

# GITTISHAM GAZETTE

## A monthly Community Newsletter

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### CONGRATULATIONS TO CLIFF WENSLEY

My grandfather, Clifford Wensley has just received his Légion d'Honneur medal from the French government for his Service in Normandy in 1944. The honour is awarded in five divisions, the lowest being *Chevalier*(Knight) - roughly equivalent to an MBE, if he lived in France. Foreign nationals are awarded a distinction to the standard rank. <https://uk.ambafrance.org/Legion-d-honneur-for-British-World-War-II-veterans>

Cliff served with the 4th Battalion, Wiltshire Regiment in HQ company in Normandy, part of the Wessex Division. The 4th Wilts landed a couple weeks after D-Day and went straight into the battle for Caen, where they suffered heavy losses in the fight for hill 112 - the Wessex Division were opposed by two SS Panzer regiments (equipped with Tiger tanks etc) there. They were then redeployed for the assault on Mount Pinçon, where again there was heavy fighting in mountainous terrain. The 4th Wilts last action in Normandy was to cross the river Seine along with their sister battalion the 5th Wilts in small boats at Vernon, the first allied troops to cross the river, again under enemy fire. The battalion was then able to rest up for a couple weeks at Monet's house, with some lucky ones getting passes to visit newly liberated Paris, before the advance into the low countries. Stephen Wensley

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### DATES FOR YOUR DIARY December

- 5th – 8th St Paul's Honiton Christmas Tree Celebration, Thurs 9.30-4.00, Fri 9.30-6.30, Sat 9.30-6.30 Sun 12.00- 3.00 followed by Carol Service
- 7th Carols for All + Rutter's Gloria, Ottery Parish Church 7.30pm, £14. Inc wine & mince pies tickets from Curious Otter Book shop Ottery 814469 (or Carol McCann 851113)
- 10th Feniton School Carol Service, Gittisham Church 2.00pm
- 11th Carols at Otter Nurseries 6.00pm
- 14th Quiz Night Gittisham Village Hall, 7.00pm Quizmaster Nick Chapman, Teams up to 6 book place/details with Nick , Tel: 07973 797447 or email [nick@kercombe.co.uk](mailto:nick@kercombe.co.uk) £8/£4 primary age inc supper. Raffle, bring own drinks
- 15th Carol Service with refreshments 6.00pm Gittisham Church
- 19th Cinema discussion evening Gittisham Village Hall, (Home Alone) 7pm £2
- 20th Carols on the green 6.00 with mulled wine or fruit punch & bangers in buns,
- 21st Coffee get-together 10.30-12.00 in Parish room.
- 22nd Crib Service 4.00pm Gittisham Church (no morning service)
- 24th Midnight Mass 11.30pm Gittisham Church (no morning service)
- 25th Christmas Day Eucharist 11.00am Gittisham Church

### January

- 5th All age lay-led Christingle for Epiphany with refreshments
- 6th Film discussion night Captain Corelli's Mandolin 7.00 £2 bring own drinks
- 25th Burns Supper details next month

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### TOP TIPS FOR A GREENER CHRISTMAS

Recycle your tree – see separate article. Try not to use sparkly wrapping paper as it can't be recycled  
Christmas Gift Cheques - Pledge to "do something nice" is a lovely way of making your time the thing that counts

Shop local - our local farm shops can supply your meat, seasonal veg and special treats and some lovely gifts too. If you have too many leftovers, see what you can freeze or donate some to an elderly neighbour.

WISHING YOU A MERRY AND PRAECFUL CHRISTMAS AND A HAPPY AND JOYOUS NEW YEAR

## **TRIP COMMUNITY TRANSPORT 01404 46529 OUTINGS FOR DECEMBER**

**17th Nov. Christmas Fair at Poltimore House:** Enjoy the festive atmosphere at Poltimore with a range of lovely gifts to buy for family & friends. Light festive refreshments

**14th Dec. Bridport Christmas Tree Festival:** This wonderful exhibition of over 60 decorated and illuminated Christmas trees takes place annually.

**18th Dec. TRIP Christmas Lunch at: The Belmont Hotel Sidmouth**

Two Courses followed by Coffee & Clotted Cream Fudge. Price, including fare £28.00 Collect a menu from the office or phone in to have one sent to you. Menu choices and payment should have been with them no later than 28th November but you can try to get a late booking - 01404 46529. Trip office/shop at 29-31 New Street Honiton

Trip provides hospital/surgery cars, mobility items and accessories, weekly shopping trips from various areas, befriending and much more. Information and help from qualified staff.

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### **Superfast Broadband in the village.**

Gittisham village residents now have access to a village Superfast wireless network, delivering download speeds of around 20Mbps. This compares with our current systems of just 1-Mbps. This means that you can stream movies, music, play games online and work from home. There are 2 packages, starting at £19.99/month. The installation cost will be refunded if you currently have a very low download speed (<2). If you want to know more contact Gavin at Voneus 07808 085473 or talk to your Parish Council (Carol Hall 850793).

One resident said "I was paying about the same for a broadband service from \*\*\*\* that was almost useless. Installation was quick and we were able to start watching Netflix and BBCiplayer straight away. Thank you Voneus!"

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### **Combe Garden Centre - Manager James Trevett 01404 515600**

Father Christmas arrived to take up residence in his train on December 1<sup>st</sup>, there was along queue to meet him. The Christmas shop is well stocked with decorations, and ancillary products, plenty of Christmas trees of all sizes, lights etc., cards, books and much more. Perennial shrubs, many 3 for £10, winter flowering plants, spring bulbs, all types of seeds. Kiln dried logs to take away or have delivered, bird feeders and food. James has new items coming in to the centre regularly and he and his team would be pleased to welcome you. There is plenty of parking. Also the Kitchen Restaurant is open for morning coffees, lunches and teas during the centres opening hours.

**Opening times - Monday - Saturday 9am - 5pm Sunday 10am - 4pm**

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### **Devon County Council is looking for micro businesses, sole-traders and freelancers!**

Devon County Council has launched a new trial looking at how to better support rural micro businesses in Devon. If you run a micro business in a rural area, help to shape the future of business support by joining their **Engaging Rural Micros research trial. Businesses can sign-up until the end of December 2019 at [www.engagingruralmicros.com](http://www.engagingruralmicros.com)**

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### **CHRISTMAS TREE DISPOSAL**

Honiton young farmers are arranging Christmas tree disposal, the phone number for Gittisham collection is 07713674613, the proposed collection dates are Saturday 4<sup>th</sup> or Sunday 5<sup>th</sup> January Give the number a ring to arrange for your collection for a donation towards their funds.

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### **GITTISHAM VILLAGE HALL**

The Hall committee are offering – free of charge – the hall for someone or a group to organise a community social evening on the 31<sup>st</sup> December. If you would like to take this on please ring Judith Turner on 01404 851061 or email [judith.turner8@btinternet.com](mailto:judith.turner8@btinternet.com). It is usual for villagers to see in the new year outside the church when the bells ring out the old year and we all sing Aulde Lang Syne. It will be necessary for those who book the hall to ensure it is left tidy and rubbish disposed of, this could be done on the morning of the 1<sup>st</sup>. The event must be open to residents of the village, the Vale and Hayne who wish to attend, as the Gazette won't be able to publicise you would need to get the word around.

## PARISH COUNCIL – DECEMBER REPORT

Four councillors met for the December meeting. Susie Bond (EDDC), Phil Twiss (DCC) and one member of the public were also present.

**DCC / EDDC Report.** Phil Twiss said the three new funding initiatives launched in May to replace the old Town & Parish funds are progressing. They are the Doing What Matters Community Grants Fund, Crowdfund Devon and Making the Connection. He circulated the South West Energy & Environment Group annual report, and said that it was a useful forum particularly in respect of the work it does on climate change and getting DCC to a position of zero net carbon much earlier than its previous target date of 2030.

Susie Bond said EDDC's recycling rates continue to rise and are currently at 62 per cent. EDDC is in first place nationally in the league table of councils for keeping non-recyclable waste low.

**Crime.** 2 x other theft on or near Parsonage Lane in October. Investigation complete and no suspect identified.

**Finance.** Members agreed the finances.

### Planning applications.

- a) Combe Garden Centre – variation of conditions 2 (approved plans) and 3 (restriction on sale of goods) of planning permission for garden centre with restaurant/cafe to facilitate the sale of a wider range of goods within part of the building (retrospective)

Councillors had no objections to a) in principle. However, they expressed disappointment that the application appeared contrary to the original application, and could potentially undermine other retail opportunities elsewhere.

**Bench, Gittisham Vale.** Phil Twiss clarified the ownership of the land at the end of Old Elm Road. The clerk agreed to write to the appropriate department at EDDC to ask permission for a bench to be installed.

**Climate change measures.** Members agreed to endorse the Devon Climate Declaration, which sets out an ambition to tackle climate change that covers the whole county, including those people who live, work in and visit Devon, and those businesses which are based or operate here.

**Devonshire Road.** Members agreed with David Valentine's comments that traffic along Devonshire Road is increasing, as is the possibility for accidents especially where the road narrows. Phil Twiss encouraged the parish council to request double yellow lines as far as the gym through the appropriate channels, and said a parking order restricting cars would take around one year to come into operation.

**Play area.** Carol Hall said a tree had fallen across the fence in the corner; the clerk agreed to contact Western Power Distribution. She added that a press release had gone out to recognise the National Lottery funding for the play equipment and support from the East Devon AONB Sustainable Development Fund.

**Lengthsman.** David Valentine said the drain by Clysthayes is still partly blocked, despite remedial work by EDDC earlier in the year, and he agreed to discuss a way forward with Susie Bond.

**Casual vacancies, Gittisham Vale.** Members heard that Rhiannon King had decided to step down as parish councillor for the Vale, which leaves two vacancies. Any person interested in coming forward or finding out more about becoming a parish councillor should contact [clerk@gittisham.eastdevon.gov.uk](mailto:clerk@gittisham.eastdevon.gov.uk)

**Next meeting.** This will be on 8<sup>th</sup> January at 7.30pm in the parish room.

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## **Church Wardens Report Carol McCann**

For those of you who received the Christian Review, the December issue was the last in its present format. From January 2020 there will be a shortened free version which will be much like this Gazette in format, if you would like to receive the churches' news letter, which will be emailed or for those without email I will produce a hard copy please let me know by the end of the month (851113). It is the church's endeavour to conserve our planet. We have a lot going on in December do check the what's on section on page 1. Holy Dusters - December Carol McCann, Judith Turner, Annette Tucker, Maggie Walker. January Angie Hutchings, Ian & Liz Warne, Jane Wilkins. We are needing more holy dusters if you could help please contact Carol 851113.

### **Forthcoming Church Services Gittisham and Mission Community 11am unless stated**

#### **December**

**1st Lay-led All Age for Advent with refreshments**  
**1st Advent Service at St. Paul's 6.30**  
**8th Parish Eucharist**  
**15th No morning service – Carol Service 6.00pm with refreshments**  
**22nd No morning service, Crib Service 4.00**  
**24th Midnight Mass with Carols 11.30pm**  
**25th Christmas Day Eucharist 11.00am**  
**29th No service in the villages 10.00am Joint Mission Community Eucharist possibly with Bring and share lunch**

#### **January 2020**

**5<sup>th</sup> All age Lay led Christingle for Epiphany with refreshments**  
**12<sup>th</sup> Parish Eucharist**  
**19<sup>th</sup> Lay led Morning Worship**  
**26<sup>th</sup> Parish Eucharist**

#### **200 CLUB NOVEMBER RESULTS**

**1st Doreen Wensley**  
**2nd Lady Mary-Ann Denham**  
**3rd Ruth Webber**  
**4th Guy Carstairs**  
**5th Charles Holme**

The 200 Club has numbers available and cost £12 per year this is a vital source of income for our church, There are 12 monthly draws paying £40, £20, £15, £10 and £5 with 2 six monthly (March & September) of £48. If you would like to join our 200 Club (as there are 4 months to March the fee would be £4.00 per number for the rest of this year) do please let me know as there are several numbers available and this revenue is vital to the church finances.. Carol McCann 851113 07946409142  
charli.mcc@mypostoffice.co.uk

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**Christmas boxes for the Food Bank.** I would like to thank all who have offered items/boxes this year, so far over 20 have been made up with more promised they will be taken on the 10th and 13th.

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#### **BARTLETT'S FARM AND COFFEE SHOP CHRISTMAS OPENING HOURS**

**Sat 21st Farm Shop & Coffee Shop 9.00-4.00, Sun 22nd 9.00 Shop – 4.00 Coffee Shop – 3.00, Mon 23rd Shop & Coffee Shop 8.30 – 2.00, 24th – 28th both closed, 29th Shop 9.00-12.00, 29th- 5th Jan. Coffee Shop closed, 30<sup>th</sup> Shop 9.30-1.00 31st, 1st & 2nd Shop closed Jan 3rd & 4th Shop 9.30 -1.00 Sun 5th Shop closed. Tues 7<sup>th</sup> back to normal. Christmas orders now being taken, Nicola, Rebecca and team wish everyone a very merry Christmas and a happy New Year. 01404 44375, bartlettsfarmshop@yahoo.co.uk**

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**The attached leaflet from Devon County Council re Rural Micro businesses is a one off and leaflets will not be a norm unless of vital information.**

**Editor/Distributor: Carol McCann 01404 851113/07946409142 charli.mcc@mypostoffice.co.uk**  
Distributors Helen Fuller & Judith Turner and in Gittisham Vale Peter and Ann Sellick. Copy date is 1 week before the end of the prior month If you have any news, dates events for inclusion in the Gazette do please email it to Carol as early as possible (using Arial font please) If you are moving away the Gazette can be sent by email on request. With the new General Data Protection Regulations (GDPR) all who receive this newsletter by email must sign a form to allow us to contact them and hold personal data,