

THE UDDER SIDE OF THE HEDGE— Carla Cheffey

Where does the time go?! Only a few more days until the longest day of the year. So far so good though. Our grass silage was done a few weeks ago (the week before Devon County Show) and we managed to time it just right. We picked up 200 acres in one day, leaving just a couple of hours the following day. Then there was the sheeting down and throwing the tyres around. The crop was very good, and much needed as we'd just about come to the end of last years. Like so many farmers we've still been a bit short owing to the bad summer a couple of years ago, so hopefully we can have a catch up year. Although it does feel a bit like when you bake a cake – time and effort just for something to be eaten rather quickly! The ground has been worked down and our maize crop sown – it's already nicely out the ground and thriving thanks to the warmth and the showers making it perfect growing weather. This week we're busy with the young stock. Our vets offer us a heifer weighing service whereby they are weighed at certain intervals and growth plotted. This enables us to spot individual cattle who may be struggling and possibly need moving down a batch, and also spot potential issues such as those at a certain premises not doing as well as others – possibly issues such as shed ventilation causing problems. In general they do well, and we aim to put them with the bull at about 14 months old so they can calve at about 2 years old. Any older and they're not so easy to get in calf, and they soon put on weight which often causes calving issues. As well as weighing there are certain routine vaccinations to be done, worming and also pregnancy scanning those already with the bull. Next week we have our big farm assurance inspection to check everything is as it should be – no loose tin sheets which may cut the cows, the parlour spotlessly clean and all paperwork present and correct. So, I'd better carry on with that now... never enough hours in the day...

GALA SUPPER AND CONCERT FOR HOSPISCARE

On June 21st Jan Sutcliffe and her company "Nostalgia Incorporated" will perform during this evening to raise money for the new Day Hospice in Honiton. With bubbly and canapés in St Paul's church to start, followed by the concert and then a four course candlelight supper, in the Mackarness Hall, this will be a very special evening. To buy your tickets, £17.50, ring Mary Bolshaw on 43196.

Churchwarden's report – by Carol McCann

Gittisham's Christian Aid collections raised around £315, this (I think) includes Gittisham Vale, thanks to all who donated to this most worthy cause. Services for the rest of this month and first half of July at 11.00am unless stated are as follows:- 8th No service in Gittisham, the Eucharist for Pentecost will be held in St. Paul's at 10.00am with refreshments afterwards. 15th Lay-led Matins, 22nd Lay-led Morning Worship and in the evening there will be a Team Choral Evensong service at 6.00 in Buckerell church which will be preceded by a cream tea in Doug's shed from 3.00pm, 29th Parish Eucharist, July 6th there will not be a service in Gittisham as the Bishop of Crediton will be conducting the annual confirmation service in St. Paul's at 10.00am with refreshments afterwards, 13th Parish Eucharist.

Our monthly coffee get-together for June will be on Saturday 21st from 10.30 to 12 noon I hope we can have a bring and buy table again. Hosts this month are Nick and Sarah Agg-Manning. get-togethers will continue on each third Saturday ending with the October one..

I have been written to by the Food Bank in Honiton thanking the parishioners of Gittisham for their generous donations of food. They have also made a special plea for items such as pasta sauces, rice, tinned meat/fish, tinned vegetables, tinned fruit, custard and similar type puddings plus sponge puddings, fruit juices and squash and biscuits. They have plenty of long-life milk, cereal, pasta, baked beans. There is a blue box in church next to the font however if you would like to donate any items and need them collecting please let me know on 851113. Very many thanks.

BEES UPDATE

by Roy Abbott

With the mixed up weather during May, the night temperatures dropping so much and the heavy showers it has been very much a mixed up time for the bees. Despite this the queens have done us very well and layered up their frames in an excellent pattern and being very healthy as well we have had no sign of any disease in any of the colonies. All the colonies are now very well populated with mature bees ready to gather nectar and pollen, (nectar to make honey and to feed themselves and pollen to make brood food to feed the babies). So we need lots of summer sun so our girls can get on with what they do best.

We now have some excess honey on a couple of our hives so we will soon be taking off the first honey of the season. It will be interesting to see what it is like and how it tastes. We hope it will spin out easily as we haven't seen any rape growing too close to us (thank you Russell) as that is difficult as it granulates in the frames.

If any of you went to the Devon County Show the bee society had an excellent tent there showing every aspect of beekeeping and giving out lots of information about bees and all the pollination work they do and how we all would be so much worse off without them.

The Axe vale festival on 21st - 22nd June will also have a stand on bees so if you go please have a look at it all. Well it must be time for our next routine inspection of the colonies to make sure the girls have plenty of room for brood rearing and for the storage of their honey.

DEADLINE FOR ENTRIES IS THE FIRST WEDNESDAY OF EACH MONTH.

Please contact one of the editorial team below if you have a happy event to report, or wish to voice a concern.

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

GITTISHAM GAZETTE

A monthly Community Newsletter

Published by St Michael's Church and the Parish Council, Gittisham

June 2014

Edition 148



GITTISHAM FETE

5th JULY

4.00pm—cream teas

6.00pm—duck
race and games

8.00pm dance and supper £10.

Bar opens 4.00pm



Tickets from Carol McCann 851113
Doreen Wensley 45774 Sue Fallows 850922
Hamish Hall 850793 Bill Griffiths 851428

DATES FOR THE DIARY

June 15th Fathers' Day Bar-B-Que—at the Village Hall. 12.30 – 2.00 soft drinks available. Cost £6.75 £4.25 children.

June 15th Combe Raleigh Bell Ringers Ceilidh 2.30 - 4.30 in Village Hall

June 21st Coffee Get-together outside Gittisham church, or inside if wet! Bring & Buy stall. 10.30-12.00

June 28th at St. Paul' coffee morning 10.00 – 12.00

June 29th—As there is no service on the 6th July in the village, the Eucharist service on 29th June will include refreshments afterwards when the draw for the 200 club will take place.

July 8th Village Hall AGM in the hall at 7.00pm. Everyone is welcome so please come and support the hall committee.

200 Club

The winners this month were:

1st Prize	Mr B Painter
2nd Prize	Rev R Saunders
3rd Prize	Mrs N Wakely
4th Prize	Mr F Chapman
5th Prize	Mr E Hayman

PEOPLE IN THE NEWS

NICKY HODGKINSON (nee Theodas) died on 31st May. Nicky was the sister of Therése Boswell and life long friend of Carol McCann. We send our condolences to all the family.

SAVE THE DATE!

On Saturday 27th September there will be a mystery coach trip starting and finishing in Gittisham. It is rumoured that there may be a stop for an evening meal at a nice pub, yet to be identified. Places will be limited, price to be arranged.

Please contact any of the following for more information - Bill Griffiths, Sue Fallows, Carol McCann, Hamish Hall.

HOLY DUSTERS—June

Pam Chown
Carol McCann
Sarah Sproule
Carol Hall

YEARS MIND—June

Stanley Ward
Jack Abbott
Doris Karlen
Laura Horn
Gladys Wensley

“The End of the Pier”

Variety Show

This summer, due to popular demand, members of the Honiton Pantomime Society will once again be putting on a Variety Show in Honiton. It will include songs, dances and comedy sketches. A delicious Ploughman's supper will be provided and the audience are invited to bring along their own drinks for the evening. Tables and chairs will be set out so that individual groups may sit together. The Master of Ceremonies for the evening will once again be the Grand Old Dame of Panto, Mr Max Pipe. There will be two performances. One on Friday the 1st of August and the other on Saturday the 2nd of August. Both will commence at 7:00pm. The show will be performed at the Honiton Community College. Tickets, costing £9 each, are now available from the Honiton Toy Shop, High Street Honiton. Once again this year all tickets will be for individual numbered seats so if you want to sit with a group of friends or family please book early. See our website for more details www.honitonpanto.co.uk

PARISH COUNCIL – JUNE REPORT

Seven parish councillors met for the June meeting. Claire Wright, Sara Randall Johnson (DCC) and Susie Bond (EDDC) were also present.

DCC / EDDC Report.

Claire Wright said a decision would be made at DCC's cabinet meeting on 11th June regarding the future of youth centres in the county. There had been some changes to the initial proposals for closure, and it would appear that eight out of 32 may stay open: in East Devon, this would be at Exmouth. Regarding libraries, Claire Wright said Ottery library looked set to be closed in its current form and its funding withdrawn, but there is great enthusiasm for keeping the service somehow in the town. Sara Randall Johnson and Claire Wright told councillors about a document out for consultation from the NHS clinical commissioning group which provides an overview of the future direction of community health services. The main argument would appear to be for more care at home, meaning fewer beds in hospitals.

Crime. 1 man arrested for drink driving.

Finance. Members noted the finances this month. The clerk said the annual external audit had been completed with no issues identified.

Planning applications.

Russell Hayman declared an interest in both applications and left the meeting.

Members had no objections to the following:

2 Westgate Cottage Gittisham Removal of existing single storey lean-to and construction of larger single storey lean-to extension

Blamphayne Sawmill Gittisham Retrospective application for the installation of a 49kW roof mounted solar PV system

Russell Hayman returned to the meeting.

Residential development, inc. land west of Hayne Lane.

EDDC's Planning Inspections Committee will meet in July to review its decision to approve 300+ homes west of Hayne Lane. This follows a meeting between Cllrs Fallows, Valentine, Bond, and EDDC where the parish council put forward its concerns (and those of residents) over this application and flaws in the decision-making process. David Fallows said that as EDDC had agreed to look at this again, the idea of a judicial review would be put on hold for now. He said he had written to Natural England, the Blackdown Hills and East Devon Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty regarding the development and the council's belief that this impacts on them. Following correspondence between the parish council and Neil Parish, the local MP has written to the Planning Minister asking him to look at the issue. Members discussed the possible next steps and points they wish EDDC's committee to consider. They agreed to instruct a planning expert to help construct the parish council's argument at this next meeting with EDDC, although there were concerns over funding. It was agreed to contact Honiton Town Council, and the parish councils of Feniton, Buckereil and Awliscombe to see whether they would consider making a contribution towards the costs. David Fallows said match-funding would be the best way forward, with the parish council contributing half and the rest from pledges and other parishes. The Clerk said two cheques for pledges from parishioners had already been received.

Drains and ditches.

The clerk will get in touch with three independent contractors to find out if they would be willing to work in the parish and under what terms.

Snow wardens.

Roy Bird in the Vale has agreed to be a volunteer snow warden.

Telephone box.

David Fallows said he had not managed so far to purchase the telephone box in the village, but he would keep trying. Several suggestions have been put forward for its future use, including a library, an oral history centre and home for a defibrillator. Residents are encouraged to put forward suggestions by writing to the clerk. Members agreed to invite Jennifer Lawrence-Jones to the next meeting to explain about the defibrillator.

Next meeting. This will be on 2nd July at 7.30pm.