

WITH A SMILE AND A SONG

The Old Bull & Bush Company at The Manor Pavilion Theatre, Sidmouth on Saturday 4th May at 2.30 and 7.30. Devised and Produced by Jan Sutcliffe and Brian Rees. Tickets £11 available from the Box Office (01395 514413). All proceeds to Children's Hospice South West.

SEQUENCE DANCE

On Bank Holiday Monday, 27th May, there will be a Social Sequence Dance in the Village Hall. Starting at 8.00pm until 11.30pm £4 entry. Music by Elaine. Raffle in aid of St Michael's Church. Contact Alan and Christine Broom on 01404 44641.

THE UDDER SIDE OF THE HEDGE

by Jane Hulbert, Sherman's Farm.

The months seem to come around so quickly and it's so nice to see the sun and no rain for a few days. I must say though that my hands have been so cold feeding the calves these last few days. Kadence told me they felt like Daddy's sandpaper he uses on the wood, must find the hand cream! Four days this month have again been spent TB testing, I am sure you get as fed-up hearing about it as we do doing it. We had twelve this time that must go and we now need two clear tests before classed as TB free. This also means animals can only be sold to people in the same situation, giving a limited market. We have so many calves that all need feeding. After a wet summer last year and a long winter, food is fast running out for a lot of farmers, we are OK at the moment. Keeping cattle in so there is more grass to cut for next winter is not an option. This all has a serious effect on the milk yield, cows like a good balanced diet and plenty of it. Our winter cereals sown the end of October are struggling to survive due to the weather and rabbits, they may have to be re-sown as a spring crop. We travelled up to the Midlands last week, there were no decent crops to be seen anywhere, this means next winters feeds will be expensive, if available. It will take two years of 'reasonable' weather for stocks to be replenished and get milk yield back up to normal. We all, animals and humans, need some warm sunshine!

PARISH COUNCIL— April Report

The Annual Parish Meeting and the April council meeting were both held on Wednesday 3rd April. Six councillors, together with Cllr Roger Giles (DCC) and Cllr Sara Randall Johnson (DCC) were present.

Crime—There were six reported crimes in 2012/13, a decrease on last year's 10. Strategies to combat rural crime appear to be successful, with a 23 per cent reduction in recorded crime for rural Honiton.

DCC / EDDC Report—Roger Giles reported on the damage caused to roads by flooding, and the cuts DCC has to make because of a reduced budget from central Government. Sara Randall Johnson advised members to report potholes, bearing in mind DCC's categorisation of roads for maintenance. Roger Giles raised objections against the two developments proposed at Feniton, and reported that these were refused on sustainability grounds. The village will not receive the improved bus service expected as a result of developer funding from Cranbrook. There will however be an increase in services from Heathpark, from two-hourly to two per hour from 28th May. Sara Randall Johnson reminded members that Honiton community bus provided a door to door service. Roger Giles will not be standing for election as a county councillor in May, and expressed his pleasure in having served as councillor for Ottery St Mary Rural. Members praised his commitment and hoped his replacement would show equal devotion to public service.

Finance. Members noted the finances.

Planning applications—13/0352/FUL Sherman's Farm EX14 3AU Construction of agricultural workers dwelling. Russell Hayman declared an interest. Members resolved to register their concerns with EDDC, namely that the division of the ownership of the freehold of the dwelling from the tenancy could potentially create problems in the future. There were also fears voiced over unresolved access issues and the use of a greenfield site. However, members appreciated the need for additional employees for the farm business.

13/0483/LBC - Catshayes Farm EX14 3AE Re-thatching roof (change from wheat reed to water reed) Members had no objections.

Active Villages project—A colleague of the co-ordinator will be in touch once they have decided on the suitability of any activity.

Play area—Two sets of rubble are to be removed as soon as possible. The wall cannot be made good until this has happened. Members discussed the development of the wild area, and supported Maggie Walker's proposal to pace out the area with some older children to see how facilities could be developed.

Local Elections.

Members noted the resignation of Cllr Brown. An election for a new district councillor will be held at the same time as the DCC elections on 2nd May, dependent on the number of candidates. The nominations close on 5th April, so who is standing will be known the following week.

Next meeting. This will be on 1st May at 7.30pm.

BROADBAND

Does anyone else suffer with very slow broadband in Gittisham? Having contacted BT and Open Reach on many occasions it seems we get our service from Feniton Exchange. As many properties in Gittisham do not have cable, only land lines, this is causing the slowness. There are no plans to remedy this problem unless we can (as a group) contact Neil Parrish MP and Open Reach. If anyone is interested in helping resolve this problem, or if they have any suggestions, they can email me at kenopns228@googlemail.com Also, as many people know, I have my classic Rover car which unfortunately has to be garaged many miles away. Does anyone have a spare garage or storage space that I can keep the car (reasonable rent will be paid) Please phone 01404 850550. Ken (Riverside Cottage)

DEADLINE FOR ENTRIES IS THE FIRST WEDNESDAY OF EACH MONTH.

Please contact one of the editorial team below if you have something that you would like to be included in the Newsletter.

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

NEXT PRINTING 6th May

GITTISHAM GAZETTE

A monthly Community Newsletter

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Churchwarden's report.

Unfortunately the one candidate who applied for the House for Duty post was not suitable so we are still looking for someone to take on the role. The Annual Parochial Church meeting will be held in church on Thursday 25th April commencing with the Vestry Meeting when Church Wardens are elected, Ian Warne had advised that he is no longer able to remain as Church Warden, if there is anyone who would like to take on this role please contact either myself (Carol McCann) or Nick Agg-Manning. Ian has agreed to continue as treasurer. Everyone is welcome to come along we won't make you do anything!! And there will be refreshments too.

On Good Friday the service had 10 worshipers and afterwards we were kindly invited to Jan and Barbara's for coffee and hot cross buns, many thanks to both of them. On Easter Day The Revd Adrian Hough, Chaplain to the Bishop of Exeter, took our Eucharist service; there was a congregation of 67 adults and 13 children. I would like to thank all those who decorated the church and porch for Easter; the arrangements have brought the church to life again following the austere period of lent. If you would like to offer to become one of the flower arrangers do please contact me on 851113, it would be lovely to have a few more. Also if you could spare some time for 'holy dusting' that too would be marvellous. I hope those of you who did the walking word game on Easter Sunday afternoon enjoyed it and the cream tea; proceeds went to church funds and amounted to £52.40. A big thank you to Jan Sutcliffe, Barbara Mullett, Angie Hutchings and Margaret Ballantyne for their sterling help with the teas. Christine Broom made the cheese scones. The Honiton food bank are still desperate for more items especially tinned items, vegetables including potatoes, fruit, sponge and milk puddings and ready meals. Plus tea/coffee, cereals, porridge and biscuits. Some people do the "Buy 1 and get 1 free" offers and donate the free ones! The 200 club collectors have been coming round; if you have missed them please either contact them or myself, thank you. Our monthly coffee get-togethers will re-commence on the 3rd Saturday, 20th April, until October, we hope to have a Bring and Buy table. Carol McCann

DATES FOR THE DIARY

APRIL 13th—Fauré's Requiem from Scratch in Ottery St Mary church. Rehearsal at 10.00am, £12 to include light refreshments. Free performance at 6.00pm

APRIL 20th—Get Together outside the church 10.30-12.00

APRIL 25th—Church AGM at 7.00pm in the church. Refreshment provided. Everyone welcome.

APRIL 27th—Little Treasures Open Day in the Village Hall 10.00 am — 12.00 noon. Pre-school for 2-4 year olds.

APRIL 28th—Team Evensong at Buckerell. Choir practice at 5.30pm Service at 6.30pm

MAY 2nd—County Council Elections in the Village Hall.

MAY 4th—"With a Smile and a Song" at The Manor Pavilion Theatre, Sidmouth. See next page.

Winners in April

1st Prize Mr F Blackmore
2nd Prize Mrs L Bannister
3rd Prize Miss A Marker-Morgan
4th Prize Mr T Ballantyne
5th Prize Mr P Wakely

STEVE TILSTON Gittisham Village Hall Thursday 21st March By Nick Chapman

With shabby shirts and worn faces, three travelling minstrels charmed us with deft, sensitive renditions of traditional and original songs; with reels, jazz and blues, and touching lyrics of loves lost and journeys made.

Steve Tilston sang of ghosts from Whitby and Wales and brought the spirits of Bert Jansch, Paul Jeffrey and even Jacaranda trees to a thin rain-swept crowd!

Thanks Villages in Action (and to Bill) for bringing us a charming evening of guitar, fiddle and blues harp. Well done to the brave few who came!

The Fisher Lad of Whitby

And when the house is still and everyone asleep

I sit upon my bed and bitterly weep

And I think on my true love deep down in the sea

For he never, never more will come again to me

PEOPLE IN THE NEWS

BETTY MADDEN is in Wotton Hospital. Our thoughts are with Alan during her absence. We send Betty our love and best wishes for a full recovery.

SALSA CLASSES are now being held in the Village Hall every Thursday evening. Beginners class starts at 7.00pm followed by an Improvers class. The evening ends at 10.00pm. The cost is £4.50 per person per week. For those of you who like to dance and/or exercise at the same time, this is the ideal activity. No need for a partner, just come along and join in the fun.

WALKING CIRCUITS is taking a break for the summer months and will resume on 17th September, to be held every Tuesday from 5.00—6.00pm

HOLY DUSTERS—for April
Doreen and Ernie Wensley
Margaret and Tom Ballantyne

YEARS MIND— APRIL
Rosemary Marker
Roy Langworthy