

GITTISHAM GAZETTE

A monthly Community Newsletter

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HAPPY NEW YEAR

We hope that our readers had a lovely Christmas, and are now back to the usual routine of living. Browsing through the greetings cards at Darts Farm the other day we came across a card which read -

“Any idiot can deal with a crisis; it takes a genius to cope with everyday life.”
If that is really true then we wish you all good luck for 2016, may you all be geniuses!

DATES FOR THE DIARY

January 9th Helen Hayman's "Lets Make Music" Evening in Gittisham Church at 6.30 (if you would like to take part ring her on 01404 758334). It would be lovely to have a good number in the audience so please give her and the musicians your support. There will be refreshments.

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 23rd Burns Supper and Ceilidh. 7.00pm for 7.30pm. Tickets £8.00 / £4.00 under 14's from Carol McCann 851113. There is no bar so bring your own drinks. If you require vegetarian haggis please let Carol know when you order your ticket.

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—January

1st Prize	Mrs V Edmonds
2nd Prize	Mrs D Wensley
3rd Prize	Mrs J Bramley
4th Prize	Mr D Porter
5th Prize	Ms S Trumper

THANKYOU... Sarah and I would like to thank everyone for their kindness and love shown towards us on our Ruby Wedding Anniversary which coincided with New Year's Eve!! The bell-ringers were great and our guests from 'up country' loved the camaraderie of us all gathered around the Church Gate at the stroke of midnight! Thank you all who gave up beds, rooms and even cottages so that our friends could stay in the village and have a drink...or two!! Happy New Year - you all contribute to making a very special village - Best wishes - Nick and Sarah A-M

Balagan Café Band

February 13th in the village hall. The Band is an eclectic chamber group marrying jazz, classical and related music from all over the world. Whether it's the Gypsy Jazz, Medieval music, Balkan folk music or the band's own atmospheric originals, the Balagan Café Band aim to bring keen musicianship, infectious rhythms and a sense of joy.

HOLY DUSTERS for January

Liz and Ian Warne
Angie and Roger Hutchings

PEOPLE IN THE NEWS

IAN AND LIZ WARNE have a new grandson, Sebastian. Congratulations to the family.

MERIEL HILL has moved to Harcombe to be near Alice, Charlie and the children. We send her love and best wishes and hope she will be very happy in her new home, although she will be sadly missed after so many years in Gittisham.

FRANCES AND CHARLES HOLME have moved into Box House, we welcome them to the village and hope they will be very happy here. They will be closer to daughter Amelia and son-in-law Ollie who also live in the village.

HELEN AND MICHAEL and family have moved to The Wheel House, Town Farm Buildings. We extend a warm welcome to them all and hope they will all settle in to their new home and be very happy here.

YEAR'S MIND—JANUARY

Ethel Hayman
Mona Theodas

PARISH COUNCIL – JANUARY REPORT

Six councillors met for the January meeting. Susie Bond (EDDC) and Claire Wright (DCC) were also present.

DCC / EDDC Report.

Claire Wright agreed to look into concerns about broadband speed in the parish. She told members that Devon County Council is proposing to raise its precept by 2 per cent; the increase will be ring-fenced for adult social care. Claire Wright said she had entered a proposal to allow public speaking at DCC scrutiny committee meetings, and was confident of getting this passed. Susie Bond said the Local Plan was entering its final stages, and should be ready to use within the next 2-3 weeks. This means EDDC can make decisions based on a local plan, which will run until 2031. She said there was no update on the situation with the Hayne Lane development.

Crime. The police did not send a report this month.

Finance. Members agreed the budget for 2016/17 and the parish precept was set at £8,000.

Planning applications.

The Old Rectory Gittisham - T1 Yew, crown lift to 2m above ground level

Members had no objections to the above.

Limited residential development in Gittisham village.

David Valentine told members that EDDC had agreed to fund the housing needs survey in its 2016-17 programme. As Gittisham is considered an 'unsustainable' village in planning terms, no planning permission for housing can be granted without a demonstrable need so this is an essential first step.

Roads, drains and ditches.

Members expressed their dismay at the length of time it took for the news of the flood under the railway bridge to reach DCC Highways, considering this is a bus route between Honiton and Exeter. The road was blocked for five days over the Christmas period. David Fallows thanked those who had cleared the mud, debris and leaf litter and swept the road, which have now made the route passable. Claire Wright agreed to discuss the delay with DCC. David Fallows said he would send her an email with potholes and their map references, including the large one on Beech Walk. Maggie Walker said the lengthsman had identified a large amount of leaf litter on Parsonage Lane, Honiton Lane and by Truances which will need additional manpower from DCC to clear. She added that the flood behind Church Mead had been tackled, and thanked those involved.

Next meeting. This will be on 3rd February at 7.30pm.

Providing Affordable Housing in the Village

The lack of affordable housing in the parish has been an issue which has been of concern to the Parish Council for a number of years. A recent survey within the Parish showed that there is substantial support for a small-scale development that would address that gap. The development of an affordable housing scheme serving the village and the parish is complex and will be time consuming. There are no easy or quick solutions but development is possible given persistence, patience and hard work. Fortunately there is help available within both East Devon District Council and Devon Communities Together, to provide the necessary guidance to find a way through the labyrinth of bureaucracy which surrounds the preparation of any scheme.

A small steering group has been established to provide the drive and commitment which will be required if we are to succeed in bringing forward an affordable housing scheme within the village/parish. An important element of any scheme is that it should be community led and should you feel that you would like to contribute to the work of the steering group then please let me know. The first stage of bringing forward an affordable housing scheme is to get accurate information. The housing needs within the parish are unique to the parish and these needs have to be assessed by a formal Housing Needs Survey. It is vital to get information on all types of housing need, including:

1. People who have left the village/parish but would like to return.
2. Older people who wish to move to smaller, more manageable accommodation.
3. Single people and couples living with family.

The Housing Needs Survey is the starting point and we are fortunate to have succeeded, with the help of Devon Communities Together, in getting funding from East Devon District Council for a survey to be undertaken, hopefully, in April/May this year.

The preparation of the survey and the report of its findings will be undertaken by Devon Communities Together. Every household within the parish will be invited to respond to the survey and the level of community commitment to a scheme will be reflected in the number of survey forms that are returned and, of course, the information provided. Further details regarding the survey will be provided in future editions of the Gazette. In the meantime if you would like to join the Steering Group then please contact me on 851322 or email on davidmvalentine@btinternet.com.

David Valentine, The Cider House, Town Farm Buildings.

WANTED

"The Village Hall Committee are looking to employ a cleaner for the hall. Approx 2 hours per week; flexible hours to accommodate bookings; good pay negotiable. If interested, please contact either Bill Griffiths on 01404 851428 or Sue Fallows on 01404 850922. Alternatively, if you know anyone who might be interested, please tell them about the job and the contact details. Thank you.

TIP, TIP, TOE

This village tradition is being kept alive thanks to a small band of volunteers. Carol Rowe writes that this year's tip tip toe will take place on Tuesday 9th February. Tea in village hall at 4 o'clock followed by tip tip toe around the village. Hopefully they won't be needing rowing boats to get around. Roll on the spring.

GRAIN TO CREAM by Russell Hayman, Gittisham Farm

A new year has started and what might it have in store for us I wonder; to a degree more of the same. The Rural payment agency have kindly informed me due to their improved efficiency they can now tell me there is no way I am going to be paid on time rather than leaving me in the dark not much new there then; but there again the farming community have come to expect no more of our civil service. It is not quite so bad for me having a Tesco contract on some of my milk, but all areas of our industry are really struggling with low prices, borrowing at record levels, late payment from government agencies does nothing to help. I had hoped prices had bottomed out but there could well be some more drops to come. The end of 2016 will see them climbing back up we hope; everything always goes down faster than up, gravity has even greater effect on prices when selling. Of course when buying the spinning of the earth stops them falling as quickly. Well that explanation is more plausible than some of the claptrap dished up by our financial institutions. We will be freeze branding the heifers soon then Tb testing and routine vaccinations all for this month so going to be quite busy. We also saw one of the barn owls out and about again good to see them one of my favourite birds nice to look at and they catch mice result! The old house is down and the process of sorting the facing stone from the general rubble has begun; a slow job but worth trying to salvage as much as possible. The horse engine and press have been removed into storage, just need a good new home. We will be putting some calf hutches there hence some extra lighting. While doing that we have updated the rest of the lighting and put in CCTV as now the farm yard is very open so with a little luck it will deter unwanted guests.

I am also pleased to say the road has now a lovely new surface up to Westgate (it's not the M5 but it's certainly the M Git.). Now the traffic calming potholes have been removed I can go flat out on the little fergie. I know that's not fast in the scheme of things but it still thinks it's a super tanker when it comes to stopping. Those little tractors have always exceeded the limitations of their size! Beware there's a farmer about!!

Have a happy and healthy New Year.

Churchwarden's report—Carol McCann

A huge thank you to all who decorated the Church for Christmas it does look lovely and all who sent cards to me, I hope you all had a very happy and jolly Christmas and wish you a peaceful, healthy and plentiful 2016. Services for the next few weeks, all at 11.00 am unless stated otherwise, 10th January Parish Eucharist, 17th Lay-led sung Matins, 24th there will be no morning service as Team Choral Evensong will be at 6.30pm, (choir practice 5.30) 31st Parish Eucharist, February 7th Family Eucharist with refreshments for Candlemass, 14th Parish Eucharist, 21st Lay-led Morning Worship, 28th Parish Eucharist.

Thank you to the young people who sang Away in a Manger and Silent Night during the communion on Christmas Day and also Carol Hall for organising them. There are still some 2016 Church diaries 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)

Christian review subscriptions are now due, and are £5.00 this year. Doreen and Ernie Wensley and Pam Chown have made up and distributed the magazines for many years and have all decided to "retire", I would like to thank them for all their hard work. I am collecting the subs currently and Judy Turner will deliver the ones round the village and very kindly Ernie will still deliver those in the Vale. If you would like to take the Christian review please let me know. Many thanks.

When I saw Richard on Boxing day he asked me to thank everyone who went along to sing carols and who sent him cards and gifts, he enjoyed seeing so many 'old friends' and apologised for seeming out of sorts, he had problems with his hearing aids.

Congratulations to Nick and Sarah Agg-Manning who celebrated their Ruby Wedding on the 31st December we wish them every future happiness..

Photos wanted by Helen Hayman for exhibition on Gittisham in early 2016, if you can help please get in touch with her on 01404 758334.

Goodbye to Meriel Hill who has left Gittisham for Harcombe adjoining Alice and Charlie Vyner Brooks.

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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