



# Chit Chat



Parish Newsletter for the residents of Chitterne, Wiltshire  
No 78 December 2012

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## Editor's Ramblings

As I am writing this, I am aware that in four weeks time it will be Christmas Eve. I love this time of year, as it brings back so many wonderful childhood memories.

Christmas was a very special time in our house. My dad was a minister and so it was a very busy time for him. We didn't get to see a great deal of him until after the Christmas Day service, and then it was rush home from church, shut the front door, switch the fairy lights on, and then all line up outside the drawing room door - it was posh in our house!! Dad tied the door of the drawing room to the door of the dining room, so that you couldn't get in to have a sneaky peak at the presents, and it was with great ceremony that the rope was taken off and we could go in and find our allotted chair. My younger brothers frantically ripped the papers off to find the car or soldier that they had desperately wanted, whilst my older brother took his time, peeling each piece of sellotape off, teasing us all the while - I have a husband who does exactly the same thing! I looked for the most unusually shaped parcel and started with that. Whilst the four of us filled the room with papers, my mum watched us eagerly - she always said, she got the most enjoyment watching our faces change as we opened our presents. Meanwhile my dad was in the kitchen checking on the turkey; putting on the roasties and vegetables, and checking the Christmas pudding. He wasn't particularly interested in opening his presents; the most important thing for him was making sure his dinner was going to be ready on time! (We had to have eaten and washed up before the Queen's speech!) We would have to beg him to come and open his presents - I don't think he found it easy to be 'enthusiastic' about the strange selection of presents that we had given him! However, I can remember years later, when Mike and I gave him a wooden loo seat for his present - what else do you buy an 80 year old man who has everything! - his face was an absolute picture and he was certainly 'enthusiastic'!

I am sure you all have your own special memories and that these may help those of you who may find this time of year difficult.

Wherever you are and whatever you get up to, I would like to wish you all a Happy Christmas and a Peaceful New Year.

## It started with this .....



photos courtesy of Ann Moody & Sue Robinson

## THE PARISH CHURCH OF ALL SAINTS AND ST. MARY CELEBRATES 150 YEARS

On 4th November 1862 All Saints and St. Mary's Church, Chitterne, was consecrated by the then Bishop of Salisbury and on 4th November 2012 the Rt Rev Nicholas Holtam, Bishop of Salisbury, rededicated the church at a Service of Thanksgiving.

In anticipation of this significant anniversary, a group of ladies decided in 2010 to stitch individual kneelers and help with an altar kneeler. This was only made possible by the artistry of Chitterne resident Ann Moody, who took the designs for the kneelers from the Minton tiles and wood carvings and then encouraged us all to stitch. Despite misgivings about the timings we finished the altar kneeler and 24 individual kneelers in good time for the big day.

It was a very proud day for all involved in the project, and we include those who perhaps only did a few stitches - it all added up - in fact it all added up to 3.7million stitches! The service was enhanced by the Lay Clerks from St. George's Chapel, Windsor, who sang beautifully - thanks to Dick Johns for organising this. Also thanks to the Johns, was the organist Daniel Phillips who is married to Elizabeth's niece. Part of the service was the licensing of the Reverend David Walters, congratulations to him.

We stitchers were treated to a delicious lunch and copious wine by Sarah and Arthur Gooch, which ended a very special day on a high.

In the early evening there was a spectacular firework display and bonfire, with a miniature funfair for the children, and gluhwein and hotdogs, to keep us all warm.

Later, for those who had enough stamina, there was a Guy Fawkes Quiz in the pub.

## .....and ended with this!



photos courtesy of Dave Robinson & Liz Emmerson

## What a Super Sunday!

# ARMY ACTIVITIES TRAINING IN DECEMBER

## Military Road Works – Eastern Infrastructure Plan (EIP)

Work on the closing sections of this project are planned to take place as follows:  
New road Imber Ranges to Lavington Vedette via A360 (Delta Crossing) - Jan to Easter 2012  
Ridgeway (the stone track between Lavington Vedette and Casterley) - Jan & Mar 2012

## TRAINING

December will see a significant reduction in training on the Plain in the draw down to Christmas. The Royal School of Artillery will complete live firing on 13 & 14 December, which will include AS90. Noise levels will be kept to the minimum level as required under environmental legislation. The Field Training Unit will run **EX PASHTUN FUSILIER** (an Army Weapons Effect Simulation Exercise) for Z Coy 1 RRF 8 – 14 December. This is mission specific training for the Warrior Company deploying to Afghanistan in the New Year. Training will take place on SPTA West and around Copehill Down Village. From 14 December military activity will reduce to a low level.

AS90 Firing from Tilshead, Chitterne, Shrewton triangle: Nil  
Complaints about Firing Noise should be made to (01980) 620819.

**Military Flying** – Helicopters, Hercules (C130) and fast jets may be active at any time. Fox Covert & Everleigh Dropping Zones will be active for most of the period.

**Complaints about low flying should be made to 0207 218 6020 or e-mail [lowflying@mod.uk](mailto:lowflying@mod.uk).**

## Provisional Dates for Future Major Exercises

During the following exercises access may be restricted on Larkhill Ranges & in the Chitterne – Shrewton – Tilshead Triangle north of the B390.

|                       |                   |
|-----------------------|-------------------|
| 11 Feb 13 - 3 Mar 13  | Ex PASHTUN DAWN   |
| 10 Jun 13 - 24 Jun 13 | Ex WESSEX STORM   |
| 26 Aug 13 - 13 Sep 13 | Ex PASHTUN DAWN   |
| 1 Nov 13 - 25 Nov 13  | Ex WESSEX THUNDER |

## Imber Ranges

It is planned to open roads through Imber as follows: 21Dec 1600 to 7Jan 0800

## Poppy Appeal

The total amount raised in Chitterne this year is £430.39. Many thanks to the collectors Tana Knyvett, Rowena Gooch, Robert Pryor and the King's Head . *Virginia Pryor*

## Emma's NY Marathon update

**Despite Hurricane Sandy's best efforts, Ibi and I managed to run the "Run Anyway" NY marathon on 4th November along with 15,000 others, cheered on by thousands of New Yorkers.** It was an amazing and for me, painful, experience! I am now putting my feet up while Ibi is training to run the London marathon with Lt Col Zac Stenning while continuing to raise funds for BLESMA.

The wine evening is still being planned and a date will be confirmed soon. Many thanks to those of you who have sponsored us, we are getting close to our target! If you haven't gotten round to sponsoring, but would like to, you can do so by visiting [www.justgiving.com/TEAM-YORKS](http://www.justgiving.com/TEAM-YORKS) or popping a cheque to BLESMA into Elm Farm.

## CONFIRMATION COURSE 2013

**Places are booked for the Confirmation Service in Salisbury Cathedral on Saturday 27th April.** A ten-tee Tank Confirmation Course for adults is beginning on Wednesday 16th January. If you have not been confirmed, and would like to be a full participating member of the Church of England, now is the opportunity!

To find out more about the course and the dates of the sessions, please contact me on 01722 790363. *Hugh Bonsey*

## A Wiltshire Village on the Plain Photography Competition

**The Village has demonstrated that it is home to a great selection of "Budding David Baileys" if the entries to the recent Photography Competition are anything to go by.**

The judging panel had a tough job in reaching their decision on the winning entry, but I am sure that you will agree that the winning photograph taken by Dave Robinson captures a fantastic view across the Plain under a moody sky. Congratulations to Dave, who as winner will receive a free copy of the Chitterne Photography Competition Calendar for 2013. Also many thanks and congratulations to the other competitors (Annie Brain, Liz Emmerson, Marion Tilley-Vyner and Virginia Neal), all of whom are featured in the Calendar, for their excellent entries.

If you wish to order a copy of this unique calendar, please e-mail [Chitterne\\_Hall@btinternet.com](mailto:Chitterne_Hall@btinternet.com) with your order, by Monday 10th December. The calendar is priced at £12, with all profits going to the Village Hall. (Registered Charity 305489) To see a montage of the calendar visit the Notice board on [www.Chitterne.com](http://www.Chitterne.com).



*For those of you who don't have access to a computer, this is a flavour of what the calendar looks like. It would make a fantastic Christmas present for someone. Editor*

## Garden Clippings

A series of topical notes about garden machinery and its use



### Chainsaws and stocking fillers

Time to cut some firewood to help alleviate the Chitterne winter. For those of you who use a chainsaw, from a little electric one to a forestry monster, the advice is the same, do a lot of thinking:-

**Think about the machine.** Is it cutting well or does it need sharpening? Is there enough chain oil getting on the chain? Does the blade brake work easily?

**Think about yourself.** Should I have put on the safety equipment I was bought for Christmas? Am I confident about what I am doing? Am I getting too cold or tired to be using this saw?

**Think about what you are cutting.** Is it full of nails, barbed wire, or stones and grit from the bottom of the pile? Where will the pieces fall, or spring back to if they are still attached to the tree? Which end of the branch am I sitting on?

**Think about your surroundings.** Is the car I washed this morning getting covered with sawdust? Am I annoying the neighbours enough? Will the dog/children/spouse suddenly appear in front of the saw because I can't hear them coming?

Hopefully when you have finished there will not be any severed bits of anatomy to use as stocking fillers, so you can come to me and get all the bits of kit that you should have been using. Buy the four year old a nice forestry helmet, and then you can ask to borrow it next time you have a tree to fell. Remember that car cleaning set he bought you last year? Get him a nice pair of gardening gloves and safety glasses!

No Chit Chat next month, so an extra tip for 'ride on' or 'electric start mowers', charge the battery once a month, and if possible bring the battery into a warmer garage or porch for the winter.

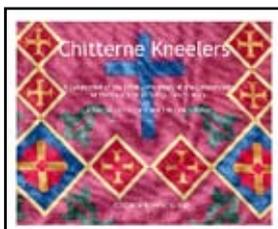
For further advice, chain oil, sharpening sets, ear defenders (very useful at Christmas)....  
*phone Roger Watkins on 850564, come and find me by the Toran, or collar me at the Kings Head.*

P.S. I should be getting an electric log splitter soon, come and have a play with it!

**\*\*REMEMBER\*\***

**No Chit Chat next month  
Next Chit Chat in February**

## Chitterne Kneelers Book



The Kneeler Project book is finished and copies can be ordered. The book will be in colour, 10" x 8" softback, with 57 pages, and lots of photographs. Cost will be £19.95 each, payable in advance please. Cheques payable to Chitterne Parochial Church Council - Chitterne PCC will do. If you would like a copy please let me (Sue) know by the 7th January 2013.

Please give or send your cheque, made payable to Chitterne PCC, to Arthur or Sarah Gooch at Manor Farmhouse.

**Address:** Chitterne PCC  
Manor Farmhouse  
Chitterne  
Warminster  
BA12 0LG

Sue Robinson - sue@round-house.demon.co.uk or 01985 850370

## News from the Kings Head

**I would like to wish a Merry Christmas and Happy New Year to all friends and customers, and I would like to thank you for your continued support.**

A thank you goes to Barry for the food on the James Bond Evening, which went down very well. A big turnout in costumes again and good fun was had by all. The best dressed couple was Pete & Liz Emmerson, or should I say James Bond & M, winning a bottle of bubbly. Many thanks to all who took part.



*(It was a great night. Kenton always does these events well. We watched Casino Royale, sipping cocktails or whatever your tipples was. I can guarantee that there were quite a few sore heads the next morning - Oddjob included!)*

A list of events for December and January will be on display in the pub window & below. Don't forget fancy dress for the New Year party – pantomime theme. (Oh no it isn't; oh yes it is!)

Hope to see you all soon.

*Kenton*

**11th Dec. Quiz between the Kings Head Darts Team & The Hunters Moon team**  
**21st Dec. - Mummers & Carol Singers**  
**23rd Dec. - Christmas Quiz - 8.00pm**  
**25th & 26th Dec. - pub open 12 o'clock & closed in the evening**  
**31st Dec. - New Years Eve Fancy Dress Party (pantomime theme)**  
**1st Jan. - pub open 12 o'clock & closed in the evening**  
**6th Jan. - The Year That Was Quiz - 8.00pm**

LIVE MUSIC COMING SOON!!

## A HAPPY TALE



**Just over five weeks ago Jo Major found a wafer thin kitten (barely four months old) behind her garage.** This pretty little scrap was starving, and when I responded to Jo's call for help, found Jo feeding her large quantities of dog food which she consumed speedily without any disastrous results! Despite advertising and contacting vets, catteries, Cats Protection etc. there has been no response at all. One can only draw the conclusion that she was dumped. Why? maybe the thought of the expense when her sex was realized, but what a cruel thing to do when just putting her in a box and leaving her outside a vet's door would have saved her the distress or death if she hadn't been found.

Having waited five weeks, I have decided to keep her and she has had her first injections, her spaying is booked, and Katey will become a permanent member of the Hopton household.

*Lilian Hopton*

## Imber St Giles

The Fourth Annual Carol Concert will be held in Imber Church on Saturday 22nd December 2012 at 1430 hours.

Seating in the church is limited; however, it might be possible to accommodate a number of small folding chairs for those who wish to bring them. Warm clothing and footwear are advisable as there is no heating in the church. Mulled wine will be served on arrival. The concert is timed to last about one hour.

Admission is free of charge; however, there will be a retiring collection towards the expenses of the concert and the Churches Conservation Trust.

For further details about the bus service from Warminster and to check that the church will be open please visit: [www.imberchurch.org.uk](http://www.imberchurch.org.uk).

The church should be open during Christmas and New Year on the following days:

**Thursday 27th until Sunday 30th December**  
**Tuesday 1st until Thursday 3rd January**  
**Saturday 5th until Sunday 6th January**

Excepting Sundays, when the church will open at 1200 hours until 1600 hours, it will open from 1000 hours until 1500 hours on all other advertised days.

*Neil Skelton*

**FOR SALE** - Elizabeth Johns is selling Christmas cards designed by her niece who has spinal muscular atrophy. These cards show a variety of Christmas scenes and are blank inside, so they have a variety of uses. They are £2 for a pack of 5 or 50p each. Available at Dolphin House tel 850039



**Jo, Lance and family would like to say THANK YOU very much for such a wonderful response to our fundraising sale for Louie's S.M.I.L.E.S.**

**Wow!!!! What an incredible evening! It was amazing to see so many people gathered in the hall having a good shop and get together. We were overwhelmed with everyone's generosity and kindness, and hope everyone had a lovely time. Our aim was to have a good time and try and raise some funds so Louie's S.M.I.L.E.S can be put forward to becoming registered. As we have already raised a substantial amount, the evening raised a whopping £950.00, and with what we have already got, we have reached our target. This means so much to us and we can't thank you all enough.**

**Thank you, with all our love Jo, Lance and family xxxxx**

**Just a bit of fun!** - last month's answers

1. Main sin cars - **Nissan Micra**
2. Modern food - **Ford Mondeo**
3. Sex or action - **Citroen Saxo**
4. I put on fat - **Fiat Punto**
5. Lax valour cash - **Vauxhall Corsa**
6. An untidy cache - **Hyundai Accent**
7. Large neat menu - **Renault Megane**
8. Too loyal actor - **Toyota Corolla**

**Sorry, no room for quiz this month**

**FOR SALE** - Fireplace used to house electric fire. Light oak mantle and sides, creamy marble hearth and surround. Excellent condition, sensible offer accepted.  
 Contact Lilian Hopton - 01985 850050

**FOR SALE** - 2 x Disney Prema 3 wheeler trikes with removable guiding handles - £15 each. Will sell separately.  
 Contact: Marcelle Stobie - 01985 851048

A date for your diaries please:-

The Flower Festival in 2013 will take place over the weekend of 22nd 23rd June and the theme next year will be **The Musicals**. I have put it in December's issue as there will not be a Chit Chat in January, and I feel sure you will all want to fill up your new diaries!!

More news in the New Year

*Virginia P.*

P.S. The Grand National Lunch will be on Saturday 6th April, again more news in February.



### **Waste and recycling this Christmas**

**Your kerbside waste and recycling collections will change over Christmas and New Year.**

*All waste and recycling collection days will change as there will be no collections taking place at all on Christmas Day, Boxing Day and New Year's Day.*

*Please note there will be no garden waste collections between 24 Dec. and 7 Jan. Services will re-start from 8 Jan. Please check your collection calendar, check online at [www.wiltshire.gov.uk](http://www.wiltshire.gov.uk) or call the council on 0300 456 0102 for information about how this affects your collections.*

*Please remember to put your bin out by 7.00am on your scheduled collection day and make sure all your waste is put in your bin with the lid closed.*

### **Chit Chat next issue**

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

## **CHURCH SERVICES IN DECEMBER & JANUARY**

| <b>Date</b>                                | <b>Church Services</b>             | <b>Cleaning &amp; Flowers</b>       |
|--|------------------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| Sunday 2nd December Advent 1               | 0845 BCP HC - Chitterne            | Virginia Pryor - Advent, no flowers |
| Sunday 9th December Advent 2               | 1000 Group Service - Tilshead      | Virginia Pryor - Advent, no flowers |
| Sunday 16th December Advent 3              | 1000 Carol Service - Chitterne     | Sarah Gooch - Advent, no flowers    |
| Sunday 23rd December Advent 4              | 0845 PC - Chitterne                | Flowers by all                      |
| Monday 24th December Christmas Eve         | 1500 Crib Service - Chitterne      |                                     |
| Tuesday 25th December Christmas Day        | 1000 Family Service HC - Chitterne |                                     |
| Sunday 30th December Christmas 1           | 1000 Team Service - Tilshead       | Helen Carter                        |
| Sunday 6th January Epiphany                | 0845 BCP HC - Chitterne            | Helen Carter                        |
| Sunday 13th January Baptism of Christ      | 1000 Group Service - Tilshead      |                                     |
| Sunday 20th January Epiphany 3             | 1000 Matins - Chitterne            | Gillian Nolan & Marcelle Stobie     |
| Sunday 27th January Epiphany 4             | 0845 PC - Chitterne                | Gillian Nolan & Marcelle Stobie     |
| Sunday 3rd February Presentation of Christ | 0845 BCP HC - Chitterne            |                                     |