

### **Richard Saunders**

I have seen Richard several times lately, he now has a new email address—rsaunders2015@gmail.com He loves getting emails and will be able to send you short replies. He is in good spirits and as he is doing his exercises he is getting stronger. If you would like to visit him at Hembury Fort House the only restriction is not at mealtimes. Ring me for transport .Carol McCann 851113 .

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### **URGENT—RE LOCAL BUSES**

Please find a way to log on to - <http://New.devon.gov.uk/publictransportbudget/>

**Devon County Council** is planning to reduce services within the county for the next 4 years. You can register your views on the above website or speak to a Parish Councillor.

### **GRAIN TO CREAM by Russell Hayman, Gittisham Farm**

Last time I wrote it was mid-winter; now the bulbs are sticking their heads out and spring is not that far away, even if it is a little cold at the moment. My battle with ratty still goes on; it appears to be an extremely good year for the little blighters.

We have been cleaning out the cattle that are on the straw yards as the dung can get a bit too deep and putting it in heaps in the fields ready to spread just before the next crop is sown in them which for some will be maize in the spring and some others it will stay until autumn before the next cereal crop so some nice steamy heaps have appeared in the fields. It does of course have to be dry enough to get into the field or a hard frost so that we don't make a right royal mess I have now got a contract with the local tailor as our calves are getting waist-coats while they are young to keep them warmer. None as of yet are too fashion conscious thankfully. The tailor bit is not true but the coats are and the calves seem to be performing better in them if we can keep them on. It is always a problem keeping them warm enough and at the same time keeping good ventilation to guard against respiratory disease. Another benefit is that even I think they look so cute in their little coats, which is saying something.

The sheep that are here for the winter will be going soon or will be gone by the time this comes out otherwise they will be eating grass that we will need for my own stock. They have done the job of clearing off the old lower value growth then all we have in the spring is nice new stuff; sweet and juicy!

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

Services for the next few weeks, all at 11.00 unless stated otherwise, 8th February Parish Eucharist, 15th lay-led sung Matins, 22nd Parish Eucharist, 1st March Family Service, 8th Parish Eucharist, 15th Mothering Sunday non Eucharistic lay-led Family Morning Worship with presentation of posies and (hopefully) led by the children, 22nd Parish Eucharist.

I would appreciate help picking flowers and making the posies for Mothering Sunday on the Saturday 14<sup>th</sup> afternoon please. Team choral evensong took place in Gittisham on 25th January it was a pity that there was not a fuller congregation, but none-the-less a most enjoyable service. The next ones are 22nd February at Awliscombe, 22nd March at Buckerell starting at 6.30 with choir practice at 5.30. There will be several venues around the Mission Community doing a Lent York Course "Songs of the New Testament" Books of the course can be ordered, but you need to let me know as soon as possible as they start very soon.. There will be leaflets in the porch and in church with details.

On the 11th February there will be three candidates to interview for the post of House for Duty Priest, please pray for a successful outcome as it is now 3 years since Canon Richard retired.

We had a lovely card from the Honiton Food Bank for the lovely seasonal goodie parcels for the poorest and homeless in Honiton the recipients really appreciated our kindness. Thanks to all who contributed and I hope to do it again next Christmas. The food bank are still very much in need of Long life full fat milk, sugar, fruit juices and squashes, savoury rice and noodles, pasta sauces, tinned tomatoes and other tinned vegetables or fruit, custard, rice puddings, sponge puddings and biscuits. There is a blue collecting box near the font in church. But if you would like me to collect any items, please phone me on 851113 St Petroc's in Exeter are still also needing adult clothing and shoes, especially hats, scarves, gloves at this time of year blankets, sleeping bags, old duvets, and towels plus toiletries, for the homeless, I usually meet a volunteer in Honiton on a fortnightly basis.

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### **THANKYOU**

We would like to thank the Gittisham Village Hall committee for treating us to a splendid lunch on the occasion of our retirement from the hall committee. We were also presented with a lovely Dartington Glass Bowl. We felt very spoilt! We cannot believe how quickly 20 years on the committee has flown by. Ernie has been Social Treasurer for 16 of those years. We have enjoyed many happy times amidst you all at Gittisham. We wish the Village Hall committee every success for the future. Thankyou.

Doreen and Ernie Wensley.

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### **DEADLINE FOR ENTRIES IS THE FIRST WEDNESDAY OF EACH MONTH.**

Please contact one of the editorial team below if you have something to report.

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

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The next publication will be printed on 7th February.

## **PARISH COUNCIL NEWS—February Report**

Four parish councillors met for the February meeting. Susie Bond (EDDC) and Claire Wright (DCC) were also present.

### **DCC / EDDC Report.**

Claire Wright said DCC had to cut £50 million from its budget this year, and the most likely areas to be affected are school crossing patrols and bus routes. There are changes proposed to routes which serve the Vale, and also the F5 fare bus serving the village (see <https://new.devon.gov.uk/publictransportbudget> for the consultation, which closes on 20<sup>th</sup> April). DCC's grass cutting programme is also to be cut back drastically, and she hinted that town and parish councils could be taking on more responsibility for this kind of maintenance. As regards Ottery Hospital, Claire Wright said she was confident it can be saved from closure. Susie Bond explained that the final decision notice regarding the Hayne Lane development should be issued within two weeks. Any changes, such as in the affordable housing element, contributions to education or contributions to improvements at Turks Head would have to come before EDDC's development management committee. Regarding the traveller site at Weston, Susie Bond said more caravans have been moved on to the site and EDDC has yet to issue an enforcement notice, although it is likely it will do very soon. The proposed relocation of EDDC to Honiton and Exmouth has attracted criticism from the Honiton mayor Peter Halse, who said the council had "fallen flat on its face." The relocation team has been urged to reconsider the figures, having argued that energy costs at EDDC's current home in Sidmouth would be 10 per cent above inflation for the next 20 years.

**Crime.** Two crimes since the last report:

1. 16th January, public order: verbal argument in the Vale between a motorist and a dog walker on a country lane
2. 20th January, common assault: verbal argument in the village between ex-partners, leading to an assault.

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

### **Planning applications.**

- a) 15/0035/LBC Winsor Cottage Gittisham EX14 3AS Change of roof materials from wheat reed to water reed
- b) 14/2760/TCA Village Hall Gittisham T1- Lime: Reduce height to approx 10m, crown clean remaining canopy making target pruning cuts of between 25mm and 100mm. T2 -Lime: 20% Crown reduction via thinning and crown cleaning removing branch lengths up to 5m making target pruning cuts of between 25mm and 100mm
- c) 15/0065/FUL Land At And South Of Crowpits Covert Putts Corner Sidbury (adjoining parish) Installation of point of connection cable route associated with solar photovoltaic park (subject of planning application 14/2423/FUL)

Members had no objections. David Fallows declared an interest in a) and b).

### **Drains, ditches and roads.**

The clerk said she had tried to get in touch with somebody at Luppitt parish council about teaming up under the Parishes Together fund, but had no response so far. Members thanked DCC for work clearing ditches, but drains still needed clearing at Westgate. Claire Wright agreed to check whose responsibility this is, as Russell Hayman said two are on the road side of the hedge. Claire Wright also agreed to chase up the flood gauges. The clerk said the training required for clearing drains and ditches would be provided free of charge until the end of March, so David Fallows said he would speak to the resident who had expressed an interest in maintaining these.

### **Play area.**

David Fallows said he would be visiting Blamphaynes with Bill Griffiths and Hamish Hall to consider what they might need to build 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.

**Next meeting.** This will be on 4<sup>th</sup> March at 7.30pm.

**With under 100 days to go until the General Election, have you registered to vote?**

**If you haven't yet, go online now [www.gov.uk/register-to-vote](http://www.gov.uk/register-to-vote)**

# GITTISHAM GAZETTE

## A monthly Community Newsletter

Published by St Michael's Church and Gittisham Parish Council

February 2015

Edition 156

### **RABBIE WOULD HAVE BEEN PROUD!**

When Hamish Hall stepped on to the stage, bedecked in kilt (what lovely knees, he has!) we awaited with baited breathe for him to recite the traditional poem to the steaming haggis. Hamish, once again, rose to the occasion, addressing the haggis with great passion; then drawing his dirk from the sock on his left leg, he plunged it into the pudding with such gusto that he raised a cheer from the gathered throng! It was, indeed, a sight to behold.

We were then rewarded with a generous portion of haggis, mashed potatoes, neeps and cabbage, with whisky gravy...hic! Seconds were available for the bigger eaters before being offered apple pie and custard or ice cream.

While some people then sloped away to their homes, well repleat, the remainder stayed and joined in the dancing to Scottish reels. The music and dancing was ably managed by Eileen Nightingale who, no doubt, was grateful to have the likes of John and Maureen McGregor plus Ian and Liz Warne to show their prowess on the dance floor.

In all another very successful night put on by the Village Hall Committee...huge thanks to them all for their delicious food and hard work creating another memorable event.

### **DATES FOR THE DIARY**

**FEBRUARY 17th - Tip, Tip, Toe...** Just to let you know that the village tradition will take place. Meeting at 4.00pm. As an indication of numbers of children coming for the tea, please tell Carole Rowe—42510

### **KINGS SCHOOL CHRISTMAS FAYRE**

A huge thank you to all who supported the Kings School Christmas Fayre which raised £2, 165.00. All funds will be fed back into the school through supporting all students in their curricular activities and the extra ones which are not paid for by the Government but yet benefit all abilities and add to the students tremendously. Helen Hayman, Kings School PTFA.

### **200 Club**

The winners this month were:

1st Prize	Miss B Mullett
2nd Prize	Mrs C Chaffey
3rd Prize	Mr J Boswell
4th Prize	Mrs C McCann
5th Prize	Mr F Chapman

### **DOUBLE**

#### **CONGRATULATIONS**

Regular visitors to Bartlett's Farm Shop will know that a baby was on the way...our 'hot off the press' news is that Nicola and Matt are the proud parents of Violet Mae who arrived in the early hours of Saturday 7th February weighing 6lbs 14 oz. Mother and daughter are in Honiton Hospital. Our best wishes to all three!

**BARTLETT'S FARM SHOP** finished second in Food Magazine's Reader Awards for Best Farm Shop 2015. Rebecca and Nicola were pipped into second place by only 10 votes, losing out to Darts Farm...how can they be judged in the same category, we ask! It seems that customers were asked to send in their votes although neither Rebecca nor Nicola knew about the contest. Had our readers known about it there is no doubt they would have taken first place.

### **YEARS MIND—FEBRUARY**

Emily Turner

#### **HOLY DUSTERS**

#### **FEBRUARY**

Amanda Acland  
Sarah Agg-Manning  
Meriel Hill

### **PEOPLE IN THE NEWS**

**IVOR, EMMA, ELLIE AND SOPHIE MOOREY and Daisy Dog** have now moved into The Granary at Town Farm Buildings. We welcome them to the village and hope they will be very happy in their new home.

**EDMUND HAYMAN** has passed his Grade 5 Piano Exam and has gained his 'Grand Prior Award' for St. John Ambulance, the top cadet award. It recognises commitment and hard work over several years. Activities included community involvement and service, health and life skills, personal development and creative skills. The certificate, signed by HRH The Duke of Gloucester Grad Prior, was presented by Youth Leader Kirt Ware, from the Exeter HQ. Congratulations, Edmund you're an inspiration.

**GRISSLY CHARITY**—Come and join Gittisham's Grizzly runners for a carbo-loading pasta supper on Saturday 28th February, village hall at 6pm. £5 (primary school children free). Entertainment laid on. All welcome. Advance bookings only. Carol Hall 01404 850793.