

# GITTISHAM GAZETTE

## A monthly Community Newsletter

Published by St. Michael's Church and Gittisham Parish Council

January 2017

Edition 179

---

### WISHING YOU ALL A VERY HAPPY NEW YEAR

Well we've said a thankful goodbye to 2016 and hopefully look forward to a much better and kinder 2017. A very big thank you to Sarah and Bill for their marvellous New Year's eve party in the village hall during which just before midnight we all gathered outside the church lych-gate and the bell ringers rang out the old year we all sang Auld Lang Syne and also had the bonus of watching the fireworks from the Deer Park. A great start to the new year hope it continues.

---

### Dates for your diary January

**21st Coffee get-together** 10.30 – 12 noon in the Parish Room

**28th Burns Supper with Ceilidh** in the Village Hall £8.00 / £4.00 under 14. No bar, bring own drinks, please advise if vegetarian, Raffle. Bookings essential from Carol McCann 851113.

---

### PEOPLE IN THE NEWS

**Edith and Sid Phillips**, following their lengthy stay in Derryford, Edith was transferred to Wonford while Sid had to stay for more time in Plymouth, Sid came up to Exeter just before Christmas and ironically they transferred Edith back to Honiton. It is thought that Sid will remain in Wonford for a little while longer and hope he will soon be able to join Edith in Honiton. We hope she will be able to return to the village in not too distant a time keep up the good progress Edi!!

**The engagement has been announced between Peter King and Stephanie Marker**, living at St. Michael's Cottage with their new French Bulldog puppy Nala. Our congratulations and best wishes to you both.

**Edward Fuller** Congratulations to Edward who became the year 9 indoor rowing 500m sprint champion winning a gold medal, beating 62 others and also gained a bronze in the timed four minute race rowing 1156m in the 4 minutes, the two above him had not rowed in the sprint. Ed battles with Haemophilia and is totally dedicated to his sport. We wish him every success in the 2017 season. (did you see the article in the 4<sup>th</sup> January's Midweek Herald?)

**Kadence Cheffey** Kadence is making and selling homemade biscuits, 3 flavours for the charity Heartswell South West in order to raise funds for a defibrillator for Feniton Village where she goes to school. If you would like to order some please ring 01404 850790.

---

**Thank yous** to the management and staff of The Pig at Combe for their party on the 5<sup>th</sup> January a lovely evening was enjoyed by all who attended.

Also to Hamish Hall for organising the quiz night on the 8<sup>th</sup> and to all who provided soups and made up the ploughman's supper a profit was made for the upkeep of the hall **Just a reminder Village Hall exercises on offer.**

On Monday evenings Nichola Pettit does Pilates Classes (2 sessions) 6.00- 7.00 and 7.00-8.00 ring her on 01404 47992 if you would like to give it a try.

On Thursday evenings 6.00 -7.00 Ella Howard has a Yoga Class if this is something you might like give Ella a ring on 07548158560

## THE UDDER SIDE OF THE HEDGE - CARLA CHEFFEY

Happy New Year to all. 2017 is certainly set to be a strange one for us here at Shermans. It was a real mix of feelings to think this was our last Christmas at the farm, it will be sad to leave after being here for nearly 28 years, however, it is nice to think that next Christmas we shouldn't have to go out to milk cows at 5am, and again at 3pm, fitting in opening presents with the children, and eating dinner around feeding and looking after the animals. But what do 'normal' people do?!

Milking is already somewhat strange, for we have been downsizing the herd anyway for several months now, so instead of 480 cows through the parlour twice a day, we only have 190 in milk now – finishing at 8am instead of nearer 11 / 6:30pm instead of 8:30pm, is very strange, and I have even done a couple of morning school runs, which is new to me. However, whilst the milking time has decreased, so has the staffing level, as the Polish didn't like reduced hours (although they complained about long hours before) so the last two left before Christmas. This isn't really a problem, but means that now after milking we share the other jobs of calf feeding and bedding down etc. between us. At the minute we're still quite 'calf heavy' as we're calving in about 30 cows a month, but in December I only dried off 9 cows, and there will be 12 in Jan, which means Feb and March will see a downscale in calves as well. All Friesian bull calves are being kept to be reared and fattened down at Oakfield, more of a hobby than a business I should think. The British Blues and the Angus calves get sold at market on a Friday, normally when they reach about 40 days old (they have to be TB tested after 42 days), these tend to make good money as calves, so generally worth us selling them rather than keeping.

Each month we have been selling the freshly calved cows at Sedgemoor and at Exeter. Our top seller made over £2000 (my friend commented that 'no wonder Jack's mum was 'non plussed' when he brought home magic beans!), however, older cows, or three quartered cows despite giving plenty of milk can make as little as £700, and generally are worth more to milk out and then fatten up and go for meat. Both markets had 'show and sales' in Dec, and at Sedgemoor we won a 2<sup>nd</sup> place, and at Exeter we won a first and a champion which was lovely – helps the cows make a bit more as well.

Anyway, we have a whole herd TB test at the end of Feb, we hope to have sold the bulk of the best cows by then, but fingers crossed it is clear to allow our plans to continue. Although I'm not looking forward to the whole farm clean-up operation. I will keep you posted!

---

### Goodbye and Hellos

**Jan Sutcliffe** : We said farewell from the village on the 16<sup>th</sup> December to Jan who has moved to Angel Mews in Honiton, we hope you will be very happy in your new home.

**The Furniss Family**: On the 16<sup>th</sup> Decwmbler we welcomed Molly, Damien, May and Dora who have moved into Cornerstones (Jan's old home). It is lovely to have a new family in the village and wish you every happiness.

**Kate Kimber**: A warm Gittisham welcome to Kate, who has recently moved into No 1 Marker Close we wish you a happy life in the village, Kate already knows several villagers.

**Polly and Neal Whitfield** with children Otis and Clementine have joined Sarah Agg-Manning at Eveleighs for a while, Otis goes to Little Treasures Pre School. It is lovely having them back.

## PARISH COUNCIL – JANUARY REPORT

Seven councillors met for the January meeting. Susie Bond (EDDC) and one member of the public were also present.

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

Susie Bond said that Baker Estates had acquired the site west of Hayne Lane for development. They will be bringing forward detailed proposals for the first phase, which will be for around 100 homes, of which 23 per cent of these in the first phase would be affordable. The company has requested a meeting with the parish council. Susie Bond agreed to speak to EDDC's planning officers about a way to achieve a pedestrian link between the development and Gittisham village. Regarding the footbridge connecting the staff car park and The Pig, Susie Bond said the applicants need land drainage consent as well as planning permission. The retrospective planning application is making its way through the system.

### **Schools funding.**

Claire Wright sent a report outlining plans for a government funding shake-up of local schools. Unfortunately, she said, despite Devon schools being virtually at the bottom of the funding table, around one third (including The King's School, Honiton Community College and Colyton Grammar) are set to lose money as a result of the redistribution of funds. She has written to Hugo Swire MP asking him to fight hard for local schools to receive significant increases in funding: firstly, to compensate schools for recent additional costs and secondly to level the unfair funding playing field. She said that press reports indicate Hugo Swire intends to act on this issue. If you wish to make representations on behalf of The King's School, email Neil Parish as your MP and Hugo Swire as the MP for Ottery St Mary. A formal consultation on the plans ends on 22 March. The address for responding to the consultation is:

[HighNeedsFundingReform.CONSULTATION@education.gov.uk](mailto:HighNeedsFundingReform.CONSULTATION@education.gov.uk)

### **Crime.**

No report received.

**Finance.** Members agreed the budget for 2017/18 and the parish precept was set at £8,160.

### **Play area.**

Following last month's presentation by DCC's Rights of Way officer, the clerk agreed to check if he would be free to attend a public meeting at the end of January or early February. The clerk agreed to ask Len Abbott to install the two signs to deter people from bringing dogs into the play area. A cheque for £400 from the village fete was received.

### **Honiton Neighbourhood Plan.**

Richard Pratt said the public consultation is due to be published this month.

### **Ditches and drains.**

The clerk said she would discuss with Susie Bond the possibility of putting in another application to the Parishes Together fund.

**Next meeting.** This will be on 1<sup>st</sup> February at 7.30pm.

## CHURCHWARDEN'S REPORT Carol McCann.

Our Scenes of Christmas in church looked lovely and is still on display, I hope you had a chance to see our efforts. The Carol Service on the 18<sup>th</sup> was well attended and enjoyed, thanks to all those who did readings. Mince pies and hot drinks were served afterwards. Carols on the Green on the 23<sup>rd</sup> was great fun and thanks go to Helen Fuller for cooking the sausages and James for his help too. Twelve of us went up to the Pig to sing Carols to the guests on Christmas Eve. I was extremely disappointed in the numbers for both the Midnight Mass (11.30pm) with only 22 and Christmas Day Eucharist (11.00am) with only 24 adults and 5 children. For the first time since I have been churchwarden (23/24 years) we did not have any visitors from the hotel at either service. Our Christmas Charities were Crisis at Christmas and the East Devon Juvenile Diabetes Group. Our Christingle and Epiphany service was on the 8th we had a lovely turnout and many thanks to the children and parents who helped in the making of the Christingles the sweets and fruit went down well. The next family service will be Candlemas where we will have a procession with candles on the 5<sup>th</sup> February.

### Forthcoming Church Services 11am unless stated

#### January 2017

15th Parish Eucharist  
22nd Lay-led Sung Matins  
with refreshments 6.30pm  
29th Parish Eucharist

#### February

5th Family Eucharist for Candlemas with  
Refreshments  
12th Parish Eucharist  
18th Lay-led Morning Worship  
25th Parish Eucharist

### 200 CLUB RESULTS JANUARY

1st David & Ann Thomas	2nd Guy Carstairs	3rd Emma Fuller
4th Valerie Clifford	5th Kevin Broadhurst	

**Christian Review** January is when the year's subscription is due it is still £5.00 for the 12 editions I would be grateful to have your payment as soon as possible please. If you would like to have this Church Magazine, which encompasses various churches in Honiton and the villages please let me know. 01404851113.

---

FOND FAREWELLS. The deaths just prior to and after Christmas of two longstanding residents from Cypress Close, Gittisham Vale.

**KEITH BALLARD** died on 22<sup>nd</sup> December Keith and wife Eileen were currently staying at Gittisham Hill House. Keith's funeral will be at the East Devon Crematorium on the 9<sup>th</sup> January.

**DUNCAN BYRNE** died on 30<sup>th</sup> December. Duncan's funeral also at the Crematorium is on the 16<sup>th</sup> January.

We wish both Eileen and family and Shirley and family comfort and peace in their grieving.

---

**FOR SALE 1 Hard wood 2 Seater Arbour** (very good condition – only 18 months old) Price £75.00 or nearest offer. Please phone 01404 45774.

### Editorial team.

Editor Carol McCann 01404 851113 [charli.mcc@mypostoffice.co.uk](mailto:charli.mcc@mypostoffice.co.uk)

Doreen & Ernie Wensley 01404 45774

February edition will hopefully go to print on 7<sup>th</sup>, any articles should be with Carol by 1st please, preferably by email (see email address above)