

FROM GRAIN TO CREAM—by Russell Hayman at Gittisham Farm

Well Christmas has gone and the goose is far from fat anymore; not even skin and bone, very nice it was though. Winter has now arrived, we have to have it sometime but the good autumn meant the trees held onto their leaves for longer so when the winds came they were quite vulnerable. We lost some apple trees and the lovely big oak just down from the farm which is a shame but they will be replaced so the next generation will be able to enjoy some traditional vibrant trees; at the end of the day trees just like everything else have a life span and most that are lost are most probably past their best.

All the crops are now sown and showing above the ground. We had a bit of bother with rooks pulling up the late drilled wheat as it emerged but it looks as though the crop will be ok. We had the bird scarcer going which did the trick; it also woke up the herdsman a bit earlier not that he is late but every minute gained is all good we only get so many. All the animals are now housed and what a difference this year is to last so much better. Yes there is still the problem or two but the girls are in better 'heart' so are more resilient. Some sheep will be coming soon to nibble off some of the excess grass and escape at all opportunities so fencing is the task ahead now quite a bit to do but isn't there always.

So what are the plans for 2014? Well house to start with which is progressing, foundations are in and block work will start very shortly. It will start to grow then but I imagine just like my crops weather means growth is slower in the winter than summer rooks shouldn't be a problem though.

As for the farm more of the same no great alterations planned here just looking for efficiency where we can as any other business does. Hopefully the herd will expand a little more, as there is room for them, which will mean a little less arable and eventually more beef. As I am hoping to expand without buying any more animals this will be as steady process and with TB testing just around the corner who knows what will happen, a single day could well scupper all the best laid plans.

Edmund is leading his heifer calf around training her for the young farmers show in the spring, every now and then I have to look twice as this animal appears where she should not be and I think there is one out only to realize what is going on. He is doing well though, she is getting a bit of an attitude and needs a firmer hand, she will soon be old enough to serve which will be by artificial insemination with some sexed semen. More females we hope as they are the productive ones as I keep being told.

CHURCHWARDENS' REPORT by Carol McCann

I do hope you all had a very Merry Christmas and I wish you a very happy, healthy, peaceful and prosperous 2014.

This month our services will be 5th Family Christingle for Epiphany with refreshments. 12th Parish Eucharist., 19th Lay-led sung Matins 11am, 26th lay-led Morning Worship – non Eucharistic, and in the evening the Team choral Evensong will be at Combe Raleigh at 6.30 with choir practice at 5.30. The first Sunday in February will be a family service for Candlemas with refreshments and on the 12th will be the usual Parish Eucharist.

We were very lucky to be able to have the Carols on the Green with bar-b-q and mulled wine. outside a goodly number attended and we all had a good sing. We had a Midnight Service of the Word compiled and led by Rev. Philip Butcher – our Team curate - on Christmas Eve, with 33 in the congregation and on Christmas Day morning I was given an hour's notice to take a Communion by extension as Rev'd Sue had taken ill. Roger Hutchings my co-churchwarden kindly collected the elements from St. Paul's we had a congregation of 55 adults and 11 children. On Sunday 29th I went to a 'café-church service in St. Paul's there were 4 people from Gittisham, it was a little like going back to Sunday School. Our Christmas charity this year is Chapter 1. This a local East Devon organisation which supports families. For up to 2 years, the total amount raised over the Christmas period for them was £425.93 after expenses have been deducted.

Thank you to Helen Hayman for producing an excellent and varied concert on the 14th with the children and some adults participating there was a good and appreciative audience, and goodies were served at half time. We had pieces for piano, organ, flute and an all girl singing quartet. Well done everyone. On the 20th, Jan Sutcliffe and Sarah Agg-Manning's Stage Right Drama Group put on an amusing and meaningful Mummings play, and a collection for the Children of Syria raised over £136. Thank you to all for giving us a most enjoyable evening.

I have been asked to thank all who gave toys for local poor children through the Children's Society. The food bank have also thanked Gittisham for their support donating many items for those who cannot afford to feed themselves.. They have asked me to mention that for the present please refrain from giving pasta and baked beans, but everything else is most welcome. The 200 club has still got some spare numbers, the cost is £12 per year, if you would like to take a number, please let me know (01404 851113), as we are so far into our year, payment would be pro-rata up to March when the 2014/15 subscriptions will be due.

MY TWELVE DAYS OF CHRISTMAS

On the first day of Christmas my true love said to me: I'm glad we bought fresh turkey and a proper Christmas tree.

On the second day of Christmas, much laughter could be heard as we tucked into our turkey, a most delicious bird.

On the third day we entertained the people from next door. The turkey tasted just as good as it had the day before.

Day four relations came to stay; poor Gran is looking old. We finished up the Christmas pud and ate the turkey cold.

On the fifth day of Christmas, outside the snowflakes flurried, but we were nice and warm inside for we had our turkey curried.

On the sixth day, I must admit the Christmas spirit died, the children fought and bickered, we ate turkey rissoles, fried.

On the seventh day of Christmas, my true love he did wince, when he sat down at the table and was offered turkey mince.

Day eight and nerves were getting frayed, the dog has run for shelter, I served turkey pancakes with a glass of Alka Seltzer.

On the ninth day our cat left home, by lunchtime Dad was blotto. He said he had to have a drink to face turkey risotto.

By the tenth day the booze had gone (except our home made brew). And if that wasn't bad enough, we suffered turkey stew.

On the eleventh day of Christmas the Christmas tree was moulting, the mince pies were as hard as rock and the turkey was revolting.

On the twelfth day my true love had a smile upon his lips—the guests had gone, the turkey too—and we dined on fish and chips!

The following article appeared in the Tiverton local paper...

Aero girl dies at age of 85

Lady Acland, a former Vogue model, Aero chocolate girl, gifted artist and leading light of the well known Devon family, has died aged 85. One of the top models of the late 1940s and early 1950s she appeared on the front covers of Vogue and Harpers' Bazaar. She worked with many celebrated photographers of the day, including John French and Norman Parkinson. On the catwalks of Paris she also modelled for Christian Dior and other famous fashion houses. Her face was used to promote Lux soap. Born Myrtle Crawford, she was also one of the Aero girls, whose portraits, painted in oils by accomplished artists, were used in an eye-catching campaign to advertise Aero chocolate, the bubble-filled bars marketed in the early 1950s as "The chocolate for her". Brought up on a farm in Scotland she started modelling in a small way, and at a fashion show for her mother's tweed company in Glasgow was spotted by an editor from Vogue. In 1953 she married Capt. John Acland and gave up her career. Her husband became Sir John Acland, a Guards officer who in the late 1970s helped to supervise the handover of power in Zimbabwe. When he left the Army, they retired to his family home of Feniton Court, near Honiton, where Lady Acland took up painting again; some of her work being exhibited at the West of England Academy and at the Westminster Galleries in London. She was a gifted gardener and her expertise at fly-fishing was much admired by Scottish gillies.

REMEMBER - HAPPINESS is not having the BEST of EVERYTHING YOU WANT...IT IS MAKING the BEST of EVERYTHING YOU'VE GOT.

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

The next publication will be printed on 7th February.

PARISH COUNCIL NEWS—7th January Report

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

EDDC / DCC Report. Members discussed the super enquiry at Feniton, which began on 7th January 2014 and lasts two weeks. Around 100 Feniton residents attended to hear representations on the developments proposed which would add nearly 300 new homes to Feniton. David Fallows said two letters from Feniton Primary and King's School had been sent to the senior planning inspector leading the enquiry, outlining the potential difficulties with accommodating additional children - if these developments were to be approved. This could result in restricting the catchment area. Members agreed that these developments could make education arrangements and transport arrangements very difficult for families in Gittisham parish, where currently there are sustainable solutions with public transport for Gittisham residents. As the venue of the enquiry has been changed, the inspector has invited residents and interested parties who cannot travel to Exeter airport to attend a meeting on Wednesday 15th January, 6–10pm at Feniton Primary School to put forward representations. The clerk said that it was possible to offer Feniton Parish Council financial support for its legal costs, provided the council believes this is in the interests of parishioners to support this action. Gittisham PC could use the 1972 Local Government Act to give a donation of up to £6.98 x the number of electors towards this fund. Members resolved to support this.

Crime. One crime since the last report the police sent in December:

23rd December: Chainsaw theft from Beech Walk, which had been left by workers cutting down a tree.

Finance. Members agreed the budget for 2014/15 and the parish precept was set at £7,500.

Planning applications.

13/2646/FUL Rapshayes Farm Erection of steel portal frame building to cover livestock holding area.

No objections.

13/2744/MOUT - Land West Of Hayne Lane Honiton Outline application comprising residential development (up to 300 units 40 per cent of which would be affordable) including a new access onto Hayne Lane, highway improvements, open space, allotments and drainage (access only to be considered at this stage)

Members agreed to oppose this application, on the grounds that:

- it lies outside the Honiton Built-Up Area Boundary
- it is a reserve site for which there is no demonstrable need
- it will have a detrimental visual effect on the AONB
- sustainability of social, economic and environmental factors is unproven
- there are no proposed community facilities
- additional vehicle movements will exacerbate traffic pressure
- runoff and drainage will add to existing flood concerns
- loss of valuable farming land threatens a thriving business
- it prejudices the emerging Local Plan and spatial strategy for the district.

Councillors encouraged all residents to make their views on this application known to EDDC's planning department before 21st January.

Maintenance. The clerk agreed to pass on details of blocked gullies and potholes to Claire Wright. Susie Bond reminded members that potholes could also be reported online, and Cllr Wright's blog contains details of how to do this. The clerk said that Buckerell PC had expressed an interest in teaming up to contract somebody part-time as a lengthsperson, and would report back after their meeting at the end of January.

Christmas Fayre. Members welcomed the news that the Christmas Fayre held in the village hall in December 2013 had raised £492, which will go towards the play area.

Twitter. Members supported the clerk's suggestion to set up a Gittisham PC Twitter account which residents can refer to and use to report flooding, fallen trees and such like for the benefit of everybody.

Next meeting. This will be on Wednesday 5th February at 7.30pm. The parish council would like to wish all parishioners a happy New Year.

GITTISHAM GAZETTE

A monthly Community Newsletter

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HAPPY NEW YEAR

As we welcome in the new year it is interesting to look back and note what milestones have been passed over the years gone by. Looking at the January editions of past Gazette publications we find that in 2002 we reported that Theo and Mairead had taken over the shop and Thatches...how we still miss those days. In 2004 we were celebrating the Village Hall renovation with the new toilets and central heating; what a luxury!! Two years later in 2006 we noted that Canon Jane Hedges had preached her final sermon at St Paul's before taking up her new post at Westminster Abbey...how long might it be before we report that she is now the first female Bishop of the Anglican church? In 2007 we wrote about the WI group in the village celebrating their 75th birthday only to follow-up that report the following January with the news that the group had held their final meeting on 6th December 2007. Over the 12 years since the Gazette was started there have been many births, weddings, people moving into the village and people moving away...in a community such as this there will always be change. However, as long as we have events such as the concert in the church, the Mummers' Play by the children's drama group, the carol singing on the green, our lives will be enriched and memories will be stored. What will 2014 bring? Whatever it might be, we wish everyone a healthy and happy year ahead.

DATES FOR THE DIARY

January 18th—Keep the Home Fires Burning at the Manor Pavilion Theatre in Sidmouth. Jan Sutcliffe with her company "Nostalgia Incorporated" are putting on two performances 2.30pm and 7.30pm. Tickets £10 from the theatre box office 01395 514413. All proceeds in aid of SSAFA.

February 16th—22nd—Jack and the Beanstalk by the Honiton Pantomime Society at the Community College. Tickets on sale at the Honiton Toy Shop £7 evenings and £6 matinees. This production celebrates the 30th anniversary of the Society.

February 22nd—Fun Quiz in the village hall. 7.00 for 7.30pm.

200 Club

The winners this month were:

1st Prize	Mrs R Hunt
2nd Prize	Mrs A Hutchings
3rd Prize	Mrs K Jackson
4th Prize	Mr R Jennison
5th Prize	Mr R Abbot



The National Parish Magazine Awards for 2013 have been announced and out of 710 entries the Gittisham Gazette achieved 139th place. That puts us in the top 20% ... nothing like blowing our own trumpet!!

The overall winner was also from Devon— The Ivybridge Magazine. We send them our congratulations!

YEARS MIND—JANUARY

**Ethel Hayman
Mona Theodas**

HOLY DUSTERS

January

Liz & Ian Warne
Angie and Roger Hutchings

PEOPLE IN THE NEWS

MYRTLE, LADY ACLAND died on Sunday 15th December. Her funeral was held in the village church on Saturday 28th December. (See the obituary on page 4.)

A NOTE OF APPRECIATION

Jan and Sarah would like to say a big THANK YOU to all the people who supported their very first "Stage Right" Children's Theatre event, and who gave so generously to the collection for the Refugee Children of Syria, which raised £136.71. They are delighted with the children's progress thus far and hope to move forward now to presenting a play at Easter-time. The new term commences on Friday 10th January and all children between the ages of 7 and 12 years are very welcome. For more details please contact Sarah Agg-Manning on 07790562085 or Jan Sutcliffe on 01404 851255.

SWAP SHOP

The Hall Committee are having a White Elephant/Jumble Sale on Saturday 22nd March in the afternoon. Further details in next month's edition.