

GITTISHAM GAZETTE

A monthly Community Newsletter

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WHERE DID THE YEAR GO?

Well, the year has again sped by, much has happened friends moving from the village (Jan, Doreen & Ernie, Pam, Francis & Sian, Neal, Polly, Otis & Clementine) new ones arriving (Damien & Molly, May and Dora, Kate, Audrey & Jim, Steve, Jane & Mimi). We sadly lost several old friends (Brenda, Barbara S., Archie, Reg, Fred & Clive). Three local Weddings (Hattie & Ollie and Rebecca & Philip, Alice & Jamie) The church's repairs to the gallery are now completed except for painting the new plaster. The bench in memory of Canon Richard is now situated in the new section of the churchyard and I'm waiting for quotes for the plaque to go on the back. We have an 'Advent Food Bank Box' in the porch (see page 2) I would like to say a big thankyou to everyone who has helped me throughout the year in good times and of my incapacitation ferrying me around, doing shopping, bringing me 'meals on wheels' opening and closing the church and helping to set up the church for services. Also all the 'holy dusters' flower arrangers (especially for the festivals and special times) and those stewarding for these events. Our coffee servers, for family services and coffee-get-togethers. The team who arranged the harvest supper which was a tremendous success and the best value for money. All the distributors of the Gazette and last but not least the keepers of the church linen and fabric repairers. Thanks also to our PCC members for their support.

I wish everyone a very Happy and peaceful Christmas and a wonderful, healthy and prosperous 2018 Don't forget to come and have a look at our Christmas displays in church throughout the month.
Carol McCann, Churchwarden.

Dates for your Diary

December

2nd – end of month Scenes of Christmas in St. Michael's Gittisham 10.00 – 4.00 daily

7th-10th Christmas Tree Celebration at St. Paul's with refreshments and sales table

11th THE PIG-at Combe would like to invite you for a glass of mulled wine and a mince pie in The Folly from 5.30pm – 7.30pm limited numbers RSVP to events@thepigatcombe.com

15th Decorate the Christmas tree. At 5pm in the hall, help us decorate the tree. We would welcome help from all children – the more the merrier!

15th Quiz Night! Teams of up to 6. Sausage and mash supper. £6.50 for adults, small portions £3.50 (special diets catered for - ring Sue Fallows 850922). Draw. BYO drinks. Prompt start at 7:30. You can either let a committee member know you are coming, or just turn up on the night.

16th Coffee get-together in the church this month 10.30 – 12.00

17th Carol Service St. Michael's Gittisham 6,30pm with refreshments.

22nd Carols on the Green with bar-b-q'd bangers and mulled wine 6.30 – wrap up warm and bring a torch

23rd Crib Service at St. Paul's 11.00am

24th Midnight Mass St. Michael's Gittisham 11.30pm

25th Christmas Day Eucharist St Michael's Gittisham 11.00am

31st New Year's Eve Party Come and party from 8pm. Bring a plate of food, and own drinks, for a friendly village event. Free!! Open to all. Traditional Auld Lang Syne at the lych-gate at midnight

January 2018

7th Christingle Service St. Michael's Gittisham 11.00am with refreshments

11th Film Night at the Village Hall 'Some Like it Hot' 7.00pm £2.00 bring own drinks, nibbles provided

20th Coffee Get-together 10.30 – 12.00 in the Parish Room everyone most welcome.

27th Burns Night Supper details next month – save the date.

Local Wine Circle Success

The Honiton Wine and Social Circle (recent Gittisham quiz winners) celebrated achieving the 3rd highest number of points (out of 19 clubs) in a recent regional show for amateur wine and beer makers. If you would be interested in helping us to do the same – or better – next year, join us when we meet at the Masonic Hall in Silver Street, Honiton on the first Friday of each month at 7.30pm. contact Dave Pickerell on 01404 43894 for more detail.

HAVE YOU GOT YOUR CHRISTMAS TREE YET?

Combe Estate have a 'pop up' shop for trees and other accessories in the lane running parallel to the dual carriage way. Do go and have a look.

ENERGY SAVING NETWORK

The charity Devon Communities Together is offering residents the chance to find out how they could save money on their energy bills. This winter they are running a project in collaboration with Western Power Distribution and The Big Energy Saving Network (a voluntary sector project group).

If there is enough interest from Gittisham residents, the charity will organise a local session where people can come to discuss their energy costs and get advice on reducing their energy bill. The charity promises there is no pressure to buy energy saving products or switch suppliers.

Devon Communities Together says it has been doing this for four winters and its staff are well versed in the pit-falls of energy comparison web sites, smart meters and everything else they are bombarded with. They aim to give 'no-strings' advice, part of their aim to 'help communities help themselves'.

Please let your parish councillor know if you are interested. The list of names is on the notice board or on the website www.gittisham.co.uk

Honiton Food Bank

The Gittisham children and some adults are collecting food – both seasonal and necessities – throughout December. A sort of advent calendar in reverse, the children have been bringing to the church an item each day after school. Items can be seasonal (the food bank have asked not to bring either Christmas puddings or mince pies) but other seasonal food maybe small toys or gifts, toiletries etc for the most needy in Honiton. The items will be delivered to Honiton frequently and the last day they are open before Christmas is Friday 22nd.

Devon Air Ambulance

Why not make your New Year's resolution really count and become a Devon Air Ambulance volunteer? We receive no government funding and are totally reliant on donations from the people of Devon. We offer an array of volunteering opportunities from box collecting, giving talks, attending cheque presentation, assisting in one of our 18 charity shops or helping out at our annual events. Volunteering can really make a real difference to your own life and the lives of others. This opportunity would suit anyone who would like to get out of the house, make new friends, do something worthwhile, all whilst having fun! We really do appreciate any amount of time you can offer. Whoever you are, you'd fit in just fine! Please contact our Volunteer Manager Cara Jones by calling 01392 466666 or emailing c.jones@daat.org for more information'

Their regular magazine 'Helipad' is sent to the church and is in the magazine rack by the Putt Memorial.

PARISH COUNCIL – NOVEMBER & DECEMBER REPORT

Six councillors met for the November and December meetings. Susie Bond (EDDC), Phil Twiss (DCC) three representatives of Baker Estates and two members of the public were also present at November's meeting.

DCC / EDDC Report.

Phil Twiss said DCC had purchased a combination lock for the gate at the end of Old Elm Road. Members heard that a plan is in place to transport King's School pupils, if Stagecoach refuses to serve the village as a result of temporary roadworks. Susie Bond said a paid-for green waste collection was likely to be in operation by May 2018.

Finance. Members agreed the finances.

Crimes. No reported crimes. PCSO Phil Anning has left the police force.

Planning applications.

- a) Hamlet Lodge Weston - Extension to garage to provide workshop and alterations to access
- b) Blamphayne Sawmill - construction of workshops, stores and office/shop with associated landscaping and parking to allow for repositioning and re-profiling
- c) Hayne Lane - Proposed erection of 240 no. residential dwellings and associated parking, garages, roads, drainage and landscape

Members had no objections to the above. Richard Pratt said the Honeysuckle Drive tree pruning application had been refused. The Nags Head Road barn conversion application has been withdrawn.

Casual vacancy.

Members agreed a procedure to co-opt a new councillor. Anyone interested should contact the clerk before 22nd December. A decision will be made at January's meeting.

Broadband.

Phil Twiss said he had met DCC's portfolio holder for Economy, Skills and Training, which includes superfast broadband. He circulated an email which appeared to offer some hope of 'jam tomorrow'. However, members echoed David Fallows severe disappointment at the lack of progress in Gittisham village. He argued it was unclear what the costs would be to residents if they were to be connected to high speed broadband, and he questioned the justification for charging people, when other areas had their high speed broadband infrastructure funded from the public purse. David Fallows added that the delay would only impact further on a limited season to carry out trenching, meaning opportunities could again be missed. Meanwhile, he said, professional, business and educational opportunities will be lost.

Hayne Lane development.

There was much discussion at November's meeting about Baker Estates' proposal to reduce the affordable housing element from 40 per cent to 30. David Valentine said it was important to remember that the development was approved largely on the understanding that it would offer 40 per cent affordable housing, for which there is an urgent need across the district. Susie Bond echoed this, saying that for EDDC it was an important policy and a review panel had been set up to look at developments in this context. At December's meeting, members heard that the application for phases 2, 3 and 4 has now been validated by EDDC and this is based on a 40 per cent figure. However, Development Director Graham Hutton said this balance could still change and there is the potential for a second application to be submitted. Members heard that a management company would maintain the site, with contributions from all residents. The affordable housing residents' contributions will be capped.

Next meeting. This will be on 3rd January at 7.30pm in the parish room.

Church Wardens Report Carol McCann

At last the repairs to the gallery are just about finished and the new oak post replaces the one riddled by woodworm which held the gallery up, plaster work done, just painting to do. Grateful thanks to Charles and Frances Holme, who went round with the poppies and managed to sell everything in the box, I haven't had the result back from the RBL yet. Many villagers and friends attended a lovely celebratory tea for the late Clive Essame who lived with wife Linda and son Eden in Gittisham, from 1989 – 98 firstly running a herb nursery then the village shop, post office and Gittisham Press, he latterly lived in Ottery St. Mary. Our displays for the Scenes of Christmas started on the 2nd December and running for the whole month, the church will be open daily between 10.00 and 4.00pm and refreshments will be offered even when the church is unmanned just put the kettle on and help yourself. Our December coffee get-together will be in church from 10.30 to 12.00, everyone welcome. We have a Christmas tree in church if you would like to hang a tag with message in memory of or for someone do please come and write your message (and have a look round) Our Carol service is on the 17th and Carols on the Green with bangers and mulled wine on the 22nd both start at 6.30. It is a lovely gesture that the children and some adults are bringing items to the church daily for the food bank, (see page 2 for details).

Forthcoming Church Services 11am unless stated

December

3rd Family Eucharist with refreshments
10th Parish Eucharist
17th No morning service - Carol Service
6.30pm with refreshments
24th No morning service
Midnight Mass at 11.30pm
25th First Eucharist of Christmas 11.00am
31st No service in Gittisham, Eucharist at
St. Paul's 10.00am

January 2018

7th Christingle with Eucharist &
refreshments
14th Parish Eucharist
21st Morning Worship
28th No morning service
Choral Evensong 6.30 (choir
practice 5.30)

Don't forget Carols on the Green on the 22nd December 6.30pm with bar-b-q'd bangers and mulled wine – with hot non-alcoholic punch for the children and drivers! Do wrap up warm and bring a torch or lantern to light up your carol sheet.

200 CLUB RESULTS DECEMBER

1st Sandra Moss	2nd Carla Cheffey	
3rd Karissa Marker	4th Sid Phillips	5th Julie Broadhurst

MIDWEEK HERALD

I have been asked to remind the villagers that the Midweek Herald newspaper stand is in the bus shelter for you to help yourselves. If anyone is unable to pick up their copy do ask a neighbour to get one for you. The paper is delivered to the bus shelter on Wednesday each week. In case you are not aware the paper shop in New Street delivers to the village daily.

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Distributors, Carol McCann, Helen Fuller, Carol Hall & Judith Turner and in Gittisham Vale Peter and Ann Sellick. Copy date for January 2018 Friday 5th. If you have any news, dates events for inclusion in the Gazette do please email it to Carol.
If you are moving away from Gittisham/Gittisham Vale the Gazette can be sent by email on request