

# GITTISHAM GAZETTE

## A monthly Community Newsletter

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### Leaving Eveleigh's with a Bang .....or was it a Whimper?

After living at Eveleigh's Farmhouse for well over twenty years I faced the mammoth task of downsizing to a two bedroomed cottage. Time was ticking but I had a team of house clearers (well, two) and my daughter's father-in-law, on hand to help. It was Friday 15<sup>th</sup> December; I was struggling to pack up the kitchen and just about keeping to target when a sombre figure appeared, silhouetted against the back door, holding aloft a plastic bag.

'We have a problem!' he mournfully intoned, 'The police will have to be informed immediately!' What problem? I knew he had been clearing the barn. Had he discovered a body? Why the police?

'I have discovered this!' he continued; pulling from the bag, with a flourish, a military shell which I vaguely recognised. 'This shell is live and the authorities will have to be notified'. He proceeded to place said shell in the dining room (perhaps it would have been better left in the barn?) and made the necessary phone call.

Within what seemed minutes, a police car had screeched up to the house and a very friendly young policewoman informed me that the bomb squad had been contacted and that I should evacuate the building forthwith. I took one last look at the shell. Was my mind playing tricks or was this the 'doorstop' that had stood alongside the old grandfather clock over many years? No, no, surely not! ..... Nick had always assured me that it was perfectly safe – the only danger was that of stubbing our toe on it in passing.

'Don't worry, 'came the re-assuring voice of the policewoman 'the bomb squad is on its way from Plymouth on a blue light' 'Is that strictly necessary?' I asked in a slightly embarrassed, high pitched tone.

'Oh yes!' she responded cheerfully, 'They like to practise their techniques – but in the meantime we may have to cordon off the village.' 'Oh surely not' I squeaked 'It's the Village Quiz Night.....for village funds.....people will not be able to get there.....all Hamish's preparations will be for naught!'

She stopped me in mid-babble. 'I am going off duty now and my colleague will replace me until the squad arrives and assesses the situation'. The colleague duly arrived and at that point I had to leave to give an hour's tuition to a pupil at Budleigh Salterton. As I arrived at my destination my mobile rang – it was the police officer. 'Just to let you know that it is safe to return to the premises – the shell has been removed.'

I have not learned whether the said weapon was live or not. So, did the bomb in the barn go off with a bang or a whimper?

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### Dates for your Diary

#### January 2018

- 11th** **Film Night at the Village Hall 'Some Like it Hot'** 7.00pm £2.00 bring own drinks, nibbles provided
- 13th** **Celebrate Together** an afternoon of worship and fun for all and especially people with learning difficulties, their families, carers and friends with tea. St. Paul's
- 20th** **Coffee Get-together** 10.30 – 12.00 in the Parish Room everyone most welcome.
- 27th** **Burns Night Supper with Ceilidh** 7.00 for 7.30. £8.00 & £4.00 for primary school age and below. No bar, bring own drinks. Book your place with Sue Fallows 850922 as numbers will be limited.

#### February

- 11th** **Farewell Service for Rev. Jane at St. Paul's 10.00** no other services in the villages
- 13th.** **Tip Tip Toe 4.00pm** for tea in the village hall followed by collecting round the village all children welcome to keep this age old tradition alive, contact Carole Rowe 42510
- 17th** **Coffee get-together Parish Room 10.30 – 12.00 everyone welcome**

### **Honiton Food Bank**

Following from Gittisham's collection during Advent of food and seasonal items the Honiton Food Bank has written to us.

*"Dear Carol, , We would like to thank the congregation of St. Michael's Church Gittisham for their generous donations of food for the King's Centre Food Bank this Christmas time.*

*We are so grateful for the support which enables us to give people much needed help.*

*Thank you once again for your support.*

*Yours sincerely,*

*Teresa Hawkes, Food Bank Team Leader"*

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### **GRAIN TO CREAM**

Well a New Year and a while since I wrote. The end of last year was not the best, we were unable to get all the crops planned to be sown, planted and what did get into the ground is not looking fantastic. So a bit of a change of cropping some sunshine in the spring and all will look better but no record yields from our autumn sown crops. But there was still plenty to do hedge cutting, ditching, fencing, fallen trees/branches and gates to sort. Not all done yet and spring will be soon here I hope.

Christmas is a special time here at Gittisham Farm as tinsel sprouts everywhere. Tractors even the one that scrapes the poo, (should grow best on that one though covered in s\_ \_ t! ) milk trolley even the milking parlour including the bulk tank; and the work force turns into elves (got Xmas hats) not me I'm baa humbug, - got the complete works here.

We try to do some winter maintenance on the machines as well now though the cow brushes are proving to be a little problematic. These are electric powered rotary nylon brushes that turn when the cows give them a push. The cows love them we have 2 and if one stops we have a queue for the remaining one. But boy aren't our girls hooligans they really treat them badly not to mention the peculiar positions that can be obtained whilst enjoying a brush in all manner of places. Needless to say one gone knocked right off and hasn't been the same since; bit like me; still an on-going job to get into full working order will get there in the end. I'm a lost cause though!

Just before December Muller informed us of a 1.5p per litre price drop happy Christmas from the Germans. Not really anti German but head office is in Germany and such a drop was uncalled for and I am pretty sure if I didn't have an agreement with Tesco with them I would be off if could find a company to buy my milk. Tesco on the other hand informed us of a small price rise (0.07p) just before Christmas so happy new year from them. Not worried about the turkey issue it wasn't just Tesco, Aldi as well; but then our Media love to bash anything that is British and successful. Mind you we had a lovely goose from Bartletts!

Let's hope we all have a wonderful 2018

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### **New Year's Eve Party**

The Village Hall committee wanted to put on a village celebration to welcome the new year. A good time was had by all, and the hall was well disguised by decorations! The food was amazing, so a big thank you to all who brought a contribution.

Also a big Thank You to Nick Chapman who organised much of the music (with contributions from Sarah Adamson, who raided her CD collection).

We may well try to make this an annual event, so it's a date for your diary! Sue Fallows.

A big thank you to Sue and colleagues who masterminded the evening it was great fun I look forward to next New Year's Eve, do put it in your diaries. Singing Auld Lang Syne at the Lych-gate following Peter and Maggie's splendid efforts to keep our ringing out the old year alive. (C.McC)

## PARISH COUNCIL – JANUARY REPORT

Five councillors met for the January meeting. Susie Bond (EDDC), Phil Twiss (DCC) and two members of the public were also present.

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

Phil Twiss said the delay in transfer of care from acute to social care is markedly improved in recent weeks, although far from the finished 'joined up article'. He added that a useful smartphone application called 'NHS Quicker' is available free of charge from the Apple store or Android 'Google Play' store and is a very useful tool in terms of information on care waiting times for the local Minor Injuries Unit, as well as other NHS services. Susie Bond agreed to contact South West Water, after members expressed concern over the potential capacity of the sewage treatment works. This follows an issue in autumn 2017 with fat, which was finding its way into the sewage flow and causing blockages in the centre of the village.

**Finance.** Members agreed the budget for 2018/19 and the parish precept was maintained for a further year at £8,160.

### **Planning applications.**

Richard Pratt said the Hamlet Lodge application for an extension to the garage had been approved with conditions.

### **Casual vacancy.**

Following presentations from two strong candidates, members agreed to co-opt Carol Hall as parish councillor for Gittisham village.

### **Hayne Lane development.**

Developer Baker Estates (BE) sent an update on the new development. Work on the first phase has properly begun, although there have been some delays regarding overhead cable diversions and the signing of an agreement with Devon County Council Highways. The culvert works at the entrance are nearly complete and construction of the first house foundations will begin at the end of this month. BE explained the highways work would mean a temporary road closure around Hayne Lane, and the company said it would do all it can to ensure this process is handled sensitively to minimise the impact on people living in the immediate area. In particular a joint meeting is being arranged with BE, DCC Highways and Leonard Bartlett to ensure that the farming and farm shop activities are understood and managed. A diversion will be signed. BE said the response to the latest application for subsequent phases of the development had been positive, and the company has been responding to some comments which it believes should further improve the scheme. This application should be determined by 23 February. BE stressed that this application is fully compliant with the existing S106 agreement with 40 per cent affordable housing.

### **Broadband.**

Phil Twiss reported there had been little movement on this due to the Christmas break, but he said he had written to Connecting Devon & Somerset programme managers, asking that Gittisham parish be considered as a priority for use of 'gain share' funding. He said he had also written to Matt Barrow at CDS before Christmas, asking him to look at the previous quote for the cost of bringing fibre to the village from the direction of the Iron Bridge.

**Next meeting.** Date in February tbc at 7.30pm in the parish room

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**CHRISTMAS TREE DISPOSAL** Carol Hall has found someone who will collect Christmas trees for £4. MRW Services on 07541 325667. Better than dumping them to rot in the woods or countryside!!

## **Church Wardens Report Carol McCann**

Firstly I would like to thank everyone who helped look after the church and services while I was again unwell and in hospital before Christmas, also for all the cards and good wishes. I do hope you all had a very Happy and Peaceful Christmas and have a wonderful, healthy and prosperous 2018.

Our Scenes of Christmas were on display throughout December and I hope many of you were able to view our efforts. The Carol Service on the 17<sup>th</sup> was very well attended and thanks to Ian and Helen Hayman for running it while I was in Wonford. Carols on the Green (another event I missed) went very well and thanks to Helen Fuller for purchasing and cooking the bangers and Angie Hutchings for making the Mulled Wine. The two Christmas Services were well attended and thanks to Molly and the children on Christmas Day for singing two carols while the adults took communion. We have just had our annual Christingle Service thanks to the children and adults for helping to make the Christingles Rev. Ann said she had never seen such lovely ones.

### **Forthcoming Church Services 11am unless stated**

#### **January**

**14th Parish Eucharist**

**21st Lay-led Morning Worship**

**28th No morning service**

**Mission Community Choral Evensong 6.30  
(choir practice 5.30)**

#### **February**

**4th Family service with refreshments**

**11th no service in villages**

**Farewell service for Rev Jane at St. Paul's 10.00 with refreshments**

**It is time to renew your subscription for the Christian Review £5.00 for 12 months if you would like to start taking a copy contact Carol 851113. Please let me have your payment as soon as possible please.**

We are trying to fundraise for **Help Flush Away Poverty**, a toilet twinning enterprise to help the 2,4 billion people who don't have a proper loo. The PCC are going to organise, along with the Village Hall and hopefully the Parish Council a meeting in the hall in the next few weeks and will invite Julia Beaman to give a talk. Julia has been the instigator for St. Paul's Honiton and they have twinned several loos and school blocks.. Do look out for a poster if you would like to be part of this fundraising. For £60 you can twin your loo with a single household latrine in an impoverished community. For £240 twinning can be done for a school block. You receive a framed certificate to hang in your loo featuring a photo of the twinned toilet. I do hope we can get this off the ground so please look out for a date.

### **200 CLUB RESULTS JANUARY**

1st Sarah Agg-Manning

2nd Ellie Cornelius

3rd John Boswell

4th Violet Quick

5th Russell Hayman

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### **FORWARD NOTICE QUIZ NIGHT AT GITTISHAM VILLAGE HALL FEBRUARY 24<sup>TH</sup> 7.00 FOR 7.30**

**Quizmaster Marty. Teams up to 6. Supper to be decided (vegetarians will be catered for), no bar so bring own drinks, there will be a raffle, book your table with Sue Fallows 850922 GITTISHAM MEMORIES will take place again this year over the weekend of 26/27 May. Morr memorabilia/photos needed by Helen Hayman and offers of help.07806480246. More details nearer the time. Do put the date in your diary.**

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**Distributors, Carol McCann, Helen Fuller, Carol Hall & Judith Turner and in Gittisham Vale Peter and Ann Sellick. Copy date for February 2018 Monday 5th. If you have any news, dates events for inclusion in the Gazette do please email it to Carol as early as possible.**

**If you are moving away from Gittisham/Gittisham Vale the Gazette can be sent by email on request.**