

Chit Chat

Parish Newsletter for the
residents of
Chitterne, Wiltshire
No 101, February 2015

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Editor's Ramblings

Happy New Year to you all, although I find it hard to believe that we are nearly at the end of January, and, I say in hushed tones, we seem to have escaped the dreadful start we had to last year; more of that in the article to the right. Did you manage to escape the dreadful flu bug? I thought I'd had flu in the past but having had it in December I know I hadn't and I certainly don't want it again. Let's hope you are all feeling better and enjoying the start to 2015.

The back page, as usual, let's you know what is happening in February but also whets your appetite for events that are coming up. When I received an email from Beccy Parker asking me to put in a piece about the Flower Festival I thought she was mad but then realised that it is actually only 5 months until the event and an awful lot of planning has to take place within that time. So, make a cup of tea, get your diaries out and sit down and put in some dates - you know it makes sense!

Murray Kent has provided a very interesting article - who thought farming could be so fascinating. If, like me, you have always wondered why there suddenly appears to be more sheep in the fields over winter, Murray provides the answer and it all makes perfect sense when I read it. Thanks Murray, please keep writing.

You will see from various articles that I have been experimenting with the type. I have often wondered how newspapers manage to make the first letter of an article appear much larger than the others. Barry did show me when I first started but I had forgotten and then I decided to experiment and eureka, I pressed an icon and it happened! You are never too old to learn something new!

WHAT A DIFFERENCE A YEAR MAKES!



January 2014



January 2015

A rather drier January than 2014 has reduced the risk of repeat flooding in Chitterne and it does look, at last, as if we are being treated as a priority flood risk by Wiltshire Council and the Environment Agency. We have had an initial visit by Balfour Beatty to dredge the upper part of the Chitterne Brook (the Cut), which has improved its flow and helped to take away the increased flow from underground springs.



Our supplies of sand, sandbags and road signs have been delivered, and during the last week of January, Atkins, consultants to the Wiltshire Council, will be carrying out a full hydrological survey to help regrade the Cut and improve further its effectiveness as a flood relief measure. I have also had correspondence with Wiltshire Council to clarify the position regarding the money (£170K) set aside for a long-term flood scheme for Chitterne and they have confirmed that the Government will provide half the funding and Wiltshire Council will match it from various sources. So, it's looking rather better, but we still have a way to go, and I am not given to chicken counting!

Barry, Flood Warden

CHURCH SERVICES in FEBRUARY

| | | |
|--------------------------------|---------------------------|-----------------|
| Sunday 1st Candlemas | 0845 BCP HC ER | Beccy Parker |
| Sunday 8th 2 before Lent | 1000 Benefice Tilshead ER | Virginia Pryor |
| Sunday 15th Sunday before Lent | 1000 Family Service ER | Virginia Pryor |
| Sunday 22nd Lent 1 | 0845 HC DW | Nicola Horsfall |
| Sunday 1st March Lent 2 | 0845 BCP HC IC | Nicola Horsfall |

FARMING FACTS by Murray Kent

Transhumance Wiltshire Style



Transhumance is the term used in the mountainous regions of Europe for the movement of stock in the spring and autumn periods. Its origins are said to date back as far as the Neolithic period, some 3000 years BC and certainly during the Bronze Age. It simply involved the movement of cattle or sheep to the high pastures for the spring and summer grazing and then a reverse movement in the autumn in preparation for the winter period. The stock would spend the winter period in pastures around the homestead or village or even in the ground floor area of the house where the heat from the animals would warm the floor above where the family lived. Transhumance is now celebrated as a festival and there are many well publicised events held where those who wish to do so can join with the shepherds and stockmen who move their stock for exactly the same reasons as their forbears all those years ago.

Transhumance Wiltshire Style does not have the same cachet! However the same principle applies. You might wonder where all the sheep come from that appear up at Breakheart Bottom on Chitterne Farm land in the autumn. These are sheep that have spent their summer on the Welsh Mountains. With the onset of the winter when the grass stocks run low and the weather draws in, they are moved down to lower pastures here in Wiltshire but also many areas of the South and South West. Sadly we do not have the spectacle of large groups of animals being driven down drovers' trails, they now arrive in huge triple decked articulated transporters, however there are many drovers' trails still in existence. A good example is the track that many people walk just before you drop down into Mere coming from the Deverills. I am reliably informed that this was a drover's trail that led all the way to London. Back to the sheep. These sheep are an excellent tool for improving the pasture for the following year. They graze the grass very tightly which encourages new tillers (what we'd call shoots) from the base. The more tillers you have the denser the crop of hay or silage. With their small cloven feet the sheep also firm up any plants that might have been lifted by frost, or indeed the tracks of a Challenger tank! As well as taking the grass away they are also very good at putting goodness back into the soil with their dung. So job done in the spring, they return to the mountains leaving a sward of grass to grow and mature into a hay crop that will be mown in July.

It is good to find in this day and age that we have not advanced a great deal further than our Neolithic predecessors in some aspects of our animal management!

Parish Council News - Setting the Precept for 2015

At the last Parish Council meeting on 12/01/15 we had to set the precept for 2015/16 for submission to Wiltshire Council by the 23/01/15. Income and expenditure from 2013/14 was examined and tasks that might require funding during the next financial year were identified. These included filling pot holes in the village hall car park, providing a cover for dry storage of flood equipment and work to improve the safety of the sports field wall. The Parish Council have discovered that certain tasks that were once funded by Wiltshire Council will now need to be funded by the Parish Council. This is something that is going to become more common in the future. The annual top up grant provided by Wiltshire Council has been reduced by £95.00.

Each of the budget headings were looked at in order to identify possible savings. However Parish Councillors decided that the council is operating at its limit financially and that no savings could be identified. It was concluded that the precept requirement for Chitterne would need to be raised by £241.56, which represents a 4% increase in the precept from 2013/14. The Band D charge for 2015/16 will be £47.52.

Mike Lucas - Chairman

News from the Kings Head



Well, Christmas and New Year seem a long time ago now and I think so many people were ill over the period. I hope everyone is better now. At least the start of the year has left Chitterne dry this year (keeping fingers crossed).

Here's a question for you. What do Thunderclap Newman, Gone With the Wind, a corncrake and Cairo have in common? The answer is Friday night's Quiz; they were some of the answers. Last Friday saw a packed pub for the 'long awaited' Music Quiz, with a few added extras thrown in for those villagers for whom pop music is not their first choice. It was great to see so many people coming to support the quiz and my thanks go to the quiz setters. Congratulations to the winning team; we look forward to seeing what you set for the next quiz.

Speaking of which, here are a couple of dates for your diaries. The first **Quiz** in February will be on the **6th** and the next will be on the **27th**. There is a three week gap as the quiz is due on the 20th but due to the fact that I have to have an operation on my shoulder on the 18th/19th I thought food might be a bit difficult to do for the Friday!

Following on from this, I am afraid the pub will be closed on the 18th and 19th but will open again on the 20th. (I have been practising pulling pints with my other arm, so don't worry!)

Tuesday Darts nights are still ongoing and going from strength to strength, with some new people joining us. Hopefully there will be some matches with other pubs coming along soon.

Hope to see you all soon.

Kenton

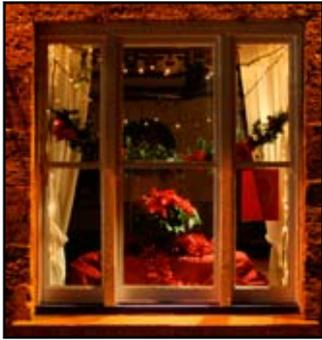
(I am sure you would join me in wishing Kenton all the best for his forthcoming operation. Editor)

QUIZ

As it's Valentine's Day this month, can you match up the following famous 'partners'? Be careful; it may not be what it seems!

| | |
|-------------|----------------|
| 1. Anthony | A. Mrs Simpson |
| 2. Lancelot | B. Juliet |
| 3. Moet | C. Cleopatra |
| 4. Pyramus | D. Chandon |
| 5. Romeo | E. Ken |
| 6. Mills | F. Desdemona |
| 7. Mulder | G. Thisbe |
| 8. Edward | H. Boon |
| 9. Barbie | I. Guinevere |
| 10. Othello | J. Scully |

Did you go down to the pub at Christmas? If so, did you see 'the big surprise'? A huge Advent Calendar!



Every day one of the windows in the pub revealed an aspect of Christmas, just like the calendars the children have but without the chocolate! The 'Chitterne Fairies' had been busy! They would appear, as if by magic, around 9 o'clock every night and transform the window into a delightful scene. No one saw them; they crept in silently and disappeared as soon as they had finished their job, not even stopping for a drink. (well not every night!)

Kenton said that it certainly attracted quite a bit of attention. The night time drinkers were often seen going out of the pub, supposedly for a quick smoke, but he knew exactly what they were up to. Cars were seen to slow down - perhaps that could be the new traffic calming strategy! One family in particular had to visit every day either before or after going to school.

Annie Brain decided to capture this unique event and has sent a few of her pictures to share with us.

Apparently the 'Chitterne Fairies' had such a lovely time, they thought they would return next Christmas, and maybe even do something at Easter. So keep your eyes peeled and children look out for the Easter Bunny!



CHERRY ORCHARD SURGERY *(unfortunately I didn't receive this in time for the December edition so I have tried to pick out the more relevant pieces of information)*

Redeployment within the Dispensary and Reception areas

We are once again making some changes to reception, with a view to moving the site of the dispensary, as the work load particularly over bank holiday periods becomes too much for the small confines of the current dispensary. These changes will incur an increasing degree of difficulty for the staff over the next few months and we would ask you to bear with us.

Waiting Room Conversation

There is often a happy buzz of conversation in the waiting room with patients and I know the waiting rooms can at times become quite busy. There has however recently been an incident where a patient overheard another patient in conversation using disparaging language that was interpreted as racist. I would ask you to please be aware that the waiting area is a public space and that conversations there are easily overheard. We as partners would not wish any distress to be caused to anybody by inappropriate language being used in the surgery waiting room.

Comings & Goings

Our Medical Secretary Elaine Johnson has retired. We the surgery partners and staff wish her a long and happy retirement. We are delighted to announce that Dominique Beagley has become our Site Manager, Claire Gauvain has kindly agreed to step into Elaine's shoes as our Administrator and we welcome Tiggy Thornton into the reception team.

Email Addresses and Mobile Phone Numbers

In order to try and improve the speed of communication with our patients we have decided to trial using either text messages or email as a way of exchanging simple information without the need for a Doctor's appointment. If you would be interested in potentially receiving information in this manner, for instance an abnormal blood result which needs repeating or change in your medication, then you would be welcome to leave your contact details at Reception. In addition to leaving your mobile phone number and email address you would also need to specify that you consent to receiving communication by these means.

Dress a Girl

Unfortunately the lady who takes the dresses and delivers them has resigned unexpectedly, so until I can find another contact I'm very sorry to say I have to postpone the Dress a Girl Sewing day. I will look forward to organizing another one as soon as possible.

So sorry for any disappointment.

With love Jo xx

ARMY ACTIVITIES

Some of you may have noticed that there wasn't the usual article on what the army was up to in the December issue. Unfortunately the man who used to send the information to me has retired and hasn't been replaced. You now have to go online, which I know is not always possible for everyone. I thought I would look it up and download the relevant information. Unfortunately, as of today - 27th January, the February article has not been produced.

It is with sadness that I report the death of Doris Windsor of 45, Tilshead Road. On behalf of you all, may I send our condolences to her son Nick.

Thank you to everyone for the kind help and moral support you have given me towards the loss of my very much loved mother, Doris Windsor.

Nick Windsor



WELCOME

To anyone who has recently moved into the village may I extend a huge welcome on behalf of all the villagers. One of the best pieces of advice we were given when we moved here was, for the first year, to go to everything and then decide what we enjoyed. We are all different and if you talk to someone about what to do, they may be the very ones who don't enjoy what you would enjoy and you then take their advice and lose out!

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY



STITCHING GROUP

The next get togethers are on Friday 6th & 20th February from 1030 in the Village Hall.

If there is anyone new to the village who would like to come along, phone Sarah Gooch on 850893 for further information. We are a friendly bunch of ladies who have a love for stitching but we are equally happy to have a coffee and a chat.

BREAKFAST CLUB



The next Breakfast Club is on **Saturday 7th February**
0930 - 1130
in the Village Hall

Come along for a bacon butty, mug of tea or coffee and meet up with your friends or just sit and read the newspapers. If you are new to the village, this is a great way to meet people. Always a great welcome guaranteed.

I would like to say a huge thank you to everyone who helped or came and supported the Sudan Christmas Lunch on Wednesday 3rd December. A grand total of £670 was raised and this will be used to help the people of South Sudan.

Christine Pearson

For Sale

Office desk 120 x 75 x 74
Pale wood effect

Mobile 4 drawer unit to match
(it slides under top)



2 drawer matching filing cabinet

£20.00 the lot

Pam Kent 851785



LIBRARY VAN

Do you love reading?

Hardback, paperback, bestseller, new author - you name it, the mobile library can get it. From children's picture books to large print, audiobooks to DVDs, there's something for all the family. Joining the library is free.

Just bring along one form of ID with your name and current address. Your library card can be used in any Wiltshire library or mobile library.

Wheelchair access (a lift for those of us who find stairs a problem)

Hearing loop

Your Mobile Library Manager is Nick Carr

Fortnightly the Library Van parks outside the Village Hall from 1140 - 1200.

The next dates are Friday 6th & 20th February

This is a fantastic resource and it is also a good way to catch up with what is happening in the village!

PARISH COUNCIL MEETING

The next Parish Council Meeting is on **Monday 2nd March at 7pm** in the Village Hall. All villagers are invited to come along to listen to the discussions. Nearer the time the agenda will be available online and on the village noticeboard.

THE GRAND NATIONAL LUNCH



SATURDAY 11TH APRIL at 1.30 P.M.

CHITTERNE VILLAGE HALL

HERE WE GO AGAIN!

The Chitterne Branch of the South West Wilts Conservative Association is holding its annual Grand National Lunch.

Please book early to guarantee a starting place for an excellent lunch plus all the excitement of the world's greatest steeplechase live on screen.

Reservations from:
Virginia Pryor, Chitterne House
virginiapryor@btinternet.com
01985 850255

Tickets @ £11 each
(Cheques payable to Chitterne Grand National Lunch)

I have several Labrador Rescue Calendars left which are free to anyone who would like one. Just call me on 850050 and I will deliver them.

Lilian

Jim's Gardening Services

Grass cutting

Hedge cutting

Borders

Any handy man type of work in and out of the home

JIM FETHERSTONHAUGH

6 The Butts

Shrewton

01980 621471 or 07775563405

HOPE YOU SOON FEEL BETTER



Some of the villagers are feeling a little under the weather at the moment or have close ones who are having a bit of a hard time. Some are not their usual happy self for various reasons. We hope that you are soon feeling better and back enjoying life again.

QUIZ NIGHT

Kings Head Pub

Friday 6th & 27th February at 8.00pm

Winning team £20 voucher to spend on drinks

Good fun evening

Don't worry if you don't have a team as there are always plenty of people who would be happy to join you.



FLOWER FESTIVAL 2015

Saturday 20th - Sunday 21st June



Calling all flower arrangers to put these dates into your diary. Flower Festival time will be here before we know it. As we did last year, we will have an informal get-together in the Church nearer the time to discuss the Festival.

Please contact:

Beccy Parker on 01985 850023 or

rc.parker@outlook.com

Helen Carter on 01985 850925 or

carter714@btinternet.com

Chit Chat next issue

All contributions for the March issue by Sunday 22nd February 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.