

GITTISHAM GAZETTE

A monthly Community Newsletter

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SPOOKY WEDNESDAY!

Once again, we were visited by a series of witches, goblins, ghosts, ghastly visions covered in "blood", and other frightening things. Amazingly, they were all very polite and well-behaved and a pleasure to give Treats to. I believe they then went to haunt Carol Hall at Part Drillers because she had prepared a very special scary, cobwebby room where they felt happy. Carol and other parents gave their spooky guests a wonderful party with scrumptious food, and many thanks to Carol and to all those who made Halloween such a special occasion for the children.

Jan Sutcliffe

GITTISHAM'S GOT TALENT

Early in 1997 we came to live in Gittisham, and on New Year's Eve that year I put on an Old Time Music Hall. The response was magnificent. All the singers, musicians and others were from the village. Everyone dressed up. The hall was transformed into an old Music Hall setting. I wrote in my diary for 31 December 1997 – "*A night to remember, always. The Music Hall was a complete success. I was so proud of all who took part and contributed. At Mid night we all went to stand together round the Green. We held hands under a starry sky. Bells, fireworks, and love in the air*". After 15 years I think it is perhaps time I produced another! There is so much musical talent in our village, and now we have the Vale as well. So do think about it, chat amongst yourselves and ring me with your thoughts on 1404 – 851255.

Jan Sutcliffe

DATES FOR THE DIARY

November 13th—Gittisham Village Hall AGM. 7.30pm. Everyone welcome. (postponed from 15th October)

Also please note that there will be a working party to clear the moss from the hall roof. The date will be posted on the bus shelter. All aspiring steeplejacks welcome!!

December 1st—Villages in Action. Tom and John Frankand Theatre (moving, funny with twist at end). 7.30pm. Posters out soon.

December 8th—Family Musical Evening in St Michael's church, Gittisham at 6pm. Refreshments will be provided during the interval and there will be an entry fee on the night. Hopefully most of the children will take part so if you would like to involve Ring Helen Hayman (850204). Posters will be out soon.

200 Club—November

1st Prize	Mr K Broadhurst
2nd Prize	Mrs J Underdown
3rd Prize	Mrs O Collis
4th Prize	Mrs S James
5th Prize	Mrs P Carstairs

VOICE FROM THE VALE

We are delighted to announce that Michael Hawkins at 21 Cypress Close has agreed to become our co-ordinator of news from The Vale. If you would like to let him have any items of news, however trivial, please ring him on 44910 or email emh@madasafish.

PLANT LOVERS ALERT

Wild plant charity Plantlife are inviting people to become 'pioneers' and subscribe to a free quarterly e-learning bulletin to learn more about our native wild plants via the 'Wild About Plants' project website - www.wildaboutplants.org.uk The project aims to help people reconnect with the outdoors and their local greenspaces with fantastic free downloadable resources. In recent years subscribers have been asked to record the plant life in their local area and recount what they used to see/pick and forage for. Wild About Plants is funded by Natural England through Access to Nature, as part of the Big Lottery Fund's Changing Spaces programme. "

YEAR'S MIND—NOVEMBER

We remember Barbara Neal.

PEOPLE IN THE NEWS

POLLY PITT's granddaughter, Natalie, who acquired a BSc last December, has now been awarded an MSc in psychology at Manchester University. Congratulation, Natalie...your family will be very proud of you.

AMANDA ACLAND is a grandmother! Katherine and Jack are the proud parents of Violet who was born on Monday 22th October. Our congratulations to everyone and, of course, we must not forget Myrtle who is now a great grandmother!

ALICE HAYMAN having already won Bronze and Silver medals has now been awarded a Gold Medal for her Irish Dancing...well done, Alice, keeeeeeeep dancing!

THANKYOU!

Gittisham Craft group wishes to thank everyone who supported our Soup and Pudd morning, making it a great success. A total of £270 was raised.

Editor's note: We can personally vouch for the delicious food and excellent service!!

HOLY DUSTERS (Nov)

Sarah Goodman
Jan Sutcliffe and Barbara Mullett

BIRTHDAYS in November

7th Oliver Carstairs
Euan Carstairs
14th Edward Fuller
16th Jan Sutcliffe
Angus O'Reilly
27th Oliver Walker
28th Alice Hayman
29th Pierre Graeber
30th Connor Davey

in December

4th Angela Marker
5th Tabitha van Broom
6th Cory Down
7th Sarah Goodman
10th Elizabeth Acland
11th Polly Agg-Manning
Geoff Freestone
12th Paul Miller

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barbaramullett@aol.com

Grain to cream— by Russell Hayman

Well, surprise surprise, the weather is still giving us trouble and the badger cull is off. We are really struggling now trying to sow next year's crops with not much luck, so already next year's harvest is going to be below average as we have now missed the optimum time to sow. and delay now just means a lower yield. Sowing in a sodden seed bed would be even worse so just have to wait. The badger cull will never happen—what a shame for the badgers. We don't have access to a reliable vaccine for them so we just do nothing whilst they die out of sight underground or in the hedgerows? I've seen two this year, never have before. The cull is not perfect or nice but doing nothing is just cruel and just giving the following generations a mess to clean up. Well common sense has never been a politician's strong point. At last all the crops have been harvested finishing with the maize. What a lovely mess that was to get out, had worse though (Friday before Christmas one year). Our brush wouldn't touch the mud on the road so we washed it with the vacuum tankers a few thousand gallons of finest Otter water had a marvellous cleansing effect. I hate having to work in the fields when it is wet as you know it will take years for the ground to recover fully but it does just need a dry time. The apple trees here seem to have fared better than most in the region as they are in demand as elsewhere they are not to be found. The barn Owls are still around and a sparrow hawk has taken some of Helen's chicks out of the run. Nature is a cruel mistress sometimes. We have had a few cows calve of late but we must be putting the semen in the wrong way round as we are getting over 90% bull calves; would be nice to have some more girlies if we could without resorting to sexed semen the tables will turn in the end the female usually has the upper hand.

PARISH COUNCIL NEWS— 7th November meeting Report

Six parish councillors and Cllr Roger Giles (DCC) were present.

DCC Report. None.

Crime. One reported crime, an attempted break-in to an industrial unit via the rear fire door. The alarm was activated and no entry gained.

Finance. Members noted the finances.

Planning. No objections raised to the re-slating at Combe House.

Drains and ditches. Correspondence was received regarding heavy traffic of farm contractors and damage to the roads and ditches causing flooding in a garage at Truances. DCC has now done some work to keep the worst of the water off the road. Roger Giles to report blockages in smaller lanes, such as Dark Lane, which lead to more problems. David Fallows unsuccessfully asked Honiton and Ottery town councils for funds from the Parishes Together scheme for a lengthsperson. He will investigate with other parishes to see if they are interested.

EDDC Local Plan. Public consultation on the latest draft of EDDC's Local Plan has been shifted once more; it is not clear when this will be. Roger Giles reported that several planning applications had gone in to build houses in Ottery, which would potentially put pressure on King's School. David Fallows said he would approach DCC leader John Hart to ask if the county council, as the education authority, could be more combative in response to large planning developments and their impact.

Play area modernisation. The two new pieces of equipment are installed in the play area, and working well. David Valentine said the planning application for change of use of the new part was ready; residents bordering the play area were comfortable with creating a gap in the wall. Members thanked the offer of Rufus Lyle to provide labour for this.

Community Infrastructure Levy. The clerk had received a letter from EDDC, asking what the parish's future infrastructure requirements would be. The new Community Infrastructure Levy, which local authorities can choose to charge on new developments in their area can be used to support development by funding infrastructure that the council, local community and neighbourhoods want - for example new or safer road schemes, park improvements or a new health centre. Members agreed that a community centre for the Vale would be welcome. They felt also that this information should be gathered as part of the local plan.

Next meeting. This will be on 5th December at 7.30pm.

The kind heart understands a need before it is spoken—and answers it so quietly it seems coincidence. *Pam Brown, author*



Betty Madden has brought to our attention the existence of an Oil Buyers' Club in Feniton. By grouping together oil heating requirements, the Club is able to negotiate with a panel of suppliers to get the best bulk purchase price for heating oil for their members. For further information either visit: www.oil-club.co.uk or contact Betty on: 01404 850813

DEADLINE FOR ENTRIES IS THE FIRST WEDNESDAY OF EACH MONTH.

Contact one of the editorial team if you have a happy event to report or have an interesting tip or village memory.

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