

Grain to Cream by Russell Hayman, Gittisham Farm

My prediction was right - the rain has run out for now. So drilling is underway and the winter wheat is at last going into the ground. It's a bit late for it and is touch and go if it will vernalize (needs a period of cold so it can set seed); spring varieties do not need this and there is no way of telling until it comes out in ear or not in the summer, something else for us to keep the old fingers crossed for. Of course after the winter and the first bit of dry weather for a long time the faint smell of organic matter fills the air in the glorious Devonshire hills so you all know what us farmers have been up too, yes muck spreading! There is still a bit of pantomime in me though I have got out of my costume thankfully. (For those of you that didn't go to panto you won't know what I mean but at least you didn't hear me sing). The lambs have gone now, having nipped off the grass and tidied the pastures up as well as the hedges; they're not supposed to be in them the little darlings. But try as we do they still manage it. Of course it is their life's work to escape so we mustn't deny them or they would give up life; it's a sheep thing! The cows are beginning to get over last year and the recent sunshine has given them a spring in their step, and so they should now they don't have to wait in the rain to be milked. We have just erected a roof over the collecting yard to reduce the amount of run off from the yard which is never clean, so less dirty water to deal with and the cows have a dry back and shade in the summer (ever hopeful). We can also footbath more regularly because now the chemical will not get diluted by rain water so helping reduce foot infections. We have had to perform one caesarean on a heifer (first calf), well vet did assisted by myself. I had the pleasure of holding on to the innards to stop them becoming 'outards'. Helen had hold of the tail to stop it flicking muck into the gaping hole. Unfortunately we lost the calf; well it was a donkey of a thing— no way was it coming out properly. The heifer though is doing fine. Also during one night a cow dislocated her hip so she had to be put down, if they can do it they will, poor girl. We have been planting some apple trees, traditional ones; replenishing orchards is costly but they do look nice and are one feature that is disappearing from many farms. Beef is now going up in price now it's not being diluted with horse. There, you get what you pay for though it might not say that on the label. The barn owls are quite visible at the moment which is great to see, spring is coming so all is right with the world. And to finish I would like to thank everyone for the lovely comments sent to EDDC planning dept. in support of the planning application... everything crossed on this one, not just the fingers.

PARISH COUNCIL – MARCH REPORT

Five parish councillors met for the March meeting.

DCC / EDDC Report. None.

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

Finance. Members noted the finances.

Planning applications. Members had no objections to the following:

- a) 13/0112/FUL -Replacement farmhouse with new access to highway
- b)13/0382/MFUL – Construction of warehouse and distribution facility with two storey offices and associated car parking / serviced area (renewal of planning application 10/0174/MFUL)

Russell Hayman declared an interest in item a).

Active Villages project. Cards had been received in the box in the village hall and details sent to the project co-ordinator,...

Play area. On removing ivy from the wall, the recommended position for the break proved unsound and added substantially to the labour. David Fallows had made a practical decision and the work completed. Money raised from the pantomime 'Jenga' will be used to purchase a small bench. Proposals to plant trees in the 'go wild' area to be scaled back, using fruit trees rather than the woodland type proposed, as they would be in keeping with the parish landscape. Carol Hall to be asked to update councillors on further ideas for the play area next month.

Roads. The clerk will contact Roger Giles re progress on Hayne Lane. Members heard that the 'road closed' signs had been taken down and good work had been done at the top end to build a concrete gutter. However the issue is far from resolved, as neither lorries nor delivery vehicles are safe to pass. Russell Hayman also reported terrible pot-holes along the road between his farm and the triangle near Sherman's, which he felt would soon become impassable for cars.

Parishes Together Fund. The clerk reported that Buckerell had expressed an interest in joining up to employ a parish lengthsperson. This was due to be discussed at Buckerell's parish council meeting on Tuesday 5th but the clerk said she had not heard any more. Neither had she heard from Honiton TC after offering a substantial part of the Parishes Together funding to their youth project. She agreed to follow this up.

Next meeting. This will be on 3rd April at 7.30pm.

Hi Carol & Barbara,

Lovely to get the Gazette as always, thank you!

We are missing being able to visit you or to plan a visit at the moment. If we get back to the UK anytime this year we will do our best to pop down to see you.

Regarding the 200 club subs, we should have a direct debit set up so hope that will all work ok in March. Let us know if any problems.

We have just been experiencing the madness that is Chinese New Year in China! Fireworks going off all night throughout the city, it was amazing to watch! Not much sleep, it was incredibly noisy but an experience we will never forget!

So Happy Chinese New Year to all in Gittisham!

Love Karen & Paul xx

DEADLINE FOR ENTRIES IS THE FIRST WEDNESDAY OF EACH MONTH.

Contact one of the editorial team below .

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NEXT PRINTING 12th APRIL

GITTISHAM GAZETTE

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DIDN'T THEY DO WELL! OH NO THEY DIDN'T! OH YES THEY DID!!!

Pantomime is a very specific form of theatre, packed with traditional characters and scenarios, unique to the UK...until you come to Gittisham! In so many ways, Gittisham has its own version of pantomime, whilst retaining many of the traditions handed down over the centuries. Gittisham does not stick to the original stories such as Cinderella, Mother Goose, Aladdin etc. instead it uses non-traditional themes and centres them around village life, with tongue in cheek! This year, Combe Side Fever, the script written by Nick Agg-Manning and embroidered by Sarah A-M, although creating massive challenges for the imagination of the audience, proved to be a great success. The storyline gave the cast plenty of scope for improvisation (!) and the opportunity to further develop their own particular characters...Russell Hayman as the 'mayoral' Dame once again managed to thrill everyone with his costumes (they get more outrageous every year). Bill Griffiths and Hamish Hall repeated their portrayal of the 'village idiots', this year heavily disguised as village bobbies! Sara Trumper is proving to be an excellent match for Richard Marker's 'baddie' (Arthur Brick), this time as a wicked Magistrate (perhaps based on those she has come across in the line of her professional duties). Jan Sutcliffe and Hilary Watkins-Field kept alive the magical element of a panto with their Fairy Queen and Fairy May roles while the chorus of 'hippies' realistically represented by James Fuller, Helen Hayman, Carol Rowe, Carol Hall, Jenny Lawrence-Jones and Carol McCann brought back memories of 'flower power' from the 1960s! The Sharks and Jets gangs, played by the younger members of the parish—Georgia Bramley, Alice Hayman, Hamish McLachlan Clark, Ellie Chapman, Daphne Hall, Clara Hall, Alex Rowe, Emily Bramley, Tom Vincent, Edmund Hayman, Issie McLachlan Clarke and Robert Rowe—did their utmost to be violent and threatening. However, if all gangs were as jolly and pleasant as they were the world would be a much safer place!! The cast was completed by Maggie Walker and Lewis Lawrence-Jones as court officials and Julian Rowe as himself. Ticket sales reached an all time high, thanks to the dedication of Doreen Wensley who works tirelessly to sell to anyone and everyone. She and Ernie also ran the raffles. A team of helpers manned the kitchen, painted the scenery and erected the stage extension. THANKYOU TO YOU ALL.

Profits from the panto have been shared between the Church and the Village Hall, each receiving £500. An additional £57 was raised for the playing fields from the game Giant Jengo!

DATES FOR THE DIARY

MARCH 10th MOTHERING SUNDAY—a Family Songs of Praise will be held at 11.00 when bunches of flowers will be given out for children to take home for their mums. Everyone welcome.

MARCH 21st— STEVE TILSTON a Villages in Action Evening. Singer, songwriter and guitarist of some renown, Steve won the Radio 2's Folk Award in 2012. He has been described as "an artist of stylistic versatility and consummate musicality". He is one of the most celebrated songsmiths, with many of his songs adopted into the tradition. Evening starts at 7.30pm, tickets from Bill Griffiths—850051 or 851428 cost £8.50 adults, £6 children.

HOLY DUSTERS for March

Phyllis and Julie Broadhurst
Ann and Peter Stansell

EASTER SERVICES

MARCH 29th—Good Friday Service at 10.30am

MARCH 31st—Easter Sunday Service at 11.00am led by the Revd Adrian Hough, Chaplain to the Bishop of Exeter.

MARCH 31st— CREAM TEAS in the Village Hall from 3.00pm. £1.50 each. Also a Fun Walking Word game for those who relish some exercise! £2 per team. All proceeds to St Michael's Church. For more information contact Carol 01404 851113.

200 Club

March winners were:

1st Prize	Mr A Zebers
2nd Prize	Mr T Rew
3rd Prize	Ms B Mullett
4th Prize	Mrs R Connett
5th Prize	Mrs Agg-Manning
6th Monthly	Mrs A Stansell

PEOPLE IN THE NEWS

ALICE HAYMAN—has been awarded a Gold Bar for her RSA Medal for Irish dancing. Congratulations Alice!

DAVID BARTLETT, one of the church organists, was taken ill recently. We wish him a speedy recovery. David hopes to resume with Walking Circuits soon.

ALAN TURNER has been unwell lately. We send him best wishes and hope he feels better very soon.

JUNE AND LAWRENCE YARTY at Town Farm Buildings will be moving to Seaton this month, where Brady goes to school. June has been a keen supporter of village events during their short stay here and we thank her for that. We wish them well in their new home.

**YEARS MIND
March**
William Eveleigh

CHURCHWARDENS'

R E P O R T

On Good Friday there will be a short service at 10.30 and on Easter Day The Revd Adrian Hough, Chaplain to the Bishop of Exeter, will be taking our Eucharist service at 11am.

I do hope you will join in the Walking Word game followed by cream tea on Easter Sunday from 2.30, posters around the village. The Honiton food bank are desperate for more items especially tinned items, vegetables including potatoes, fruit, sponge and milk puddings and ready meals. Plus tea/coffee, cereals, porridge and biscuits.

The 200 club, collectors will be coming round, there are currently five spare numbers, if anyone would like to take a number or an extra one, please let me know the cost is £12.00 per number per year, cheques made payable to Gittisham PCC. The monthly draw is held during refreshments at the family service on the first Sunday each month and proceeds go toward the upkeep of the church.

Following on from my request for more help wanted – three people have offered to help as “Holy Dusters”, could anyone else offer to be included on the “Holy Duster” Rota or the Flower Arranging Rota - come on please some of our younger members.

It is hoped that we will continue our monthly coffee get-togethers, probably on the 3rd Saturday from April until October, any offers of help to run a morning would be appreciated.

Carol McCann

PS—I plan to re-commence Whist Drives from the second Monday in April (8th). If there are not enough participants then the April one will be the last!!!

HUGE THANKS TO OUR HALL COMMITTEE FOR OILING THE FLOOR...IT LOOKS LOVELY!

Devon & Somerset Fire & Rescue Service (DSFRS) Draft Plan (2013/14 - 2014/15) Consultation - Gittisham Parish Council

We are currently consulting on a range of proposals to address the reduction in Government Grant that the Service will receive over the next two years. Our grant has been reduced by 10.3% for 2013 and will drop by an additional 7.3% in 2014. This means that we will have approximately £5.5 million less annual grant by 2014. Rather than cutting service standards to meet this decrease, we have applied our knowledge of community risk to develop a range of proposals that we believe will deliver both improved safety and savings. At the heart of the proposals is a way of working known as the Integrated Approach.

I would like to invite you to take part in our consultation on proposals to adopt the Integrated Approach across the Service and to change the way we crew some of our fire engines in Ilfracombe, Plymouth, Taunton and Torquay. Details of these proposals, and ways to respond, can be found on our website at: www.dsfire.gov.uk/consultation with links to a consultation document and an online version of the survey. We would also like your views on the other proposals in the Draft Plan which can be found with a link to a separate survey relating to these additional proposals at the same web address.

I have written to you because I believe you act as a contact point for Gittisham Parish Council. I would be grateful if you could please circulate information about our consultation to your members so that they have an opportunity to respond to the consultation. As part of the consultation we have arranged several discussion groups around Devon and Somerset to give the opportunity to discuss proposals in more depth with fire officers. An invitation for these groups can be found on the website as above: if you or any of your members would like to attend, please fill in and return a form and we will send further details.

Thank you in advance for your time. The consultation period formally closes on 22 April 2013 and the results are due to be presented to the Fire and Rescue Authority in July 2013. If you would like more details on the proposals, paper copies of any of our documents, or if you would like to be removed from our consultation database, please contact Rupert Barker on the details given at the top of this email.

I look forward to hearing from you.

Yours sincerely Lee Howell, Chief Fire Officer

TIP TIP TOE

The annual Tip Tip Toe event took place on Shrove Tuesday. We started with a lovely tea enjoyed by one and all, held in Carol Halls house (thank you Carol for all your help). A total of 10 children, including 2 little ones, walked around the village knocking on all the doors. Tom Vincent joined in accompanying us on his guitar. Thanks to peoples generosity a grand sum of £66.50 was raised, each child receiving £6.65p each, a tidy sum considering the financial difficulties we are in... better than Building Society interest rates at the moment. Thank you everyone. Carole Rowe

CHILDREN ARE QUICK!

TEACHER: Millie, give me a sentence starting with “I”.

MILLIE: “I is..”

TEACHER: No Millie, always say “I am...”

MILLIE: All right...”I am the ninth letter of the alphabet”.

TEACHER: “Johnny, why are you doing your math multiplication on the floor?”

SIMON: “You told me to do it without using tables.”

TEACHER: “Mary, name one important thing we have today that we didn’t have 10 years ago.”

MARY: “Me!”