

# GITTISHAM GAZETTE

## A monthly Community Newsletter

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### OUR COMMUNITY NEEDS YOU!

After the local elections on 2<sup>nd</sup> May 2019, there will be two vacancies on the parish council (PC) in Gittisham Vale ward. David Fallows has retired as Chair after many years of service, and Richard Pratt has also stood down. If you are interested in becoming a parish councillor, the PC is particularly keen to hear from people living in Gittisham Vale and the new development at Hayne Lane.

Throughout England parish, town, community and neighbourhood councils work towards improving community well-being and providing better services at a local level. Most people are qualified to stand for their local council and meetings are rarely more frequent than one evening a month. If you've never been to a PC meeting, why not come along to find out what it's all about? It's nothing like the Vicar of Dibley. Gittisham PC is especially friendly, and has a team of enthusiastic, committed members who are passionate about serving the best interests of Vale and Village and their environment.

For more information, have a look at the Gittisham website [www.gittisham.org.uk](http://www.gittisham.org.uk) or contact the clerk on [clerk@gittisham.eastdevon.gov.uk](mailto:clerk@gittisham.eastdevon.gov.uk) or call 01404 851442.

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#### Dates for your diaries April

- 11th Sing-along to Mary Poppins village hall 6.30 everyone welcome (see separate article)**
- 19th Good Friday reflective service with hymns 10.30 followed by Coffee and Hot Cross Buns in the Parish Room**
- 20th Coffee Get-together in the Parish Room 10.30 – 12 noon, everyone welcome to join us**
- 21st Easter Day Eucharist 11.00am**

#### May

- 2<sup>nd</sup> Local Elections – Polling Station at Village Hall**
- 8<sup>th</sup> Gittisham Parish Council Meeting 7.30 in the Parish Room**
- 16<sup>th</sup> Gittisham Community Land Trust Open Meeting 7.00 in the Village Hall**
- 18<sup>th</sup> Coffee Get-together 10.30 – 12.00 in the Parish Room, everyone welcome**
- 24<sup>th</sup> St. Michael's Church Flower Festival "Games & Board Games" 10.00 – 5.00 daily to Refreshments of morning coffee, ploughman's lunches and afternoon teas served daily 10.30 - 4.30 in the Village Hall with children's poetry competition entries displayed**
- 26<sup>th</sup> Flower Festival Songs of Praise 6.30pm (no morning service) with Mission Community Choir**
- 30<sup>th</sup> Ascension Day Mission Community Service Awliscombe Church 7.30pm**

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#### GRAIN TO CREAM - RUSSELL HAYMAN

Spring it must be, the ducks are pairing up. We have put some cattle out into the fields running short of food and bedding so grateful for the earlier turn out. It has of course now rained so will ease off on putting more out just at the moment and will continue when the weather improves. The ones that are out will be OK it's more what they may do to the ground if it gets too wet.

Meanwhile the garden has had its first cut, yes one of the girls got in so some fencing to do. Also we have just installed a new milk tank as the old one is not quite big enough and also has sprung a leak in the cooling system after roughly twenty years of service.

Just had another TB test not too bad but not in the clear some to retest as usual. The cows are milking well, it is nearly a year since we started using the robotic milkers some of the reason the tank is a little small. We have changed to every other day collection and our milk is now going to Wyke farms to be made into some nice cheese. (available at all good outlets)

It is also the time of year when we get busy in the fields as we will soon be cutting grass for silage so fertiliser is on, fields rolled. The arable crops also need their fert, weed and disease control. We are also ploughing, as the maize will soon be planted. It's all going to grow I hope, we can never tell for sure.

## **GITTISHAM COMMUNITY LAND TRUST (GCLT) - DAVID VALENTINE**

At the Special general Meeting held On 21st March the following Directors were appointed to the GCLT Board : David Valentine, Helen Hayman, Damian Furniss, Maggie Walker, John Adamson, Carol Hall, Russell Hayman, Andy Wilkins, Owen Morgan, Terry Kitchen and Fiona Clampin. Subsequently the Board has appointed David as Chairman, Helen as Secretary and Damian as Treasurer. Membership of the GCLT has been steadily growing and has now reached 67. This represents a large percentage of the village population showing it's support for the work that is currently taking place in seeking to provide the village with a small affordable housing scheme. The work of the GCLT has to be community led project and this is a fantastic start. Thank you.

The ongoing work seeking a suitable site and agreeing Heads of Terms with the Combe Estate has been a positive exercise and a preferred site has now been identified. The Heads of Terms are not legally binding in themselves but set out how and on what basis the agreed land can be disposed of to the GCLT.

The preferred site is that of the agricultural buildings of the former Town Farm on Exeter Road. It is an important part of the process for the preferred site to be endorsed by the parish population and it is therefore proposed that an open public meeting should take place in the **Village Hall on Thursday 16<sup>th</sup> May commencing at 7.00pm**. Representatives from our advisers, Wessex CLT Projects, will be in attendance to help with any questions. The GCLT Board look forward to discussing with you this important stage in the process.

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### **CHILDREN'S POETRY COMPETITION**

The children and teenagers of Gittisham and surrounding town and villages are invited to submit poems on the theme of their favourite game to complement the Flower Festival, which is going to be held in St. Michael's Church, Gittisham over the weekend of 24th /27th May. The poems will be displayed in the village hall where refreshments are to be served. The winning poets will be requested to read their work (or nominate another reader) at the Songs of Praise Service planned for the Sunday evening at 6.30.

This is a wonderful opportunity to once again showcase the talents of our young people and we are delighted to say we have secured the services of a published poet to be our judge. To allow time for the work to be read and seriously considered, the deadline date for all poems is set for 10th May 2019. We would also like our adult poets to participate in this exciting exercise and invite you to compose a piece, not exceeding forty lines, on the theme of your favourite childhood game. Again, the winning entrant will be requested to read their poem at the Songs of Praise Service ON THE Sunday evening.

Notices with further information will be placed around the village and in the neighbouring parishes. You can also contact Maggie Walker with any queries or to submit your poem at this email address: [maggie@maggiewalker.plus.com](mailto:maggie@maggiewalker.plus.com) Entries can also be posted through the letter box at, 3 Church Mead, Gittisham, Honiton. EX14 3AH

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

James has new items coming in to the centre regularly and he and his team would be pleased to welcome you. Spring bedding annual and perennial, seeds, garden furniture, shrubs & trees, composts and other soil products and much more on offer There is plenty of parking.

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

## **PARISH COUNCIL – APRIL REPORT**

Seven councillors met for the April meeting. Susie Bond (EDDC), and one member of the public were also present.

**DCC / EDDC Report.** Phil Twiss said that it is really encouraging to hear very recently that despite what are described as ‘winter pressures’, the RD&E plan worked very well and there was only one brief spell where the alert level reached black (the highest level above red). Delayed transfers of care from an acute setting to home with suitable care packages are better than previously, Phil Twiss explained. But the issue of staffing levels remains a concern, despite many more people being recruited and/or staying in post. Phil Twiss said he maintained the view that there is still a place for a small number of intermediate hospital beds for those fit enough to leave an acute setting, but requiring a little bit more care before going home, preventing going back in to the ‘system’. Phil Twiss said he had visited the SW ambulance service HQ in Exeter recently, and met the chief executive. It is apparent that the number of unnecessary calls being made to the 999 service is responsible for using a lot of time and delaying urgent response times, rather than using the non-urgent 111 version or a visit for advice to the local pharmacy. This is being actively managed to improve matters on a daily basis. Susie Bond said the Greater Exeter Strategic Plan (GESP) is still causing considerable concern. The GESP is a joint plan looking at sites for housing and economic development across East Devon, Mid-Devon, Teignmouth and Exeter City Council to enable cross-border collaboration and bring forward Government funding for infrastructure in the region. A full list of the sites put forward by landowners (capable of taking over 500 houses) will be made available for scrutiny in June (i.e. after the election).

**Finance.** Members agreed the finances.

**Crime.** 1 crime, January 2019, other theft, on or near Parsonage Lane.

### **Planning applications.**

- a) Eveleighs Farmhouse, Gittisham - Replace 2no. windows on ground floor north elevation and 2no. windows on ground floor west elevation; replace glazing and insert window vent in 1no. window at first floor south elevation, block up 1no. window on ground floor north elevation, install flue in east elevation, partial removal of wall to create doorway and construct wall to create new bathroom at first floor, install flue on chimney on south elevation.

Members had no objections.

**Hayne Lane.** Andy Wilkins said that power was due to be provided to the lighting columns at the new development, and he would be contacting DCC about altering the traffic signs.

**Play area.** Carol Hall said she would apply to the National Lottery Awards for All fund for a slide and tower. She will be meeting the play area maintenance contractor to discuss mowing a figure of eight shape in the wild area, so the rest can be left for wild flowers.

**Lengthsman.** Maggie Walker said the lengthsman was due to take a look at the bus shelter in the Vale, as well as the wobbly noticeboard outside the village hall. Councillors noted that the blockage near Curlditch had been removed, and the drains at Catshayes and Clyst Hayes appeared to be working well.

**Vacancies.** Councillors expressed their gratitude to David Fallows for his many years of service to the parish council, and thanked Richard Pratt for his positive contribution over the past four years.

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

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### **LIFE IS OUT THERE WAITING, SO GO AND GET IT.**

Come and join us on Thursday 11<sup>th</sup> April at 6.30pm for a supercalifragilisticexpialidocious evening in the Village Hall, courtesy of Mary Poppins. Only £2 for popcorn and some great singing. We look forward to seeing as many young at heart as possible. For further information, please phone Rosie on 01404 850873.

## **Church Wardens Report Carol McCann**

Our Church Annual Meeting was held on the 28<sup>th</sup> March, I remain as your Churchwarden with Ian Warne, Treasurer, Helen Hayman Lay-chair, Judith Turner Secretary and Sarah Agg-Manning is our Safeguarding Officer. Details of all the officers are displayed in the church porch. Our annual reports will also be sited in the porch, our finances are not the greatest and as this year we have to have our Quinquennial Inspection which is compulsory every five years and carried out by a Diocesan Architect who will inspect the whole site and report on works that have to be carried out in order of priority. Our churchyard grass cutting is costly and we are looking into having those parts that are not visited kept wild with only the main sections mowed. This has been suggested to help the environment and encourage wildlife.

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

<b>April</b>	<b>May</b>
14th Parish Eucharist	5th Family Service with refreshments
19th Lay-led Good Friday Reflective Service with hymns, + coffee & hot cross buns	12th Parish Eucharist
21st Easter Day Eucharist	19th Lay-led sung Matins
28th Parish Eucharist	26th No morning service
28 <sup>th</sup> Mission Community Choral Evensong Cotleigh Church 6.30 (choir practice 5.30)	21st Flower Festival Songs of Praise 6.30 with Mission Community Choir practice at 5.30

### **200 CLUB MARCH 2019 RESULTS**

1st Mary Jarrett	2nd Edith Phillips	3rd Betty Madden
4th Cynthia Underdown	5th Bill Janes	

The 200 Club has numbers available and cost £12 per year. Subs can be paid by cash, cheque or standing order – if the latter is preferred I have a form for your bank. It is important to fill all the numbers as 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 do please let me know. Carol McCann 851113 07946409142 [charli.mcc@mypostoffice.co.uk](mailto:charli.mcc@mypostoffice.co.uk)

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**St. Michael's Church** are needing more Holy Dusters to keep our lovely building spic and span, there are several gaps needing filled. Usually done in teams of 3 or 4 and done on a monthly basis some teams do two turns others one. If you could spare some time please let Carol know 01404 851113 and she will let you know where the gaps are.

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### **GITTISHAM FLOWER & PRODUCE SHOW 3RD AUGUST**

The Gittisham Flower and Produce show schedules are now available and have been distributed. If you haven't received one or would like to have one do please contact Sue Fallows 01404 850922. You can also collect your seed potato from Sue at Parkers East, Gittisham, if you haven't got your bucket from last time you can get one at the same time. The cost is £1 payable on collection of potato and or bucket if you no longer need your bucket please return it to Sue Fallows. Thanks

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**Distributors, Carol McCann, Helen Fuller & Judith Turner and in Gittisham Vale Peter and Ann Sellick. Copy date for May 2019 - Wednesday 1st May 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.**