



# GITTISHAM GAZETTE

A monthly Community Newsletter

Published by St Michael's Church and  
Gittisham Parish Council



December 2015

Edition 166

## PEACE ON EARTH

**Glory to God in the highest, and on  
earth peace, goodwill towards men.**

## IF ONLY!

### DATES FOR THE DIARY

**December 21st—Carol Singing** at Hembury Fort starting at 3.00pm. Further information in Carol McCann's report on page 2.

**January 9th—"Lets make music"**, 6.30 pm, Gittisham church. If you play an instrument why not join in? Accompanied by John McGregor. contact Helen Hayman on 01404 758334 or 07806480246. Organ, piano, duets, singing performance so far! Refreshments also. All Welcome.

**January 17th—'Piano, Poetry & Prose' Readings and Music for a New Year.** Sidholme at 3.30pm. Joyce and Brian Hall, Christine Hemmingway and John McGregor. In aid of the Restoration Fund

**January 31st—The Sassy Choir & The Sid Vale Folk Choir Sing Just for You.** Sidholme at 3.30pm.

In aid of the Restoration Fund

### 200 Club—December

1st Prize	Mr D Fallows
2nd Prize	Lady M-A Denham
3rd Prize	Mr D Valentine
4th Prize	Mr D Weston
5th Prize	Mrs J Sutcliffe

### CHURCH

#### ARRANGEMENTS.

**December 20th** Carol Service at 7.00pm with refreshments.

**December 23rd** from 6.30pm 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 27th—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 3rd—Christingle service** at 11.00am for Epiphany with Eucharist and refreshments at 11 a.m. Christingles should be made up on Saturday 2nd 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

**NICK AND SARAH AGGMANNING** will be celebrating their Ruby wedding on the 31st December. We send them our congratulations and wish them much happiness on this special day.

**ADA SUMMERS** spent a couple of days in hospital, having suffered a dislocated hip. We send her much love.

**GITTISHAM MEMORIES.** So far many photos and newspaper cuttings have been passed to me, so if anyone has more please let me know, 07806480246 or 01404 758334 and I will collect or you can drop in to Helen Hayman at Gittisham Farm, They will be displayed in the hall next year for a day, date will appear in the gazette.

### 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

### **FIONA CLAMPIN writes...**

"I know you haven't had much time to prepare, but I don't suppose you've got any ideas for Open Country, have you?"

Those were the words of the man I'd driven to the BBC in Bristol to see, to talk in principle about doing some work for Farming Today on Radio 4. We'd fixed the meeting at the last minute, and it was also the day after I'd got back from working abroad for two weeks. So as he thought, I hadn't had much time to prepare anything in detail. "Well, it's a bit back of the envelope stuff," I murmured, "but yes, I do have something I'd like to cover for the programme."

Open Country is what's called a magazine-style programme on BBC Radio 4, which visits a particular corner of the British Isles every week. Within the 25-minute programme there are various stories about the people and landscape of the area. I'd been wanting for ages to make a radio programme about a play I'd seen in Payhem-bury back in 2007, which took the true story of a German bomber which crashed near there in May 1941. The production by Tale Valley Community Theatre had made a deep impression on me. But somehow, although I'd discussed the idea with different people and even recorded some interviews on the subject, I'd never found the right vehicle for it. Sitting in the BBC canteen in Bristol, I realised the moment had come. And that's how the programme, which will go out on Saturday, December 26<sup>th</sup> at 6am on BBC Radio 4, began.

My first call was to John Somers, who directed the play and lives in Lower Tale. We met at his house for coffee and discussed what might go in this programme from the Tale Valley, because the 'plane crash wouldn't sustain 25 minutes. I came away fired up by John's enthusiasm and deep local knowledge, and put together the outline of the four items that feature in the programme. The 'plane is in there, of course, as well as the theatre production. But I'm not going to give the rest away, so I'll just say that one item involved billhooks and the other nearly falling over in the River Tale at Escot – fluffy microphone, recording equipment and all.

If you've ever wondered what goes into making a radio programme of this nature, the answer is: a lot. As well as coming up with the ideas, as producer I researched the subjects, tracked down potential contributors (all eight of them), interviewed them over the 'phone, checked their availability, wrote up briefing notes for the presenter, booked the presenter, her travel and accommodation, completed a risk assessment, recorded and directed all the items on location, took photos, edited hours of material into 25 minutes and then spent a day in the studio with an engineer mixing the final programme. The recording had to be done on one day as far as possible, which added a certain something to the arrangements. And I was told that if the weather was poor, there was no turning back. The show must go on.

On the day of the recording, the weather was ... so-so. But the contributors rose to the challenge, and the presenter, Helen Mark, did a great job in putting them (and her producer) at their ease. The result is some beautiful sounds and some great stories from the Tale Valley. Just have to find the next place to feature now... Gittisham maybe?!

P.S. If you like what you hear, please send an email to Radio 4's Pick of the Week [potw@bbc.co.uk](mailto:potw@bbc.co.uk)

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### **Churchwardens' report—Carol McCann**

Services for the next few weeks, all at 11.00 unless stated otherwise 13<sup>th</sup>, Parish Eucharist, 20<sup>th</sup> no service in the morning, Carol Service with mince pies and hot drinks at 7.00pm, ( We are organising lifts for anyone who would like to come to the Carol Service but cannot arrange a lift, please let me know if this would help you, 851113), Wednesday 23<sup>rd</sup>, Carols on the Green with bar-b-q'd bangers and mulled wine from 6.30pm, 24<sup>th</sup> Midnight Mass with Carols, 11.30pm, Christmas Day First Eucharist of Christmas Family Service with Carols, at 11.00am 27<sup>th</sup> No service in Gittisham, all churches to go to St Paul's for 10.00am. 3<sup>rd</sup> January Family Eucharist and Christingle for Epiphany with refreshments, 10<sup>th</sup> January Parish Eucharist, 17<sup>th</sup> Lay-led sung Matins. 24<sup>th</sup> No morning service, Team Choral Evensong at 6.30pm, 31<sup>st</sup> Parish Eucharist On Christmas Day I am hoping that the children can sing a couple of Carols during the Communion if you would like to help with this, please contact Carol Hall 850793. I would be very grateful to have children to help make up the Christingles for the 3<sup>rd</sup> of January service, if you can offer about an hour please let me know, many thanks.

Helen Hayman has organised a Christmas tree in church ,on the bench are tags for you to put a message on and hang them on the tree.

The 2016 church diaries are now available and are on the middle bench in church, the cost is £1 with the money being put in the wall safe by the door please, if you would like one of our pocket diaries and cannot get to the church please let me know and I Can bring one to you. (851113

Gittisham's contribution to the RBL's Poppy fund amounted to £108.16, thank you to all who supported.

Wishing everyone a very Happy Christmas and a Peaceful and Plentiful 2016. Many thanks

Carol singing at Hembury Fort House (where Richard lives) is on Monday 21<sup>st</sup> December at 3.00pm, very kindly John McGregor has offered to play the piano. I hope several of you might be able to go along and if you would like a lift please let me know.

I saw Richard this week, he was in much better health and spirit. The Hembury Christmas Party is on 11<sup>th</sup> December at 3.00 if you wish to go along you are most welcome, there may be some carol singing also at this event.

## PARISH COUNCIL – DECEMBER REPORT

Seven parish councillors met for the December meeting. Susie Bond (EDDC) was also present.

### DCC / EDDC Report.

Susie Bond told members that at the end of November East Devon had issued an expression of interest regarding faster broadband for the district. She also reported that there are discussions underway about obtaining a devolution deal involving South West local authorities, including Devon and Somerset County and Plymouth and Torbay Unitary Councils. Funding will be for infrastructure, business support and governance – and potentially health and social services. The aim is to make local government more streamlined.

**Crime.** No reported crimes this month.

**Finance.** Members noted the finances this month.

### Planning applications.

- a) Combe House Hotel - Erection of new sign at entrance to Combe House with illumination
- b) 2 Beaumonts Cottages - Installation of flue for gas boiler in side elevation of ground floor and associated pipework

Members had no objections but repeated their call for the illumination of the sign to be on a timer, as they did not see a need for it to be lit up throughout the night. It was noted that the Combe House application for listed building consent has been approved with conditions.

### Limited residential development.

A steering group has been established, formed of four residents and Justin Lascelles from Combe Estate to take this process forward. The group met on 1 December where David Valentine explained how a housing needs survey would work and the various things to take into account. He added that he is arranging for the group to meet people who have carried out similar surveys already, such as in Beer and Yarcombe.

### Drains and ditches.

Members suggested areas to work on, including gutters coming down over Beech Walk, the drainage ditch in the centre of the village and gully cleaning near Truances where water is coming onto the road.

### Roads.

The clerk agreed to pass on to Claire Wright (DCC) the poor state of the road on Parsonage Lane, especially close to Willeys Wood. The situation concerns members because the road is now being used as an alternative to avoid the roadworks at Turk's Head. The passing places along Beech Walk are also suffering as a result.

### Parishes Together funding.

The clerk explained to councillors that Dunkeswell Parish Council was considering a bid for Parishes Together funding to install wi-fi access in their parish hall and purchase a projector to view consultation documents online. She agreed to keep members informed if this bid progresses in case Gittisham parish could join them.

**Next meeting.** This will be on 6<sup>th</sup> January at 7.30pm.

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## *Writing for Wellbeing*

**An opportunity for you to explore the creative process of writing, without self criticism or pressure to “get it right”. Workshops are run with a sense of freedom through experimenting with ideas, feelings and words, working alongside others with similar interests.**

### **Mondays**

**25 January to 7 March 2016 10am–12 noon**

**(no session at half term)**

**The Beehive, Dowell Street, Honiton**

**OR**

### **Wednesdays**

**27 January to 9 March 2016 10am–12 noon**

**(no session at half term)**

**Kennaway House, Coburg Road, Sidmouth.**

**Cost £60**

**Book your place on 07804215006 or via Paypal**

**[www.cliveessame.co.uk/creative-writing/](http://www.cliveessame.co.uk/creative-writing/)**

**Your tutor is Clive Essame**



## HANDY CHRISTMAS GIFTS

Our own Gittisham preserves are on sale at 1 River Cottages from Roy and Ken. Jars of honey, damson jam, blackcurrant jam and more. Ring 850550

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## COUNTRY MARKETS

**Honiton** every Friday in the Mackarness Hall 9.30—12.00  
Homemade cakes, preserves, knitwear, jewellery, vegetables etc.

**Axminster** every Thursday in the Masonic Hall (by the Co-op) 8.30—12.00

Support your local cottage industries and avoid the crowds in the supermarkets!

## THE UDDER SIDE OF THE HEDGE—Carla Cheffey at Shermans Farm

The cows and young stock are all in housing now, this means more work with feeding, scraping and bedding down but also saves a couple of hours a day not having to drive around the countryside checking them.

The weather, although very nice, is actually not ideal for the cattle. The warmth and the damp are ideal for things like pneumonia in the calves, and mastitis in the cows. We could actually do with a cold spell to kill off some of the bugs. It is a hard balance with the calves to keep the warmth, but also give them ventilation, and just because they drink their milk doesn't always mean they're well.

I recently submitted my quarterly scoring to Tesco of cow cleanliness, locomotion scoring etc. Now I am up to my eyeballs in paper work for our main 'Farm Assurance' inspection which is on Tuesday. This is every 18 months, but covers absolutely everything from cleanliness and maintenance of the parlour, cow sheds etc to the feed rations for the different groups of cattle, to cross referencing batch numbers of medicines used on animals.

Christmas will be the next challenge for us, since the Polish staff all want to go home for Christmas. I'm actually tempted to shut a couple of the doors on the kids advent calendars in order to postpone it a few days. Not sure I'd get away with that!

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### Just to make you smile –

I have tonight had a lengthy debate with my nearly 3 year old son, Maverick, regarding a character in his book. He would not accept that the 'teddy bear' was called Winnie The Pooh. After arguing with him that the bear didn't need a pooh... hadn't done a pooh... that there was no pooh in the picture... I left him being called 'Teddy Bear'.

I therefore googled this s\*\*t name to find out exactly why A.A. Milne chose it. For those of you that don't know, and in the hope it may come up in a future quiz night, Winnie the Pooh was named after a teddy owned by A.A. Milne's son, Christopher Robin Milne, his bear got it's name from 'Winnie' a black bear at London Zoo, and 'Pooh' a swan they had met on holiday. So now we know! Carla Cheffey



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## IN THE BLEAK MID WINTER

by Christina Rossetti, 1830-1894

In the bleak mid-winter, frosty wind made moan.

Earth stood hard as iron, water like a stone;

Snow had fallen, snow on snow, snow on snow,

In the bleak mid-winter, long ago.

Our God, heaven cannot hold Him, nor earth sustain;

Heaven and earth shall flee away when He comes to

reign:

In the bleak mid-winter a stable-place sufficed

The Lord God Almighty, Jesus Christ.

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## 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.

|                 |        |
|-----------------|--------|
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