

Honiton Players Youth Theatre

The 9-13 year olds are rehearsing for their inaugural production titled "A Grimm night for Hans Christian Anderson" by Sue Gordon. The full length play concerns Hans Christian Andersen who gets an unexpected visit from the Brothers Grimm, who believe he has stolen their stories. Characters from Hans Christian Andersen and the Brothers Grimm take the stage – often in unexpected ways. Watch the competition as they compete to tell the best story. A really funny show. The show will be performed at the Mackarness Hall Honiton on Friday the 4th and Saturday the 5th of April. The performance starts at 7:30pm and tickets are £5 available from the Honiton Toy Shop.

'Life, you know, is rather like opening a tin of sardines. We are all looking for the key.'

Alan Bennett, British playwright.

THE UDDER SIDE OF THE HEDGE by Carla Hulbert

Nobody likes Mondays! We started the day (5am) with a cow who had calved fine the night before, now having a prolapsed uterus. The vets used to pour a bag of sugar on it as this helped to shrink the uterus, but not anymore; it's just a lot of undignified pushing it back in. Sadly, the cow must have torn somewhere and she didn't survive. Next at about 8am one of the pulsators in the milking parlour decided to play up. Each pulsator works two clusters and it's not very easy to milk without 2 clusters. There was about an hour delay whilst this was fixed. Then, as we all know, these things seem to come in three's... we finished the day with a cow calving backwards, and upside down and she had a torsion (twist) – again a vet job. We rolled her repeatedly around the yard to try and untwist the uterus to release the calf. At 10pm we decided rolling wasn't getting us anywhere and that a caesarean was the only option. At midnight we finished – cow and calf both alive and well. We've also had further bad luck in that my five lovely goslings, now six weeks old, decided to go walkabout and then explore the water trough. I managed to scoop one out alive and she now lives in a box next to the aga. We were very sad as they're such sweet little things.

Also, Kadence's cat, "Rosie-Roo-What-Are-You-Up-To" hasn't been seen for a couple of weeks. We can only assume the worst, which is very sad. My cat Muesli is very pregnant indeed so I assume Kadence will want one of her kittens (as long as it's not called "Rosie-Roo-What-Are-You-Up-To-Two!"). On a more positive note, mum finally had the birthday present she's been waiting 50 years for – a pony! Purely by default we acquired a 'free to a good home' little pony, technically for Kadence but it arrived on mum's birthday – proof that good things come to those that wait.

Editor's note: I hope our readers feel as I do, that this farming column helps me to understand how hard the life of a farmer is sometimes.

Churchwarden's report – Carol McCann

I am delighted to announce that the Rev. Charles Masheder has accepted the post of House for Duty Priest and he and his wife Felicity will arrive in Gittisham in October and will take over St. Michael's Cottage.

I would like to say a huge thank you to Carol Hall along with Daphne and Clara for making the lovely posies which were given out in church on Sunday and also to Jayne Bramley for making a delicious simnel cake to have with the refreshments; everyone said how lovely it was.

Services for the next few weeks are, 6th April Parish Eucharist (not family service), 13th Parish Eucharist for Palm Sunday, 18th Good Friday, 10.30am lay-led reflective service, 20th, Easter Sunday, at 11.00am, 27th will be lay-led Morning Worship, 4th May Family Eucharist with refreshments, 11th Parish Eucharist, 18th Lay-led Matins, 25th Lay-led Morning Worship

On Easter Sunday there will be a fun treasure hunt round the village and a tea in the village hall, the fun will start at 2.30 and the tea from 3pm to 5pm, proceeds will be for church funds.

The PCC's Annual Parochial Church Meeting will take place on Thursday 24th April, in Church starting with the annual Vestry Meeting at 7.00pm. The APCM is open to all our parishioners who are most welcome to attend, refreshments will be available after the APCM and then the PCC will have their first meeting of the year. On the 1st May The Archdeacon's Visitation will take place at All Saints Church, Sidmouth at 7.00pm this is when churchwardens are sworn in for the next year sides-people and PCC members are also most welcome.

The 200 club subscriptions are due; if your collector has not managed to contact you please let me know; there are a few numbers available at £12 per number per year if you would like to join the 200 club or take an additional number, please let me know so I. Each month there are 5 winners with prizes from £40 down to £5 and 2 six-monthly prizes (March & September) of £48. The 200 club is an important fund raiser for the church so it is a help if we can have the full 200 numbers taken up.

HONITON MISSION COMMUNITY CONFIRMATION SERVICE

Gittisham is part of the Honiton Mission Community, (formerly known as the Honiton Team) and on 6th July there will be a joint Confirmation service at St. Paul's conducted by Bishop Nick. If anyone, child age 10 + or adult would like to be confirmed please let Carol know. There won't be a service in the villages on that day so the candidates can have good support from their own parishes for this very important step in ones' Church journey. If there are sufficient candidate numbers, confirmation classes will take place here in Gittisham.

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.

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GITTISHAM GAZETTE

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CREAM TEAS FOR MOLDOVA

On a perfect Spring afternoon the village hall was ringing with the clink of cups and saucers as three sturdy lads from King School in Ottery served up a delicious cream tea. There were scones with a choice of jam and such a wide selection of gooey cakes that most people had great difficulty in choosing which ones to take...the boys very generously invited people to come back for more. Oliver Twist would have been very impressed! As it was Mothering Sunday the event provided a lovely occasion for families to sit out in the sunshine and enjoy the warm weather. The event was organised by Tom Vincent, of Clyst Hayes, who, together with two friends, is raising money to pay for a trip to Moldova. They will be travelling on behalf of a charity, Christian Response to Eastern Europe (CR2EE) and will be working with the local adults and children. They will also arrange a party for the children one day. Well done Tom, we hope you raised a load of money towards your costs.

GITTISHAM GOES TO THE DOGS!

East Devon District Council is taking action to remind dog owners/walkers of their responsibility for cleaning up dog fouling. They are asking witnesses who see dog fouling, and the owners not picking up, to provide EDDC with the following info— date, time, full description of the dog, male or female owner/walker and the exact location of fouling. The Gazette is fully supporting this campaign. We have been made aware of the problem around the village, particularly in Dark Lane. Dogs have been allowed to foul the driveway of Pomeroy Lodge. We ask all our readers to be vigilante and to report any incident they might witness. We all have a responsibility to keep our village clean and tidy.

The Editor

DATES FOR THE DIARY

APRIL 19th—Coffee Morning by the green from 10.30 to 12 noon. We hope we can have a Bring and Buy table too. Should the weather be inclement on the day the event will be held in the church. Hosts this month are Helen and Russell Hayman.

These coffee mornings will continue each month on the third Saturday and will end in October.

APRIL 30th The Cameo Chamber Choir will be singing in The Music Room at Sidholme Hotel, Elysian Fields, Sidmouth 3.00pm. Entry free—donations welcomed for the Organ Fund.

MEMORIES OF CHILDHOOD Friday 2nd May 6.00 for 6.30pm

After the success of their first performance, STAGE RIGHT Children's Drama Group were keen to offer an evening of song, poetry and 'playlets'. They will be performing extracts from three well known children's stories. There is no charge for entry, but we hope you will give generously to the charity which, on this occasion, will be "Balloons", an East Devon charity working with pre- and post-bereaved children, young people and their families. There will be a charge for refreshments. We look forward to seeing you in the village hall.

Sarah and Jan

PEOPLE IN THE NEWS

DAPHNE HALL has just passed her Grade 1 Clarinet exam. Well done, keep it up.

TIP TIP TOE

This year was a great success; all the children that attended the party and walked round the village collected £70 thus receiving £10 each. This must prove that Gittisham is out of recession. Thanks to village generosity and keeping the long standing tradition going. Thank you. Regards.

Carole Rowe

THOUGHT FOR THE MONTH—A wise man once said "Conditions are essentially neutral. Your attitude will determine whether they seem, to you, positive or negative."

Winners in April

1st Prize	Mrs J Underdown
2nd Prize	Mr I Warne
3rd Prize	Mrs S Abbott
4th Prize	Mr D Porter
5th Prize	Mr R Hutchings

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

YEARS MIND— APRIL
Rosemary Marker
Roy Langworthy