

VILLAGE HALL REPORT

THANK YOU from the Village Hall committee to Doreen and Ernie Wensley for their immense contribution over the years. They will be sorely missed on the committee.

Village Hall committee vacancies: Can anyone fill the Doreen and Ernie shaped hole that has been left on the committee? We need you! If you don't want to join the committee, but are willing to help out with events, then please let one of us know. Thank you. Bill Griffiths, Angie Hutchings, Carol McCann, Hamish Hall, Sue Fallows

Next event: Burns Night on January 24th, 7 for 7:30. Price £8 for adults, £4 for children under 14. Bring your own drinks and your dancing shoes! Tickets from Carol McCann 851113.

Village Hall Meeting on 6 January

Most of the meeting was taken up in final organisation for the Soup and Pud lunch on Saturday 10th, and Burns Night on 24th.

There was the usual discussion of maintenance issues and plans for improving the facilities through the purchase of better sound equipment, a projector and screen.

Next meeting is in February to plan an event for March.

THE UNDER SIDE OF THE HEDGE by Jane Hulbert.

May I wish everyone 'A Happy New Year'.

Christmas and New Year are usually very busy times for us, the cows still have to be milked twice a day and everything needs feeding, cleaning, bedding etc. Understandably staff are not keen to work over the holidays. This year however our new Herdsman worked, giving Keith and Carla an afternoon off. We ate Christmas lunch at midday (a first in 25 years) and played games after. I'm told this is what *normal* people do!!

Last year was 'Year of the tractor', we've had "Year of the tyre" and "Year of the water leak", but it was definitely the tractor last year. They took it in turns to break down and never with something cheap or simple. In the end we had to replace 5 with 2 new and 2 preowned. I also asked why we needed so many! Evidently we need a small one for cleaning out in the cubicles, a large one for field work and middle ones powerful enough to work the feeder and straw chopper but still manoeuvrable enough to get around the buildings to the feed troughs.

I imagine this year will be "Year of the milk price". Whatever you may think of Tesco we and a lot of other farmers owe them a big, big 'thank you'. They promised to pay us cost of production for our milk and with the recent price drops, a lot of dairy farmers, not supplying Tesco, are getting 10p a litre less. How long can they survive?

I think we ought to go into kitten farming. Carla's cats both had kittens recently; people came from a long way and paid what I would consider a high price for a farm cat. More than we get for a Friesian bull calf!

The Devon Countryside Access Forum has fifteen members who advise on the "improvement of public access to land for the purposes of open-air recreation and the enjoyment of the area.." The Forum gives independent advice to a number of Government bodies in addition to Devon County Council, district and borough councils and parish and town councils. We would love to hear from landowners and managers, access users and people with other relevant professional interests such as planning, education, sport, sustainable transport and business, or people who could represent groups currently under-represented such as young people or ethnic minority groups. Although membership is voluntary, a generous mileage rate is paid. Why don't you consider applying to join the Forum? It's an interesting opportunity and you can:- contribute to the debate- share your experience and expertise from your specific field; meet and work with others- listen to and share ideas on access to solve problems; be informed- receive regular local and national access information updates and information relating to access law, policy, legislation, and how it can benefit social, economic and environmental issues; help make a difference- influence local and UK policy affecting access. For details and an application form please see www.devon.gov.uk/dcaf The closing date is February 20th 2015.

CHURCHWARDENS' REPORT by Carol McCann

Services for the next few weeks, all at 11.00 unless stated otherwise, January 11th Parish Eucharist, 18th lay-led Morning Worship, 25th Parish Eucharist and in the evening there will be a choral team evensong in Gittisham at 6.30 with choir practice at 5.30pm, 1st February Family Eucharist for Candlemas with refreshments, 8th Parish Eucharist, 15th lay-led sung Matins

On the 11th February we hope that there will be some candidates to interview for the post of House for Duty Priest, please pray for a successful outcome as it is nearly 3 years since Canon Richard retired.

Many thanks to Helen Hayman and John McGregor for a most entertaining and excellent 'Let's make music' concert in the Church on December 13th, and to all those who took part.

We collected lovely seasonal goodies to make up parcels for the poorest and homeless in Honiton which were distributed through the food bank and they were delighted, thanks to all who contributed. The food bank are still very much in need of Long life full fat milk, sugar, fruit juices and squashes, savoury rice and noodles, pasta sauces, tinned tomatoes and other tinned vegetables or 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 St Petroc's in Exeter are still also needing adult clothing and shoes, especially hats, scarves, gloves at this time of year blankets, sleeping bags, old duvets, and towels plus toiletries for the homeless, I usually meet a volunteer in Honiton on a fortnightly basis.

Dear Sir/Madam

Are you a passionate reader? Are you someone who understands the pleasure that reading can bring? Would you like to meet new friends who are already part of our enthusiastic teams in East Devon?

Over 1000 Royal Voluntary Service (formerly WRVS) volunteers across Devon & Cornwall provide practical support to older and disabled people, many of whom are isolated by ill health, disability or simply the lack of appropriate transport.

Our volunteers deliver library books and CD's to people who are unable to get to the local library. This vital service keeps the passion of reading alive and makes a huge difference to our clients' lives. The following is a quote from the son of one of our clients:

"My mother had a number of interests, including gardening, church architecture and playing bridge but reading was something she continued to do when it became too difficult for her to leave home. This was greatly helped by a volunteer delivering and collecting books on behalf of the Home Library Service, going to great lengths to keep my mother in good reading and this was an important contribution to the quality of my mother's life."

In Seaton, Budleigh Salterton, Colyton and the surrounding area we need more volunteers to help us make life more interesting for others. You will need to be willing to drive in the local area for which we reimburse you at the rate of 45p per mile, and we will provide you with all training and local support. We also particularly need people to act as volunteer coordinators at Seaton, Budleigh Salterton and Colyton Libraries. For this role you need just the same interests and friendly, outgoing personality, plus being a good organiser with some basic computer skills.

If you know someone who would like to receive our Home Library Service, please get in touch.

Anyone who would like an informal chat about these or other volunteering opportunities can contact me Carole Poulton – Service Manager for Devon Home Library Service on carole.poulton@royalvoluntaryservice.org.uk or call 07786 635163.

For more information about our range of services visit www.royalvoluntaryservice.org.uk.

Local people are being asked for their views on the ward boundaries currently in place for Devon County Council. The Boundary Commission needs your help to say where the new boundaries should be drawn.

You may not be aware that although we are one parish, Gittisham Vale is in Honiton St Michael's ward (Cllr Sara Randall-Johnson), whereas the village is in Ottery rural (Cllr Claire Wright).

Gittisham parish councillors think it would be more efficient if the parish and the ward were one and the same represented by Ottery rural, and we'll be writing to the Boundary Commission to let them know that. We already operate as one unit for a variety of things (e.g. emergency plan, snow wardens) so it would seem to make sense.

This is the council's position. If you'd like to support it or have your say, please respond to the consultation by 19th January by going to <https://consultation.lgbce.org.uk/node/4141>

THE SNOWBALL

I made myself a snowball

As perfect as can be.

I thought I'd keep it as a pet

And let it sleep with me.

I make it some pyjamas

And a pillow for its head.

Then last night it ran away,

But first it wet the bed.

DEADLINE FOR ENTRIES IS THE FIRST WEDNESDAY OF EACH MONTH.

Please contact one of the editorial team below if you have something to report.

Barbara Mullett 851255

Jan Sutcliffe 851255

Carol McCann 851113

Doreen Wensley 45774

Ernie Wensley 45774

The next publication will be printed on 7th February.

PARISH COUNCIL NEWS—January Report

Four parish councillors met for the January meeting. Susie Bond (EDDC) was also present.

DCC / EDDC Report.

Susie Bond said the independent group on East Devon's full council has challenged the proposal to relocate its offices from the Knowle in Sidmouth to Honiton Business Park and Exmouth. The independents argue that the decision should be left until after the election in May when changes in local government have had time to take effect. She added that the report into the number of homes needed in the Local Plan, due to be released at the end of December 2014, had not yet appeared.

Crime. The police did not send a report this month.

Finance. Members agreed the budget for 2015/16 and the parish precept was set at £7,650.

Residential development, inc. land west of Hayne Lane.

David Fallows explained that he had received a letter from EDDC's monitoring officer who apologised for the delay in replying, but said he did not judge there was a case to answer. David Fallows said he had already taken his complaint to the local government ombudsman over the way this planning application was handled.

Drains, ditches and roads.

David Fallows reported that somebody from the parish had expressed an interest in light maintenance of drains and ditches. Members agreed with David Valentine's suggestion that the parish council should put together a package of work which needs to be carried out on a six-monthly basis, so the person coming in could see at a glance what was required and where. The list will include Westgate, Dark Lane, Willys Wood, Town Farm Buildings and Honiton Lane marlpit. The clerk said she would investigate with a group of parishes (inc. Luppitt and Awliscombe) which had successfully bid for Parishes Together funding to finance a lengthsperson.

Honiton Neighbourhood Plan.

Members discussed the merits or otherwise of working with Honiton Town Council to put together a Neighbourhood Plan, following a meeting with HTC attended by David Fallows. It was agreed it would help the parish council to contribute towards addressing the infrastructure failures of the town – Honiton has grown but its facilities have not kept in step. David Valentine explained that the neighbourhood plan was a way of identifying what scale of expansion would have to be put in place to deliver the infrastructure that is missing in Honiton and the infrastructure necessary to support any growth.

Next meeting. This will be on 4th February at 7.30pm.

GITTISHAM PANTOMIME

It's that time of year when our homespun panto is on the starting blocks, almost ready to spring into action...Oh no it isn't...Oh yes it is. (We leave you to decide!)

“COMBE TREK” rehearsals will start Sunday 1st February and each Sunday thereafter.

Performances will take place Friday 27th March evening, Saturday 28th March matinee and evening.

GITTISHAM GAZETTE

A monthly Community Newsletter

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HAPPY NEW YEAR

How are your New Year Resolutions going? Hopefully they haven't fallen by the wayside; however, we all know how easy it is to find ourselves back in the old routine. My resolution for 2015 is to plan my time more effectively...which means looking ahead more and being realistic about what I commit myself to. I tend to fill the diary without giving consideration to how I am going to achieve it all. For the time being, editing the Gazette is something I will continue to do until I find a replacement. Any offers? Barbara Mullett

A HUGE THANK YOU—from Carol McCann

I would like to say a huge thank you to everyone who made my special birthday such a monumental occasion and especially to Carol Hall and Helen Fuller for masterminding the surprise and to everyone who provided the scrumptious tea and the birthday cake, I was so overwhelmed when I got to the hall for Hamish and Carol's scalectrix party and saw so many people in front of me. Thank you also to everyone who gave me cards, I do hope I have personally thanked those who gave me gifts, there is one gift – Gourmet chocolates wrapped in pale mauve paper with teddy bears that must have got separated from its card, if you know who gave me these please could you let me know so I can thank them. I really enjoyed my day and will remember it for a very long time. Thank you all.

DATES FOR THE DIARY

January 24th Burns Night, supper 7 for 7:30. Two course meal price £8 for adults, £4 for children under 14. Bring your own drinks and your dancing shoes! Tickets from Carol McCann 851113.

January 25th Team Even-song in Gittisham at 6.30pm. Choir practise 5.30pm.

January 28th—'With a Smile and a Song' 3pm in the Music Room, Sidholme, Elysian Fields, Sidmouth. Dorothy Ferrier, Joan Edgecumbe and John Brindley accompanied on piano by Dorothy Worthington. "An afternoon to brighten your day". Free entry - collection for Memory Cafe and Organ Fund.

200 Club

The winners this month were:

- | | |
|-----------|----------------|
| 1st Prize | Mr G Freestone |
| 2nd Prize | Mrs A Stansell |
| 3rd Prize | Mrs D Hollis |
| 4th Prize | Mr J Rew |
| 5th Prize | Mrs K Eveleigh |

Next draw - at the Family Service on the first Sunday in February 2015 during the refreshments. A reminder that the 2015/6 subscriptions will be due in March if you would like to join please speak to Carol McCann 851113

BREAKING NEWS ON STAGE RIGHT DRAMA WORKSHOPS

There will now be a sabbatical for this term. However, Sara and Jan hope that 'Stage Right' sessions will recommence after Easter. These will be preceded by an Easter one-day drama workshop. Details will be available through local media coverage, but there will also be personal letters sent to all those who have attended 'Stage Right' workshops in the past.

Honiton Pantomime Society "Sleeping Beauty"

The 2015 Pantomime will be a Ben Crocker adaptation of the *Sleeping Beauty*. There is loads of laughter, audience participation, oodles of colourful costumes, fabulous songs from the likes of Tangled and Frozen and of course all your favourite pantomime characters. This year, for the very first time, the pantomime will be performed at the Honiton Beehive during the week Tuesday 17th February – Saturday 21st February 2015. Ticket prices are £8 for Adult and £6 for those under 17. Tickets can be purchased from the beehive in person or on line from the Beehive Website. We hope to see you there. Please support your local Pantomime Society.

PEOPLE IN THE NEWS

DAVID AND SUE FALLOWS

are celebrating the arrival of a grandson, Gabriel David, who arrived on Boxing Day weighing 7lbs5oz. Congratulations and best wishes to the proud parents, Imogen and Kim.

JOYCE UNDERDOWN is also celebrating! She welcomed the birth of a great grandson on 22nd December. Iestyn Gwyn Edward Norman weighed in at 8lbs7oz. Congratulations and best wishes to his proud parents, Nicola and John.

RICHARD SAUNDERS

Many of you will have seen Richard at Carol McCann's surprise party and we hope you had a chance to talk to him. He is so much improved, it was lovely to see him in the village again and very many thanks to those who organised his transport to the village.

ROWLAND HENDERSON

who lived in the Old Rectory before moving to Sidmouth has died on 3rd January.

HOLY DUSTERS

January

Liz & Ian Warne

Angie and Roger Hutchings

YEARS MIND—JANUARY

Ethel Hayman

Mona Theodas