

GITTISHAM GAZETTE

A monthly Community Newsletter

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Edition 171

NICK AGG-MANNING

Proud Rhodesian, royalist, sportsman, bon viveur, friend. Where does one stop? Nick was a one-off and will be sorely missed by all those who met him in his various guises, be it through politics, rotary, charities, his promotional work, 4x4 tuition, outdoor activity corporate events, Gittisham village pantos, - real life so often feels like a pantomime, and Nick's original pantomimes brought reality and fiction together in such a way as to unite our community in laughter and affection. - Santa Claus, charity auctioneer, quizmaster, after dinner speaker, cricket, golf, barbequing, etc. A stalwart of Gittisham Church, being Lay-chair of the Parochial Church Council for many years. When something needed doing, Nick was always first to volunteer. He had an inexhaustible energy and enthusiasm and packed so much into his all too short life. When he became ill, he did not let it slow him down even though he must have felt wretched at times. He continued to smile and joke and bore his illness with determination and dignity. Above all, Nick was a family man who was intensely proud of his wife, three daughters and five grand-children. Their loss is immense. The village can never be the same again without him.

In Rotary, Nick made a huge contribution. He was made a Paul Harris Fellow on 2 occasions. He had been President, chaired the International & Foundation Chair committees and was Master at Arms for many years. Finally, although suffering, he organised and delivered a most successful District Conference in 2015.

Over his last two years Nick was recognised as a writer of serious intent with his many blog followers faithfully following his lengthy updates as he dealt with his illness. No one could fail to be impressed by the courage communicated by Nick as he met this 'bad boy' head on and dealt with its consequences with a straightforward display of literary skill and humour. Rest in Peace Nick, we know you will be watching over us all and giving us the inspiration you had.

DIARY DATES

May

7th Commemoration of the birth in 1816 of John Dominy born in Gittisham and the hybridiser of the first orchid. Village Hall 10.00-4.00 Displays, presentations, Orchids by Devon Orchid Society. there are posters round the village.

14th Concert Ottery St. Mary Parish Church 7.30 with the Military Wives Choir, Exmouth Town Concert Band & Ottery Silver Band celebrating 30 years of the Otter Valley Rotary club £10.00

17th Twelfth Night presented by Honiton Community Theatre in the Village Hall doors open 7.00 for 7.30 start. £6 & £3 children up to 16. Bar available, book your seat from Sue Fallows 850922.

21st Coffee get-together at the Dower House with Helen and James Fuller 10.30 - 12.00

23rd Pilates Village Hall 7pm -8pm free taster session with Nikki Pettitt Bsc Hons Physio 07971821175 classes start Mon 6th June weekly 7-8pm

June 11/12th Helen Hayman is arranging a weekend of Gittisham Memories in the Village Hall .photos, cuttings etc please do get in touch with her on 01404 758334 or 07806480246. Do put the dates in your diary.
19th Sunday Lunch Bar-b-q Village Hall 12.30 more info next month.

The PIG at Combe is due to open its doors in July. Along with employing lots of local people we have also attracted employees from outside the area. Those not from the local area will require long term accommodation. If you have a room in your house that you would like to rent or indeed if you have a house to rent in the local area we would love to hear from you.

Please contact

Fiona.moore@thepigatcombe.com

GRAIN TO CREAM RUSSELL HAYMAN

It may not seem like it, but spring is here! Well the days are longer than the nights, cold enough to freeze the balls off a brass monkey though! Most of the animals are now outside wishing they were in! The milking cows had a modest hair cut (their tails were trimmed) all that green green grass can make the digestive tract move a little bit quicker than is desirable. This manifests its self in a less than ideal constituency in the dung. Six inch's of hair removed from the tails keeps them cleaner and less splatter for ourselves, win win.

The crops are still progressing and will mature at much the same rate even with the cold. Temperature has an effect on maturity but not as much as day length so we just get less growth. We will soon be sowing the forage maize, this is a crop that likes the warmth so I will wait for the ground to warm up if I can. In one of the fields destined for maize we have put in nearly 500 meters of drains to try and remove some wet areas, it has been wet in those areas for some while but with crops in we have very little opportunity to do remedial work especially when we have to go right across the field.

The cereal crops will have had all the fertiliser they're going to get, just a case of keeping the disease out and keeping them standing. Some of the crops are suffering from a virus infection passed on by aphids, a result of the warm winter we have just had. There is nothing to be done now, the plants that are affected will come to nothing so all we can do is manage the rest of the crop to the yield we can realistically expect.

Also happening in May will be form filling for the good old government by the 16th of the month this is the basic payment scheme that was such a fiasco last year I think Basic is an apt name because whoever came up with the administration has to be at the best basic. Don't worry be happy our superfast broadband speed of 1 and a bit mega bits (that's super fast, it must be, it's what the web site says we are enabled) means we can just dance around the lovely online application process with complete ease!

This is also one of the months I run about with my clipboard, that most important piece of farming equipment doing the evaluating of the cows for Tesco. It's not really that bad but getting a calf out is so much more rewarding in a spiritual way if not economic.

Oh yes, better get some sunshine and go silageing, we'll need a bit of food for the winter!.

CHURCH WARDEN'S REPORT. CAROL McCANN

Gittisham Sunday services for May/June—at 11am unless stated otherwise.

15th No service in village Confirmation of Judy Turner at Exeter Cathedral 10.00 or a Mission Community Eucharist at St. Paul's 10.00

22nd Parish Eucharist

29th Parish Eucharist

29th Team Evensong - Buckerell Church 6.60 (choir practice 5.30)

June

5th Family Eucharist with refreshments and Christening

12th Parish Eucharist

19th Lay-led sung Matins

200 Club Results - May

1st Mr L Whitehouse

2nd Mrs C. (Wakley)

3rd Mrs V. Edmonds

4th Mr E. Hayman

5th Mr R. Marker

If you haven't paid your subscription yet please let me have your cheque asap. We do have some spare numbers if you would like to join, £12.00 per number per year ring Carol on 01404 851113 or 07751240873.

St Michael's Gittisham

At the Annual Parochial Church Meeting, Both Roger Hutchings and Carol McCann were re-elected as churchwardens and the PCC re-elected en-bloc with one new member. The treasurer's report is displayed in the church porch, we do need to raise more funds to keep our church running smoothly, if you have any suggestions please let Carol know 851113.

I am in great need of help with church cleaning, could you spare time one month a year, starting with May, please let me know as soon as possible.

GITTSHAM PARISH COUNCIL - MAY REPORT

Five councillors met for the May meeting. Susie Bond (EDDC) and Sara Randall Johnson (DCC) were also present.

DCC / EDDC Report.

Sara Randall Johnson said from 1st April the county libraries were now part of Libraries Unlimited, a new independent organisation which is being overseen by an 11-strong board. Susie Bond said a housing monitoring update coming before EDDC next month would show how many houses have been completed up to September 2015.

Crime. There were six reported crimes in 2015-16.

Finance. Members agreed the finances and approved the annual governance statement and accounts.

Planning applications.

- a) Land At Rear Of 1 Hamlet Cottages, Weston; relocation of existing workshop/office/storage building and compound including formation of new vehicular access and extension to existing access drive

Members had no objections to the above.

Licensing applications.

- a) The Pig at Combe

Members had no objections to the above.

Limited residential development in Gittisham village.

David Valentine told members that the housing needs survey was ready to go out. Parishioners and interested parties outside the parish have until mid-June to complete the survey and return it. Anyone from outside the parish with a connection to Gittisham is encouraged to complete the survey.

Play area.

Russell Hayman has replaced the bearing on the shackle of the double swing. There will be a working party on 21st May to maintain the play area and fix any items that need attention as outlined in the inspection report. Residents are welcome to come along and lend a hand and bring items for a barbecue at lunchtime.

Bus shelter.

Maggie Walker said Len Abbott had begun work repairing the bus shelter in Gittisham village.

Road closures.

Members noted the road closures w/c 9th May on Hayne Lane, and between Gittisham Farm Cross and the centre of the village for resurfacing.

Next meeting. This will be on 14th June at 8pm.

PLEASE REMEMBER TO COMPLETE AND RETURN THE HOUSING NEEDS SURVEY ENCLOSED WITH THE GAZETTE!!

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### **ROY'S BEES**

We recently had our first quick look into our hives to check how the girls managed through the winter. At our first impression by observing the front of the hives most seemed to be doing well as we had a lot of bees taking in pollen, this is a good sign as it means the queen is laying as they use pollen to rear their young. The next step was to open a hive and really see what was happening inside, we were pleased that our queens were laying and the brood was being reared, some were doing better than others, but on the whole they are all coming along very nicely for the start of the season. This article was originally scheduled for the April edition but as the weather has been so cold, we have not had a chance to look at them since, we have observed them going to and fro on the warm bits in the middle of the odd day or so, all we can do is hope they are surviving, hopefully we will have a full report in June.

A cold spring can be very hard for them as the old bees that have come through the winter are dying off as the amount of young bees needing care are increasing so we have to make sure they have plenty of food especially if the weather isn't as good as it should be for spring.

Our next real inspection of the girls will be when it is warmer for longer than a couple of hours in the middle of the day. If any of you have a spare space in your gardens why not grow some pollinator friendly plants this in turn helps everyone, Poppies, lavender and catmint need little attention and go down well with all pollinators, a few others are dead nettles, mint, sage, rosemary, heathers, and of course beans and fruit trees. Our girls would love to come to visit your flowers and veg and pollinate them for you.

## PEOPLE IN THE NEWS

### Arrival

Congratulations to Amelia and Ollie Paget on the birth of Rose - to be known as Rosie who arrived on Friday 29<sup>th</sup> April weighing in at 6lbs 15oz

### Departure .

Mary Searle (late of Gittisham Vale) died in Burnham-on-Sea recently her funeral is on Mon.9<sup>th</sup> May in Burnham at mid-day.

Alice Holme ran her 1<sup>st</sup> London Marathon in a time of 3 hours 52 mins and came 11,677<sup>th</sup> out of 40,000 runners, well done Alice.

Congratulations to Ronnie Pew 101 on 1<sup>st</sup> May

## School Report

### Feniton C of E Primary

Gittisham's children have been busy at Feniton school. William enjoyed a trip to Plymouth Aquarium as part of a project on Under the Sea. Kadence and Clara came first and second in the Queen's birthday card competition. The judge said all the entries were so good that the queen must see them all and so they will all be sent to her. The Moneymakers after school club organised a very successful Easter Fair, with Kadence donating a huge pile of Easter Eggs for a competition. Clara's class visited Feniton Church where they're exploring the role of the church within the community. Little Maverick has just started trying out the school at Little Explorers and Rose and Johnny are looking forward to their residential trips this term.

There's a school disco on the 20th May and plans for a bingo night later this term. Any suggestions for fun or fundraising would be most welcome via Carol Hall, PTA Chair.

### Gittisham Flower & Produce Show Sat 6<sup>th</sup>

**August.** Another year has passed and it is time to be thinking about – and growing for – the annual Flower and Produce show. When writing this I felt that it was a little late to be giving details of this prestigious event! However on checking the thermometer this morning and realising that it was -1C overnight it seems that we have yet to leave winter behind. A schedule of classes has been distributed but if you haven't received a copy please ring Sue Fallows 850922. This year is the Queen's 90<sup>th</sup> birthday and with the proceeds from the show we plan to plant a tree in the village to mark the occasion. Your support is therefore very much needed!

### FROM KIRSTY DAVEY

Sadly my mum ( Christine Buckrell) has passed away unexpectedly on the 18th of April, she will be missed by friends and family old and new. She had much love for the village, from coming down on holiday to living here before moving to Branscombe.

Her funeral is to take place at the East Devon Crematorium (Whimple) on the 13th of May at 9.30am followed by a celebration of her life in Gittisham Village Hall.

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### Forward Notices

**Saturday 11<sup>th</sup> June** celebrate 90 Glorious Years, a culinary and Musical Birthday tribute to Her Majesty. Dinner in the Mackarness Hall 6.30 with canapes & bubbly, choice of main course and dessert, Glass of wine, coffee & mints. + Raffle. Then 8.30 Music and song over 9 decades, by Nostalgia Incorporated (Jan Sutcliffe) in St. Paul's Church. Dress code, lounge suits and evening wear Tickets in advance from Mary Bolshaw 01404 43196. Proceeds to Honiton Hospiscare.

**Sunday 19<sup>th</sup> June** the Annual Sunday Lunch Bar-b-q for Fathers Day will be at the Village Hall from 12.30, soft drinks available bring own alcohol if required. Everyone Welcome. Further details from either Carol 851113 or Sue 850922.

### Midweek Herald Deliveries

Is there anyone who could take over delivering the Midweek Herald in the village from me. If you can help please ring Pam Chown on 01404 850085. Thank you.

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The Gazette is currently being edited by Carol McCann if you would like to take on this task and join our editorial committee please let me know. We aim to go to print during the second week in the month depending on Parish Council and 200 club.

Editorial Team

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Copy date for June will be Tuesday 7th. If you have articles please email asap so I can fit them in. Carol