

GRAIN TO CREAM by Russell Hayman, Gittisham Farm

Spring is on the way... it must be as Mr & Mrs duck are waddling around. Not a moment too soon; it has been a wet winter. At least we are not so badly off as some, the water does not hang around here but the ground is really wet. With the days getting longer our crops want to grow but there won't be much chance of that sat in water. We need to get on now and prepare for silage cuts and putting the animals out to graze. So fertilizer on fields, rolling and fencing to do, a bit more now after all the winds; quite a few limbs down breaking the fences but at the moment it is nearly too wet to walk the fields let alone do any work in them. The sheep have now gone; they have munched off any surplus grass. I don't want them having my girls' grass... what grows from now on is for them. We also have a little spring barley to grow again this year; the last two years we have grown it I have been quite impressed. The new varieties appear to have a lot more vigor than of old. I remember some very poor crops in my father's time to the extent we stopped growing it, so there is a little progress... not all was brill in the 'good old days'. Then there will be some maize to plant; the seed this year has got a lot more expensive, some are saying because of the demand for the crop to feed bio plants for energy. I do question how far the great minds in Whitehall and Brussels look ahead... there are thousands of acres taken out of food production for energy, especially with solar panels all subsidized by us. How sustainable is it really? The cows are still milking well and surprise surprise for us, producing some heifer calves we usually get mostly bull calves but at the moment we are having a run of heifers. We do average about 50/50 but that is with using some sexed semen from which a female calf is nearly guaranteed. So a run of heifer calves is a novelty for us. Now having said that more boys on the way! I was asked the other day why there was a smiley face on some of the cows. The answer is that we mark the cows whose milk is unfit for sale with red so we know to separate it. Freshly calved cows milk (colostrum) is unfit for sale and it is quite good for the calves so hence the cows are marked but as it's good they have calved it seems so much nicer to have a smiley face.

KEEP UP TO DATE WITH TWITTER

You may have read in a previous edition of the Gazette that the parish council now has a Twitter account. For those of you who aren't familiar with Twitter, it's a social networking site that allows users to 'post' short messages (known as 'tweets') of up to 140 characters long.

Anyone can read these messages if they have access to the internet, and that's where its usefulness comes into play. For example, imagine you're just about to leave the house. If you're wondering whether or not there are any roads blocked in the parish (quite likely, given the recent weather), before you go you can look at the Twitter 'feed' which appears on Gittisham PC's homepage <http://gittisham.org.uk> to see if anyone has posted any updates that concern the parish.

This has already been useful over recent weeks, with people in Feniton letting us know that Patteson's Cross was flooded.

We want this to be a true public service, but it will only work if users supply the information and 'follow' Gittisham PC on Twitter. Alternatively, you could give the information to either me or Parish Council Chair David Fallows, as we can both put it on the site so others can see it.

I was tempted to write this piece in less than 140 characters, which would have been in the true spirit of Twitter. But I didn't manage it... #ohwell

<https://twitter.com/GittishamPC>

<http://gittisham.org.uk>

ODE TO THE SNOWDROP

The snowdrop, Winter's timid child,
Awakes to life, bedew'd with tears,
And flings around its fragrance mild;
And where no rival flowerets bloom,
Amidst the bare and chilling gloom,
A Beauteous gem appears!

All weak and wan, with head inclin'd,
Its parent-breast the drifted snow,
It trembles, while the ruthless wind
Bends its slim form; the tempest lowers,
Its em'rald eye drops crystal show'rs
On its cold bed below.

Where'er I find thee, gentle flower,
Thou still art sweet, and dear to me!
For I have known the cheerless hour,
Have seen the sun-beams cold and pale,
Have felt the chilling, wintry gale,
And wept, and shrunk like thee!

Mary ('Perdita') Robinson

DEADLINE FOR ENTRIES IS THE FIRST WEDNESDAY OF EACH MONTH.

Contact one of the editorial team below .

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NEXT PRINTING 7th APRIL

GITTISHAM GAZETTE

A monthly Community Newsletter

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Dear Readers

I am now back at the desk and putting together our March edition. It is nearly 6 weeks since my new hip was fitted and I can honestly say that I feel like a new woman! The time has passed quite quickly for me (probably not so quickly for Jan!) and has been made all the easier because of the lovely cards and good will messages I have received. Thank you all so much, they were much appreciated. Also the tremendous help we have received...starting with the 'white knight' who drove me to the hospital the morning of my op, to everyone who has helped Jan with shopping etc. We both want to say a huge THANKYOU. And finally my thanks to Carol McCann who did a sterling job getting our February edition compiled, to David Fallows for taking on the printing and to Ernie Wensley for aiding the collection and distribution. What a team! Barbara Mullett

FUN QUIZ NIGHT

Saturday 22nd February saw the village hall hosting another evening of head scratching and laughter when Hamish Hall hosted his challenging quiz night. A reasonable number of teams took part, although those representing the parish were thin on the ground. Those who did not support this event certainly missed a great night out...where else could you get a quiz, prizes, a delicious ploughmans supper and a raffle for £5 a head! Thank you Hamish for all the work you put in to making the evening a success, and to the hall committee for another enjoyable evening.

DATES FOR THE DIARY

MARCH 22nd— SWOP SHOP in the village hall at 2pm. This is a fund raising event for the village hall. The hall committee are sorry for the confusion caused by the title, they thought it was a good idea originally. It is really a "Bring & Buy" sale with a white elephant stall, cakes and plants.

MARCH 29th—OPEN DAY for Little Treasures Pre-school in the village hall 10.00—12.00

MARCH 30th— Mothers Day Cream Teas in the village hall 3.00—5.00pm. See next column.

APRIL 5th—CHRISTIAN AID Coffee Morning at St Paul's Church, Honiton 9.30—12.00

APRIL 21st—EASTER MONDAY PARTY(?) in the playground. This day has been picked to organise a working party for general maintenance, fun and games, BBQ/pizza oven, lunch and/or tea. Contact Sara Trumper—851428 for details.

200 Club

The winners this month were

1st Prize	Mrs A Stansell
2nd Prize	Lady Denham
3rd Prize	Mr Agg-Manning
4th Prize	Mr D Hollis
5th Prize	Ms S Sproule
6 Monthly	Mr D Fallows

EASTER SERVICES

APRIL 18th—Good Friday Service at 10.30am.

APRIL 20th—Easter Sunday Service at 11.00am .

FUTURE EVENTS

MAY 2nd—MEMORIES OF CHILDHOOD a performance by Children's Drama Group 'Stage Right' in the village hall. More details to follow next month.

VANDALS ATTACK ROAD SIGN

The road sign at Gittisham Cross was daubed with blue paint during the early evening of 1st March. Please let us know if you saw anything going on around that time.

EPSON CARTRIDGE FOR SALE

I have a Cyan TO712 (Jaguar) cartridge which was bought by mistake. I cannot return it to the retailer as I opened it without noticing, but it is unused. I am happy to sell it for half price. Contact Barbara Mullett on 01404 851255 or barbamullett@aol.com Thankyou.

HOLY DUSTERS for March

Phyllis and Julie Broadhurst
Ann and Peter Stansell

PEOPLE IN THE NEWS

HANNAH MANISZEWSKA has moved into Batts Cottage. We welcome her to the village and hope that she is very happy.

CREAM TEAS

Sunday 30th March

Tom Vincent and two friends will be running this event from 3-5pm in the village hall to raise money for their trip to carry out charity work in Moldova. A group of ten from King's School, Ottery will be flying out on 12th July to this small eastern European country landlocked between the Ukraine and Romania. It is the poorest country in Europe and the charity work will mainly consist of helping families renovate homes and helping both parents and children with their daily duties. Tom and friends will also be doing the same work as the children in the fields for a few hours and will throw a party for them one day. The charity they will be working with is called Christian Response to Eastern Europe (CR2EE). Please come along and support this very worthy cause.

YEARS MIND

February

Emily Turner

March

William Eveleigh

PARISH COUNCIL SUMMARY – March

Five parish councillors met for the March meeting. Susie Bond (EDDC), Claire Wright and Sara Randall-Johnson (both DCC) were also present.

EDDC / DCC Report. Members discussed DCC's proposals to save money on services for both older people and younger people. This follows DCC's budget meeting on 20th February where radical cost savings were proposed to enable the council to save £110 million over the next three years. Across Devon this means all 30 youth centres risk closure, and the UK Youth Parliament is mounting a campaign against these proposals which Claire Wright is supporting. Members agreed that often these centres were the first line of defence in helping young people understand issues facing them, rather than end up further down the line with anti-social behaviour. The consultation runs until the end of April, and Claire Wright urged members and parishioners to express their views. <http://new.devon.gov.uk/youthreview> Members also heard about proposals to close day centres for older people and remove the subsidy for the frozen meal service. Sara Randall-Johnson added the latter affects 750 people across the whole of the county. Occupancy of day centres, she said, had dropped dramatically in recent years. It's proposed the voluntary or private sector will step in.

Sara Randall-Johnson said DCC's share of the council tax for 2014-15 would be increased by 1.99 per cent, and similarly the share of the Devon & Somerset Fire and Rescue Service. Susie Bond said EDDC would not be raising its share of the council tax this year. She explained that EDDC's preferred option now is to move its offices to Skypark near Exeter. Claire Wright said she had been trying to get more information about costs. Susie Bond explained that in the long term, running costs would be lower in a modern building.

Crime. One crime reported since the last meeting: criminal damage within the village, blue spray paint used to graffiti fire hydrant and road signs near Gittisham Farm Cross.

Finance. Members noted the finances.

East Devon Local Plan. David Valentine and David Fallows had attended the enquiry that day, where housing figures regarding Honiton had been discussed, including proposals for Hayne Lane. The two councillors had made representations on behalf of the parish council, citing overstretched medical facilities, lack of social activities and school admissions among these. Developers Welbeck Strategic Land and Gleeson were also present. Members heard there had been much talk of windfalls and affordability at the enquiry. David Valentine said he was stunned by the news revealed at the enquiry today that there was only £50,000 in the pot already allocated for the Turk's Head junction which had come through Section 106 agreements. Two schemes are proposed here: a roundabout or traffic lights, with the former the preferred option at around £750,000.

Flooding, gullies and drains. The clerk reported the latest correspondence with Buckerell Parish Council's clerk about employing a lengthsperson. Unfortunately it looks as though Buckerell will be abandoning their proposal to have a parish lengthsperson. They said there had been too many issues to resolve regarding PAYE and training which the individual concerned did not wish to pursue. The clerk agreed however to get in touch with Luppitt-based A R Tucker to see if this highways contractor could potentially carry out some remedial work. Russell Hayman said that recent work by SW Highways had proved effective.

Emergency fund. The clerk had been advised that giving money to individuals was not permissible, but teaming up with a charity that could ringfence any payments might work. Members agreed this could be cumbersome and resolved not to pursue the matter. A community of this nature, they said, had proved in the past it could help others without the need for a formal set-up.

Play area. Sara Trumper said she had carried out the inspections, and had found that the gate was not opening as easily as it should. She proposed a working party to give the play area a spring clean, possibly around Easter.

Post collections. David Fallows told members that the collection time of Gittisham's postbox has changed, and he was not aware of any consultation on this. There has however been a letter going round from Royal Mail regarding changes to deliveries. It's not known whether the company can guarantee a collection after delivery.

Next meeting. This will be on Wednesday 7th May at 7.30pm. This will be the annual public meeting, which all parishioners are welcome to attend.

CHURCHWARDENS' REPORT—Carol McCann

On Wednesday 5th February we interviewed a prospective successor to Canon Richard, we have offered the candidate the post and still await his decision, please pray for a successful outcome.

Services for the next few weeks are, 9th March Parish Eucharist, 16th Lay-led Sung Matins , 23rd lay-led Morning Worship, and in the evening, choral evensong at St. Paul's 6.30, 30th March Family Eucharist with refreshments for Mothering Sunday and posies for the Mothers, (I would ask for help making the posies please and for picking the flowers and greenery, if you have any suitable flowers and or greenery that could be used we would appreciate it please let me know thank you) 6th April Parish Eucharist (not family service). 13th Parish Eucharist for Palm Sunday, 18th Good Friday, 10.30am lay-led reflective service, 20th, Easter Sunday, at 11.00am, 27th will be lay-led Morning Worship. Lent began on the 5th of March, have you considered giving something up, if so, would you like to collect your savings for Water Aid, if so please contact Ian Warne 42146, who will give you the details. Each Wednesday during Lent lunches serving soup, bread and cheese and fruit in the Narthex at St. Paul's from 12noon. There are also several venues within the Mission Community and including the Methodist Church offering a York Lent course, details are on a poster in the church porch.

The PCC will meet at Sanders on Thursday 20th March, and on Wednesday 2nd April there is a course on writing intercessions for services, if you would like to join the group please let either Rev'ds Sue or Jane know.

It is now time to renew your 200 club subscriptions, there are several numbers available at £12 per number per year if you would like to join the 200 club or take an additional number, please let me know. Each month there are 5 winners with prizes from £40 down to £5 and 2 six-monthly prizes (March & September) of £48. The 200 club is an important fund raiser for the church so it is a help if we can have the full 200 numbers taken up.

HONITON MISSION COMMUNITY CONFIRMATION SERVICE

Gittisham is part of the Honiton Mission Community, (formerly known as the Honiton Team) and on 6th July there will be a joint Confirmation service at St. Paul's conducted by Bishop Nick. If anyone, child age 10 + or adult would like to be confirmed please let me (Carol) know. There won't be any services in the villages on that day so the candidates can have good support from their own parishes for this very important step in ones' Church journey. If there are sufficient candidate numbers, confirmation classes will take place here in Gittisham.

Letter to the Editor -

Just to say it is now almost 10 years since the attempted eviction of residents en masse in Gittisham by The Combe Estate (17th March 2004).

It was a traumatic time for all, from mothers-to-be to our elderly residents who had agents knocking at their doors from 8 in the morning serving eviction notices.

Because of all the help of the wonderful village spirit from residents, friends plus fantastic worldwide press and TV coverage.

Also the stepping in of Grainger Trust and help from Sir Richard Branson many of us are still in our homes and living in a wonderful village still amongst friends and new faces.

Grainger Trust bought many of the properties and took over tenancy agreements allowing people to arrange finances to purchase properties, also allowing tenants to stay, they also said that as properties became empty due to tenants moving they would put them on the open market. We are looking forward to new neighbours shortly!!

Again thank you all for helping us stay and keep our wonderful village together. Just a final little note that I say to friends... though we don't always see each other, living in a small community, we know that friends are nearby to call on whether old or new...this is what a community is all about.

Ken Hopkins

Inaugural Performance at Honiton's new Beehive Centre

This month Honiton realises its long-awaited dream of a new Community Centre. The Beehive Centre celebrates this achievement by hosting an entertaining new musical rendition of the Easter Story to be staged over the weekend immediately prior to Easter, between 12th & 14th April. The work, entitled 'Christ Crucified', is a new composition by local musician Andy Hague. It brings together a wide variety of musical styles, both classical & popular, which not only set a vibrant backcloth to the events surrounding the crucifixion, but also help to convey some of its timeless messages for the modern world.

It will be performed by a 70-strong community choir and soloists, supported by a large orchestra containing some of the finest musicians in the area. It is expected to appeal to a wide audience and is set to be one of the largest local stage productions ever held in the county.

Further information can be found on the website www.christ-crucified.co.uk Tickets for all performances are £12.50 (reductions for under-16s) including a souvenir programme and are available from Carole Clark on 01460 261072 or by emailing ivydale1@fsmail.net