

Local talent takes to the wing

Blaise Oldham will be performing with other talented Devon youngsters in a production of 'Wings in the Way'. Described as a fast-moving, funny, thought-provoking and emotional performance which challenges audiences to think about our place within the local and global community, the performance explores themes of courage and freedom.

Anthos Arts, the new theatre collaborative working with young people, is in charge of the production which will be staged at the Cygnet Theatre, Exeter (9 May, 6.30pm), Totnes Civic Hall (11 May, 6.30pm), The Beehive, Honiton (17 May, 2.00pm) and the Manor Pavilion, Sidmouth (18 May, 6.30pm).

Tickets and further information are available at the Phoenix Centre, Exeter: Telephone: 01392 667080 or visit www.exeterphoenix.org.uk

GRAIN TO CREAM by Russell Hayman, Gittisham Farm

All the animals are now out and hopefully not where they shouldn't be. We had quite a bit more tidying up of broken branches and trees than usual after the rough winter, and the ground conditions wouldn't let us out before so it was a bit of a rush to tidy up. On top of the usual ploughing, fertilizing and dung spreading, we're always spreading dung of some type it seems. The girls and boys (never to be men) are quite good at producing it. We have also been on a few training courses; health and safety at South Molton (crumbs it was cold), learnt all about gloves, ladders, lifting, brakes, machinery and how not to turn a quad bike over, to which I made the comment that I knew the theory but it was too much fun to drive them like an idiot so mine was sold before I killed myself! Then a course on calf rearing which was on a farm near Ilchester; this was also very interesting. Had a vet from Liverpool University organized by Tesco. And also organized by dear old T one on grazing cows like all things there is more to it than what happens on the surface, it's the old duck on water thingy. Measuring the amount of grass that has grown and the cows' requirement for it is an art with a bit of science thrown in; makes the job interesting no one way is ever completely right. We do learn quite a bit from these meetings or it brings back some nuggets that were always there, just a little undiscoverable in the soup I have for a brain, Usually just as much from the other participants. I do think farming is unique business where we are so willing to help and share information with each other not trying to hide it as financially sensitive information. We have a pair of partridges wandering around one got killed on the road but the other one didn't mourn for long as it soon had a new mate. Plus Edmund is busy training and cleaning Dawn his heifer which he'll be showing in May at Sedgemoor market with the young farmers, another thing which with computing he'll know more about than his dad! I had better get used to it.

HEY HO, HEY HO, IT'S OFF TO WORK WE GO!!

The working party day planned for Easter Monday proved a huge success. Organised by Sara Trumper, people really responded to the call and turned up with shovels, spades, shears and numerous other tools. They set to work with great gusto trimming back the hedges, repairing the gates, and generally tidying up the whole children's play area. A six man/woman team was busy 'cleaning' bricks, chipping away at the old cement, while David Fallows was occupied building the barbeque, aided by Bill. The sun was shining, helping to make everyone happy as they beavered away at their various tasks. Once the Boules pitch had been raked and rolled, the barbeque was lit; sausages and burgers, cooked on the new equipment, were eaten with relish and bottles of wine quaffed with equal speed. Sara said that she was delighted by the support and the level of achievement...well done everyone! She then went on to win the Boules competition! Thomas and Edmund organised the egg throwing competition followed by an egg and spoon race...great fun was had by all.

"Honiton Players" Drama Group

Four original one-act plays the 13th and 14th of June at 7:30pm in the Mackarness Hall.

Time Smash. Foul play at Spentwood Manor.

Something for Susan. A tale of loneliness in old age.

The Uninvited. A young man gains entry into a country mansion.

Date Kate! Think "Strictly Come Dancing" meets "The Taming of the Shrew". Tickets £5 from the Honiton Toy Shop.

FUTURE DATES

June 15th—Father's Day BarBQ lunch at the village hall.

Further details to follow...in the meantime look out for a poster.

June 21st—Honiton Day Hospice Gala Evening at the Mackarness Hall and St Paul's church. The evening will commence with a glass of bubbly and canapés, followed by a Concert presented by Nostalgia Incorporated. Then a four course supper to round off the evening. Tickets £17.50 from Mary Bolshaw 01404 43196.

THE WORM by Emily Dickinson

Our little Kinsmen—after Rain
In plenty may be seen,
A Pink and Pulpy multitude
The tepid Ground upon.
A needless life, it seemed to me
Until a little Bird
As to a Hospitality
Advanced and breakfasted
As I of He, so God of Me
I pondered, may have judged,
And left the little Angle Worm
With Modesties enlarged.

DEADLINE FOR ENTRIES IS THE FIRST WEDNESDAY OF EACH MONTH.

Please contact one of the editorial team below if you have something that you would like to be included in the Newsletter.

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

NEXT PRINTING 12th June

GITTISHAM GAZETTE

A monthly Community Newsletter

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A SAD DAY FOR OUR PARISH

We now know that East Devon District Council have approved the 300 home development in Hayne Lane. Most of our readers will already have heard this news and many will be wondering just how a committee, **elected to represent the interests of people living in East Devon**, could make such a decision. There are so many questions that must be asked about this. First of all, how is it that Devon County Council Highways department think that the additional traffic will be adequately provided for? Can it be because they have already decided to open up Old Elm Road for all traffic once the development is built and the traffic congestion becomes a problem? How is it possible that a Planning Committee, which turned down a smaller development to the East of Hayne Lane on the grounds that it is unsustainable, refuse to accept that the Hayne Lane development is not unsustainable? How can we have respect for those five councillors who voted in favour of the development when they have totally ignored the wishes of the parishioners, as expressed in the Parish Plan? Our Parish Council has worked hard to oppose this development and we owe it to them to show our support. Please come to the public meeting and hear what we can do to get our voices heard.

PUBLIC MEETING — GITTISHAM CHURCH 21st MAY AT 7.30PM

DATES FOR THE DIARY

May 17th Coffee get-together from 10.30 to 12 noon. We hope to have a bring and buy table again, Leonard Abbott brought some lovely tomato plants last month and if he has any left he may bring down some more. Hosts this month are Christine and Alan Broom. These get-togethers will continue on each third Saturday ending with the October one.

May 22nd—European Elections— just a reminder!

May 26th Sequence Dance Village Hall 7.30 – 10.45 organised by Christine and Alan Broom with a bring and share savoury supper; soft drinks will be available, the cost is £4 per person and proceeds will go to church funds.

May 30th Honiton Community Cinema—“The Butler” at 7.30pm in the Mackarness Hall (not The Beehive as published in the Christian Review).

Winners in May

1st Prize	Mrs S Agg-Manning
2nd Prize	Mr W Snell
3rd Prize	Mr J Boswell
4th Prize	Ms A Marker-Morgan
5th Prize	Mrs C Rowe

OBITUARY—Pat Carstairs

Pat lost her battle with cancer on Sunday 6th April. Her funeral was held at Sidmouth Parish Church on 16th April. A packed church gave an indication of the many lives she connected with during her life. Every so often, when a special person dies, it is as if a light has been extinguished...there will be people in our community, as well as her family, who will be feeling such a loss with her death. Those who attended the funeral heard of her colourful life and the wonderful memories she created for her children and grand-children alike. She had such a generous spirit and strength of character, refusing to give in when she was diagnosed with cancer. A truly inspirational lady. We send our deepest condolences to her family.

YEAR'S MIND

May

Pam Blackmore
Reginald Rowland Chown
Amy Nicholas
Cedric Summers

HOLY DUSTERS—May

Helen Hayman,
Helen Fuller
Jan Sutcliffe and
Barbara Mullett

PEOPLE IN THE NEWS

ADA SUMMERS is recovering from a hip injury resulting in her having to spend several days in hospital. Her fighting spirit is still in tact despite it all...we send love and wish Ada a full recovery.

EDMUND HAYMAN passed his grade 4 piano with a merit. Well done, we look forward to you playing at the next concert.

ALICE HAYMAN will represent Girl guiding Devon at the Devon County show along with 40 other girls from all over the county and 9 leaders. Duties in the showground will involve leading breeds of cattle and sheep into the show rings for the grande parade. A camping equipment list is being compiled.

KIRSTY and PHILLIP GER-RISH, Town Farm Buildings, are celebrating the arrival of Poppy, a sister for Jasmine. Congratulations!

BILL GRIFFITHS was home in time for his birthday following a short stay in hospital for a major operation. We wish him a speedy recovery and belated Happy Birthday!

MOLLY WALKER got engaged in Paris on Valentine's Day to Damian Furniss. They plan to “tie the knot” next March in Stratford upon Avon. Congratulations to you both.

PARISH COUNCIL—MAY REPORT

Six parish councillors met for the May meeting. Claire Wright (DCC) and Susie Bond (EDDC) were also present.

DCC / EDDC Report.

Claire Wright reminded members that the public consultation on the future of children's centres in the county is open until 6th June and the consultation for library services closes on 17th July. Susie Bond explained that on 8th May EDDC's planning officer would be outlining how the district council would be revising the Local Plan, which was recently declared unsound by an inspector. There is no target date yet when this might be ready. The district council has however agreed to consider housing supply figures every six months, and there is the possibility of the plan period being extended to 2033. The Premier Inn application at Turk's Head has been approved. The Gleeson application for land east of Hayne Lane has been refused, although it's possible there will be an appeal.

Crime. The police did not send a report this month.

Finance. Members approved the annual accounts and governance statement for 2013/14 and noted the finances this month.

Planning applications.

Russell Hayman left the meeting.

Members had no objections to the following:

Shermans Farm Gittisham Free standing building over yard between two existing buildings

Russell Hayman returned to the meeting.

Members had no objections to the following:

Rectory Cottage Gittisham Replacement shed, installation of domestic heating oil tank, and change of use of land from agricultural to domestic curtilage

Kings Cottage Gittisham Internal works to include new floors and underfloor heating, reinstatement of window, opening up of fireplaces, new doors and other internal works.

Residential development, inc. land west of Hayne Lane

Since the March parish council meeting the Welbeck application to develop a site west of Hayne Lane with 300 homes had been approved. Members discussed their disappointment and anger over the way the application was approved and said they felt the decision was flawed. They were surprised at how the site could be considered sustainable, especially given the Gleeson application east of Hayne Lane has been turned down although it is closer to Honiton and related community services. There was a discussion as to whether a judicial review would be appropriate; members agreed to seek legal advice to decide whether or not to pursue this before the deadline of 6th June. Maggie Walker proposed holding a public meeting, which was approved by all members. A date was set of 21st May in Gittisham church. Members also approved the Chair's proposal to write to the Chair of EDDC's Development Management Committee, Cllr Helen Parr, to express residents' feelings concerning this application.

Play area.

The Chair thanked members and residents for helping to tidy up the play area on Easter Monday and seeing to any items identified in the annual safety inspection, which was carried out at the end of March. The rocking mechanism of the seesaw could present a crushing hazard, according to the report. The clerk agreed to follow this up with the manufacturer.

Next meeting. This will be on 10th June at 7.30pm.

PUBLIC MEETING — GITTISHAM CHURCH
21st MAY AT 7.30PM

HONEY, HONEY, HONEY by Roy Abbot

Well yet again our bees survived another winter, this past winter of pouring rain and not so cold (personally I thought it was plenty cold enough) was very hard on the bees as they remain active, if it is milder. Rather than over wintering in a tight cluster they are active and they consume a lot more of their store of honey. Also the queen has started to lay a lot earlier so the old girls that overwintered have had a hard job caring for brood without much fresh feed being available, as even though there has been an abundance of flowers they can't fly in the rain or if it is too cold.

We have now done a couple of inspections of all the colonies the first one was to assess if feeding was required and most of them did need some to help them along , this is in the form of a large block of fondant placed above them so they have easy access to food without having to go very far from the nest. I was also a chance to check on their survival which was good and the queens had all started laying well.

The second inspection was much more thorough as it was a full check to make sure they are free from any disease which may have taken hold in their long time spent inside (when it is fine enough they do go out to go to the loo as they are very clean creatures and will not mess the hive)

also to check on brood patterns which lets you know how well the queen is doing and hopefully a lot more brood than the last inspection as the old girls are now dying off so a huge amount of replacements are required plus a lot extra to make use of all the flora around in the future

It takes 3 weeks from the egg being laid until it hatches as a bee, then a further 2-3 weeks before they start to forage their first jobs are housework and brood rearing and caring for the all important queen.

We now look forward to a great season so our girls can do their thing and pollinate crops and hopefully make a bit of surplus honey for us, on that note we still have some honey available for sale both runny and soft set for the bargain price of £5 per 1lb jar

Churchwardens' Report—Carol McCann

Our Easter services were well attended, a thank you to Jan and Barbara for inviting the congregation on Good Friday to Cornerstones for coffee and hot cross buns. On Easter Day we were lucky to have the Rev. Stephen Treeby to take our Eucharist unfortunately it was a wet afternoon so our treasure hunt and cream tea had quite depleted numbers however I hope those who took part enjoyed themselves. Thanks to Bill Griffiths for devising both the adult and childrens hunts and to sue Fallows for providing the scones and her lovely ginger cake and Angie Hutchings for her chocolate cake and to those who helped with the serving and clearing up.

At our Church annual Meeting Roger Hutchings and I were re-elected as churchwardens, Ian Warne agreed to continue as treasurer and Amanda Acland our secretary. The Annual Archdeacon's Visitation was held on the 1st May in Sidmouth where churchwardens are sworn in for the current year.

The week commencing 11th May is Christian Aid week, I hope to have envelopes delivered with the gazettes and would appreciate it if they could be returned at the coffee get-together, if you would like yours to be collected please ring me on 851113 thank you. At 6.30 on the 11th is an ecumenical service for Christian Aid, this year being held in St. Paul's Honiton.

Services for the rest of this month and first half of June are as follows:- 11th Parish Eucharist with a Baptism, 18th Lay-led Matins, 25th Lay-led Morning Worship and in the evening there will be a Taize service at 6.30 in Awliscombe church instead of the usual team evensong we are asked to bring along a candle., Thursday 29th the Team Ascension Day service will be held at 7.30 in Gittisham with refreshments afterwards, June 1st Family Eucharist with refreshments, on the 8th Pentecost, there will not be a service in any of the villages the whole team will be at St. Paul's for a 10.00 service with refreshments afterwards. 15th June is Lay-led Matins.

STAGE RIGHT

CHILDREN'S DRAMA CLUB

held a very successful one-day workshop on Tuesday 8 April. Twenty one children made props, scenery and shoe box theatres, as well as working on drama sessions. Sarah Agg Manning and Jan Sutcliffe were joined by Carol Hall, who skilfully administered the day as well as delighting the children with her face painting. We also had Polly and Harriet Agg Manning with us demonstrating their considerable skills in theatre design and physical theatre.

On Friday 2 May Stage Right presented 'Memories of Childhood' to parents and friends.

This was a selection of skills that the children are currently working on. It was well received, and raised £209 in donations for local charity, "Balloons" which supports children who have been bereaved. Special thanks to Gwen Martin who accompanied the children and to parents and friends for their wonderful support.

Sarah and Jan

PUBLIC MEETING — GITTISHAM CHURCH

21st MAY AT 7.30PM