

## AUTUMN WALK on 1st November

“Thank you” to the young man who stopped his car to miss an owl in the middle of the lane; and to the lady in the next car who gave us a hessian bag. These kind people went on their way. We gently put the soft feathered tawny owl, which was playing dead, into the open bag and hung it in a tree. We returned 30 minutes later to see the owl climb out of its hessian cradle and fly off, through the wood, towards Kercombe. A memorable walk. Toowhoo, toowhoo!!

Ann Stansell

On Saturday 1 December in the Village Hall we were treated to an evening of true stories surrounding the family of Tom and John Frankand. They wove a tale of both dark and light years, and the humour and honesty of this talented pair held the audience until the last moments when we were shocked by a revelation that had us on the edge of our seats. Many thanks to the village hall committee for once again making it possible for us to have these otherwise out-of-reach Villages in Action evenings. However, without your support these lovely evenings could cease.

Jan Sutcliffe

## CHURCHWARDEN'S REPORT

Sadly we have not received any applications for the post of house for duty priest and as such we will have to have more lay involvement; if you would like to lead intercessions at any lay-led or family services please let me know. At our recent PCC meeting Nick Agg-Manning was elected as Lay Chairman.

Flowers for Christmas - as we are having a lay-led service on the 23<sup>rd</sup> (4<sup>th</sup> Sunday in Advent) you may do your arrangements prior to the service if you would prefer. The two charities chosen this year are The Church Housing Trust, which helps the homeless, and Balloons, an Exeter based charity offering bereavement counselling to children and young adults up to 18 years and training in bereavement counselling. The cash collections (not the envelopes) over Christmas will be split between these charities, and the Christingle cash will go to the Children's Society.

At Harvest-time we collected non-perishable items for the food bank in Honiton. The PCC have agreed to the placement of a box near the font in church for goods to be taken to the food bank. There is a list of items required on the box. If you would like to donate but cannot get the items to church please give me a ring on 851113 and I can collect them. Please ensure all items are in date.

I have heard from the local coordinator of the Poppy appeal that the amount raised in Gittisham amounted to £149.49 and the district total so far is £2,330.71 thank you to all who contributed to this most worthy cause.

Carol McCann

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## GITTISHAM PARISH COUNCIL – DECEMBER REPORT

Five parish councillors and Cllr Sara Randall Johnson (DCC) present.

**DCC Report.** Sara Randall Johnson provided members with the implications for DCC of the Chancellor's autumn statement. There was likely to be an increase in DCC's funding next year from central Government. More money is available to dual part of the A30 in Cornwall, and the Blackdown Hills dualling is next on the agenda. She explained that DCC did not yet know how much money it would have to spend next year, but its intention was not to increase its part of the council tax.

**Crime.** There were no reported crimes this month.

**Finance.** Members noted the finances.

**Planning applications.** Members had no objections to the following:

Curlditch House change of use from C3 dwelling house to C1 hotel boarding house

Dower House silver birch – fell; beech - fell and replant

Naggs Head Farm construction of roof covering over dung store.

**Limited Residential Development.** Sara Randall Johnson said there was nothing to be lost in the parish council arranging a meeting with EDDC's chief executive and leader regarding small-scale residential development in the parish; David Fallows agreed to follow this up.

**Drains and ditches.** David Fallows said DCC and local residents had attended to some of the ditch problems: Dark Lane now has manicured ditches and there is less water on the road near Truances. A parishioner had suggested forming a working party to deal with drains and ditches but members felt the situation had improved sufficiently to render this unnecessary. The clerk will contact DCC to request a flood gauge be installed under the railway bridge, following recent flooding there.

**EDDC Local Plan.** Parishioners are encouraged to respond to the latest draft of EDDC's Local Plan by Monday 14th January 2013. Employment land around Hayne Lane is still part of the plan, and the reserve site for 300 homes lies entirely within Gittisham parish. Davids Fallows and Valentine will circulate to members the objections they are preparing in response to the consultation.

**Parish Emergency Plan.** Members thanked David Valentine for his work on this plan, which was formally adopted at the meeting. It will appear on the parish website [www.gittisham.org.uk](http://www.gittisham.org.uk) in due course. An additional salt bin for Honeysuckle Drive will be ordered.

**Play area modernisation.** Members heard that the two new pieces of equipment installed in the play area were working well. The planning application for change of use of the new part has been lodged with EDDC.

**Next meeting.** This will be on 2<sup>nd</sup> January at 7.30pm.

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## AN S.O.S. FROM OUR GARDEN BIRDS

Please feed us this winter if you can. We cannot find as many seeds, berries and insects as in previous years. Some of you, we know, cannot put food out as you are pestered by Jackdaws and Rooks who eat anything they see put out, but for those of you who can, we thank you.

## BIRTHDAYS in December

- 16th Doreen Wensley  
Tom Ballantyne  
18th Dexter van Broom  
23rd Nick Agg-Manning  
24th Teresa Lapping  
Florence Arbuthnott  
30th Carol McCann

## in January

- 1st Barbara Mullett  
Robin Griffiths  
2nd Connor Little  
3rd Jane Whitehouse  
4th Len Abbott  
6th Brian Evans  
8th John Valentine  
9th Ann Stansell  
10th Edith Phillips  
11th David Bartlett  
14th Sarah Abbott

## CHRISTMAS IS COMING!

Christmas is coming, cards are being purchased and sent. May we make a suggestion for the distribution of local cards. We will be putting one card in the church to wish all village friends a Happy Christmas and will make a donation to a charity. We will name the charity on the card and the reason for giving and we hope others may consider following suit. Ian and Liz Warne

## VOICE FROM THE VALE

We must offer a huge apology (blame it on the Editor)...the details of Michael Hawkins' phone number and email address were incorrectly included in last month's edition! The correct details are 01404 47114 and email emh@madasafish.com Do contact him with any news.

## THE UDDER SIDE OF THE HEDGE by Carla Hulbert

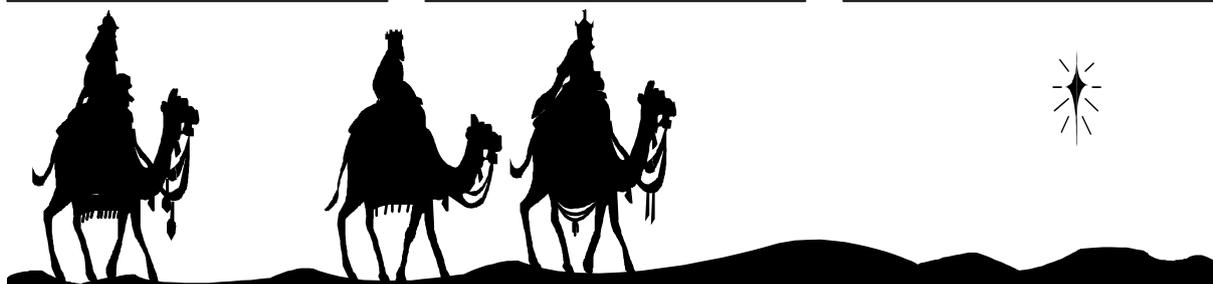
'It never rains, but it pours' seems like the obvious line to start with. Not only with regards to the weather, but also to our staffing situation. Apparently I'm entitled to what is commonly known as 'maternity leave'; most women finish work a while before the baby is born and even the cows get dried off for a rest nearly 2 months before they are due to calve – however as per usual I was in the parlour until the end. We had advertised for an 'experienced herdsman' to no avail. It's funny how many people think that living near a field of cows, or having a long lost uncle who once milked actually count as experience! One man did take the job, and we waited a whole month for him to start, only for him to do 2 mornings and say that milking 450 cows was too much for him (he'd only been used to about 100). We then took on another lad who had apparently milked before (I have my doubts to what extent) but after we had our 2<sup>nd</sup> antibiotic scare with him possibly milking a treated cow he had to go. By this point I was pretty due to pop and still needing to get someone trained up! We finally took on a 20 year old girl to do some milkings, she started on the Monday and on the Thursday little Maverick was born (not quite in the parlour!) But then... Uncle Dave managed to break his little finger whilst working on a carnival float, so he had his whole arm in plaster and was unable to work, and our Bicton apprentice decided to walk out after our Polish guy apparently said something unkind to him – funny how he barely understands anything you say to him, yet he can still manage to offend someone! And then, I had a phone call at 4:45am from the new girl saying she was sick, so it was out to the parlour I went! Staffing aside, we had our farm assurance inspection this week to check everything is as it should be – it went well, but it's ridiculous the amount of things needed. Not only do they check that all animals are looked after properly, and that everywhere is clean and tidy, there's paperwork for everything - including pretty coloured maps of where you can and can't spread manure; contingency plans for every situation imaginable; chemical data sheets for chemicals used on the farm; medicines records, feed plans etc etc etc. I think Dad already has little Maverick lined up to be a tractor driver, and Kadence a milker, and as much as I enjoy this way of life, albeit very hard work, I'm not sure whether it's a career I'd encourage my kids to follow or not!

**KEN HOPKINS** has suggested that we put something in about the recent heavy downpours of rain and flooding. Many of you will already know that several people in the village were flooded and our hearts go out to them. We would like to thank all those who, armed with spades etc., spent time clearing ditches and drains. Ken would be pleased to hear from anyone who would be interested in joining a working party to do more—01404 850550

## DEADLINE IS THE FIRST WEDNESDAY DAY OF EACH MONTH.

Please contact one of the editorial team below if you would like something to be included in this publication.

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



WE THREE KINGS OF ORIENT ARE BEARING GIFTS WE TRAVELAFAR...



### MERRY CHRISTMAS EVERYONE!

We hope you like our new festive logo! We thought we should do something different to capture the spirit of the season. Christmas is a special time, although the original message of the birth of Jesus is all too often far from people's minds as the coming holiday approaches. As we become increasingly 'global' our wishes of goodwill extend beyond the boundaries of Christianity. However, we hope that you will all enjoy the round of church services, carol singing, parties, visits to distant family, the odd glass of mulled wine and the mince pies...whatever you are lucky enough to experience. May your Christmas be a happy one and not too stressful. The Gazette editorial team will be here for you all in the new year!



#### DATES FOR THE DIARY

**December 14th to 16th "A Christmas Carol"** by Honiton Players Amateur Dramatic Society at the Community College. Tickets at Honiton Toy Shop £6 adults and £4 children under 16 years. Hopefully some of the junior members will take part.

**December 15th Banzaii Evening** Village Hall, 7.00. Fun for all the family with the chance to win a cash voucher from Bartlett's Farm. Nibbles and soft drinks available, bring your own alcoholic beverage and sense of humour.

**December 28th Rosie and Tom Chapman** talking about their recent travels with VSO (Voluntary Service Overseas). An evening, with slides of their experiences, as a thankyou to everyone who sponsored their projects. The evening will start at 7.00pm...a drink and nibbles will be provided. Everyone welcome.

#### 200 Club

The winners this month were:

- 1st Prize Mr & Mrs Whitmore
- 2nd Prize Mr S Boswell
- 3rd Prize Mr O Morgan
- 4th Prize Mr K Hopkins
- 5th Prize Mrs J Sutcliffe

#### CHURCH

##### ARRANGEMENTS.

**December 23rd at 11.00am**  
Carols and readings (non Eucharistic) in the church

**December 23rd at 6.00pm**  
All welcome for carols on The Green with Bar-B-Q

**December 24th at 11.30 p.m.**  
It is hoped that we can have the services of a vicar, however this may have to turn into a lay-led Midnight Mass

**December 25th CHRISTMAS DAY** Family Service at **11.00** to enable us to have a clergy-led service.

**December 30th—No service** in the village—there will be a team service at St Paul's in Honiton at 10.00am. Let Carol know if you need a lift.

**January 6th—Christingle service** at 11.00am for Epiphany with Eucharist and refreshments. at 11 a.m. Christingles should be made up on the Saturday please. If children could come and help at 2.30pm hopefully in the room up the lane near my gate...please let me know if you can come along.

Carol McCann—01404 851113

##### HOLY DUSTERS

##### for December

Carol McCann, Pam Chown  
Terry Boswell, Carol Hall

#### PEOPLE IN THE NEWS

**ANNA PODBURY** is running in the London Marathon 2013 to raise funds for Seeability, a Honiton charity. Anna is co-owner of the Little Treasurers and she would be delighted if anyone would like to sponsor her.

**BEN AND CARLA CHEFFEY** now have a baby boy, Maverick Champion, born on 15th November...a brother for Cadence, who is absolutely thrilled! Congratulations to the proud parents.

**BEN AND HELEN HULBERT** also have a baby boy, Luke Edwin, born on the 17th November. Congratulations to them also.

#### CHANGE OF ADDRESS

It has been suggested that some people in the parish may wish to send Richard Saunders a Christmas card but not have his new address...here it is

Yonder Close,  
Ottery St. Mary,  
Devon EX11 1HE

#### YEAR'S MIND—DECEMBER

- Ron Blackmore
- Merlyn Broadhurst
- Basil Hayman
- Andrew Hill
- Barbara Mitchell
- Clive Partridge
- Dorothy Smith