

GITTISHAM GAZETTE

A monthly Community Newsletter

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SARA AND BILL'S GREAT ADVENTURE

Spurred on by the death of my sister and the reminder of just how short life really is, we decided to do something a bit different this year. I had suggested cycling from Lands End to John O'Groats, but Bill said he didn't fancy battling with the English weather and the busy roads. In a rash moment he said he would rather cycle from Gittisham to our house in Crete. I pounced on the idea and started planning.....

Six months later, on Saturday 14th April, we were gathered outside the Hare and Hounds on a chilly, foggy morning with a select group of well-wishers who had turned out at 8.30am to see us off. We were more than a little apprehensive to say the least! We had two panniers each and a small box on the front of each bike, a day and a half to get to Poole to catch the ferry to St Malo, and a total of 2,150 miles to cover in an indeterminate period of time. We had taken two and a half months off work in the hope of arriving with enough time to spare to have a holiday at the end of it and in all honesty we had no idea how long it would take us. We didn't even have any real idea of the exact route and, as it transpired, we didn't have any proper means of navigating!! We were however extremely well prepared in the packing department (me) and bike maintenance department (Bill).

The first day was really tough. We cycled (and pushed) our way up a number of lovely Dorset hills, had our first puncture within about a mile of setting off, and got properly lost for the first time of many. We covered 47 tough miles and arrived at Lower Bockhampton, just outside Dorchester, in time for a lovely dinner, elated but so tired that we could barely speak to each other. Over the course of the next couple of weeks the cycling became easier as we became fitter and healthier. It was lovely to be out of doors all day long with nothing to do but cycle all day and we really missed it when we weren't on the bikes. After crossing France, Italy and Greece and taking a number of ferries of varying lengths we finally arrived in Crete on 28th May, 6 weeks and 2 days after setting off. We kept a blog recording our trip and the various highs and lows we encountered (saraandbillsgreatadventure.com) and thanks to many generous supporters we raised over £2,000 for Cancer Research.

Dates for your Diary July

- 7th Gittisham Village Fete at the Village Hall 2.00pm** and up through the village, various stalls, teas, children's entertainment, duck race 'down' the River Gitt etc. If you would like to have a stall ring Sue 850922 or Helen 07806408246 or if you can help on the day ring Helen. Items needed for tombola, cake, bottle, book or bric-a-brac stalls
- 7th Buckerell Village Fete at Splathayes 2.00 – 4.00** with teas in Doug's Shed, various stalls and activities, and from 7.00pm a bar-b-q.
- 13th Zero Waste Cookery Demonstration 11.00 – 2.00** with lunch. Pierre Graeber will be demonstrating recipes (vegetarian & gluten free) incorporating your 'leftovers' lunch will be served at the end. £15.00 per person. To book your place email Pierre on booking@zerowastecookery.com or ring him on 851442
- 14th**
- 18th Gittisham Parish Council Meeting** in the Parish Room at 7.30
- 19th The Village Hall AGM will take place in the Village Hall at 6.30.** Everyone welcome
- 21st Coffee get-together 10.00 – 12 noon** outside if fine in Parish room if not. Everyone welcome
- 22nd Choral Evensong at St. Michael's Gittisham 6.30** (choir practice 5.30)
- 28th Zero Waste Cookery Pop Up Restaurant** in the Village Hall 7.30 £20 per person (under 12's £10) bring own drinks. Bookings essential to Pierre Graeber. See separate entry

GRAIN TO CREAM - RUSSELL HAYMAN

Well the new voluntary milking system (robots) are in and working. The cows have now mostly got the idea just a few that have to be reminded. It is quite funny to watch them really as once they get the idea there can be the problem that they visit all the time and gradually the excitement ebbs away to a more gentle rhythm. On average they are milked three times a day with the highest yielding cows coming in 5 times.

So now this is working so well, off to the beach! I wish!!! there is always more we can do for the cows as we are now in possession of a posh footbath which counts the cow through then changes the water, after a set amount. But we are beginning to train ourselves to leave the girls to it. We still have a lot to learn!

Since I last wrote we have done 1st cut silage; yields down quite a bit and second cut again not much there. So to make sure there is enough food for the animals I think we will have to ensile some wheat, which will help with the feed but could well mean we are short of straw to bed them with. (will be in the silage clamp) not much we can do, got to feed them first.

Harvest is not far away now but I am not expecting high yields too wet through the winter and now too dry no satisfying a farmer!

There has also been a couple of parties here courtesy of our offspring finishing respective levels of education (GCSE and A levels) all good fun though after an improvised game of twister (stock marker spray was used to mark the lawn) we now have a red, green and blue dog! Also any need for a commode we have two spare as this was Edmunds idea of a porta-loo, they were put in a calf hutch. Only two under garments found not bad going and one not so smart phone ended up in with the girls after going through the sawdust spreader onto their beds a bit warped now.

Bird scarers are in full operation as rooks and jackdaws are up to their annual destructive behaviour down here. Luckily the barn owls do not seem to mind them and they are rearing chicks.

BENCHES

I have acquired three wooden, in good condition Benches (throw always) they would be ideal around the village as the Jubilee one is looking tatty now! If anyone can help paint them, then we can place them around the rookery or playground etc, thanks Helen

POP-UP RESTAURANT AND ZERO WASTE COOKERY

Save the dates! 13th & 14th July, 28th July

For all lovers of good food, experience some traditional West African dishes cooked in style. I will be running a pop-up restaurant in Gittisham Village Hall on Saturday, July 28, cooking recipes given to me by school children and their teachers from Burkina Faso and other African countries. 7.30pm start, adults £20 and children under 12 £10. Bring your own drinks. Please book in advance to avoid disappointment.

The feedback from the Zero Waste Cookery demonstrations I've run in the village hall has been very positive, so why not book onto one of the next ones? On Friday 13th July and Saturday 14th July (the Saturday is a repeat of the Friday for those who can't make Fridays), I will be demonstrating vegetarian and gluten-free recipes, followed by a sit-down feast ! £15pp, 11am-2pm in the village hall both days. To book any of the above, email booking@zerowastecookery.com or telephone 07545 214940 / 01404 851442. Pierre Graeber

Calling all gardeners!

Plant donations required for a plant sale to be held in September. Proceeds in aid of the Gittisham Vale and Heathfield Estate defibrillator. Details of the sale to follow next month , please contact Vale councillors Richard Pratt (01404 46551) or Andy Wilkins (01404 371085). Thank you & happy gardening!

Also don't forget your entries for the Gittisham Flower and Produce Show on 4th August need to be lodged with Len & Sarah Abbott, 4 Church Mead Gittisham EX14 3AH by 28th July.

PARISH COUNCIL – JUNE REPORT

Seven councillors met for the June meeting. Susie Bond (EDDC) and two members of the public were also present.

Crime. Three crimes since April:

- 1) theft from motor vehicle (fuel stolen from farm)
- 2) theft of mobile phone after church service
- 3) theft of batteries stolen from temporary traffic lights

Finance. Members agreed the finances.

Planning applications.

- a) 18/0919/LBC - Meriden House Nags Head Road Gittisham - replace 3no. windows on west elevation. Various internal works to create holiday accommodation to include: insulate walls at ground and first floor; construct partition walls to create shower room; install 1no. vent in east elevation at first floor and 1no. vent in south elevation; construct timber floating floor at ground floor; re-instate ceilings and insulate roof slope

Councillors had no objections to the application.

Broadband.

The clerk agreed to contact Cllr Phil Twiss for an update once he returned from holiday.

Vale defibrillator.

Richard Pratt said he and Andy Wilkins were working together to organise a fund-raising plant sale at the end of September, and Andy Wilkins said he would also be approaching local clubs and societies. Richard Pratt reminded members there remained around £300 of funds to be raised, once support from the Parishes Together fund, Honiton Town Council's contribution and match-funding from the parish council had been accounted for.

Traffic.

The clerk agreed to speak to DCC about the damage caused by a passing vehicle to the bridge in the centre of Gittisham village (again). Councillors discussed traffic issues in the village, particularly the number of people driving at inappropriate speeds for the road conditions which is causing concern. Members agreed to contact Phil Twiss to see what the options would be to address the situation.

Play area.

Members heard that the new swings had been installed, and were proving to be a hit with village children. Carol Hall said she would talk to the Woodland Trust about the most suitable trees for the wild area, and bring it back to the parish council for approval. Plans for building a slide tower were discussed, as well as maintenance issues which would be addressed at a working party scheduled for the end of June. Councillors discussed the proposal from potential buyers of Eveleigh's, who had requested as part of the sale to purchase a piece of land which is currently part of the play area. The potential buyers had offered to contribute towards moving the play equipment. The Chair said he had canvassed opinion in Gittisham village, and some residents had pointed out that the current location for the play equipment is the only flat part of the site. Members concluded it would be difficult to put the play equipment in another location, and it was agreed to refuse the proposal. Susie Bond added that in the event of the purchase going ahead, the new owners would have to request change of use from the district council. As the land in question is currently a community asset, she said it would be unlikely to get approval.

Next meeting. This will be on 18th July at 7.30pm in the parish room.

Church Wardens Report Carol McCann

Our monthly Communion service with hymns at Gittisham Hill House Residential Home continues we had to postpone the June one from the 6th June to the 27th June and consequently there won't be one in July, the next one will be on Wednesday 1st August. The Honiton Mission /community will once again be manning a Rest and Refreshment Marquee at Honiton show and Jackie would be grateful for offers of help during the day, also some homemade biscuits to offer the customers, if you can help please give her a call on 42130. We have had several visitors to the church seeking their ancestors, a party interested in the architecture and monuments and people endeavouring to do a gravestone rubbing of a 1700's headstone I hope they could read the tracing!

Forthcoming Church Services Gittisham and Mission Community 11am unless stated

July

8th Parish Eucharist

15th Lay-led Morning Worship

22nd No Morning service

22nd Choral Evensong Gittisham

6.30 (choir 5.30) + refreshments

29th Parish Eucharist

August

5th Family Service with refreshments

12th Parish Eucharist

19th Lay-led Sung Matins

26th Parish Eucharist

200 CLUB RESULTS JULY 2018

1st	Steve Ryan	2nd	Ian Warne	3rd	David Fallows
4th	Angie Hutchings	5th	Richard Marker		

There are still several numbers available if you would like to participate. The monthly prizes are £40, £20, £15, £10, £5 and 2 x 6 monthly of £48 and the cost is £12 per year ring Carol on 851113.

People in the news

Article from the programme for the Ottery St. Mary Food and Families Festival held on 2nd June

Emily Bramley completed her final practical exams for GCSE in food preparation and nutrition. She produced some beautiful dishes and pushed herself to excel. Her skills are of a very high level and we are delighted that she is willing to showcase some of these at the Food Festival.

Helen Fuller rescued two very small kittens from the lane near Catshayes and the Cats Protection League Honiton are having a 21st Birthday celebration for 2 volunteers who have worked tirelessly for 21 years on **Sunday 29 July 2018** 12 noon - 3pm at Homesclose, Middle Woodbeer, Plymtree, EX15 2LN The Honiton Branch is also celebrating 35 years For further information contact www.honiton.cats.org.uk

Kayleigh Hall of Darch Oil in Yeovil have contacted the Parish Clerk with reference to getting a link/contact details put on the website for their online branch www.theheatingoilcompany.co.uk where parishioners can order their oil 24 hours a day 365 days a year at a very competitive price with 5* service guaranteed from ordering to delivery.

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Distributors, Carol McCann, Helen Fuller, Carol Hall & Judith Turner and in Gittisham Vale Peter and Ann Sellick. Copy date for July 2018 Monday 25th. If you have any news, dates events for inclusion in the Gazette do please email it to Carol as early as possible.

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