

# GITTISHAM GAZETTE

A monthly Community Newsletter

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Frederick Charles Blackmore MBE

10<sup>th</sup> July 19 1923 - 18<sup>th</sup> October 2017

Fred moved to Gittisham with his parents when he was four years old. His Father was the chauffeur cum gardener for the Vicar and Fred's family lived in The Rectory Cottage. Fred and his brothers attended the Village School at Gittisham before moving on to Senior School in Honiton. Fred had many tales of his escapades at school. On one occasion Fred and his brother Wilf went to shoot pigeons with young visitors from the Rectory and they cooked the pigeons in clay in the hot embers of a fire they built. He clearly recalled planting snowdrops on the banks of the cottage with his Father and they still flourish there today.

As a boy, Fred always attended church sitting with other children at the front where the vicar could keep an eye on them from the pulpit! He sang with other children in a choir and went to Combe House to sing carols for the 'Squire and his Lady'. After leaving school at the age of fourteen, Fred became an apprenticed Barber in Honiton. After a stint in ice cream and then working for the Co-Op, he volunteered to join the RAF. While waiting to be called forward he went to work as an apprenticed Baker which he enjoyed. In later life bread making was always his speciality. In 1942, Fred joined the RAF and, after a number of training courses, he became a flight engineer. He joined No 578 Squadron based in Yorkshire. During his time there he carried out 36 operations against targets in Germany and occupied territories. Fred's time in the Royal Air Force influenced him for the rest of his life and he remained a stalwart member of the local Royal Air Force Association, the Air Crew Association and also his beloved 578 Squadron Association. His experiences remained a dominant part in his life memories. After demobilisation Fred worked in a number of Bakeries before obtaining a job with the Home Office Stores Department where he remained for the rest of his working life. In 1981 he was awarded the MBE for his services to the Home Office.

In 1950, in the Parish Church, Fred married his first wife, Betty, an old school friend from Gittisham. As a Civil Servant Fred ultimately moved to several other depots around the country. Fred and Betty did not have any children of their own, but he was always a family man so it was a natural progression for him to take over the role of surrogate Father and Grand Father to Nigel and his family when Fred's brother died. That bond became an important part of his life and he will be missed by Nigel and his family. Sadly, Betty died in 1984.

All his life Fred was a sport enthusiast and played Football, was a Cricket Umpire a keen golfer and became President of Feniton Bowling Club. In more recent times he was an avid watcher of sport on his TV.

Fred married Pam, a near neighbour, in 1986 and together both Pam and Fred became ardent supporters of St Michael's Parish Church and were committed in raising funds for the Bells and also for providing other refurbishments, several of the tapestry hangings and kneelers were sewn by Fred. The sum of £14,000 was raised to provide two new bells and to bring the old bells up to standard. He also, along with Col. Starr started the 200 Club which is still in operation and now run by Carol McCann. Fred continued his support for St Michael's after Pam died showing kindness and concern for all he knew.

A Service of Thanksgiving, conducted by the Reverend Prebendary Sue Roberts was held in St Michael's on 3rd November and the ashes were interred in the Church Cemetery afterwards. Fred will be greatly missed by all whose life he touched.

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## Clive Essame

Clive died on the 25<sup>th</sup> October 2015 at home in Ottery St. Mary with his family there with him., Clive lived in Gittisham from 1989 to 1998 with Linda his wife and Eden their son, who was born in 1989. Together they ran a herb nursery at Combe House and latterly the village shop and Sub-Post Office. Moving to Honiton in 1998. There will be a celebration for Clive in Gittisham Village Hall on Sat. 11<sup>th</sup> Nov. at 3.00 for all those who knew him. We look forward to seeing you there. Clive's funeral has already taken place. Linda and Eden,

## **.Dates for your Diary**

### **November**

- 17th Quiz Night at Combe Raleigh Village Hall** 7.30 Max Pipe Quizmaster, light refreshments but bring own drinks £5. Contact Jacky on 42130
- 18th Coffee get-together** in the Parish Room 10.30 – 12.00
- 18th Wine Tasting and Quiz** 7.30 at Doug's Shed Buckerell, £8.00 inc nibbles, wine tasting by Martin of Just Fine Wines, limited numbers. Details from Clare 851467 or Barbara 850656.
- 23rd Film Night at the Village Hall 'Casablanca'** 7.00pm £2.00 bring own drinks, nibbles provided. Information from Hamish/Carol Hall 850793
- 25th Christmas Café Awliscombe Village Hall in aid of The Admiral Nurse Project** 10 – 12 for details, contact Sharon Thwaites 548467

### **December**

- 2nd – end Dec Scenes of Christmas displays in Gittisham Church** 10 – 5
- 7th-10th Christmas Tree Celebration at St. Paul's** with refreshments and sales table
- 9th Concert by Spirit 11 Spirit Choir 'Angels, Shepherds and Kings'** Christmas music from the old and new worlds at St. Mary's Uffculme 7.30 free entry with retiring collection for WaterAid
- 11th Invitation from The Pig** see page 3 for full details
- 16th Coffee Get-together** 10.30 – 12.00 in the Parish Room
- 17th Service of Carols and Readings** with refreshments Gittisham Church 6.30
- 22nd Carols on the Green** with bar-b-q'd bangers and mulled wine 6.30

**Look out for posters for a Gittisham Village Hall Quiz date and details still being finalised teams up to 6 Hamish will provide fun and entertaining questions. Further info from Hamish or Carol Hall on 850793.**

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## **Press Release - Annual awards are a chance to nominate Devon's recycling heroes**

Devon residents and communities are being called on to nominate their unsung recycling heroes, whose efforts have helped the county remain one of the greenest in the UK.

The Fifth Recycle Devon Thank You Awards will be held on 16 March. Nominations for the eight categories, including those for schools, businesses, and community groups, can be submitted on the Recycle Devon website from 1 November 2017 to 1 December 2017. The Thank You Awards are organised by the Recycle Devon team, and were first launched to recognise those people who do that bit extra to help ensure Devon remains clean and green.

At last count 55.7 per cent of the total rubbish collected or taken to recycling centres in Devon that could otherwise have been disposed of, was recycled. There will be a public vote after shortlisting to nominate 'Your Overall Recycling Hero', which will be featured on the Recycle Devon Website. There will be prizes and recognition for all shortlisted nominees.

Do you know someone who makes a real effort to reduce, reuse and recycle? Perhaps a neighbour, friend, someone from a community group, or even a member of your local collection crew or staff from your local recycling centre. It could also be a local school or college student, teacher, helper or member of the support staff. Please get in touch. If you would like to nominate someone, please fill in the quick nomination form at [www.recycledevon.org/recycling-heroes](http://www.recycledevon.org/recycling-heroes) – they deserve it!

The categories are:

Your Recycling Hero – this could be a friend, family member, neighbour or local champion

School Recycling Hero – three categories – child or adult as well as class/group

Community Group recycling hero

Collection Crew/Operative - recycling, garden, food, or refuse collector

Recycling Centre Operative staff

Small Business Champion

For further information or to nominate, please see the [www.recycledevon.org](http://www.recycledevon.org) website, or post your entry to: The Recycle Devon Team, c/o Devon County Council, Waste Management, County Hall, Exeter, EX2 4QD

## AN INVITATION FROM THE PIG AT COMBE

Fiona and the team at THE PIG-at Combe would like to invite you for a glass of mulled wine and a mince pie on Monday 11<sup>th</sup> December in The Folly from 5.30pm – 7.30pm. As you know space is limited in The Folly so do let us know if you can come. Please RSVP to [events@thepigatcombe.com](mailto:events@thepigatcombe.com) We look forward to welcoming you and wish you a Merry Christmas!

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## PEOPLE IN THE NEWS

**Pat Bettridge** (who used to live in Gorse Cottage) died in Wonford Hospital following a stroke on Wednesday 25<sup>th</sup> October. Pat's funeral is on Thursday 11<sup>th</sup> November 2.30 at the East Devon Crematorium

**Angela Marker and Adriano Claudino da Silva** We wish you both many congratulations, a very happy, fruitful and long life together. Their marriage took place in Exeter on Tuesday 7<sup>th</sup> November.

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## Udder Side of the Hedge - Carla Cheffey

The end of an era! Yesterday was our last milk collection with the tanker collecting our final 800 litres of milk. The last 45 cows have been dried off and will be fattened for a month before going for meat. It has been so strange going from milking nearly 500 cows and sending 12,000 litres a day, down to that. It's not quite over yet though, as we've had 12 new heifers calve in the last couple of weeks; these we have to keep milking until they go to market on the 21<sup>st</sup> Nov, but the milk will just go to the calves. It takes longer to start the parlour up and wash it through after than it does to actually milk them.

So now the big clean up must begin. It's bad enough trying to move house and realising how much 'stuff' I have to get rid of, but then you look in all the sheds around the farm...stuff, stuff and more stuff! I'm not really sure where to begin, and we really need to get rid of things rather than just continuously move them from one place to another. The farm sale is booked for Sat 17<sup>th</sup> March 2018, so we need to have everything sorted before then. It really doesn't seem very far away now, in fact I can feel tears coming to my eyes as I write this. It's all very strange having been here since I was 7 years old, and now having my children here as well. Next year really will be a year of change.

On a more positive note, many thanks to everyone that came along to our coffee mornings, and for the wonderful cakes, we received. Donations of just over £240, which we topped up, and banked a nice round figure of £250 for Macmillan Cancer Care. I do hope you might hear news from the calf rearing unit in Fenny Bridges in time to come, but that depends on Mum!

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## Honiton Food Bank

I have received a thank-you letter from the Honiton Food Bank for the items collected from our Harvest Festival. We have a blue box in church and if you can spare any items please do so. As we are coming up to Christmas time it would be nice to have some seasonal items, we understand that they get a lot of Christmas puddings, please be aware of best before dates. Some small toys, toiletries, sweets/chocolates, trinkets etc. would be most acceptable. We cannot include liqueurs or alcoholic drinks. I am happy to collect items if required, Carol McCann 851113

## **Church Wardens Report Carol McCann**

October is the month when we have our inter-church skittles match. Held at the Feniton Bowling Club this year Awliscombe won the cup, with 127, Gittisham 122, Buckerell 113, Combe Raleigh 108 and Honiton 100, the club gave us a lovely buffet supper. Combe Raleigh's service to dedicate their new bells was packed, Bishop Robert took part with Rev'ds Sue and Jane, the ringers gave a good ring and invited other ringers to join them. A fantastic was put on in the village hall. We are looking forward to putting on our Scenes of Christmas display in church from the 2<sup>nd</sup> December throughout the month, if you would be able to offer some stewarding or make hot drinks please contact Helen Hayman on 07806480246, also if you might like to do a display contact her or Angie Hutchings on 45101.

The repairs to the gallery are nearly finished and the new oak post has been inserted underneath by the rear south window, plastering and painting still to be done. Are you interested in learning to ring the bells, Gittisham could do with a few more as some of our small team are not always available owing to other commitments. If you would like to try, please ring Peter Stansell 42559.

### **Forthcoming Church Services 11am unless stated**

#### **November**

**12th Remembrance Service 10.50 at the lych-gate short act of worship with wreath laying and 2 minute silence then Eucharist in church just after 11.00**

**19th Lay-led sung Matins**

**26th Parish Eucharist**

#### **December**

**3rd Family Eucharist with refreshments**

**10th Parish Eucharist**

**17th No morning service - Carol Service 6.30pm with refreshments**

**24th No morning service**

**Midnight Mass at 11.30pm**

**25th First Eucharist of Christmas**

**31st No service in Gittisham Eucharist St. Paul's 10.30am**

**There will be a Mission Community Service for Advent Sunday 6.30 at St. Paul's on the 3rd December**

### **200 CLUB RESULTS NOVEMBER**

1st Ken Hopkins

2nd Margaret Ballantyne

3rd Denis Weston

4th Carole Rowe

5th Maggie Walker

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### **COMMUNITY DEFIBRILLATOR SEMINAR**

On the 2<sup>nd</sup> November the Community Heartbeat Trust representative, along with Stella Adamson from the village gave a very informative demonstration on the importance of using CPR when needed as soon as deemed necessary. 23 people attended and were given the opportunity of using this method on the dummy. We also had a demonstration on the working of a defibrillator (there is one situated in the telephone kiosk in the village) I must admit it was very helpful and not too scary. Stella offers first aid courses for all occasions if you would like to run a course with her please contact her on 07813802292 or email [navigationeducation@hotmail.com](mailto:navigationeducation@hotmail.com)

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**Distributors, Carol McCann, Helen Fuller, Carol Hall & Judith Turner and in Gittisham Vale Peter and Ann Sellick. Copy date for December Monday 27<sup>th</sup> Nov. If you have any news, dates events for inclusion in the Gazette do please email it to Carol.**

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