

GITTISHAM GAZETTE

A monthly Community Newsletter

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LEN WHITEHOUSE – THE 'NEARLY' MAN IS NO MORE

Len sadly died on the 13th April following a very long hard fought series of ill health issues. Known as the 'nearly' man as when asked how he was his reply was always "nearly" Len lived with wife Jane in Gittisham Vale for many years, they worshiped at St. Michael's Gittisham and Len's lovely tenor voice enhanced the hymns both at Gittisham and in the Mission community choir he was also a member of the Otter Valley Operatic Society, plus having a musical career before coming to Devon. Len had a passion for Steam trains and was often on duty as a guard at the Steam Railway Didcot, his final steam train journey was on Boxing Day 2017 with four generations accompanying him. Len has requested that his ashes be placed in the fire of a steam train so he can 'go up in a puff of smoke.' An avid Philatelist, his collection of stamps having been passed on by his father. A very proud family man with a wicked sense of humour who always had a jigsaw or board game on the go. His children and grandchildren referred to Gramps as their 'Google' search engine and often called on him to help with homework. Len was a very brave person who always bore his illness cheerfully and with Jane his constant companion at his side. His determination and strength of mind seemed enduring to the end. God Bless Len may your rest be peaceful and may Jane and the family have many happy memories to cherish.

Dates for your Diary

May

13th-20th Christian Aid Week

13th Cream tea followed by special service at St. Paul's for the charity at 4.00pm

17th Film 'discussion' Night To Kill a Mocking Bird 7.00pm Village Hall £2.00

19th Coffee Get-together 10.30 – 12 noon hopefully outside but if wet/cold in the Parish Room

26th/ Gittisham Memories Weekend in the village hall 10.00am – 4.00pm daily, coffees,

27th teas and lunches on both days. Memorabilia from many an era, photos, newspaper cuttings, memory books and lots more to view. Details from Helen Hayman 07806480246. offers of help most welcome.

28th Social Sequence Dance from 7.00p. – 10.45 in the village hall with bring and share savoury supper, soft drinks available there will be a raffle. Entry £4.00. Information from Christine & Alan Broom 44641 or Elaine

GITTISHAM AMBLE

SUNDAY 10TH JUNE

A 6 mile walk in aid of Hospiscare, Kings House, Honiton. Starting from Gittisham Village Hall

At 10.00 am. To book your place, sign up as soon as possible - 01392 688020 or fill the sponsor form at www.hospiscare.co.uk/events/gittishamamble

If you don't want to do the walk, but would like to contribute to the cause please come along for coffee, bacon baps or cake between 10.00am and 4.00pm at the village hall. You can always sponsor a walker or how about sponsoring your dog to do the walk with you ! (Kevin Chown)

BEAUMONT CHARITY

Eighteen months ago we wrote an article in this Gazette about the Beaumont Charity, explaining the history and the objectives of the Charity. To date we have had very little response. The Beaumont Charity has been running for over 400 years to "benefit the parishioners of Gittisham when they are in need".

In modern time it can help with a variety of any Villager's needs. It was designed to assist those in Gittisham in need, and could be used for Home Safeguard devices, along with a wide variety of other purposes. So, please come and see or contact one of the Trustees if you feel you or one of your neighbours has a need for help. The utmost discretion is used in handling all situations.

The Trustees of the Beaumont Charity are:

Richard Marker, Chair
Charles Holme, Secretary
Mike Dawes, Treasurer
Roy Abbott
Jayne Bramley

Contact details for applications:

charles.holme@talk21.com or telephone Roy Abbott on 01404 850550

SARA AND BILL'S GREAT ADVENTURE

Sara Trumper and Bill Griffiths set out from Gittisham to cycle to Crete on Saturday 14th April, they have reached Italy and their blog : Saraandbillsgreatadventure.com. makes most interesting reading.

The challenge was to guess WHICH DAY they would arrive in Crete". There is a just giving page (link below) and a suggested donation of £5 per guess with all proceeds going to Cancer Research. So far well over £1000 has been pledged. There will be a small prize for the winner. www.justgiving.com/Sara-Trumper

THE BLACKDOWN HILLS TRUST

Is looking for local volunteers to help check stock fencing around the grazing units in the Neroche Forest area. These sites are managed by the Blackdown Hills Trust in the Blackdown Forest for grazing conservation : they are a magnet for rare butterflies such as Wood White and Duke of Burgundy and an array of plants, insects, birds and mammals. The areas are part of a Higher Level Stewardship and are grazed by English Longhorn cattle in the summer months.

What will the volunteer role involve?

The role will involve walking the stock fence twice a year during the spring and autumn in the grazing compartments to check for any rotten posts or damage to the wire, and reporting back to the Trust. There may also be opportunities to get involved in practical conservation work, for example clearing conifer re-growth to allow native flora to thrive.

Full training will be provided for the role, including maps of the sites, appropriate contact information and information on what to look out for.

Interested? Contact John Greenshields on 01823660764 or parkfarmwoods@talktalk.net

"**Sue and David Fallows** have too many tomato, sweet pepper and aubergine seedlings. If you want any, please get in touch and you can pick and choose in return for a small donation to the village Flower and Produce show." If you are interested give them a ring on 01404 850922.

DON'T FORGET GITTISHAM MEMORIES is taking place again this year over the weekend of 26/27 May. More memorabilia/photos needed by Helen Hayman and offers of help. Refreshments will be served throughout each day. More details nearer the time. Do put the date in your diary

PARISH COUNCIL – MAY REPORT

Seven councillors met for the May meeting. Susie Bond (EDDC), Phil Twiss (DCC) and one member of the public were also present.

DCC / EDDC Report.

The offer of a free bin for the new green waste collection service continues, so Cllr Bond urged interested residents to sign up as the offer is only temporary.

Finance. Members agreed the finances.

Planning applications.

- a) Weston Nag's Head Road – Certificate of lawfulness for the established use (in excess of 4 years) for occupation of the dwelling in breach of the use of the property solely for holiday accommodation
- b) Rapshayes Farm – Extension to agricultural yard to provide parking & storage for agricultural machinery and equipment
- c) The Bungalow Nag's Head Road – Construction of two-storey garage

Members did not have any evidence to support a) either way. Councillors had no objections to b) and c) in principle; however, if the district council is minded to approve c), it should be conditioned to restrict its use for the storage of vehicles only.

Broadband.

Phil Twiss said he had met Connecting Devon & Somerset reps (CDS) and senior managers from Gigaclear on 3rd May to gauge the short distance between Rectory Cottage and the village, with a view to extending the Gigaclear 'Farway packet'. The various parties expressed surprise at how short the distance actually was and how straight forward it would be to install fibre inside the fields alongside the road. Cllr Twiss said he had discussed with Combe Estate an easement over the fields to run the fibre, which the estate supports. Gigaclear will now put forward a proposal to extend their service in to Gittisham. Cllr Twiss said it would then be down to CDS to decide if there is sufficient money in the budget to do the 'extra work' as part of a pilot scheme, whereby a whole village/parish solution is likely to be more viable with a small number of outlying premises being service by a fixed wireless service, than a pure fibre to the premises service for all properties. Gigaclear is optimistic that it will reach a wholesale supplier agreement with the Openreach, Talk Talk and Virgin media ISPs encouraging commercial competition on their network. Phil Twiss described the meeting as encouraging, and said he remained positive of a good outcome for Gittisham.

Hayne Lane development.

Ian Baker of Baker Estates sent an update, which is reproduced here:

"Hayne Lane is targeted to be open for contractors and deliveries on 9th May. This should obviate the need for any contractor vehicles to enter into Old Elm Road. We anticipate Hayne Lane being open to the public on programme by 28th May. This is despite the significantly increased scope of works required by DCC Highways Dept. I am sure you will join me on congratulating our contractors on their sterling efforts once the programme has been met. Tarmac works will commence early next week, which should give interested local residents confidence that "the end is in sight." Members noted that a water main would be laid shortly from Old Elm Road to the site, which would prevent site traffic from travelling along that route.

Play area. Members approved the purchase of a new set of swings, as it will take 6-8 weeks to deliver and install, and agreed to further fundraising. The cost of a new slide tower was felt to be prohibitive, so it was agreed to pursue the option of building one based on Hamish Hall's and Bill Griffiths's designs. Members agreed to tackle the majority of actions within the annual inspection report.

Next meeting. This will be on 14th June at 7.30pm in the parish room.

FORWARD NOTICE Sunday 17th June, Sunday Lunch Bar-b-q for Father's Day Village Hall from 12.30. To book your place ring Sue Fallows 01404 850922. In the garden if fine in hall if wet

Church Wardens Report Carol McCann

At our Annual Meeting the same officers were elected and I continue to be your Churchwarden, Ian Warne gave us a comprehensive overview of our finances (a copy of which is in the church porch for you to view) We do need to keep our fundraising up as costs of running the church and churchyard are outweighing the income. The Ferret Racing evening was a great success and the sum of £517.80 was raised, thanks to Helen and her team for organising and to all who attended. We have another two events coming up to raise funds, the Memories weekend and Social Sequence Dance (see dates for your diary)

Forthcoming Church Services Gittisham and Mission Community 11am unless stated

May

13th Parish Eucharist
20th Lay-led Morning Worship
27th Parish Eucharist
27th HMC Choral Evensong
Combe Raleigh 6.30pm

June

3rd Family Service with refreshmen
10th Parish Eucharist
17th Lay-led Sung Matins
24th Parish Eucharist
24th Special Choral Evensong with visiting
Choir at St. Paul's 6.30pm

200 CLUB RESULTS MAY 2018

1st Margaret Ballantyne	2nd Nelly Marker	3rd Katharine Walkey-
4th Cliff Wensley	5th David Thomas	Beddows

March was the time to renew your 200 Club Subscriptions for 2018/19 at £12.00 per year, these can be paid by cash/cheque (Gittisham PCC) or by annual standing order (forms available from Carol McCann. There are still several numbers available if you would like to participate. The monthly prizes are £40, £20, £15, £10, £5 and 2 6 monthly of £48

GITTISHAM COMMUNITY LAND TRUST

On Thursday 3rd May there was an extremely well attended meeting in the village hall which heard from representatives from Wessex CLT Project and Devon Communities Together, about the benefits of forming a Gittisham CLT. At this point in time the target project is the bringing forward of the proposal for a small scale residential development with affordable housing to serve the need identified in the recent Housing Needs Survey. Following the presentations there was a very informative question and answer session. At the end of the meeting those attending were invited to sign up to joining a Steering Group which will meet shortly and with the help of Wessex CLT Project will take the project forward and later in the year formally establish the Gittisham CLT.

Thank you to all who came along to the meeting. Anyone seeking further information to contact David Valentine at davidmvalentine@btinternet.com

ZERO WASTE COOKERY

Professional chef Pierre Graeber will be running another zero-waste cookery demonstration in the village hall on Friday 15th June between 11am and 2pm. Learn to love your left-overs! Pierre will be showing participants how to cook using food you might otherwise throw away, followed by a delicious feast. If you would like to attend or have further details, email Pierre at pgadmin@zerowastecookery.com or call on 851442 or 07545 214940.

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Distributors, Carol McCann, Helen Fuller, Carol Hall & Judith Turner and in Gittisham Vale Peter and Ann Sellick. Copy date for February 2018 Monday 5th. If you have any news, dates events for inclusion in the Gazette do please email it to Carol as early as possible.

If you are moving away from Gittisham/Gittisham Vale the Gazette can be sent by email on request.