

## FROM GRAIN TO CREAM—by Russell Hayman.

Well 2012 was not the best year to be a farmer; the wettest on record and the effects will be felt into 2013. Our crops are feeling the wet and looking really quite sick, that is the bit we have sown; we have only sown half of the wheat planned so spring cropping will be the order of the day but seed is in short supply, especially spring barley which is the main spring sown cereal, which could well be sold out. Also all this extra rain is causing a lot of soil erosion and in places large areas have fallen into the river and there is nothing we can realistically do to stop this... nature always has the last say. Never mind, we had a good Christmas, though no Christmas babies this year. Even the cows escaped into a small paddock at the back of the farm and, judging by the ground afterwards, had a right rave up like a bunch of screaming school girls! Helen has been busy putting tinsel in the parlour and feeding the work force sloe gin! At least they are smiling whilst getting soaked, and we saw the barn owl flying around as well. The ducks are looking fit with all that swimming they are doing. So the plans for 2013? More of the same really. If we get some dry weather (it's bound to run out upstairs in the end) it will be all systems go, slurry to spread, fencing to do and quite a bit of drainage. We have tried to do some but there is just too much water about. Oh, and still some crops to plant and some freeze branding to do, though we can do that in the dry. Alice has a tortoise now, Baldrick, so another resident in the caravan! He doesn't really do much but he likes the heater and is an ideal pet for a caravan and, not to be out done, Helen now has a new pet, Dennis, a wonky bull calf. He had a bent neck when born which has straightened a bit and also he has proven to be impossible to castrate because his testicles did not drop so, although infertile he still thinks he is all man, so we are keeping him separate for as long as possible until he becomes too manly! Until then he will be getting his back scratched as he is rather fond of that.

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### PARISH COUNCIL—January meeting

Six parish councillors met. Cllr Roger Giles (DCC) was also present.

**DCC Report.** Roger Giles said that contrary to Cllr Randall Johnson's report in the December 2012 meeting, DCC's funding from central Government would be cut by 28% over three years, which was worse than had been feared. He also informed members he was keeping up the pressure on DCC not to give further approvals to planning applications in his area without first giving serious consideration to the implications for education provision. A special meeting of Feniton parish council in December had attracted more than 150 members of the public with concerns about the impact of various housing developments in their parish on local services, the primary school and also King's in Ottery.

**Crime.** No recorded crimes in the parish since the last meeting.

**Finance.** Budget for 2013/14 was agreed. Precept was set at £7,350.

**Planning applications.** Members had no objections to the following:

Hayne Farm, Hayne Lane – extension to cattle building.

Members declared an interest in the application for change of use for land north of Marker Close from agricultural to village amenity area. EDDC's conservation officer had questioned the size of the proposed opening in the wall separating the two sections of the play area. Russell said that 2m would be too small for machinery, and access past Eveleigh's Farm was not practical and also on a private road.

**Drains and ditches.** Members thanked volunteers and DCC for recent work unblocking drains and ditches in the parish. Roger Giles said he had hoped to get some money for flood defences, but this was now unlikely and was dependent on the outcome of other schemes. He was optimistic about installing at least one flood gauge for the parish by the railway bridge near the forge. This will have to be carefully sited, to avoid seeking permission from Network Rail. Approval could happen within the next four weeks, but it is not clear when it would potentially be installed. David Fallows reported that Hayne Lane is closed until further notice at the southern end, as flood damage to the road has left it in a dangerous state. (Access to the farm shop is still permitted). Roger Giles agreed to find out if funding could be found to repair this.

**EDDC Local Plan.** Members had no additions or amendments to the parish council's submission to the Local Plan, and approved its content. Parishioners are encouraged to respond to the latest draft of EDDC's Local Plan by midday on Monday 14th January 2013.

**Late entry correspondence.** Members were reminded that installing a satellite dish on a listed property needs Listed Building Consent, following a recent breach in the parish.

Members agreed to invite Jane Sharp from the Active Villages Project to a future meeting, to discuss how the project could support rural communities to develop opportunities for people to experience the fun of sport.

**Next meeting.** This will be on 6<sup>th</sup> February at 7.30pm.

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### BIRTHDAYS

We have taken the decision to discontinue the list of people with birthdays each month because, on a few occasions, we have mistakenly omitted someone and have misspelt names! We wish everyone with a birthday in January a very happy day!

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

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

Carol Hall	850793	Jan Sutcliffe	851255
Carol McCann	851113	Doreen Wensley	45774
Barbara Mullett	851255	Ernie Wensley	45774

The next publication will be printed on 8th February.



### Letter to the Editor...

Hayne Lane is a hill, and as such, water runs down it. With the construction of the road bridge over the A30 to Western, the lowest point on the road is now the three driveways to the bungalows that face the A30, ours being one of them. Hayne Lane has no pavements so any water running down it will collect mud, sticks, leaves etc on its way downhill. This detritus blocks the road drains and causes the water to pool at the entry to our drives. The last major problem occurred on the night of the 25th November. The runoff from Beech Walk comes down the upper section of Hayne Lane via ditches. Once it gets under the railway bridge it is transferred under the road via another 6" pipe to exit into the main culvert. Unfortunately this never happens as it appears that the pipe is always blocked. The water then runs out of the ditches onto the road surface to collect at the low point. I returned home around 10pm to find Hayne Lane 1" - 2" deep across its entire width. The depth at our section was nearer 8" deep. There is drain under the fence near the driveways but this is always blocked by debris and silt due to its location. It only needs one stick to jam under the fence and soon a dam is formed. It was only my driveway drain which was having any effect. Once it gets to a certain depth it overflows down the steps onto the A30. During a previous storm this runoff added to the water which caused the road to be blocked. Although we are lucky and do not suffer from water entering the houses we are always left with a sea of mud. This time it was between 6" - 8" deep across the whole area. This gets walked into the houses. It took repeated calls to the Council (over a week) before this was cleared. So what can be done? The Council have tried to divert the flow via sandbags but these soon get damaged by traffic and could only be temporary measure. They have cleared some embankment away to form a channel into the main culvert but as this is ninety degrees to the flow I am not sure it will work. We need some form of bund (sleeping policeman) across the entrance to the driveways which would channel the water and silt into the culvert before it reaches us. We wait and see.

Dave Pickerell, Hamlet bungalow, Hayne Lane

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### CHURCHWARDENS' REPORT

I would like to thank all those who did the flowers and decorations for Christmas, the Church looked beautiful and I hope we can keep some of them going until – Candlemas the first Sunday in February as this completes the Christmas season.

Our Christmas services were well attended and the two charities we had chosen, The Church Housing Trust which looks after, clothes, and finds accommodation for the homeless, and Balloons which is based in Exeter giving bereavement counselling to children and also offers courses in bereavement the cash collections for the 3 services amounted to £446.88 so each charity will receive £223.44. many thanks to Beverley Johnson (our Team Reader) who conducted the first Midnight Mass, and Rev. Sue for a lovely service on Christmas Day, the children (and adults) were captivated with your story.

Thanks to all who made the carols on the green such fun, lots of lovely singing, I hope everyone enjoyed the evening, we were very lucky with the weather.

I took another box of items for the food bank in Honiton on the 24th and they were very appreciative the box is situated near the font in church to receive goods.

Services for the rest of January and early February will follow the usual pattern, at the Family service on the 3<sup>rd</sup> February – Candlemas, we are having a baptism which will be most appropriate as it is also the day of the presentation of Christ in the Temple.

A forward notice for the 200 club, collectors will be starting to come round from about mid- February, there are currently four spare numbers, if anyone would like a number or an extra one, please let me know.

**Wanted** – I am very short of people to help, could anyone offer to be included on the "Holy Duster" Rota - come on please some of our younger members - or the Flower Arranging Rota normally working alone but this could be done in pairs, you do the flowers in normal times for two weeks plus the festivals. Holy dusters work in teams of up to 4 for one month if you could offer some help please do let me know, it isn't too arduous and can be fun when working as a team!

The Christian Review payments are now due, a year's subscription costs £4.00 please arrange to pay Pam Chown as soon as possible. If you do not have the Christian Review and would like to start taking it please also contact Pam Chown on 850085.

**Obituary** Mona Theodas (mother of Terry Boswell and her sister Nicky Hodgkinson) very sadly died on Saturday 5<sup>th</sup> January, she would have been 100 in March. It was Mona who made the lovely collages hung on the pulpit at festival times, Easter, Harvest, Remembrance Sunday and Christmas. We offer our condolences and pray that the family will find comfort and peace in their grieving. The funeral and committal service, which will be in Gittisham, is still to be arranged.

Carol McCann

# GITTISHAM GAZETTE

A monthly Community Newsletter

Published by St Michael's Church and Gittisham Parish Council

January 2013

Edition 132

## AN IRISH FRIENDSHIP WISH



May there always be work for your hands to do;

May your purse always hold a coin or two;

May the sun always shine on your windowpane;

May a rainbow be certain to follow each rain;

May the hand of a friend always be near you;

May God fill your heart with gladness to cheer you;

## HAPPY NEW YEAR

### DATES FOR THE DIARY

**FEBRUARY 15th and 16th—**  
**"COMBESIDE FEVER" Village Panto.** Matinee on Saturday 2.30pm. Evenings on Friday and Saturday 7.30pm. Tickets available from Doreen Wensley—45774. Prices as follow -

Friday evening—£5.00

Saturday matinee—£5.00/£2.50

Saturday evening—£7.50

**MARCH 21st VILLAGE IN ACTION—**Steve Tilston, Radio 2 Folk Award winner. More details next month.

**MARCH 2nd at 7.30pm—**  
**LET'S ALL GO TO THE MUSIC HALL** Manor Pavilion Theatre Sidmouth. Jan Sutcliffe and Brian Rees present a new programme. Tickets £10 Box Office 01395 514413. Proceeds to **Devon Air Ambulance.**

### 200 Club

The winners this month were:

1st Prize	Mrs P Rowswell
2nd Prize	Lady M-A Denham
3rd Prize	Mr K Horn
4th Prize	Mr G Freestone
5th Prize	Mr M Neve

There are currently 4 numbers available...contact Carol McCann if you would like to buy one.

### VOICE FROM THE VALE

by Michael Hawkins

Mike Edmonds the parish councillor living in Cypress Close had a bad fall early last week, knocking himself out, he needed 10 stitches to his head and he broke the left elbow, needing an operation before plastering. He is now home, we hope he will have a speedy recovery.

Hayne Lane was closed for a week, the reason being that the torrential rain and water run off has caused undermining of the road surface and, therefore, its collapse, making it impassable near the top of the lane.

### WELL DONE HAMISH!

On 15th December Hamish Hall put on a fun evening of Ban-zaii. We were able to bet on several interesting and mind-blowing games as subjected to his "voluntary" victims. Tables were split into teams and each team was given gaming chips to bet with for every game and the two teams left with the most chips won vouchers for Bartlett's Farm Shop. The winning team were the Rowe Family. Thanks go to Hamish for a great evening and for all the preparations he did for this event.

### PEOPLE IN THE NEWS

**MONA THEODAS** died on Saturday 5th January. Mona will be remembered as a very elegant lady who had artistic flair and who was full of fun. Those of us who were around at the turn of the century will remember that Mona designed the village commemorative mugs for the Flower Festival held in 2001, entitled "An Odyssey in Space". Mona's funeral will be on Wednesday 16th January at 2pm. It is to be a celebration of Mona's life, and Terry has asked for the bells to be rung. It is also family flowers only with donations to St. Michael's Gittisham. We send our sincere condolences to Terry, Nicky and all the family.

**KATHY EVELEIGH** has a new member of the family...Bert, who is a Papillion puppy with the most beautiful ears! He has already made the acquaintance of Carol Hall's dog and they seemed to like each other! We look forward to seeing Bert out for his walks.

### HOLY DUSTERS

January

Liz & Ian Warne

Angie and Roger Hutchings

### YEARS MIND

JANUARY—Ethel Hayman