

BIRTHDAYS in August

18th Wendy Hawkins
William Reed
22nd Ken Hopkins
28th Rose Arbuthnott
31st David Fallows
Amelia van Broom

in September

2nd Ben Cardy
3rd Genia Lorberg
9th Kath Eveleigh
10th Richard Saunders
12th Kevin Chown
13th Nellie Marker
Tom Chapman
14th Brenda Abbott

APOLOGY

For 12th July we incorrectly omitted Michael Hawkins and included Michael Harris!

BELL TOWER NEWS

Following a visit by some visiting Ringers on Wednesday, a rope on No 2 bell broke. As the ropes have been in use for at least ten years we are assuming they will all need replacing. As each new rope costs in the region of £150. we would be grateful for any donations or sponsorship to replace all five ropes. If you could help with the costs please contact either Peter Stansell on 42559 or Bill Griffiths on 850051. Thank you.

Peter Stansell, Tower Captain

PANTOMIME MEETING “COMBESIDE FEVER”

Combeside Fever retains the tradition of having Combe in the name and will be performed around March 2013, with rehearsals during the winter—mainly after Christmas. To see if we can recruit enough actors from the parish and environs, may I suggest a meeting at Eveleigh’s Farmhouse.

Actors, Front of House, Backstage—come to Eveleigh’s at 6.30 (this is early but I do want to attract youngsters to take part—I need a Gang of Youths in the script!) on 14th September and let’s see if we can do even better than our last one! Thanks.

Nick Agg-Manning

THE UDDER SIDE OF THE HEDGE—Carla Hulbert

Well, we did have some sunshine, although it’s almost forgotten now. When the sun was out the race was on to get the silaging done; including 90 acres of overdue first cut. Tractors were going until nearly 2am on the Sunday morning in order to get it all in before yet more rain. This was managed, although everyone did get wet sheeting it down and throwing the tyres around on the Sunday. Then it was on to the wheat. The grain is all in, but the straw is still lying in wait of some more sun to dry it out – fingers crossed. The cows were back in again during the wet weather, which inevitably led to an increase in mastitis which is costly both in treatment, loss of milk and in time dealing with the cases. They are back out again now, although they’re not particularly happy about our summer weather and this shows in their decrease of milk, we’re a lot of litres a day down on last year whilst milking more cows. I think most people are in the same situation. The maize looks pretty dire, with several acres being pretty non-existent. This was going to be relied upon for a big part of the feed supply, since market costs of feeds such as wheat and soya are rocketing on a weekly basis. You’re probably all aware of the issues regarding milk price which have been in the news recently, and it is a great concern that all our expenses are escalating, whilst we are completely unable to dictate how much we actually get paid for our milk. Staffing is, as always, an issue. We’re understaffed on the best of days and at the minute there is always someone away on holiday. In fact there were three days last week when three people were away and it always seems to fall down to dad, myself and good old Dave to do the bulk of things. We’ve had some interesting calvings recently. We had one with the calf upside down and backwards which the vet had to calve – she later had a prolapse, but has recovered well. Another had triplets, which is very rare, although our third lot in 30 years of farming, all calves and mother are well – I was a little concerned as it was the morning of my scan, so I hoped it wasn’t a sign! The midwife assured me there was only one! And then there was one cow with the head right out but the legs still folded up inside – she had the rather undignified treatment of ‘shoving the calf back in’ so the legs could be manoeuvred. Again, all ended well. Chaos has arrived! That is the name of our new puppy, and she is adorable, although she has taken to carrying the kittens around which they’re not too amused about. The kitchen is definitely a true farmhouse kitchen (not as you see in the brochures) – there’s cardboard triangles in the wine rack where the kittens discovered they can get their heads stuck, extra bits of hardboard to fill the gaps under the cupboards and elastic bands on the drawer handles to stop them being opened by little creatures. Kadence loves it, although bedtime takes forever as she has to cuddle everything (including the chickens) goodnight!

DOG MESS!

Apparently dog fouling in the village is rife again... on the rookery, up Combe Drive and on other verges. Of course, the problem may not necessarily be with parishioner dog-owners; some people drive to the village, park their cars and then walk their dogs. The parish council may be able, in partnership with the estate, to help alleviate the problem with the provision of signs but, if anyone sees this happening, please ask the owner to dispose of dog mess at home! Your help is appreciated. Let’s keep the village a dog mess zone!

OBITUARY

Eddie Bright died on 5th August. His funeral will be held at Wimpey crematorium on Friday 24th August at 12.15. Our condolences to his family.

DEADLINE FOR ENTRIES IS THE FIRST WEDNESDAY OF EACH MONTH.

Contact one of the editorial team if you have a happy event to report, or have an interesting tip or village memory to share.

| | |
|-----------------|--------|
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GITTISHAM GAZETTE

A monthly Community Newsletter

Published by St Michael's Church

August 2012

Edition 127

FLOWER AND PRODUCE SHOW HIT BY THE BAD WEATHER!

There were not so many entries this year in this annual event, caused by the terrible weather we had in the Spring and early Summer (what summer!!). It is nevertheless a delightful occasion and one which it is hoped will continue for many years to come. Every year we see people who have not entered before 'having a go' at baking, sewing, flower arranging as well as growing vegetables. Long may this continue. The Vegetable Cup was won by Reg Chown. Len Abbott won the Best Vegetable Cup with his basket of salad vegetables. The Flower Cup was won by Pam Chown, who also won the Best Flower Trophy with her dahlias. The Homecraft Cup was won by Sarah Abbott while Ann Pew won the Trophy for Best Entry with her Orange cake. The Men's Cup, with a Madeira Cake, was won by Len Abbott, second was Nick Agg-Manning, 3rd was Matt Morgan. The Children's Cup was won by Clara Hall. The 7-12 years Cup was won jointly by Jake Fuller and Jodie Abbott. Pam Chown wishes to thank everyone who helped to make it a very successful day and we would like to thank Pam for all that she does to keep this event going.

VILLAGE FETE - how sad that this had to be cancelled after all the hard work put in by the organisers. The Duck Race went ahead, the winners being David Valentine (1st) David and Sue Fallows (2nd) Nick Agg-Manning (3rd). A good crowd turned out for the evening party, enjoyed by all.

DATES FOR THE DIARY

August 18th—COFFEE GET TOGETHER. This month this event is being transferred to the Village Hall to coincide with the bike ride (see the next column). If anyone can help Barbara with the coffee get-together or Carol during the rest of the day please let Carol know...she is compiling a rota to cover the day from 8.am until 4pm. Especially to help the cyclists fill their water bottles and collect their sustenance.

August 19th Honiton Team of churches Fun and Sports Day at the Manor House School playing fields. Gittisham needs a team to compete. Carol has been asked to pick an anthem for the team (not Chariots of Fire!). Please let her know if you have any ideas. The sports are for children but there will be something for adults too. You need to bring a picnic to share. There will be a Songs of Praise at 5pm. Tell Carol if you can join the team.

200 Club

The winners this month were:

| | |
|-----------|------------------|
| 1st Prize | Mr & Mrs House |
| 2nd Prize | Mrs A Valentine |
| 3rd Prize | Mr M Hawkins |
| 4th Prize | Mr E Bright |
| 5th Prize | Mrs P Broadhurst |

THANKYOU!

Our thanks to Peter Sellick for the donation of a picnic bench for the Village Hall garden. Peter lives on The Vale and he delivers the Gazette to everyone in that part of the Parish.

WIGGLE JURASSIC CLASSIC CYCLE EVENT Saturday 18th August

In aid of The Prostate Cancer Charity, the event will commence at 7.00am in Exmouth and proceed through East Devon with a feed station sited in Gittisham. With nearly 1000 riders expected to participate it is likely that all roads and lanes around the village will be severely affected on the day. The hall committee is serving teas and coffees to the riders during their 'pit stop' at the village hall and would welcome volunteers. Ring Carol McCann 851113 if you can help.

YEARS MIND AUGUST

Bessie Broom
Jim Pointing
Arthur Rowe
William Snell
Robert Theodas

HOLY DUSTERS For August

Liz and Ian Warne
Angie and Roger Hutchings

PEOPLE IN THE NEWS

ERNIE WENSLEY attended Wonford hospital on 8th August for a cataract operation. Doreen says that he is still in some pain but that he is making progress. We send him our love and will remember him in our prayers.

ARCHIE DOWN has spent a few days in hospital having a couple of stents fitted. Doris says that he is getting on well. We send him our love and best wishes for a speedy return to full health.

ROBERT ROWE's design for a Gittisham flag was judged the best in a competition held at the family service this month. Well done, Robert!

BARBARA MULLETT has now returned from her stint at the Olympic Games as a Games Maker. She spent the week at Wimbledon and was lucky enough to see lots of tennis stars and watch many of the matches. Barbara says that her time there was quite exhausting but that she really enjoyed being a part of the Olympics!

HAMISH HALL

We hear that Hamish has set off to cycle from Lands End to John O'Groats...Carol and the girls have gone to cheer him on. We wish him good luck and will ask him to write something for the Gazette next month.

HONEY BEES by Roy Abbott

This summer has been the worst one on record for honey bees (or so I have been told). Bees dislike cold and wet, so when the weather is like that they stay in their hives and eat what ever stores they have, and when they do leave the hive to go foraging they are finding flowers damaged by the wind and rain. These are almost impossible for the bees to access and any nectar and pollen they do collect they stay and eat when it is overcast and rainy....the effect, on the colony, is that they are weakened through lack of food, plus this puts the queen off laying, so the number of bees in the hives are less; if that continues there could be insufficient bees to make a colony viable and there are colonies that have already died out. Also the weakened colonies are more susceptible to disease. We fed our bees through the worst of the weather and so far they are all doing very well. The week of sun at the end of July helped and it was good to see so many bees out flying. This helps but they need a lot more decent weather to build up stores for the winter . This is the time we should be able to take off some of the surplus honey, but unless there is a lot more decent weather, any honey they make they will need to eat to survive the winter. So, fingers crossed for some more sunshine!

PARISH COUNCIL – AUGUST REPORT

Four parish councillors met for the August meeting.

DCC Report.

None.

Finance.

Members noted the finances.

Planning applications.

Members had no objection to the variation of condition of the barn conversions at Nags Head Farm. Objections were raised to the construction of agricultural workers' dwellings at Sherman's Farm.

Limited residential development.

Members discussed the issues raised by the meeting with Justin Lascelles from Savills (representing the Combe Estate) last month. David Fallows said he knew of several village residents who would be interested in moving into more modern accommodation suitable for their needs. Members agreed that the only organisation likely to provide housing on a small scale in the village would be the Combe Estate, and agreed to talk to Richard Marker to clarify certain areas.

EDDC Local Plan.

Honiton Town Council presented its objections to the Local Plan at a meeting on 17th July, and supported Gittisham's position against development at Heathfield Manor and west of Hayne Lane. East Devon's local development management committee has now voted to remove the proposal at Heathfield Manor, but keep Hayne Lane as a 'reserve site', which means if EDDC cannot find other locations to build new homes they will choose this. Members agreed that in some ways this was a worse proposition than Heathfield Manor.

Strategic Plan.

David Fallows said the recent heavy rainfall had been disastrous for some village residents. Councillors resolved to order more sand for the sand bags that are stored around the village.

Play area modernisation.

The clerk explained that the roundabout supplier is still waiting for a part from the manufacturer. (** **A new roundabout was delivered on Thursday 9th August and taken away again!** **) Members renewed their commitment to form a working party to create a hole in the wall to link the two parts of the play area, and would like to encourage volunteers to come forward to help.

Matters for DCC/ EDDC.

Members agreed to remind DCC of blocked ditches in the parish and to contact Roger Giles about the poor condition of Dark Lane ?

Next meeting. This will be on 5th September (tbc) at 7.30pm.

LETTER TO OUR READERS

On 1st February this year my husband Lawrence and I (June) moved to 4 Town Farm Buildings, Gittisham. Coming from a place called Mossly in the foothills of the Pennines (Last of the Summer Wine type place) which was picturesque. We did not think anything could match it...we were wrong. We came to Gittisham, a truly lovely village.

The reputation of northern folk is one of warmth and friendliness and an added bonus of coming to live in Gittisham is that the warmth and friendliness is matched here in abundance. The object of my letter is to say a big thankyou for your welcome and friendship to both Lawrence and I and to our foster children.

June Yarty

EXMOOR SPONSORED WALK FOR CHILDREN'S HOSPICE SOUTH WEST

A 12 mile circular walk on Sunday 23rd September setting off from Hawkridge at 9.30am. On completion walkers will enjoy refreshments, including a burger van and tea and coffee. There is no registration fee but walkers are encouraged to raise sponsorship for the charity. Sponsor forms are available on registration. Children's Hospice South West provides the only hospice care in the South West for children with life-limiting conditions. For further information and to register contact Ivan Huxtable on 01769 540835 or Little Bridge House 01271 325270