

PARISH COUNCIL – NOVEMBER & DECEMBER REPORT

Five parish councillors met for the November meeting, and six for the December meeting. Susie Bond (EDDC) and Claire Wright (DCC) were also present.

DCC / EDDC Report.

Susie Bond explained that the police investigation into former EDDC councillor Graham Brown had closed, and it concluded there is insufficient evidence to charge him. She also said that EDDC's potential move to Skypark is off the agenda as it's considered to be too expensive, and the council is likely to move to Honiton instead with a satellite office in Exmouth. Claire Wright reported that the local Clinical Commissioning Group's proposals to close inpatient beds and the minor injuries unit at Ottery St Mary had been opposed by DCC's health scrutiny committee. However it's not clear when a decision will be made about the hospital's future. She added that DCC leader John Hart had hinted that cuts may be made to public transport in future (e.g. bus passes), as the county council needs to save £50 million next year.

Crime. Two crimes since the last report:

1. Adult male offender sexually assaulted juvenile female in the Vale at private location
2. Theft overnight of building equipment left outside property in village.

Finance. Members noted the finances this month.

Planning applications.

14/2514/LBC The Stables Combe House Hotel Gittisham EX14 3AD reconstruction of 2 unstable chimney stacks on stable building

Members had no objections.

Residential development, inc. land west of Hayne Lane.

David Fallows explained that although he had written to EDDC's monitoring officer to complain, the response had not been made in the allotted timeframe. When it eventually came, the response from the deputy chief executive was, he felt, inadequate. Members approved his decision to urge the monitoring officer to declare unsound the council's approval for the development of 300+ homes west of Hayne Lane, and agreed that further delays could prejudice the outcome. David Fallows added that he had received a letter from the Department for Communities and Local Government (DCLG), saying that the minister had decided not to call this application in. The letter also reported that there was no objection from Natural England. However Neil Parish MP met both David Fallows and Susie Bond after this letter was written, and the MP has asked the minister to look at the application again because he has challenged DCLG's interpretation of Natural England's response. It's emerged that there will be no developer contribution to medical practice in Honiton, as it has been judged not to be required. However, £852,112.50 is being proposed for education in Honiton, and a contribution to Turk's Head is being negotiated with DCC. Members discussed why there appeared to have been little progress on small-scale development in the village, as proposed in the past by Combe Estate and supported by the parish council. It was agreed to resume discussions about this and invite the estate to a meeting.

Drains, ditches and roads.

David Fallows reported that lengthsmen had been seen in the village, but did not appear to have done particularly effective work. This is becoming increasingly urgent as there are blocked ditches and drains which could potentially become dangerous. He has been told by contractors Balfour Beatty that the more people report the leaking sewage cover near the village bus shelter, the more likely it is to be fixed. Russell Hayman said the gratings at Westgate had not been cleared, and he was surprised that the contents of various ditches had been dumped on the verge near Truances. Claire Wright said she would set up a meeting between parish councillors and Mike Brown from DCC to discuss. Members agreed that given the general dissatisfaction with the current state of affairs, contracting a lengthsperson would be the best way forward (see advert elsewhere in the Gazette). The clerk said a lady whose car had been damaged by the pothole at Westgate had successfully claimed compensation from DCC.

Play area.

David Fallows said he had spoken to Bill Griffiths about designing and building a structure of some kind. The clerk said there was no update regarding the issue of the crushing hazard on the see-saw from the manufacturer.

Snow wardens.

David Fallows asked members to check the status of the grit bins in their area, and promised to contact snow wardens in the Vale to check also. Russell Hayman offered to help lay salt with a vehicle.

Solar farm.

The clerk said the application for a solar farm at Crowpits had been submitted.

Next meeting. This will be on 7th January at 7.30pm.



FROM GRAIN TO CREAM by Russell Hayman, Gittisham Farm

So it's now officially winter. All the animals are housed and settling down to the winter routine as are we. Shove it in the front, scrape away from behind and hopefully collect a bit from the middle; that about sums it up. I do like to think there is a little more skill to it than that though. Of course the other thing or things that has a habit of coming in for the winter are rats. One animal I can't abide. They have obviously had a good year, as there seem to be loads around. But between our rat man (Thomson's Independent Pest Control) yes in a yellow three wheeler, myself and the dogs we are having an impact on their numbers; it is a constant job though baiting and removing places for them to live not always possible and there are always at least two that get away...the Forth rail bridge is nothing compared to Ratty.

Christmas for us will be back at Gittisham Farm after our three-year absence, which will be nice. Fourteen booked in. Helen is going to rev up her posh cooker, goose is on the menu along with a bit of piggy, lots of veg, all resulting in over taut tummies. Good job I have to go and milk—works it off a bit ready for the next go. I think I may try making some real cream this year just to ensure full culinary overload!

As I sit here at my new desk listening to the owl hooting I'm thinking about the year that has been. Watching the new house emerge; the old one taken down and both of our offspring now teenagers; it has been a good one for us. (The teenager bit might come back to haunt us)

So what does 2015 hold for us? Yes our prices have slumped again; they always come down faster than they go up when selling, and go up faster than down when buying ...that's life and happens to us all.

Another thing for sure is our politicians, whether European or Westminsterian; they will tell what to do after we have done it and even then make a right hash of it—nothing new there then! The weather will of course be unpredictable and drive me bonkers at times and there will be some long days of work, eat a bit, wash and sleep, but at the end of the day I enjoy it so hopefully it won't be too much different from what's gone before. I'll have to have a moan and a grumble along the way just to keep things on an even keel.

Happy Christmas from the newly housed but never homeless Haymans.

Churchwardens' report— Carol McCann

Services for the next few weeks, all at 11.00 unless stated otherwise, 7th December Family Eucharist with refreshments, 14th Parish Eucharist, 21st will be our Carol Service at 11am with refreshments, I do hope we can have a good turn-out and joyful singing of the carols. On Tuesday 23rd there will again be Carols on the Green from 6.00pm with bar-b-q'd bangers and mulled wine – donations will be gratefully received. On Christmas Eve our 'Midnight Mass' will be at 11.30pm and we have been able to have the service taken by the Venerable John Rawlings who has recently moved to Honiton and on Christmas Day the first Eucharist of Christmas is at 11.00am. There will not be a service in Gittisham on Sunday 28th December. Our first Family service of 2015 on Sunday 4th January will be the annual Christingle with refreshments. I would be very grateful to have help from children and parents to make up the Christingles on the Saturday afternoon. Time and venue to be arranged. A forward notice for Sunday January 25th there will be a choral team evensong in Gittisham at 6.30

I do hope we will have a good audience for the 'Let's make music' concert in Church on the 13th, I know the children have been practicing very hard and if it is as good as last years then we will be in for an excellent evening, refreshments will be served.

I am still collecting items of adult clothing including gloves, hats and scarves plus sensible shoes – male and female – also blankets, sleeping bags, towels and toiletries etc. for the homeless I have a contact who comes to Honiton fortnightly. If you could offer anything, please let me know. I have also heard from the food bank who have written to say they are desperate for certain items – Long life full fat milk, sugar, fruit juices and squashes, savoury rice and noodles, pasta sauces, tinned tomatoes, vegetables, fruit, custard, rice puddings, sponge puddings and biscuits. There is a blue collecting box next to the font in church. But if you would like me to collect any items, please phone me on 851113 I have made up some parcels for the poorest families or homeless in Honiton which will be distributed through the food Bank over the next couple of weeks, if you would be able to contribute any items including toiletries, small gifts for children, maybe woollen hats, gloves or scarves, plus a Christmas Pudding or an alternative, some stuffing, gravy mix, and any other seasonal goodies (non perishable) They can be brought to my house or I can collect.. Many thanks.

Richard Saunders

Richard has settled into life at Hembury Fort House but finds things very frustrating as he cannot do very much for himself, even reading a book is difficult and as he can't move about under his own 'steam' he is totally reliant on the staff. I have also been asked by the manager to say that they would prefer not too many visitors at a time, as he does get very tired and not to go along at mealtimes. Richard has asked me, through the Gazette to thank everyone who has visited him since having his stroke and to wish you all a very Happy Christmas, he apologises that he is not able to send cards. The address is Hembury Fort House, Awliscombe, Nr Honiton, EX14 3LD and the phone number for the house (Richard does not have a phone there) is 01404841334. . Carol McCann

THANKYOU...

To Carol and Hamish Hall for a good day out on Saturday 1st November—everything from conkers to bridge building, and a shared picnic. Well done Carol for booking dry weather!

POP-UP RESTAURANT...

On Saturday 1st November a well attended meal with lovely food. For the meat eaters: Beef tortellini with wild mushroom crumble; Roast loin pork; Toffee apple and walnut tart. The veggie alternative was equally good. Next time, don't miss out!



THE NATIVITY PLAY

Holly, aged 4, came home and told her mother that she was in the Nativity play. "Lovely, darling" said her mother, "are you playing Mary?". "No" replied Holly, "I am playing a piece of paper". "Well done" said her mother, a little bemused. The next day when the mother took Holly to school she spoke to her teacher. "Holly tells me she is playing a piece of paper in the Nativity play?" "Well no, not quite" replied the teacher. "Holly will be playing a page!"

SONG-TIME by John M Robertson

Life's too short to sit around and moan about what's wrong
From these actions comes the sound of such a plaintive song.
So let us change the tune and try to banish fear and doubt,
And orchestrate as time goes by there's much to sing about.

SEASONAL CONCERTS in The Music Room, Sidholme, Elysian Fields, Temple Street, Sidmouth.
Free entry, (except 20th Dec.) + collection for organ fund

Monday 15th December 8pm.

A Winter Concert with The East Devon Folk Orchestra Musical Director - David Faulkner
Free

Saturday 20th December 7.45pm.

Have yourself a Merry Little Christmas with The St. David's Singers Conductor - Mark Perry
Tickets £7 from Paragon Bookshop, Sidmouth In aid of FORCE and the organ fund

Monday 22nd December 8pm.

Season's Greetings from The Ruishton Concertina Band
Leader - Colin Campbell, Newton Poppleford
Free

CHRISTMAS GIFTS or to enjoy yourselves.

We still have...

1lb jars of this year's honey for sale at just £5.00

Loganberry jam x 340g jars at only £2.20

Damson Jelly x 340g jars at only £2.20

All produced in Gittisham! Delivered in Gittisham at no extra cost!

And to take the opportunity to wish everyone a Happy Christmas

Contact Ken or Roy 850550



LENGTHSMAN OR WOMAN

Gittisham Parish Council wants to engage a self-employed person to work as a part-time lengthsperson in the parish to clear ditches and drains. Details of contract and schedule of work from the clerk at fiona-clampin@yahoo.com or telephone 01404 851442.

THOUGHT FOR THE MONTH

A worthwhile thought to consider...

"If you want to test your memory, try to recall what you were worrying about one year ago today."

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 TRAVEL AFAR...



A VERY MERRY CHRISTMAS TO ALL OUR READERS

Wherever you are when you read this month's copy we, the editorial team, send our best wishes and our hope is that you will enjoy this very special time with friends and family, making memories and giving thanks for all the good things with which we have been blessed during the past twelve months. Our thoughts are also with those for whom Christmas is a difficult and, often, sad time.



DATES FOR THE DIARY

December 13th - An evening of musical entertainment mostly, by the children of our parish, in Gittisham Church at 6.30pm. John McGregor will play the organ and piano. Refreshments and entry is free with donations welcome.

December 19th—STAGE RIGHT production sadly has been postponed due to unforeseen circumstances! It is hoped to put it on early next year.

JANUARY 10th— SOUP & PUD LUNCH in the village hall from 12.15 to 2pm to warm everyone up in the New Year. Come and enjoy delicious home made soups and puddings. Please put the date in your diaries and we hope all those who enjoyed the village outings will come and support the fundraiser to update the sound system.
JANUARY 24TH—BURNS NIGHT—Haggis and highland dancing in the Village Hall.

200 Club

The winners this month were:

- 1st Prize Rev R Saunders
- 2nd Prize Ms K Marker
- 3rd Prize Mrs G Evans
- 4th Prize Mrs K Jackson
- 5th Prize Mr C Wensley

CHURCH

ARRANGEMENTS.

December 21st at 11am Carol Service with refreshments.

December 23rd from 6.00pm All welcome for carols on The Green with Bar-B-Q, bangers and mulled wine. Do come along and sing your favourite carols. No charge but donations will be gratefully accepted.

December 24th at 11.30 p.m. Midnight Mass

December 25th CHRISTMAS DAY First Eucharist of Christmas at **11.00.**

December 28th—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 4th— Christingle service at 11.00am for Epiphany with Eucharist and refreshments at 11 a.m. Christingles should be made up on Saturday 4th 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

MIKE EDMUNDS, in The Vale, has some health problems and we wish him well.

ADA PARTRIDGE—On 3rd December the Church Mead neighbours visited Ada in Franklyn House, Exeter. They spent an enjoyable hour with her, they are pleased to say that her health is improving. When they visit again, they hope to take Ada out for a drive and a cup of tea.

ELIZABETH ACLAND married Timothy Hay in the village church on 6th December. Our congratulations to them both.

MYRTLE, LADY ACLAND'S ashes were interred in the churchyard following the church service on 7th December.

NEW OCCUPANTS OF GORSE COTTAGE—we welcome them to the village and hope they will be very happy in their new home.

YEAR'S MIND—DECEMBER

- Ron Blackmore
- Merlyn Broadhurst
- Marjorie Clapp
- Kenneth Clapp
- Basil Hayman
- Andrew Hill
- Barbara Mitchell
- Myrtle, Lady Acland
- Clive Partridge
- Dorothy Smith