

Dittisham Village Voice 12th November 2012

With first night nerves more or less under control, the curtain rose at The Flavel on Friday night. Edith took to the stage in character as Felicity Grant-Poole. Immediately the curtain was lowered to gasps and giggles from the audience. Unknown to us all backstage, a large red fire extinguisher was entangled in the curtain cords and was dangling up high just above prompt Ian A'Court's head. The possible bump on Ian's head was averted when the extinguisher disentangled itself as the curtain was fully lowered. Up went the curtain again. Edith, still seated at her table, raised a glass to the amused audience who gave her the first ovation of the performance. Like James Bond, Edith had been shaking, but was not stirred. On Saturday night The Flavel was bursting with an audience made up to a large extent of wonderful Dittisham villagers. Edith and Inka's performance was a huge success and received one of the loudest cheers and applause of the whole night. The Dittisham Players once again raised the bar at the Dart Drama Festival. St George's Church observed Remembrance Sunday. Ron Travers led the service and was warmly greeted and applauded on his return to the church by the congregation, which included representatives from Britannia Naval College. All fell silent as the clock struck 11 o'clock. Amongst the congregation were Margaret and Ken Woodrow. Margaret's father, Edgar Butland, was born in Dittisham in 1903. He went to school in the village, joined the Navy, and worked his way through the ranks to Chief Engine Room Officer. It was in this role that he found himself serving on HMS Curacao in 1942 escorting the Queen Mary that was carrying 10,000 American troops through the Irish Sea. An incident occurred and the two ships collided cutting the Curacao in two. 338 men died including Margaret's father. For many years Margaret, who lives in Yorkshire, has wanted to attend a Remembrance Service in Dittisham. She chose this year, the 70th anniversary of her father's death. Wreaths of poppies were laid at both War Memorials in the church during the service. Edgar Butland's name is on one of those Memorials alongside other villagers who gave their lives. In the afternoon the church was full once again for Pietra Collins Memorial Service. Don't forget Pietra's lovely cards are available to buy in the Red Lion. Proceeds to Rowcroft Hospice. And finally, you will start to think I have a thing about cupboards, but please do keep rummaging through them looking for items for the Christmas Market on 24th November in the Village Hall.