

# Chit Chat



Parish Newsletter for the  
residents of  
Chitterne, Wiltshire  
No 110, November 2015

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## Editor's Ramblings

My goodness, what an awful lot is happening over the next month, both here in Chitterne and also elsewhere. December is starting to look quite busy as well and of course we have Christmas in the middle of it all.

I can almost say that word out loud, as it's almost November. We have a rule in our house that the word 'Christmas' should not be mentioned until after November 5th. I think it partly stems from being a Primary School teacher and trying to keep a normal timetable going for as long as possible; imagine 28 four and five year olds and Christmas - manic! I know it's hard not to talk about it, as the shops are now full of things they think we should buy and the Christmas Farm Shop has opened in Codford. (By the way, that is certainly worth going to have a look at, if you have never been. Apart from anything else, the wood burner is amazing!) I know businesses have got to make a living but please let me get one celebration over before I think of another; let's get the fireworks and pumpkins out of the windows and off the shelves before replacing them with tinsel and mince pies. That's just my opinion and I have friends who totally disagree with me but that's perfectly fine, just don't expect me to come Christmas shopping with you yet!

I do hope someone out there can help with the photo on the right. One thing I can tell you is that it is not Alex! If it is, he has more hair now than then!

## DO YOU KNOW WHO THIS IS?



This was taken at the celebrations for the opening of the new Village Hall. We have a collage of all the photographs and are trying to name everyone in them, so that it is a record for years to come. The only person we cannot put a name to is the gentleman with the wine bottle in front of him. He is sitting on the same table as Sue and Dave Robinson but they cannot name him, and the only other person is Joan Roberts and she is sadly no longer with us, so we are now hoping that someone reading this can. I apologise for the quality of the photograph but it is a photograph of the main photograph.

If you can help please contact Lindsay on 850058.

## CHURCH SERVICES in NOVEMBER

1st All Saints' Day	0900 HC (BCP) Chitterne DW 1030 Family Communion Tilshead ER 1800 All Souls' Service Shrewton ER	
8th Remembrance Sunday	see separate notice	Helen Carter
15th 2 Before Advent	0900 MP (CW) Orcheston DW 1030 HC (BW) Shrewton ER 1800 HC (BCP) Tilshead ER	Helen Carter
22nd Christ the King	0900 HC (BCP) Chitterne ER 1030 HC (CW) Orcheston ER 1600 Family Service Shrewton ER	Gillian Nolan
29th Advent 1	0900 HC (BCP) Shrewton DW 1600 Advent Carol Service Orcheston ER	Gillian Nolan



Charlie would like to thank everyone who helped make his early birthday and retirement, a memorable

evening. The cake was superb, the singing libellous and the least said about the pink present the better!

He is recently out of recovery!

**Grandchildren too big for our Garden Slide.**

**Free for anyone to collect.**

**Elizabeth Johns  
Dolphin House, 850039**

*(The picture is only for illustrative purposes not what it actually looks like! Ed.)*



## News from the King's Head



**October has come and gone very quickly it seems. With the nights drawing in, it's nice to see local regulars popping in for a drink with dogs in tow and also from Shrewton and Codford as well.**

What a disruptive few weeks we have had, with the B390 closed or not closed, depending on signage being up of down! Visitors to the pub didn't know if they could or couldn't go through. The road through Townsend really became a rat run.

People did get here for the Quiz nights, which were very entertaining, so a big thank you to the people who set them; a lot of effort and work goes into getting them ready. The next **Quiz nights are on Friday 6th and 20th November.**

Darts is still going well on a Tuesday evening and good fun is had by all, as we take the mickey out of each other quite often.

Another date for your diary is **Hallowe'en at The King's Head on 31st October.** Prize for best fancy dress, but fancy dress is not compulsory.



Hope to see you soon.

*Kenton*

P.S. I forgot to say what great pictures, from Malcolm, on the cover of the last Chit Chat.

## TIME TO SAY GOODBYE

**More than 500 of us, from all around the Wylve Valley, attended the retirement party on 30th September for Dr John and his wife Jane. Among the guests was 104 year old Mrs Cowell who was determined not to miss saying goodbye to her favourite doctor. In fact, a lot of us were 'determined not to miss saying goodbye' and at times, it was a bit like a wedding reception, with people lining up to say their personal farewells to the 'couple'!**



John arrived in Codford 1st April 1989, at the time when the surgery was in a small flat. 26 years later, he leaves a large modern surgery with a dispensary that is well able to cater for the needs of us all. Jane arrived to help out on a temporary basis and never left, endearing herself to everyone with her quiet competence and gentle humour. The sense of loss and the deep affection felt by everyone who knows them was displayed by the amount of people who came out to wish them well in retirement.

The whole occasion was extremely well run, from the pleasant gentlemen directing you to a suitable parking space, to the setting up of six free bar outlets; never did you need to queue for a drink! A sumptuous buffet was laid on for us all and by the time we were summoned outside for the presentation, we were all suitably fed and watered. A huge thank you needs to go to everyone involved and if I started to put down names, I am sure I would leave someone out, so I won't do that but you know who you are.

Once outside, and yes, I should have heeded the warning that I should have 'come prepared to be in the open air', Brigadier Firth took to the rostrum and gave a brief but heartfelt tribute to the Fishwicks' professionalism, devotion and friendship. Two local children presented the couple with Life membership of the National Trust on behalf of us all and then Colin Beagley, Chairman of Codford Parish Council, gave an abridged summary of the ancient rights being conferred, before presenting a scroll conveying the Freedom of Codford to John and Jane; I believe it means that, should they wish, they can walk their sheep down the main street! Now that would make a good story! £5500 was raised from donations and once expenses were paid out, this left in the region of £2,000, some of which, at the Fishwicks' request, will be used to buy a bespoke 24 heart monitor.

The couple were visibly moved by the reception, reminding everyone they would still be living in the locale and that for some reason, pasty sales in Budgens would go down! This was certainly the end of an era marked with appreciation, sadness and affection. A photographic record of the evening and books of appreciative comments will be assembled and presented to John and Jane; something to look through when they are up in the wilds of Scotland!

## SUDAN CHRISTMAS LUNCH



**Wednesday 2nd  
December**

**1200 for 1230**

**Tickets £7.50**

Available from Christine Pearson 850240  
& Lilian Hopton 850050

**Glühwein**

**Raffle**

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

## Flood Prevention Measures

**It is unlikely that we shall receive any help from Wiltshire Council to dredge and clear the Cut before winter sets in, so as Flood Warden, I have proposed that the village takes practical steps to protect residents from the worst potential effects should the Cut flood this winter.**

We have hired a digger and tipper truck for the 14/15 November, and with the help of Brian Lee and Kevin Foster we shall grade the stream bed where silt has built up downstream from footbridges and culverts. We shall also sandbag the banks at breach points if levels become critical; this may involve closing some of the smaller footbridges. We have also acquired a very powerful pump to remove standing water if necessary.

Rising groundwater is a different but related matter. I shall start taking levels from sample points throughout the village this week, and will notify should levels cause concern. I would like to politely remind you all that rising groundwater is something that we have no control over and individual households need to take measures to protect themselves. If your property has flooded in the past, ensure that you have a supply of sandbags to prevent rising groundwater from entering via doorways. However, should you experience flooding inside, only a submersible pump will help. We shall acquire a couple of these for real emergencies and may be able to help out individual properties, but if you suspect that your property is vulnerable, it would be prudent to buy your own pump. They are relatively inexpensive and 'Screwfix' is a good source.

I am preparing a short fact sheet for distribution later in November with key action points and telephone numbers in the unlikely event of flooding.

**Barry Ricketts, Flood Warden, 850884**

## FARMING FACTS by Murray Kent

What a treat this weekend for all those ploughing match enthusiasts, for at Chitterne Farm West, The Fonthill and Willoughby Hedge Ploughing Association held their annual ploughing competition.



There were 3 main classes at the match. Open reversible, open conventional and vintage. They were then probably sub divided. Open reversible means any one can enter with a reversible plough. That's not a plough going backwards but a plough with an identical set of furrow equipment mounted on top so that when the ploughman reaches the end of his run he can pull a lever and the mechanism on the plough turns it over so he can then return down the same furrow wall that he had just come up. Simply put he can plough two ways. The conventional plough does not have that facility and only one set of furrow equipment which means that he is unable to travel back the way he had come up as the soil would be turning the wrong way, so he has to mark his allotted piece of field with a "land". With careful measurement he would strike out up the field and return turning the soil over onto the first piece he had ploughed. He would then continue going round and round the "land" until he completed his allocated area in the time allowed. The vintage section is old tractors pulling trailed ploughs that are not mounted on the hydraulic arms on the back of the tractor. The same procedure applies as with the conventional class.

It was fascinating to see the range of machinery competing. We counted over 50 tractors of all shapes and sizes. From a pre-war Fordson in the vintage class to the most modern hi-tech machines generally seen on farms today. My favourite was a Doe Triple D. This was created by Ernest Doe Ltd of Maldon in Essex in the late 60s by literally joining together 2 Fordson Major tractors that pivoted in the middle with the front axle removed from both. Its aim was to produce a tractor with double the traction and horsepower of anything available at the time to cope with the heavy Essex clay soils. A truly magnificent sight to those of that era!

This is the 2nd ploughing match in Chitterne this month and they are always worth a visit to watch the ploughman constantly adjust the linkage on the ploughs to make sure they turn a straight and tidy furrow with no vegetation showing. This match was even more challenging as it rained hard and the mouldboards on the ploughs (the piece that actually turns the soil over) "furred" up, which means that the soil stuck to them instead of sliding cleanly over.

Go to <http://www.britishpathe.com/video/special-worlds-champion-ploughman> to see all the action back in the 50's! Also <http://www.ploughman.co.uk> is an interesting link.

Hugh Barr, a 3 times World Champion Ploughman, comes from Coleraine in Northern Ireland and was awarded an MBE in the 2015 Honours List (bet you didn't know that ed!) (*You're right, I didn't know that!*)

All in all a fun but soggy morning had by all but the event was soured by the fact that some kind person or persons stole the marquee that had been erected the night before. If you get offered a cheap marquee please let me know.

### A Talk by Richard Osgood

Senior Archaeologist at the Defence Infrastructure Organisation  
in aid of Care for Casualties

### Operation Nightingale and the Archaeology of Salisbury Plain

Chitterne Village Hall  
Tuesday 1st December  
7:30 pm

Richard Osgood is the senior archaeologist with the Defence Infrastructure Organisation based in Westdown Camp. As such he is responsible for overseeing the investigation and preservation of archaeological remains across the Defence Estate, including the numerous pre-historic and other sites located on the Salisbury Plain training area. His talk will provide a fascinating insight into the archaeology of the Plain and focus in particular on Operation Nightingale, which is a programme of rehabilitation of wounded military personnel through engagement in archaeology.

The talk, which will be in aid of Richard Osgood's chosen charity of Care for Casualties (the Rifles charity). **Doors will open at 7.10 and there will be wine and soft drinks available, included in the £6 entry fee.** Tickets may be obtained from Anthony ([knyvett@btinternet.com](mailto:knyvett@btinternet.com) and 851108)

## REMEMBRANCE SUNDAY 8th NOVEMBER PARADE, SERVICE & LUNCH



The Royal British Legion Remembrance Day Service is to be held in **Codford St Mary on Sunday 8 November 2015**. The Service, which is open to all, will start at 1045 hours but those attending should be seated by 1030 hours. Members of the Royal British Legion planning to take part in the March Past, should be at the Forming Up Point by 1025 hours.

Following the Service there will be a curry lunch (and alternatives such as vegetarian meals can be provided with advance notification) in Chitterne Village Hall commencing at 1200 hours. Tickets for lunch, costing £12, can be purchased from the Post Office counter in Budgens Store in Codford. Requests for alternative meals are to be registered when purchasing tickets. Attendance is not restricted to Legion members. Drinks will be on sale. Attendance is restricted to 60.

Any queries should be directed to Douglas Stobie on email, [dmms@btinternet.com](mailto:dmms@btinternet.com) or telephome 01985 851048

## Fun, Fun, Fun CHRISTMAS DANCE



VILLAGE HALL  
Saturday 19th  
December

8pm

Bread & Cheese Buffet

Will Blake Band

Tickets £10

Available from:

Pam 851785

Erika 851053

Lindsay 850058

# DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

## CHITTERNE BONFIRE & FIREWORKS

Sunday 1st November  
Sports Field



Fairground attractions  
from 5.45pm  
Bonfire lighting 6pm  
Fireworks about 6.20pm

Gluhwein, soft drinks and  
hot dogs

Please remember to bring some cash  
to put in the buckets.

## BREAKFAST CLUB

Saturday 7th

0930 - 1130

in the 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.

## STITCHING GROUP



The next get togethers are  
on **Friday 13th & 27th  
November** 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 **13th November**. The  
van parks outside the Village  
Hall from 1140 - 1200.



## GREEN BIN DATES

Monday 2nd & 16th  
November



## CHRISTMAS ARTISAN MARKET

Codford Village  
Hall

Saturday 7th  
November  
11am to 5pm



## 1914 - 1918

### Our War Dead

**CHITTERNE, ORCHESTON,  
SHREWTON, TILSHEAD**

A talk by Richard Osgood sponsored by  
Salisbury Plain Benefice  
In support of *Walking With the Wounded*

- 7.30pm, Thursday 18th November
- Shrewton Primary School
- Entry is free

Do you want to know more about those whose  
names are on the War Memorials of our four  
villages? Are you related to one of them? Do  
you live in a house one of them live in? All are  
welcome to come along and find out more from  
Richard Osgood, MOD's archaeologist, based at  
Westdown Camp.

## DARTS

### King's Head

Tuesday 3rd, 10th,  
17th & 24th

8pm for 8.30pm start

All abilities welcome



## ELEVENTH HOUR, ELEVENTH DAY, ELEVENTH MONTH SERVICE



A short service of  
commemoration, open  
to all, of about twenty  
minutes, is to be held at Chitterne  
Church War Memorial. If the  
weather is inclement the service  
will be held inside the church. The  
Service will start at 1050 hours and  
will include the Silence and playing  
of the Last Post and Reveille. Any  
queries should be directed at Douglas  
Stobie.

## WOOLSTORE CODFORD

Wednesday 4th November  
7.30pm

MR HOLMES (PG)

Tickets available from Budgens £6

It's 1947 and Sherlock Holmes (Ian  
McKellen), long-retired and with a failing  
memory, is living in Sussex with his  
housekeeper (Laura Linney) and her young  
son. But then he finds himself haunted by an  
unsolved 50-year old case.



## Dauntsey's School Autumn Concert



Memorial Hall

Thursday 12th November at  
7.30pm

There will be a great variety of music  
including Rutter's Requiem, Mendelssohn's  
Hebrides Overture, Jazz items from the  
Dance Band and performances from our  
choirs and concert bands.

All are welcome

Admission is free, though there will be a  
retiring collection for the school's chosen  
charity of the year.

## Bowood House Christmas Extravaganza

Thursday 26th  
November  
10am - 8pm

to be held at

**Bowood House, Calne**

Tickets £6 in advance or £8 on the door  
visit [www.bowood.org](http://www.bowood.org) for further details  
and advanced ticket sales

Support The Wiltshire Bobby Van Trust  
Charity



## QUIZ NIGHT

Kings Head Pub

Friday 6th & 20th

8.00pm for 8.30pm start

Winning team receives a £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  
around the bar to join.



## Chit Chat next issue

All contributions for the December issue  
by Saturday 19th November, by hand,  
CD or email to: [chitchat.39@gmail.com](mailto:chitchat.39@gmail.com),  
telephone 850058 or in the porch at  
Chapel Cottage.

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