

**THANK YOU**—Sarah and Len Abbott have asked for the following to be included this month - "Many Thanks to all who donated at our Ruby Wedding Party. We have banked £435.50 for CLIC Sargent."

CLIC Sargent is a charity for 'supporting children and young people with cancer'...many of our readers will know that this is a charity very close to Sarah and Len's hearts as their son, Richard, was helped by the charity several years ago.

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## **BUS TIMETABLE**

**DON'T FORGET**—we now have a 4A bus from Honiton to the village at 11.57 every weekday. This replaces the 12.57 bus which was changed at our request. Our faith in human nature has been restored. Our thanks to John Richardson of Devon CC.

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## **BEES—by Roy Abbott**

We have now taken off our honey that the girls so tirelessly made for us, (we have left plenty for them as well) as it turned out it has been a pretty good season after a very late start.

Honey is funny stuff, we can all marvel at this sweet, gooey elixir for being such a pure, unprocessed and simple product. But, try telling that to our girls; they would argue that our simple jar of honey is actually the result of months of hard labour, involving the bee equivalent of hundreds of food miles (with no pollution on their part), transporting raw materials to the hive, thousands of workers have been involved in its production, all working tirelessly to create their wonderful product.

For me the joy of our honey is that it is essentially a local food, being made from flowers growing within a few miles of the hive; you can taste the local meadows, trees and gardens in every jar. Honey from one area will have subtle differences in taste and appearance from another area, depending on where the girls gathered the nectar.

Our part of the process is a pretty sticky business, first removing the sealed frames of honey (only sealed frames are removed as that is when the girls have the mixture content correct for storage) then it is uncapping, spinning and finally jarring it up.

Not a lot when you see all the effort that the bees put into it, plus at the same time they are pollinating all our crops. It is estimated that about 40-50 percent of our food depends on plants being pollinated by insects, this includes bees; bees and plants keep each other alive, the flower provides the nectar while the bee provides a pollination service.

We now have jars of honey for sale if anyone would like some.

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## **WALKERS WANTED**

Grab your walking boots and take part in the Marie Curie Cancer Care Dartmoor Trek on Sunday 13th October. The challenge is a sponsored 13 mile circular walk beginning the picturesque village of Widecombe in the Moor. This challenging trek will take you over high moorland, through ancient woodland and around iconic tors as you explore this land of myth and legend. All money raised from this event will provide more hours of Marie Curie nursing care throughout our local community. More information—call 0845 0524184 or visit the official website [www.mariecurie.org.uk/mountain](http://www.mariecurie.org.uk/mountain) and make a difference this October.

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## **GRAIN TO CREAM—by Russell Hayman, Gittisham Farm**

Firstly I must state after Ms Walker's contribution last month that our entry in Cool Runnings was entirely made with sustainable pallets (a couple of bikes had to be persuaded four wheels are better than two) and had passed extensive safety tests.

As predicted in my last scribbles, harvest is indeed underway and by now we may well have finished. We now send a sizable proportion of the amount we sell to Devon Grain at Cullompton; a collective store so is a good little haul with the tractor and trailer, but it is cleaned and dried there if needed and our bins are getting to the end of their life here. The yields have been as good as we had hoped for, following the horrible wet from last year. There also is some good straw so the animals will have a good bed this winter. Now the rush starts to get next year's crop in the ground; hedges have to be cut and, guess what, more dung spread before we can plough! We do spend a considerable amount of time distributing excrement from the girls. But its good stuff. Some of the grass seed is already growing and the Oilseed rape is about to be drilled. The fields have been limed to correct the Ph. as our soils tend to go acidic, we analyse samples regularly to see how much is needed.

During Honiton show week we had a TB test and went clear this time which is good news for a short while.

(The late) Dennis and Pickles have just returned and have filled their new home admirably; the freezer is full. The calves have been castrated and dehorned, not really for their own benefit but for the rest of the herd; a bunch of horny testosterone yielding cattle would cause havoc.

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## **JURASSIC CYCLE RIDE RETURNS**

**The following was sent by email to Carol McCann..well done Gittisham.**

Having completed the above ride yesterday, I just wanted to drop the organisers and volunteers of Gittisham Village Hall a line to say a huge "Thank you" for their warm welcome, support, friendliness and, of course, for the sumptuous array of refreshments on offer to a group of hot, sweaty, smelly and often exhausted and dispirited riders. I hope that you have some idea of what a fantastic welcome and rehabilitation you provide - without which this event would be much the poorer. Appearing like an oasis in a desert, the cheerful faces of your tea ladies and the wonderful respite that your tea (SO much nicer than those nasty, chemical carb-drinks!) and hot sausage rolls provide, give a long-lasting stimulus to the ride and make it all the more enjoyable. I'm sure I speak for all my fellow riders in saying that you spur us all on, and sitting in the sunshine in your garden is one of the high points of the ride. For the second successive year - thank you so much. Simon

## PARISH COUNCIL SUMMARY—September

Six parish councillors met for the September meeting. Cllr Susie Bond (EDDC) and Cllr Sara Randall Johnson (DCC) were also present.

**EDDC / DCC Report.** Sara Randall Johnson said DCC was obliged to make further cuts to its budget, which equates to £60 million over the next two years. This would be likely to affect front-line services. Susie Bond reminded members that EDDC's Local Plan had been submitted for examination, but had to be reviewed on 53 points. These are now out for public consultation— none were relevant to the parish.

**Crime.** There had been no reported crimes since the last meeting in August. However the police explained there had been a spate of break-ins in rural areas nearby and warned parishioners to be vigilant. Residents are advised to maintain their alarm systems, if they have them.

**Finance.** Members noted the finances this month.

**Planning applications.** 22 Cypress Close Honiton EX14 2YW First floor side extension and rear single storey garden room extension

Members objected; they felt this was an unnecessary intrusion on the neighbouring properties. No objection to the proposed garden room at the rear of the property that replaces an existing conservatory.

**Meeting with Welbeck Strategic Land.** Welbeck Strategic Land is proposing an employment and residential development west of Hayne Lane entirely in Gittisham parish: a 40-hectare (100-acre) site either side of the railway line, the northern part being allocated for employment and the southern part as a reserve housing site in the latest draft Local Plan. There are few details at present...Members discussed the possibility of arranging a public meeting for the representative to present the case. It was agreed that the public consultation planned should be held at two sites in Gittisham parish. Similarly for Gleeson Developments and their Heathfield Manor proposals for 180 new homes in the East Devon AONB land at Heathfield. Susie Bond urged every parishioner to complete a questionnaire at the Local Plan examination in public, and members agreed to draw up a leaflet to be distributed to parishioners at a later date, encouraging them to attend any public consultation on these two proposals and make their views known.

**Active Villages project.** David Fallows reported that the free Pilates classes were proving successful. Members agreed that the village hall committee should be encouraged to offer the hall hire for free for parishioners to take advantage of the table tennis bats and balls from Leisure East Devon.

**Play area.** A group of councilors agreed to carry out weekly safety inspections to meet insurance obligations. Profits from a Christmas Fair to be held in the village hall on 7th December would go to the play area.

**Telephone box.** To the surprise of members, BT had confirmed to the clerk that the village telephone box still belonged to the company. Members resolved to purchase it for £1 and invite suggestions for its use from parishioners.

**Parishes Together.** Both Honiton and Ottery Town councils will be contacted regarding any proposals they might have for the deadline of 30th September for Parishes Together, in case the parish council could contribute in any way.

**Signage.** It has been agreed the incorrect sign for Gittisham at Iron Bridge can be covered over on the slip road. When renewed in the future it will put Gittisham on the other side of the sign. However there appears to be no definite timescale for this.

**Sandbags.**

Members agreed to order an additional 300 sandbags.

**Next meeting.** This will be on 2<sup>nd</sup> October at 7.30pm.

## HONITON PANTOMIME SOCIETY

Brush off the cobwebs, pull on your tights and shake the mothballs out of the ball gown—it will soon be Pantomime season again! If you would like to be involved in the 2013/14 production of “Jack and the Beanstalk” you are warmly invited to an Open Evening on Tuesday 17th September in Honiton Community College (6th Form Centre) at 7.00pm. The Society needs both adults and young people as performers, chorus members, dancers, backstage personnel, costume and prop makers and front of house helpers. Subscription rates are £10 adults and £7.50 for your people aged 9-18, payable on the night, if not already paid. Anyone under 16 years of age should be accompanied by a responsible adult.

Dave Pickerell, The Vale

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## HONITON PLAYERS

The next production is “Viagra Falls” a haunted house farce with music. Set in a small haunted hotel on the wilds of Dartmoor, the story tells of a business weekend that goes terribly wrong. At the Honiton Community College on 31st October (Halloween Night), 1st and 2nd November at 7.30. There is also a matinee on the 2nd at 2.30pm. Tickets are £6 (£5 for the matinee) available at the Toy Shop, Honiton High Street.

Dave Pickerell, The Vale

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## DEADLINE FOR ENTRIES IS THE FIRST WEDNESDAY OF EACH MONTH.

Please contact one of the editorial team if you have something would like included in our newsletter.

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

### **Churchwarden's report.—Carol McCann**

I would like to thank all those who helped with the refreshments for the Jurassic Classic bike ride for Prostate cancer, 1,028 cyclists came through the feeding station.

This month our services will be 1st Family service, 8th Parish Eucharist. 15th Sung Matins, 22nd lay-led Morning Worship – non Eucharist and 29<sup>th</sup> Parish Eucharist it is also our Patronal Festival (St. Michael). If you would be interested in leading intercessions at a Sunday service, especially for the lay-led services on the third and fourth Sundays, please let me know.

The Parochial Church Council will meet at Cornerstones on Thursday 19<sup>th</sup> September 7pm for 7.30.

On Saturday 14<sup>th</sup> September the annual Historic Churches Trust 'Ride and Stride' will take place, it is designed for groups/individuals to get sponsorship to visit churches within and out of their own area during the day, all monies collected goes to the Trust and each church receives half their collected money back. Gittisham has in the past benefitted from the Trust by receiving grants for major repairs. If you would like to get up a "team" I have sponsorship forms. I shall arrange for refreshments to be left in the porch for visitors. If you would like to know more, please let me know. It is all in a good cause and can help us to gain some much needed funds.

The Honiton food bank is still desperate for more items especially tinned items, vegetables including potatoes, fruit, sponge and milk puddings, fish and ready meals. Currently they do not need any pasta but tea/coffee, long-life milk, juice, cereals, rice and biscuits are needed. I have taken two full blue boxes to the Food bank recently and would like to thank all those who have supported this worthy cause, if you could offer any of the items needed but cannot get them to the church please let me know 851113 and I will collect from you.

The 200 club has still got some spare numbers, the cost is £12 per year, if you would like to take a number, please let me know (01404 851113), the draw is done at the family service on the first Sunday each month during the refreshments.

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### **The Three Peaks Challenge by Helen Hayman**

This was over 3 days (not 24 hours thank goodness). Although being in a physical job, I felt training for the leg muscles would be helpful. So to prepare for the 15<sup>th</sup> August I started climbing the coastal path at Sidmouth and the surrounding area, trying to vary my route to make it more interesting. Yes, I soon realised there were other muscles in my lower body still needing work. I also realised how I take the area we live in for granted, often finding paths I never knew were there. Now I can take the whole family for picnics as many coastal paths do have benches and wonderful views.

So on the Thursday, I was dropped off at Birmingham (Solihull) to catch the minibus to join my team of one support chap and 5 other girls, to start the long journey up to Balloch (just past Glasgow) where we picked up 2 more girls. What a spectacular journey through the Scottish hills passing waterfalls and high rivers. After 8 hours we arrived at Crianlarich to our hotel with all our luggage which we had to haul with us every night to sort food, clothing for the next mornings climb. But before a good nights sleep we sat down to the traditional Haggis, Neepes and tatties with whiskey sauce. Next morning took an hour to drive through Glencoe, quick sandwich stop before our biggest challenge, Ben Nevis (10 miles). I had filled every compartment in my rucksack, but finding something when you need it is tricky, with hydration pack full of high juice and enough jelly babies and fig rolls. I measured my walking poles and we started over the wobbly bridge. This was not what I imagined with boulders and rocks to climb and after an hour rain, then sleet, still people jogged past and dogs and their walkers meandered through us, the sleet got harder, now with woolly hats, gloves, extra jumper, coat on, the sweat mixed with weather made us drip. I would say the scenery made up for it but heavy cloud most of the way so just look ahead or at your feet and follow the person in front. Could not stay at the peak for long (wrists, hands now numb) but on the descent the cloud finally broke and what a spectacular sight, magnificent, breath taking. 8 hours it took so after tea and bus back to Cumbria, sleep was only a few hours, before Scafell appeared...well the bottom (again rain, heavy, low cloud).

Sadly we were advised to only go half way for our own safety as winds on top were predicted at 65mph plus, so we battled the lower half clinging to the sides. Drenched but in good spirits we waded through deep puddles, streams and a river, this is where the word teamwork comes in, outstretched hands catching each other from the banks and holding hands through the river to give support to those feeling scared. The pub at the bottom was very welcome and shop next door to buy extra coat, jumper.

Last was Snowdon, some of us had families to support us (they waved as they went by on the train). By this time my muscles now ached so deep heat was applied. Edmund joined me and a couple of other children, although they were faster. The Peak was so overcrowded and the café was buzzing, you were still lost in cloud and it was decided to take the Pig Trail on descent for a more scenic walk.

Certainly dramatic, spectacular (looked like these places you see on holiday programmes in the Himalayas), paths carved in the sides of the mountain zigzagging. We became mountain goats, trying to pass carefully those coming up but finding safe footing was tricky. Still I have no blisters, just stiff calf and thigh muscles but I would do it again and not without my 2 poles. Thankyou to all those who sponsored me, raising at present £647.00 for Tourette syndrome. I rose over my target, I enjoyed every moment and have some beautiful photos which I am happy to share with anyone who would like to see them.

# GITTISHAM GAZETTE

## A monthly Community Newsletter

Published by St Michael's Church and Gittisham Parish Council

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### A RICH TAPESTRY OF OUR PARISH

When I sit at the computer to start the process of compiling each monthly newsletter I never cease to be amazed by the variety of news that passes across the desk...I wish that all our readers could experience the feelings of inspiration, admiration and thanksgiving that flood in from reading the wealth of articles I receive. What has prompted me to share these feelings with you is the current report from Helen Hayman regarding her terrific achievement with the 3 Peaks challenge. Helen and Edmund are only two of the most amazing people living in our community. We have also heard this summer of someone who has cycled from Calais to the South of France, a father with his 2 daughters who have climbed a mountain in South Wales, 3 wonderfully gifted artists with exhibitions in Topsham and Honiton. We have at least 3 bands that we know of, one of teenagers, another of young 20 year olds and a third of adults with their soloist. We have a gifted cabinet maker, beekeepers producing Gittisham honey, many gardeners growing fruit and vegetables that taste like real fruit and vegetables! We have several people with beautiful singing voices—some who belong to choirs or choral societies and others who sing professionally. And we have a whole host of people who voluntarily give their time...some to keep our cherished church open with services every Sunday, some to organise events and keep our much envied Village Hall alive, others who get involved in a myriad of different ways to help their neighbours and others less fortunate than themselves. And there are, no doubt, many that I have not heard about...if any of our readers would like to 'blow a trumpet', whether it is their own or someone else's, please let me know. We may not all be millionaires financially but we are all blessed with the richness of the community in which we live.

Email: [barbaramullett@aol.com](mailto:barbaramullett@aol.com) or phone 01404 851255

### DATES FOR THE DIARY

**September 14th—Auction of Promises** in the Village Hall at 7.00pm. Bar and nibbles. Various lots including holiday homes, trips out, ploughing experience, cream tea, dog walking, ironing, dinner, gardening and many more. Catalogues from Jayne Bramley, James Fuller and Helen Hayman 50p.

**September 17th—Walking Circuits** 5pm – 6pm in the village hall. This is walking with gentle exercises which can be done at your own pace, taken by a fully trained instructor from Honiton's Sports Centre. Cardiovascular exercises; we need to have a certain number to make it viable.

**September 21st—Coffee Get-together** 10.00—12.00 by the Lychgate or in the church if wet. Bring and Buy stall as well.

### 200 Club

The winners this month were:

1st Prize	Mrs McLachlanClark
2nd Prize	Mrs B Starr
3rd Prize	Mr B Gilling
4th Prize	Mrs L Bannister
5th Prize	Miss A Hayman
6 monthly draw—	Miss M Pearl

**September 22nd - Cream Tea** in Doug's Shed at Buckereil from 3-5.30 followed by Team Evensong at 6pm (not 6.30 as normal). Choir practice will be at 5pm.

**Harvest Festival** 5<sup>th</sup> & 6<sup>th</sup> October, Supper on the 5<sup>th</sup>, details from Nick Agg-Manning and the festival family Eucharist service on the 6<sup>th</sup> at 11am with refreshments. We have been again asked for non-perishable goods to go to the food bank, any perishables will most probably go to St. Petrocs and for the collection it has been suggested that the whole team support Farm Africa, (this has still to be ratified by our PCC)

### BUDDING ACTORS!

From Friday 13 September, at 5.00pm The Stage Right Theatre Group will be holding regular weekly Drama sessions in Gittisham Village Hall. The sessions, for age groups 7-12, 13-18, Adults and LAMDA students, will consist of Drama skills and techniques, improvisation work and performance preparation. For more details contact Sarah Agg-Manning on 07790562085 or Jan Sutcliffe on 01404 851255.

### PEOPLE IN THE NEWS

**ALICE HAYMAN, EMILY AND GEORGIA BRAMLEY** will be attending Kings School starting this month. We wish them a really happy time...another milestone passed!

**KADENCE CHAFFEY** has started at Feniton Church of England Primary school this term. She says that she likes going to school and when asked what she liked about it she replied "Counting to 100"...what a little star!

**ZAK CARSTAIRS** has also started school at West Hill Primary where he will be joined by several friends. Good Luck, Zak.

**MAUREEN MCGREGOR** has spent another spell in hospital being fitted with a stent. This did not stop her travelling with John to cheer Helen and Edmund on their Snowdon climb! We wish Maureen a full recovery from her latest setback.

### HOLY DUSTERS (Sept)

Phyllis Broadhurst  
Ann & Peter Stansell

### YEAR'S MIND

Audrey Babbage  
Winnie Britton  
Joan Rowe  
Cath Ward