

GITTISHAM GAZETTE

A monthly Community Newsletter

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AUTUMN MEANS HARVEST AND TEAM SKITTLES

This year's Harvest Supper is on Saturday 30th September 6.45 for 7.15 in the Village Hall the cost is £3.50 for everyone. If you would like to book places, please let me know 851113 or email address on the last page, as numbers are limited. Sue Fallows 850922 or Jayne Bramley 850084 would appreciate offers of help to cook items and any spare carrots or cabbages also gratefully accepted. There is no bar so bring own drinks, there will be a raffle.

On Tuesday 17th October is the annual Team inter-Church skittles match at the Feniton Bowls Club, 7.00 for 7.30. Gittisham church would love to have your help and expertise, we have a lovely buffet supper, (I am awaiting confirmation of cost) the venue is licenced and there will be raffle any donations of prizes gratefully accepted.. A list will be in each church to book your place

Dates for your Diary

September

8/9/10 Mini Flower Festival St. Michael's Gittisham ' Festivals ' in aid of Devon Historic Churches and St. Michael's Fri/Sat 10 – 6 Sun 1 – 6 refreshments available. We are looking for sponsors towards the flowers and new arrangers would be very welcome for future events.. Also offers of help with stewarding over the three days. Info from Carol McCann 01404 851113, Helen Hayman 0707806480246 or. Angie Hutchings 01404 45101

9th First Aid Training in the village Hall, see page 3 for full details donations for village defibrillator

16th Coffee Get Together 10.30 – 12.00 Outside if sunny, in the parish room if colder

23rd Coffee morning for Hospiscare at Box House, 1 Mitchells Cottages, Gittisham with Charles and Frances Holme with cakes plants and produce stalls 10.00 – 1.00

29th & 30th Coffee Mornings at Landscores Cottage, (house warming at new house of the Cheffey Family) 10am - 12:30ish. All money to go to Macmillan Cancer Support. Hoping to have bouncy castle on the Saturday and possibly a produce stall/bring and buy stall, Kadence wants to do a treasure hunt or something... Any cake donations appreciated. Carla's number is 07739 838625 Everyone welcome on either or both days! Parking will probably be at Shermans look for signs.

30th Harvest Supper see above for details

October

1st Harvest Festival Family Eucharist 11.00

17th Mission Community Team Skittles at Feniton Bowls Club see above for details

Fun Day in the Playground

Thank you to Pierre for having the idea and organising this. It was good fun, and the German tourists who happened to stop in the village were made to feel very welcome, and their daughter will be taking back tales of snail racing, egg throwing and giant Jenga to her kindergarten. I hope they believe her! The evening bar-b-q was also well attended a lovely end to a very beautiful day.

PARISH COUNCIL - SEPTEMBER REPORT

Five councillors met for the September meeting. Susie Bond (EDDC), Phil Twiss (DCC), and two members of the public were also present.

DCC / EDDC Report. Phil Twiss said he had informed Highways about the missing finger post to the village on the Sidmouth road. He agreed to tell Highways colleagues that part of the 'Welcome to Gittisham' sign at the east end of the village had been taken. As regards the damaged bridge in the centre of the village, Highways does not consider it to be unstable, so it will be repaired in due course. Phil Twiss assured members that he would be following up the situation as regards broadband provision; meetings are due to take place in September which could affect broadband in Gittisham village. David Valentine said the service had deteriorated in recent weeks for no obvious reason, so Phil Twiss advised residents experiencing problems to report this to their individual Internet Service Provider. The companies may be able to 'turn up the gain' and improve speed slightly.

Susie Bond said beds at Honiton Hospital had closed at the end of August. (The Minor Injuries Unit and other out-patient clinics and services provided at the hospital are not affected.) Regarding the garden waste collection, EDDC is looking into providing an additional, paid-for service at the start of next year's growing season. A contractor will be selected.

Finance. Members agreed the finances.

Old Elm Road gate. Richard Pratt said parts of the gate had corroded. Phil Twiss said he would try to find out who has responsibility for this gate. He also agreed to ask the fire brigade to see if they could carry out an exercise to show that the gate could be opened in an emergency.

Vale Noticeboard. Richard Pratt explained that the wall where the noticeboard is attached is due to be rebuilt. It is doubtful that the current noticeboard will survive if attempts are made to re-attach it. Members agreed the clerk should investigate purchasing a replacement.

Hayne Lane development. Davids Valentine & Fallows, Richard Pratt and Susie Bond met representatives of the developer Baker Estates on 24th August. They discussed the proposals for the remaining phases of the Hayne Lane development. Councillors drew attention to the isolation of this development from the community services available in Honiton town. It was suggested that consideration should be given to setting aside a suitable area of land to accommodate a community centre in the future.

Defibrillator. Stella Adamson told members the defibrillator was due to arrive w/c 11th September. The defibrillator will be locked, and when a person dials 999 they will be given a code to unlock the equipment. Stella said there were currently eight people signed up to the first aid / CPR event in the village hall on 9th September. This will be followed at a later date with a familiarisation evening for the defibrillator, provided by the Community Heart Trust.

Parish Room. Members resolved to approve the change of location for parish council meetings to the parish room in the village. This follows a request from the Folk Dance group to book the hall on the first Wednesday of every month from January 2018. Russell Hayman said that if the council expected large numbers of people to turn up for a particular meeting, an alternative venue could be found for that occasion.

Next meeting. This will be on 2nd October at 7.30pm in the

New Job

Pierre Graeber will be working part-time with a local charity to help people create healthy, tasty meals from scratch. Axminster-based Health & Local Food for Families works with disadvantaged groups and vulnerable people to provide free cookery sessions.

PEOPLE IN THE NEWS

Una Magic Wakely-Beddows was born to Catherine and Mike on the 13th July, we send our congratulations and hope Aurora is enjoying having a new baby sister.

A very warm Gittisham welcome to **Steve, Jane and Mimi Ryan** who have moved into Gorse Cottage we wish you a very happy time in the village.

Michael and Margaret Hawkins, Congratulations on your forthcoming Diamond Wedding, we hope you have a lovely celebration.

Des and Dinky Hollis a belated congratulations on your Diamond Wedding in July and many thanks for the bubbles and cake at the last family service.

Jodie Abbott has won a sports scholarship to Loughborough University, she has been playing basketball for the county, we wish Jodie every success and hope she enjoys her time at Loughborough.

GRAIN TO CREAM

August, the month of harvest! and down came the rain. The worst possible weather for us, showers and warm sunshine. Some of the crops grew in the ears before we could harvest them thus losing yield and quality. Harvest was a bit different for us this year, as we used a contractor this time. My toy; the combine has been sold after twenty years as the herdsman has left and I was thinking of changing the combine anyway, I decided to change direction a little, we will see how it goes, I do know there will be no nasty repair bills for the combine coming my way and a bit of skilled labour comes with the machine. It didn't work too badly given the year and the fact that I have a fair bit to do so would be one of their bigger customers, and willing to go when others are not so keen has helped to get it done. Talking of labour, we have two new team members now to join in the duties!

There is a lot of field work coming up now as next year's crops have to be planted, hedges to be cut and dung spread. The planning for next year's cropping was done at the end of June and as a mixed farm there is quite a juggling act to do trying to keep enough grazing near the farm and maintaining and a good rotation far away.

We have had a quiet time with the cows of late, vet visits, foot trimmer, milk recording not many calving but that has all changed, plenty of girls calving and calves everywhere, running a little tight on space. Nice to have some more around though do miss the calves coming.

The duck that was sitting on eggs by the house hatched 7 ducklings. Which I am happy to say are all doing well, she has taken them down to our pond soon after hatching. We also still have a pair of barn owls in the silage barn so it is likely some young ones are there too. I don't look in the box as that would only be a disturbance to them and there isn't much I can do, and if there is, we'll see them when they fledge besides which, they start off a bit ugly! So all in all a mixed time, as is the weather!!

GITTISHAM'S FLOWER AND PRODUCE SHOW - ANGIE HUTCHINGS

On behalf of the committee, I would like to thank all those who helped organise, participated in and came to view all the wonderful vegetables, flowers, cookery, handicraft and children's exhibits on the day. The refreshments and cakes were enjoyed by everyone and there was great excitement when the buckets of potatoes were emptied and weighed. Please keep your buckets for your entry next year - anyone can join in the fun and grow potatoes, we have lots of buckets! We look forward to seeing you all again on Saturday 4th August 2018.

NEW CLASS FOR 2018

The Photographic Class has a new theme – Four Seasons. Entrants need to take a photo of the same scene/item in the four seasons – Autumn 2017, Winter 2017, Spring 2018 and Summer 2018 and display all four photographs. Cameras to the ready – start snapping!

ROY'S BEES

This year has been a very difficult year for all bees and I would imagine other insects as well. The spring was late to start and the weather was very tricky with the bees only being able to get out when the temperature is above 15 C and with the showers if they get caught out they often perish in the cold and wet. The late frosts destroyed a huge amount of blossom' so all that pollen and nectar was lost to them (this is a really wincey article) then the weather got hot for a few weeks to give them a boost but, there is always a but, in the extreme heat English plants aren't used to it so the nectar dries up another time of hardship for the girls' followed by cold and wet so they stay in and consume anything that they had managed to gather 'most of the summer was like autumn so they have had a very difficult season.

A lot of beekeepers had a lot of swarming brought on by the odd seasonal weather ' fortunately only one of our colonies swarmed and they were very good and landed in a shrub in the garden at about 3ft. off the ground so were easy to collect.

Unfortunately they did not thrive so to save the bees we combined them with the colony that they had swarmed from.

The girls have managed to feed themselves through the year so far but we have to keep an eye on the stores they have in the hives to ensure they have enough to rear the bees to get them through the winter plus feed themselves. I expect to start feeding them extra the second week of September. I will feed them a generous amount all at once so they can process it before the winter weather sets in

Hopefully they will survive the coming winter and be ready to get going in a fantastic spring followed by a superb summer.

Beekeepers are eternal optimists !!!!!!!!!!!!!!!

Church Wardens Report Carol McCann

Our flower arrangers have put their displays together ready for our Flower Festival for the Devon Historic Churches Trust weekend on 8th,9th 10 – 6.00 & 10th 1.00 – 6.00. Our theme is Festivals teas/coffees will be available throughout. Whatever we raise over the three days will be sent to Historic Churches Trust and they will send half of the proceeds back to the church so the more we can raise, the more we get back. In August it was announced that Rev'd Jane would be retiring in February 2018 to enable her to spend more time with her family and grand-children. There will certainly be some changes but hope they will be 'flawless' Our Harvest collection will be for a farming charity possibly Farming Community Network (formerly Farm Crisis Network). All cash collected will go to the charity, the weekly envelopes do not. We ask for donations of items for the Honiton Food Bank who are struggling to keep up with demand, (cans of soup, veg, fruit, milk puddings, cereal, squash, long-life milk, .biscuits, jams, etc if you need me to collect please give me a ring. Thank you..

Forthcoming Church Services 11am unless stated

August

13th Parish Eucharist
20th lay-led Matins
27th Parish Eucharist
27th No Evensong

September

3rd Family Eucharist with refreshments
10th Parish Eucharist
17th Lay-led Morning Worship
24th Parish Eucharist
24th Team Evensong Awliscombe 6.30
choir practice 5.30

200 CLUB RESULTS SEPTEMBER

6 Month James Matheson
3rd Nigel Blackmore

1st Francis Wigram
4th David Valentine

2nd Russell Hayman
5th Neil Madden

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Distributors, Carol McCann, Helen Fuller, Carol Hall & Judith Turner and in Gittisham Vale Peter and Ann Sellick. Copy date for October Monday 24th Sept If you have any news, dates events for inclusion in the Gazette do please email it to Carol.