

Dittisham Village Voice 12th August 2013

Dittisham villager Sally Vincent has successfully opened her beautiful garden for many years raising a great deal of money for the National Gardens Scheme. Two years ago Sally had an idea - as we live in such a beautiful village, why not open more gardens and make even more money for the nursing charities. So together with Marina Pusey, they set about asking villagers to consider joining the scheme. Gardens were inspected and six gardens in the village were approved and registered. So the hard work began.

Last year, despite the appalling weather, the sun put its hat on and a record amount over £2,400 was raised by the Dittisham gardens.

This year Sally and her team raised their game – would it be possible to break last years record? It was time to pull out all the stops. So many people in the village gave up their time over the weekend of 20th July. The weather played its part. Saturday's attendance was good, and on Sunday it was brilliant. And they did it! The gardens of Dittisham raised the largest amount ever raised in one weekend by any garden or group in the Devon County - well over £3,000 for the nursing charities. So now, like the Oscars its time to thank all those wonderful people in our village without whom none of this would have been possible, and as they say "in no particular order": Thank you to David and Gay Hawnt in Rectory Lane who let visitors park in their field, to Charles Hill and his team of bus drivers who shuttled guests around the village and thank you also to the Community Bus. Huge thanks to Will and Jasmine of the Anchorstone Café, who despite being run off their feet at the Café made hundreds of delicious scones for the cream teas. Grateful thanks to Stuart at Dartmouth Dairy for donating all the cream for the teas in gratitude for the care received by his father from Macmillian Nurses. Thanks you to Kendricks Restaurant for the jam, and of course where would we be without all the villagers - the car park attendants, the ladies who worked their socks off serving cream teas, Callum Woodman for the amazing map of the village, and Paul Vincent for his brilliant interview on Devon Radio Potting Shed program on Sunday morning to draw in the crowds, and of course thank you to the gardeners - to Molly and Robert, Gail, Colette, Bob and Jenny, Stella and of course Marina without whom none of this would have been possible. Get ready for next year. Who knows what we can do.

And finally, it's Dittisham Regatta tomorrow. There will be much to see and enjoy, so please do visit our beautiful village. The fun starts at 11am with the official opening at 12 midday.