available if anyone would like some £5 per 1lb jar. it makes a great gift for someone or for yourself.

THANKYOU

Brenda Abbott and family wish to thank everyone who responded to the request for donations to CLIC Sargent on the occasion of Brenda's 90th Birthday. A delicious cream tea was laid on in the village hall to mark the event. Brenda was a wonderful host, sitting in state greeting everyone who attended and posing for photographs. The magnificent sum of £610 was raised by this generous request by Brenda.

DEADLINE FOR ENTRIES IS THE FIRST WEDNESDAY OF EACH MONTH.

Please contact one of the editorial team below if you have a happy event to report, or wish to voice a concern, or have an interesting tip or village memory to share.

Carol McCann	851113
Barbara Mullett	851255
Jan Sutcliffe	851255
Doreen Wensley	45774
Ernie Wensley	45774