

Chit Chat



Parish Newsletter for the
residents of
Chitterne, Wiltshire
No 111, December 2015

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Editor's Ramblings

First things first! Thank you to everyone who identified the gentleman on last month's front cover; the mystery has been solved! In case you are interested, it was John Brown.

What an eerie atmosphere there was at the bonfire & fireworks. As you will see, our resident 'David Bailey' managed to capture it on film, so thank you Liz. It was so misty I didn't even see her there, so if I totally ignored any of you who were there, it was because I couldn't see; at one point I left Mike to go to get warm by the fire and then struggled to find him - perhaps that was a cunning plan on his part! Many thanks to everyone who helped organise and put on a wonderful night's show.

By the time you read this it will not be long until Christmas. For some, this is a time of celebration; a time of overeating; a time of overspending; a time of excitement and joy, but for some it is also a time of sadness. For some it will be the first time without someone being there; a time of pain and suffering; a time of loneliness; a time of change. Hopefully there will be a moment when you can feel a little bit of joy. It may be as simple as somebody smiling and asking how you are.

Happy Christmas and a Peaceful New Year.

CHRISTMAS DANCE



VILLAGE HALL
Saturday 19th
December

8pm

Buffet, Raffle, Cash bar

Will Blake Band

Tickets £10

Available from:

Pam 851785

Erika 851053

Lindsay 850058

CHURCH SERVICES in DECEMBER

Sunday 6th Advent 2	9am HC (BCP) Orcheston DW 1030am Family Communion Tilshead ER 5pm Evening Prayer with Bible Study Chitterne ER	Marcelle Stobie
Sunday 13th Advent 3	9am HC (BCP) Shrewton ER 1030am Family HC (CW) Chitterne ER 4pm Benefice Carols Tilshead ER/DW	Marcelle Stobie
Sunday 20th Advent 4	1030 HC (CW) Shrewton ER 4pm Christingle Orcheston ER 4pm HC (BCP) Tilshead DW 4pm Crib Service Chitterne ER	Flowers by all
Wednesday 23rd	1130pm Midnight Mass Shrewton ER	
Thursday 24th Christmas Eve	9am Family Communion Chitterne ER	
Friday 25th Christmas Day	930am Family Communion Shrewton DW 1100am Family Communion Orcheston ER 1100am Family Communion Tilshead DW	
Sunday 27th Christmas 1	1030am HC (CW) Shrewton DW	Erika Snowden Pike

ARMY ACTIVITIES

TRAINING

The Army Weapons Effect Simulation Exercise WESSEX STORM for 4th Battalion The Rifles in the mechanised infantry role run by the Field Training Unit which started on 21 November will continue until 7 December. This exercise which involves the use of Mastiff and Jackal wheeled armoured vehicle, will be supported by armoured, armoured cavalry, armoured infantry, and armoured engineer sub-units. They are joined by a foreign force infantry company from Oman making this the largest exercise on Salisbury Plain this year. The public should be aware that **tank crossings over the A360, A345, A338, B390, and the C22 (Tilshead to Chitterne) roads will be very busy** and in the current wet conditions, mud clearance parties will be working on the crossings. Drivers are advised to exercise caution when passing all tank crossings on the Plain.

Notice is also given that the training areas in the Copehill Down and Bourne Valley (SPTA East) areas will be heavily used over this period and that recreational use of the Salisbury Plain military lands is to be restricted to public rights of way only as per the byelaws.

The week 1 – 5 December will see extensive live mortar and artillery firing on the Larkhill Ranges as **Ex CROSSED CANNONS** marks the end of four major artillery courses. The remainder of the month will be very quiet in the run up to Christmas and New Year with only low level training being conducted.

IMBER RANGES

Planned open dates for Christmas and the New Year are: **1800 Friday 11 Dec - 0800 Monday 4 Jan**

1. Even when roads are open the village and buildings remain out of bounds to the public.
2. Dates may change if operational training needs dictate.

Report suspicious activity to **PLAINWATCH (01980 674700) or PLAINWATCH@landmarc.mod.uk**. The more information received the better, e.g. time, place, vehicle registration, description of individuals and vehicles.

Health and Safety reminder for all Military Training Areas and Ranges:

- Do not touch or tamper with Military debris
- Wash your hands before you eat
- Clean your footwear before you enter your car or home

LOGS FOR SALE

Seasoned logs for sale
Speak to Ian Cutler
6 Abdon Close



Usually Chit Chat hibernates for January but it has decided to stay awake this year - global warming?!

PARISH COUNCIL MINUTES 9.11.15

Codford Biodigester

Josh Stratton attended the meeting and presented a summary of the workings of the biodigester. It was very informative and well received.

Flood Prevention

Barry gave an update on quotes for the upgrade of the Village Hall Sewage System.

RoSPA Report on Playground Equipment

A number of items have been identified as requiring attention and the appropriate action will be taken.

Mobile Infrastructure Project

Despite Chitterne Parish Council being proactive in arranging a meeting to discuss ways to obtain a mobile signal, the project for Chitterne has been shelved. This is very disappointing as Arquiva already own a mast in Chitterne. Further correspondence is ongoing.

Sportsfield Booking Procedure

Discussions on a new procedure were held and finalised details will be forthcoming.

DATE OF NEXT MEETING - Monday 11th January 2016

For more detailed minutes look on the Chitterne website or on the Village Hall notice board.



News from the King's Head



November seems to have passed by very quickly and Christmas will soon be with us.

As it's December, this means we will have a visit from **The Mummers on Friday December 18th** at about 9pm. If you have not seen them before, they are great fun and you should come along.

There are also two Quiz dates for your diaries - **Friday 4th and Friday 11th**. The latter one will be a Christmas Quiz, so come down for some fun and test your knowledge of Christmas.

Over the Christmas period the pub will be open on **Christmas Day from 12.00**. On **Boxing Day it will open after the hunt leaves**, and on **Monday 28th** it will open at **12.00 lunchtime**. Darts nights will be as normal. We will be open on **New Years Eve** and there will be a fancy dress theme (not compulsory), just for fun. Call into the pub to find out the theme or look in the window. **New Year's Day we will be open at lunch time** and then after that, back to normal!

Talking of windows, don't forget to look out for the **Christmas window** throughout December, in the pub. It was very popular last year, so please take a look - the Chitterne Fairies worked very hard to change it every day and they will be back this year, so keep your eyes peeled.

I would like to wish everyone a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

Hope to see you soon.

Kenton

POPPY APPEAL

Chitterne donated the splendid sum of **£462.66p** to the British Legion Poppy Appeal this year.

The total raised in Codford and district is **£3,395.62**.

A big thank you to all for your generous donations and to the "Poppy Collectors" who went round our village.

Virginia Pryor



FARMING FACTS by Murray Kent

Have you noticed this time of the year that many flocks of sheep have their ladies, hereinafter called ewes, showing off brightly coloured bottoms? Have you wondered the cause of such decoration? It is important for a shepherd to know if his ewes have mated successfully



with their menfolk, hereinafter called rams. The most obvious and cost effective method is to provide the ram with a harness that has a coloured crayon attached to the area by his chest. This crayon will then mark the ewes posterior area with a colour mark when the ram gives the ewe the attention she warrants. If several rams are used, each one will have a different colour attached, that way the shepherd can tell which rams are working well and which are lackadaisical when it comes to their love life. Normally there would be forty ewes to one ram. It can be assumed that any ewe without a colour mark will have been ignored by the ram and sadly will be of no further use to the flock. To avoid too many of these cases most shepherds will follow a strict regime before the rams are introduced.

Let us assume the birth of the lambs is required at the end of March, hence spring lamb, and the gestation period of a ewe is five months, the planning needs to start at the beginning of September. At this time the ewes will be put in fields that will not contain a lot of good quality grass. After a month of dieting the ewes then go into pastures with plenty of good quality grass, the effect raising their oestrogen levels and making them ovulate. This process is called "flushing" the ewes. Then comes the clever bit. A few "teaser" rams will then be introduced. These are vasectomised rams that have the ability to get the ewes excited and ovulating at around the same time but with no risk of pregnancy. After a full cycle has passed the fertile macho rams are then introduced and have a very strenuous 6 weeks in which to serve, hereinafter known as "tupping", the ewes. What is the importance of the intense service period? The lambing season needs to be concentrated as tightly as possible to make best use of the additional labour required to manage it and it also means that the lamb crop can be managed more efficiently if they are of a similar age. Many flockmasters will now scan the ewes at between 80 to 100 days after "tupping". The logic of this is to be able to group the ewes into those carrying single lambs, those with twins and those with triplets and of course those that are empty even though they show the crayon mark. A ewe carrying a single lamb needs a totally different diet to one carrying twins for instance, so scanning really helps to manage the flock as efficiently as possible. The scanner is exactly the same as you would find in any maternity unit.

Nowadays, with the pressures on the agricultural industry, these measure help to maintain a level of profitability that is necessary for the continuation and continuity of an important part of our food supply chain. All starting with a block of coloured crayon! *(Every day's a school day! Thank you Murray. Ed.)*

It is with sadness that I report the deaths of Ray Feltham, more recently of Sutton Veny Nursing Home, and Margaret Holt, formerly of Shrewton Road. On behalf of you all, may I send our condolences to their families.

A few villagers are having a bit of a rotten time at the moment. For those of you who have been in hospital or are due to go, we wish you a speedy recovery. For those of you who have received some bad news, we just want to let you know that we are thinking of you.

Acupuncture - Balancing mind & body



A BIG Thank you to all the villagers who allowed me to practice acupuncture on them while I was completing my training.

I am now fully qualified and am practising at The Devizes Acupuncture Practice on Wednesday and Thursday. Also soon to be practising at The Orchard Partnership, Codford & The Courtyard Practice at West Lavington.

Emma Cole

Knitters for Nepal

A huge thank you to the sterling ladies led by Sylvia Thompson and Maureen Sprack who realised that Nepal was about to embark on winter and that there would be a lot of cold children in The Umbrella Homes and elsewhere since they lost so many personal



belongings in the earthquake. Murray and I will be delivering this warm and comforting parcel as far as Hong Kong where Nepalese inhabitants will carry them on to where they are needed. Our heartfelt thanks to them for their fantastic work. What a great Christmas present!

Pam Kent

WOMEN'S REFUGE CHRISTMAS COLLECTION

As you may remember, we usually have a collection of goodies at the Carol Service for the Salisbury Women's Refuge. This year there is not going to be a Carol Service in Chitterne, but a joint Benefice Carol Service in Tilshead.



Should any of you wish to make a donation, there will be a basket by the font at the

5.00pm evening service on 6th December and again at the **10.30 a.m. Family Holy Communion Service on the 13th**, both in Chitterne.

Should you be unable to attend and wish to donate, there is a wooden box outside our side door under the trellis.

I have asked the helpers at the Refuge and what their clients really like is a small gift voucher: 1 for all, Tesco, Next, Boots, M & S, etc., to enable them to choose for themselves. However everything is most gratefully received. (Most of these vouchers are available in Morrisons, Warminster)

Thank you,
Virginia Pryor



A big thank you to all the ladies who deliver Chit Chat each month & also Murray. You are stars! * * * * *

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

GREEN BIN DATES

Monday 30th November
& 14th December



CHRISTMAS WINDOW



Tuesday 1st - Friday 25th
King's Head



DARTS

King's Head

Tuesday 1st, 8th,
15th, 22nd, 29th

8pm for 8.30pm start

All abilities welcome

SUDAN CHRISTMAS LUNCH

Wednesday 2nd December

1200 for 1230

Tickets £7.50

Available from Christine Pearson 850240 &
Lilian Hopton 850050

Gluhwein

Raffle

Please come along and support this charity which provides much needed medical aid for the people of South Sudan.

QUIZ NIGHTS

Kings Head Pub

Friday 4th

&

Quistmas Criz

Friday 11th



8.00pm for 8.30pm start

Winning team receives a £20 voucher to spend on drinks

BREAKFAST CLUB

Saturday 5th
0930 - 1130

Village Hall

Come along for a bacon butty and a mug of tea or coffee. There are usually some other goodies to choose from as well.

This is a great place to meet up with your fellow villagers or just sit and read the newspaper.



The Christmas tree will be up, so if you want to bring a decoration for it, please do. However if you want to bring something different, gold tinsel would be appreciated instead.

Christmas Dance tickets will be on sale

Secondhand toys to buy



LOUIE'S S.M.I.L.E.S CHRISTMAS BAZAAR



Pop up cafe, Raffle, Tombola, Handcrafted Gifts, Face Painting & lots more

CHITTERNE VILLAGE HALL

Sunday 6th December

1200 - 4pm

Merry Christmas & thank you for your support

STITCHING GROUP

The next get together is on Friday 11th December from 1030 in the Village Hall.



LIBRARY VAN

The frequency of the library van is now every month, rather than fortnightly. The next date is 11th December. The van parks outside the Village Hall from 1140 - 1200.



THE MUMMERS

KING'S HEAD

Friday 18th December
9pm



CRIB SERVICE

23rd December
at 4pm

This is always a delightful event as it involves the children of the village setting up the Nativity scene - you might even see a reluctant shepherd or a sleepy angel! If there are any children who would like to dress up and take part, please contact either Marcelle 851048 or Sarah 850893. The Rev. Eleanor Rance will be taking the service.

NEW YEAR'S

EVE PARTY
KING'S HEAD

FANCY DRESS
(optional)

Why don't you get together with a group of friends and come and join us for some fun. No worries about drink driving.



A CHRISTMAS CAROL

Tuesday 8th December at 7.30pm

Enford Village Hall

Tickets £10 (adults) & £6 (children under 15)

Contact Steve Becker on 01980 670345 or email steve@dstbecker.plus.com

Doors open 7pm

Bar & interval refreshments available

This family show is suitable for everyone aged 6 and above, so audiences can be sure of an entertaining evening with a generous sprinkling of Bah - Humbug!

Chit Chat next issue

All contributions for the January issue by Wednesday 23rd December by hand, CD or email to: chitchat.39@gmail.com, telephone 850058 or in the porch at Chapel Cottage. To download Chit Chat from the village website: www.chitterne.com, click on the Village Life link on the home page, then click on Newsletters and the monthly issue you want. You will need Adobe Reader and downloads may take a few minutes.