

We have had such glorious weather over the last weekend and the forecast for the next few days looks good. Somehow all those gloomy damp days seem to disappear from memory when we see all the daffodils on the Ham bobbing about and the primroses starting to appear in the wonderful sunshine. The seagulls are squawking more than usual as they eye up their prospective nest site on village chimney pots, and as if it couldn't any get better – the crane appeared recently on the quayside at Greenway lowering all the ferry boats back into the water, a sure sign spring is here. It's been a long time coming.

There have been some successful events in the village over the past few weeks. The village quiz was an excellent night. The hall was filled to capacity and the quiz teams battled out their local and general knowledge helping to raise a large amount of money for the upkeep of the village hall.

A green alien was spotted jogging down Manor Street enroute between the Red Lion and the Ferry Boat Inn on 1st March. The alien, along with other runners in fancy dress, was taking part in the Delicious Dart Trail. This annual event combines delicious food, drink and scenic running. Starting at Dartington Hall, runners stopped off at Dittisham after 10 miles to sample food and drink delights at both our public houses. All proceeds from the Delicious Dart Trail go to CHICKS a wonderful charity providing respite breaks at its centers in Devon and Cornwall for disadvantaged children from all over the UK.

Looking forward to later this month on Sunday 30th March there will be our annual Mothering Sunday service in St George's Church. All mothers are presented with a posy of flowers. It's also the day British Summer Time begins – hooray!

Now a couple of Save the Dates for your diary. The annual St Georges Charity Concert will be held on Friday 2nd May. 2014 marks the 100th anniversary of the outbreak of the Great War and this year our concert will be named 'St George Remembers'. The concert will be dedicated to the seven Dittisham men who lost their lives in the Great War. Tickets will be available from John Wells 01803 722414, adults £7.50, children free.

The Dittisham Arts Festival is making a triumphant return this August showcasing work by both local and national professional and amateur artists over a three-day exhibition. The festival will take place in the Dittisham Village Hall and St Georges Church between 8th and 10th August. Now is the time to start painting or getting your works ready for this hugely successful festival. Artists working in either 2D or 3D interested in exhibiting can register their interest by emailing me at jaynecperry@gmail.com.

And finally, our church was filled to capacity on Wednesday 5th March when friends and family came together from far and wide for the funeral of well-known villager Pete Hatcher. Pete was a very popular member of our village. He will be missed.