

On 19th June please get your Marigolds on and be ready to help spring clean the Village Hall. The Big Village Hall Clear Out Afternoon will be taking place between 2pm and 6pm. There's a lot to do such as de-clutter the kitchen – to make space for a new and much welcomed dishwasher, clear out the store room, clean windows and the gutters etc. So please do try and find a little bit of time to help on the day. Lots of tea will be available for volunteers. Be warned, if you own a much-loved coffee mug in the Village Hall kitchen please remember to remove it before 19th June because when its gone its gone.

We have some new posh rubbish bins on the Ham. Sadly, this still doesn't stop visitors to our lovely village dumping their rubbish outside the bins instead of taking it home with them. This happens mostly at peak holiday times. I really don't know what visitors expect to happen to the bags of old food and rubbish they leave behind. Maybe they imagine there is a Ditsum Fairy who magically flies down at night and collects it, returning our village to its beautiful best. The reality is of course that the Ditsum Fairy turns out to be our local nocturnal wildlife that rip the bags apart and have a really wild time, making a huge mess in the process and leaving the whole bin area in a disgusting state. Last week after a very busy weekend the visitors left several bags alongside the bins. The following morning debris was everywhere including chicken bones spread around the car park, creating a hazard for our dog owners. Huge thanks go to Robin Sjoberg and Marina who spent a lot of time picking up all this revolting rubbish and clearing the area. Not a nice thing to have to do at all, but isn't it lovely that someone does?

And now some dates for your diaries: The Dartmouth Branch of the Rowcroft Hospice will be holding a fund raising event at Middle Meadow in Dittisham on 6th July starting at 1pm. So many of us have been affected by the deaths of many dear friends recently and the care and support provided by the Hospice will not be forgotten. Please do come along to enjoy this interesting garden, together with ploughmans lunches, cream teas, cake, bric a brac, book, plant and jam stalls. Entry is free.

Dittisham Village Hall will be holding their AGM at 7.30pm on Wednesday 10th July. It is expected that one of the long-term Committee members will resign leaving a vacancy for someone who would like to help direct the policy and maintenance of this building which is so essential to the life of our village. Whether you wish to join the Committee or you simply have an interest in the Village Hall please do come along.

I hear that 2014 will see the return of the Dittisham Art Festival to the Village Hall. Preparations are starting for this great event, so get your paint brushes out now.

And finally, don't forget if you have any bits of village news for this article, however big or small, please email me at jaynecperry@gmail.com.