

TONY HOGG—Police and Crime Commissioner

I have published my proposals for cutting crime and keeping the public safe and I want to hear what you think about them. My draft sets out my policing priorities and how I intend to work with the Chief Constable and others to increase community safety. As I travel around people are telling me of the things that matter to them. Contact me now, so I can use your views in my final Plan which will be published in March 2013. Please complete the short questionnaire available online. You can access the Plan and questionnaire at <http://www.devonandcornwall-pcc.gov.uk/Take-Part/We-Want-Your-Views.aspx>. Thank you.

THE UDDER SIDE OF THE HEDGE by Jane Hulbert, Sherman's Farm

May I wish every one A Happy New Year. Is it just me or does it seem such a long time since Christmas? All this rain is making things very difficult, feed is going down fast and muck has built up to bursting. Our inconclusive TB reactors were retested and were inconclusive again, so had to go. This means we need two clear tests before we can sell anything other than to slaughter or to people closed down with TB like ourselves and a special licence is required to move them. The testing takes four days at a time and involves five of our staff and a vet, such a lot of money and so many cows killed for no reason. We have only had one animal confirmed with TB that was in 2002. I dared to pass comment to the ministry vet one day; their stern reply was "it doesn't mean they don't have it, only that we can't find it!" I seem to be back calf feeding at Sherman's again, we have the usual staff shortages and a lot of illness at the moment. I think there are almost as many cats wanting milk as calves though. Carla has this long haired kitten which is not quite 'up to scratch' (!) mentally. She spends a lot of time in with the calves and comes out with spiky hair; some people must spend hours trying to get that look. I did ask if they had to brush her but then yesterday saw Chaos (German Shepherd pup) pick her up by the scruff and give her a little shake – fluffy kitten restored!

PARISH COUNCIL – FEBRUARY REPORT

Five parish councillors met for the February meeting. Cllr Roger Giles (DCC) and Cllr Graham Brown (EDDC) were also present.

DCC Report. Roger Giles said that DCC's Highways department had been to investigate the blocked drains by the iron bridge on the old A30. He promised to find out whether work would be starting soon on Hayne Lane, as its closure is affecting businesses and deliveries. He updated councillors on a continuing trend in healthcare provision to centralise services at the RD&E, but informed the council that the campaign to keep the option of overnight stays in the maternity unit at Honiton Hospital had been successful.

EDDC Report. Cllr Brown reported from EDDC's Development Management Committee meeting on 5th February. Without a Local Plan in place yet, he said, applications for developments are likely to be granted as EDDC now has to fall into line with Government policy.

Crime. There were no recorded crimes in the parish since the last meeting. However the police warned parishioners to be on their guard, after a spate of rural thefts from houses in Payhembury and Offwell.

Finance. Members noted the finances.

Play area maintenance contract. Members discussed four bids, and resolved to award the contract to Laps Lawns for another year. David Valentine said planning permission had been granted for the hole in the wall to link the two parts of the play area.

Rural businesses. Members heard that funding is available for small rural businesses through the Heart of the South West Local Enterprise Partnership. Rural enterprises with ten employees or fewer are eligible to apply for the business grants. There is no upper limit for grant funding, though applicants will need to meet 60 per cent of project costs, with the grant covering a maximum of 40 per cent. More information at <http://www.heartofswlep.co.uk/rural-growth-grants>

Parishes Together Fund. The Chair said that the parish's contribution towards the Ottery Help scheme through the Parishes Together fund had been successful. This forms part of £12,500 to identify additional volunteers, donors and people in need for Ottery's scheme. The clerk reminded members of a further deadline of 1st March for more Parishes Together funding. She agreed to check what neighbouring parishes are doing to see if Gittisham can contribute its part of the pot, and members agreed to support Honiton Town Council's youth project with £300 of Parishes Together funding.

Next meeting. This will be on 6th March at 7.30pm.

BARTLETTS COFFEE SHOP

If you fancy a short trip out for coffee or lunch why not try our splendid local Coffee Shop...open Tuesday through Saturday 9.am until 4.30pm (Saturdays until 4.00pm) it is well worth a visit. The selection of coffees are all Fairtrade, a selection of teas, hot chocolate and cold drinks are also available. We have sampled their delicious home made soup, their sandwiches and the toasted teacakes...not all on the same day! Breakfasts are served until 2.30pm and a special menu is offered for children. All the items are moderately priced and parking is easy, with a toilet on site as well. We can recommend an early visit so do pop along and sample their wares for yourselves; but be quick, word is spreading and it is becoming very popular.

DEADLINE FOR ENTRIES first Wednesday of the month

Please contact one of the editorial team, listed below, if you have a happy event to report, or wish to voice a concern, or have an interesting tip or memory.

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

NEXT PRINTING 8th MARCH

GITTISHAM GAZETTE

A monthly Community Newsletter

Published by St Michael's Church and the Parish Council, Gittisham

February 2013

Edition 133

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED TO BUILD AN ARK?

We are already one month into 2013 and the major topic of conversation has not changed very much...namely the weather!! Looking back through the last 12 editions the rain featured heavily in the headlines; our village celebrations for the Queen's Diamond Jubilee were affected by the torrential rain forcing the planned picnic to be moved into the church. The entries for the Annual Flower and Produce Show were hard hit as well. Several cottages were flooded, fields saturated and crops ruined. Did all this get on top of us? Absolutely not, we soldiered on and made the most of it despite everything. Indoor events were memorable, such as Richard Saunders' farewell party when the community turned out in full to say a huge "THANKYOU" to Richard for all he has done over the years...he will always be missed and it is lovely to see him back here from time to time. We made history when, for the first time, we hosted a refreshment station for the Wiggle Jurassic Cycle Ride...this proved so successful that Gittisham's involvement may well become an annual event, they have already been in touch with Carol McCann regarding this year.

As for this year, things are kicking off this month already when we will be entertained once again by the stars of the Gittisham Pantomime. How it is possible to write a Panto around "West Side Story" and "Saturday Night Fever" we have yet to discover but be sure to come along and support this intrepid bunch of thespians...if the last offering is anything to go by, it will be an hilarious evening! Next month we have another Village in Action evening, these are always extremely professional and well worth attending. And so to Easter, when we can look forward to the annual Easter Cream Tea...we hope to see you all at these events.

DATES FOR THE DIARY

FEBRUARY 12th—TIP TIP TOE. All children invited to Carol Hall's at 4pm for tea and then round the village for this annual event.

FEBRUARY 15th-16th COMBE SIDE FEVER—our very own village panto. In the Village Hall, evenings at 7.30, matinee Saturday at 2.30. Tickets available from Doreen Wensley—45774. Prices as follow—Friday evening—£5.00 Saturday matinee—£5.00/£2.50 Saturday evening—£7.50

MARCH 21st—STEVE TILSTON a Villages in Action Evening. Steve won the Radio 2's Folk Award in 2012. Evening starts at 7.30pm, tickets from Bill Griffiths—850051 or 851428 cost £8.50 adults, £6 children.

MARCH 31st—EASTER CREAM TEA in the Village Hall 2.30-5.00pm and fun walking word game. Everyone welcome.

200 Club

The winners this month were:

1st Prize	Mrs S Abbott
2nd Prize	Mr B Cheffey
3rd Prize	Miss M Pearl
4th Prize	Mr F Blackmore
5th Prize	Mrs A Bartlett

ROSIE AND TOM'S VSO!

On 28th December the village hall was transformed when Rosie and Tom Chapman entertained us with slides and stories about their adventures in Nepal and Tanzania with Voluntary Service Overseas. We were invited to join in a very lively Nepalese dance, with plenty of hip jiggling and other energetic movements! Some spicy Nepalese delicacies were served to a most appreciative audience. Well done, both.

HONITON PANTOMIME

Tickets for the next production by the "Honiton Pantomime Society" are now selling out very fast. Over the period Sunday 17th February – Saturday 23rd February there will be 6 performances of "Ali Baba and the Forty Thieves". The performances will take place at Honiton Community College, tickets on sale at the Honiton Toy Shop, cost £6:50 for evening performances and £5 for Matinees.

YEAR'S MIND Emily Turner

HOLY DUSTERS—February
Amanda Acland, Meriel Hill
Sarah Agg-Manning

PEOPLE IN THE NEWS

KARISSA MARKER and MATTHEW MORGAN celebrated the birth of Ava Ruth Trelawny Marker Morgan, weighing 7lb9oz, on 8th December, much to the delight of all the family. Our congratulations to the proud parents and to Richard and Nellie, who we hear are delighted at becoming grandparents.

EDMUND HAYMAN, a St. John's Cadet, has been awarded his Corporal stripes and named Senior Cadet of the year by St John's in Honiton. Well done, Edmund, we now know who to come to if we need any first aid.

DORIS COOK - Cynthia Underdown's mother, aged 95, died during the week commencing 21st January. She lived at Gittisham Hill House for many years. Funeral on 11th at St. Peter's Church, Dalwood—2.00pm.

WALKING CIRCUITS has now been going for a year...well done everyone who has attended regularly and thank you Carol for keeping it going.

THE HALL WILL BE CLOSED FROM FEBRUARY 21ST—25th WHILE THE FLOOR IS OILED.

Active Villages is coming to Gittisham!

If you live in Gittisham or the surrounding area some new and exciting sports/leisure activities will be coming to your area. Leisure East Devon (LED) would like to hear from you if you are aged between 5 to 95!, we need to identify the types of activities that your community wants...so now is a chance to have your say! The 'Active Villages' programme is funded through Sport England and is being delivered by LED. The project is about getting rural communities active, bringing the village together in a social active environment. We have introduced a number of activities in other villages that have included pilates, running club or even a family cycle ride – we are able to bring equipment along to the village to provide the session as well as a fully qualified and experienced leader. Drop us an email or give us a call to let us know the type of physical activities you would like to do! Please contact jsharp@ledleisure.co.uk or call Jane Sharp 01404 814317 (please leave a message as I work part time). There is also an opportunity for members of the community to come forward to work alongside qualified leaders/instructors and then be given the opportunity to train themselves to become a leader/instructor to enable the activities in their community to continue at no cost to themselves.

CHURCHWARDENS' REPORT—by Carol McCann

On the 16th January the church looked beautiful with huge flower arrangements – by Meriel Hill and her team – for the funeral to celebrate the life of Mona Theodas, Terry Boswell and Nicky Hodgkinson's mother. We were blessed with a lovely sunny day. Mona is now at rest with her husband Robert.

On the 27th January Gittisham hosted the Team monthly Choral Evensong we had a congregation of 30, with only two from the village. It was a lovely service and refreshments were served.

Another box of items went to the Honiton food bank which was very much appreciated. Our box is near the font in church to receive goods... if you would like to contribute but cannot get the items to church, please let me know and I can collect them. Items most needed are long life milk, cereal, tinned meat /ready meals, vegetables and fruit, squash, and milk puddings.

Cliff Wensley's twin great grandsons were baptised at the Family service on the 3rd February – Candlemas, the presentation of Christ in the Temple.

At our recent Team Council meeting we were advised that, following the successful fund-raising day for Children in Need run by St. Paul's, there will be 3 fund raising events this year; we will be raising funds for Age UK to raise awareness of the need for the older members of society who can't afford much heating to keep warm, on the 8th February which is "Bobble Hat Day". Please see the separate ad for details. The other two will be Comic Relief Day and again Children in Need, it is hoped to include all the team churches in these projects.

A forward notice for the 200 club, collectors will be starting to come round from about mid- February, there are currently four spare numbers, if anyone would like a number or an extra one, please let me know. Following on from my request for more help wanted – three people have offered to help as "Holy Dusters", could anyone else offer to be included on the "Holy Duster" Rota or the Flower Arranging Rota - come on please some of our younger members. If you haven't as yet paid for your Christian Review, (a year's subscription costs £4.00) please pay Pam Chown as soon as possible. If you do not have the Christian Review but would like to start please also contact Pam Chown on 850085, there are a couple of copies left in the church each month at 35p per copy, please put money in wall safe.

Under the floorboards - A tale of discovery, by the Hall family

Last weekend the floorboards at Part Drillers were replaced by carpenters Hamish and Clara. In the course of their hard work they discovered TREASURE! It would appear that 90 years ago a girl and her dad were also mending the floorboards. The girl was combing her hair but dropped the comb. She also dropped her hairclip. The dad was playing cards when he should have been working. He also wanted a quiet beer but couldn't find his bottle opener. The postman delivered a postcard from Uncle Bruce with tales from the trenches. The girl was so helpful her dad gave her a penny. How do we know all this? It's all there, under our floor. But not anymore: the museum of Part Drillers is now open. Our special exhibit is a set of 8 old fashioned nails.

Junior Reporters Daphne and Clara Hall are available to visit your home to report on your own exciting tales.

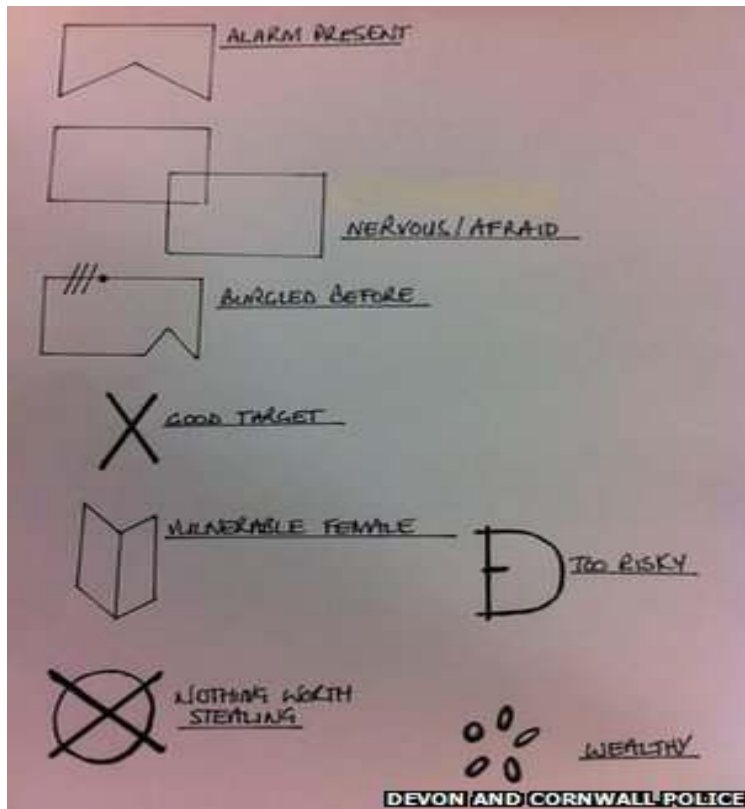
TO A SNOWDROP

Lone flower, hemmed in with
snows and white as they
But hardier far, once more I see
thee bend thy forehead,
As if fearful to offend.
Like an unbidden guest.
Though day by day,
Storms, sallying from the moun-
taintops, waylay the rising sun,
and on the plains descend;
Yet art thou welcome, welcome as
a friend
Whose zeal outruns his promise!
Blue-eyed May shall soon behold
this border thickly set
With bright jonquils, their odours
lavishing
on the soft west wind and his
frolic peers;
Nor will I then thy modest grace
forget,
Chaste snowdrop, venturous har-
binger of spring
And pensive monitor of fleeting
years!
William Wordsworth 1770-1850

Torbay police give 'burglar code' warning

Police in south Devon are telling householders to report any chalk markings on their properties which could be made by potential burglars attempting to target homes.

CID officers in Torbay said they had tweeted examples of symbols after some had been reported in Exeter.



The symbols could inform burglars about a property, its occupants and their possessions, officers said.

Anyone who found markings should contact Devon and Cornwall Police.

The meanings of the symbols, which have also been seen elsewhere in Britain, range from deeming a home as being too risky to raid, to having stuff worth stealing, to having been burgled before.

Messages about occupants can include symbols to mean they are believed to be wealthy, a good target, or are thought to be nervous or even vulnerable.

Devon and Cornwall Police said: "If found, people should be vigilant and please tell us."