

Chit-Chat

Parish Newsletter for the
residents of
Chitterne, Wiltshire
No 70, February 2012

Editor: Kato O'Driscoll, Well Cottage 01985 850016 - chitchat12@btinternet.com

Summary Parish Council Meeting 9 Jan 2012

Traffic Through the Village

Carole Slater, Chairman, and Marion Barton, Clerk of Shrewton PC attended the meeting to discuss traffic calming measures and to find out how Chitterne PC had secured funding for its new installations. Cllr Lucas explained the funding process. Shrewton PC recently met with reps from English Heritage re the development of the new visitor centre at Stonehenge. Chitterne should have a representative at subsequent meetings as it is also affected by Stonehenge coach traffic. The two councils should be able to work together in the future regarding traffic and other joint issues.

Setting of Precept for 2012/13

The amount that Chitterne PC needs to run the village was discussed. Chit Chat has increased in cost to c£700 per year. This is largely due to increased courier costs. Printers to be sought for alternative quotes. The precept has remained the same with no increase over the past two years. It is proposed to increase the precept by £251 to £6,000 to cover ever increasing costs.

Housing Needs Survey

Gill Shell from Wiltshire Rural Housing Association attended the Parish Council meeting back in May 2011 to explain about the organisation. It was suggested at the time that if Chitterne were interested in the provision of affordable housing then the next stage would be to commission a 'Housing Needs Survey'. Cllr Fenlon asked the Council whether they thought a Housing Needs Survey was a good idea. There were no objections so Gill Shell to be contacted to carry out this survey.

Proposed Waste Site Allocation DPD

The document containing Valley Farm site as a proposed waste transfer station/recycling centre will go to Wiltshire Council Cabinet on 17th January at 10.30 am. V Neal and B Ricketts to draft statements and questions for (continued over....)

Burns' Night Organiser, Andy Cameron (left), presents the haggis to Ian Jack for the traditional recital of the address



Great Chieftan o' the Puddin' Race

Chitterne's village hall became an independent state for a few hours on the evening of Saturday 28th January as it was taken over to celebrate Burns Night. There was a good crowd of villagers and more than a smattering of tartan for the event - particularly since extra rations were promised to those sporting appropriate dress.

The evening followed the traditional format with the parade of the haggis, the toasting of the immortal memory, the toast to the lassies and the reply, plus a recital of Burns' poetry.

Ian Jack (pictured right above) gave a number of spirited Burns' recitals. Ian had apparently spent a good portion of his recent 6-month operational tour in Afghanistan learning 'Tam o'Shanter' - no mean feat considering the length of the

poem. A number of natives of Chitterne were not quite able to explain exactly what they had heard when quizzed after the event, but the Editor is not entirely sure if whisky was to blame rather than ignorance of the works of Robert Burns.

Fortified by the excellent meal and spurred on by the poetry, Chitterners took to the floor for a spot of 'jock-bopping' (Reeling or Scottish Country Dancing to the uninitiated). Happily, no serious injuries seem to have resulted and some of the participants (eg the Stobies, the Camerons) actually seemed to know what they were doing.

It was a really fun evening and grateful thanks must go to Andy and Lorna Cameron and Barry Ricketts for organising the event. Let's hope it will become an annual fixture! (more photos on back page)

CHURCH SERVICES in FEBRUARY

Sunday 5th February, 3rd before Lent	08.45	Holy Communion (BCP)	All Saints, Chitterne
Sunday 12th February, 2nd before Lent	10.00	Group Eucharist	Tilshead
Sunday 19th February, Last before Lent	10.00	Matins	All Saints, Chitterne
Wednesday 22nd February, Ash Wednesday	19.00	Ash Wednesday Service	All Saints, Chitterne
Saturday 26th February, Lent 1	08.45	PC	All Saints, Chitterne
Sunday 4th March, Lent 2	10.00	Holy Communion (BCP)	All Saints, Chitterne

(.....continued from Front Page)
the meeting and also attend it. Cllr Newbury to be contacted for support.

The issue of the run off of silt from 'L' tank crossing that has filled up the drainage channel was raised. N Linge to be made aware

**Date of Next Meeting –
Mon 12 Mar 2012**



Calling All Web Enthusiasts!

After 10 years Sue Robinson would like to retire as webmaster at chitterne.com. Is there anyone in the village, with or without web experience, who would like to take over? Chitterne.com is easy to maintain in its present form using Notepad. All you need is a computer and a little spare time.

Contact sue@chitterne.com

CHITTERNE FLOWER FESTIVAL 2012

Hello everybody, this is an early warning!

The Flower Festival this year will be held over the weekend of 23rd/24th June in All Saints church.

It will be 150 years this November since the Church was consecrated, so we have chosen 'The Saints' as our theme.

Any offers of help with flower arranging, catering and in the Village Hall will be most gratefully accepted and if anyone would like to open their garden please get in touch too.

Flowers, and open gardens:
Virginia Pryor 850255

Catering/Village Hall:
Marcelle Stobie 851048
Sarah Gooch 850893

CHITTERNE GRAND NATIONAL LUNCH 2012

SATURDAY 14TH APRIL IN THE VILLAGE HALL

A date for your diaries!

The details will be in next month's Chit Chat.

Contact: Virginia Pryor 850255.

ARMY ACTIVITIES, FEB 2012

STOP PRESS! Dog fouling in many areas is becoming particularly heavy. Dog walkers are reminded that soldiers train on the Military Lands and that faeces can remain for up 90 days. Those in charge of a dog or dogs are required to take away their dog faeces for proper disposal.

TRAINING IN FEBRUARY

The first two weeks of February will be busy with significant numbers of armoured vehicles on both manoeuvre training and live firing. At the same time contractors will erect Afghan compounds across the Plain, which in the interests of safety the public are asked to stay well away from.

6 - 9 February sees two major armoured exercises out of the Land Warfare Centre (Ex SABRES THRUST and Ex BADGERS STRESS) using the West and Centre of the Plain. Preparation for the 12 Mechanised Brigade Afghanistan pre-deployment exercise PASHTUN DAWN will continue with communications and logistic assets deploying onto the training area.

10 - 11 February sees the main body of troops and vehicles arrive in slow moving convoys. **The exercise starts on 12 February and finishes on 11 March.** It will use the whole Plain and involve some 8000 troops and more than 500 tracked and wheeled vehicles plus fixed wing aircraft and helicopters. Large convoys (of 80 vehicles or more), will operate on the training area. **For safety reasons there will be no public access to the Larkhill Artillery Ranges or permissory use of stone tracks or dog walking off of Rights of Way in the Tilshead, Chitterne & Shrewton triangle (Copehill Down area) during the exercise.**

Note. Vehicle movement may cause delays at tank crossings and drivers should take care when approaching crossings as mud clearance parties and mechanical sweepers will be at work.

Live Firing. Firing is closely managed to ensure that legal noise limits are not exceeded and disturbance is minimised. Although some may find the noise intrusive, it is well below legal limits.

Late Firing on Larkhill Ranges: 2, 7, 9, 11 to 29 February inclusive.

AS90 Firing from Salisbury Plain East: Nil
AS90 Firing from Salisbury Plain West & 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 throughout.

Complaints about low flying should

be made to 0207 218 6020 or e-mail lowflying@mod.uk

ACCESS

Access to Salisbury Plain is regulated by Salisbury Plain Military Lands and Bulford, Larkhill and Imber Range Byelaws. This Newsletter is published up to 6 weeks before the event and urgent training bids may come in subsequently. Always comply with local signs and flags.

Access timings can be found on the SPTA Walks Line: (01980) 674763.

Larkhill Ranges. Rights of way through Larkhill Ranges are closed when red flags are flying. **No firing is planned for: 5th, 6th February.** Note. During range fires access may be denied (risk of unexploded ordnance "cooking off").

Imber. Difficult terrain and unexploded military debris makes it hazardous to leave the tarmac roads. The public are excluded from Imber Ranges except when the roads are opened to reduce journey times across Imber Ranges. It is planned to open roads through Imber as follows:

6-9 Apr 12 Easter Bank Holiday

1-3 Jun 12 Public Holiday (limited by Ex Wessex Thunder)

10 Nov 1000-1200 for the Remembrance Day Church Service only.

August, September and Christmas dates tbc

Opening Hours for Imber Church and its information centre (which also sells hot drinks and Imber honey) can be found at: www.imberchurch.org.uk.

1. Even when the roads are open the village remains out of bounds to the public.
2. These dates may change if operational training needs dictate.

Provisional Dates for Future Major Exercises. During the following exercises access may be restricted on Larkhill Ranges and in the Chitterne – Shrewton – Tilshead Triangle north of the B390.

13 Feb-11 Mar '12 Ex PASHTUN DAWN
26-29 Mar '12 Ex LION STRIKE
21-25 May '12 Ex LION STRIKE
4-18 Jun '12 Ex WESSEX THUNDER
13 Aug-16 Sep '12 Ex PASHTUN DAWN

What You Can Do to Reduce Crime. Please report suspicious activity to **PLAINWATCH - 01980 674700.** The more information received the better e.g. time, place, vehicle registration, description of individuals and vehicles. If a crime is taking place call 999 and do not challenge the offenders.

Readers' letters

Views expressed in Readers' letters do not necessarily reflect those of the Editor or Parish Council

Grateful Thanks from Christmas Charity

Below is an extract of a letter forwarded to Chit Chat from Virginia Pryor. The Salisbury Women's Refuge was the beneficiary of donations collected from December's Christmas Carol Service at Chitterne All Saints:

Dear Mrs Pryor

May I, on behalf of all the residents, children and staff at Beckingsale House, thank you very much for the very kind donations of chocolates and children's gifts which you brought into the Refuge recently. Your support and generosity is very much appreciated, especially in these difficult financial times.

Yours truly,

Eileen Day
Administrator
Salisbury Women's Refuge

November's Offending Article

Dear Kato

It is with a heavy heart that I feel I have to email you regarding Chit Chat.

Normally the standard of articles in this publication is high. However, I feel I need to complain about the Halloween Party article in November's edition and the subsequent apology in December's.

The article implies that my wife is in her mid-forties, which is clearly not the case. She is 47 and therefore in her 48th year - which to me is classed as late forties!

She has been smug every since reading the piece, so please stop encouraging her.

Regards

Steve Murray
(ex-Senior Service)

Mrs Murray doesn't look a day over 21 and any irritation caused to a 'Fish Head' is, of course, entirely accidental. Ed.

BRIDLEWAYS & BYWAYS CLOSURES

From 8th March for 15 weeks (but a possible maximum of 6 months), 2 bridleways and 3 byways will be closed on the Plain near Chitterne due to pipeline construction by Wessex Water (see December edition of *Chit Chat*).

The Editor has emailed out the detailed information - please ask the Parish Clerk or an online friend for details if you do not have internet access.

Bell Ringing

After a trial period at the end of last year, we have decided to return to practising on Tuesday evenings from 6.30pm to 7.30pm.

New ringers are always welcome, as is anyone who just wants to see what ringing involves.

****We are hoping to ring the bells on Monday 6th February to commemorate the 60th anniversary of the Queen's Accession to the Throne.****

Any queries to me, George Unsworth White on 850433.

Action on Hearing Loss

Do you wear an NHS Hearing Aid from Salisbury District Hospital?

We can help with batteries, re-tubing and cleaning. We are at Codford Surgery from 11am to 12.45pm every second Friday of the month.

To keep your aid in good order, we recommend the tubing to the ear mould is changed every 3 months.

Drop in and see us - No appointment needed for this FREE service.

Call Gill on 01722 580014 for more information.

For Your Diaries...

Weekly

(venue: Village Hall unless stated otherwise)

*Mondays, 9.30-10.30am
Yoga Essence*

Tuesdays, Church, 6.30-7.30pm, Bellringing Practice

*Wednesdays, 7.15-8.15pm
Yoga Essence*

Thursdays, during termtime, 10-11.30am, Sticky Fingers Parent & Toddler Group

Fridays, 9.30-10.30am, Pilates

Most Fridays, 10.30am - 3.30pm, Stitching

Other Upcoming events...

Saturday 19th May - Pitt House Annual Charity Plant Sale

THE KINGS HEAD

News from Chitterne's Pub:

The King's Head

It seems that Chitterne has fought off the winter blues by filling The King's Head with brainy quizzers and 'dubious fancy dressers'.

Our Tuesday darts evenings are drawing people from surrounding villages as well as Chitterne. It has become a really fun, regular event - every Tuesday with food served at half time.

The pub was full when the Mummies visited to perform their play before Christmas. Many people stayed for carol singing afterwards (some good, some bad!). Many thanks to Sarah and Roger for their help with organising the evening.

We joined a packed congregation at Chitterne's Christmas Eve Crib Service and we very much enjoyed ourselves.

Christmas Day captured the festive spirit as people popped in at different times according to the time their turkey was cooked.

The Christmas and New Year Pub Quizzes were really well supported - congratulations to the winners of the £20 voucher. We have decided to hold the Pub Quiz fortnightly from now on - Teams of 4, every other Sunday at 8pm starting from 5th February.

An excellent array of fancy dress featuring a couple of scarily convincing nuns and a handful of Shreks meant that New Year's Eve was a night to remember. There were whips, guitars, mexican hats and moustaches, along with a Pink Lady and Ali Baba. Hannibal Lecter had a few problems with his straight jacket but everyone else seemed to get along fine. The atmosphere was fabulous and a great start to 2012 in Chitterne.

Hope to see you soon for fun, food and frolics....

Thea and Kenton
The Kings Head, Chitterne

**To reserve a lunch or dinner table or to order
Friday Evening Fish 'n' Chips
you can pop into the pub or call us
on 850770**

Chitterne's Facebook Page

For the Internet savvy Chitterne has its very own Facebook page.

Why not join in and boost the numbers?

Notices and photos are posted up by members and it could be a forum to discuss all sorts of Chitterne matters.



L-R: Ian Jack, Toni Martin, Sam Jack, Tom O'D, Chris Marshall



Andy Cameron & Barry Ricketts



The 'Mac-Pikes'



Barry Ricketts & Aileen Fenlon

Burns Night in Chitterne Village Hall

(all profits from the event were donated to Chitterne Village Hall)

Chitterne Village Hall Finances under Pressure

The loss of our previous regular income from the pig-keeping courses has meant that the days of plenty, when we were able to subsidise the cost of village bookings and village events and also save for periodic re-decoration and hall improvements, are now over. As things currently stand, the village hall is struggling to cover its routine costs from current income and so the Committee has had to take a hard look at how we spend our money. I hope that this short article will allow you to understand better the current position and will also encourage villagers to come forward with ideas and suggestions for raising money for the Hall so as to ensure that we can continue to maintain it as we would all wish to.

Income from lettings in 2009/10 and 2010/11 was £4,257 and £3,977 respectively and, of this, £2,520 and £2,800 was attributable to pig course bookings, with village and external private bookings contributing only a much smaller £1200 each year; (in 2009/10 we also benefitted from the Wylie Valley Art Trail booking which contributed £600). By contrast in the first 10 months of this financial year lettings totalled £3,500, of which £1500 was from pig courses (which stopped in August) and £600 from the biennial Wylie Valley Art Trail; all this commercial income will be lost in 2012/13 meaning that we will be dependent, in the main, on non-commercial lettings (unless we can attract alternative clients).

Against this income, the Hall has much unavoidable expenditure including insurance (~£400), mandatory inspections and licences (~£250), rates (£140), electricity (~£150 net shortfall compared with meter income), and, most significantly, water charges; this last has been a particular burden over the past year with over £1500 paid out for emptying the septic tank. Cleaning (wages and materials) would normally cost us about £1400 a year but we have, reluctantly, decided that we can no longer afford to employ a cleaner and will, in future, have to rely on self-help, which Jo Booth has kindly agreed to organise – she would welcome any volunteers to lend an occasional hand! In addition we should expect to have to pay out on repairs each year, although hopefully less than the total of about £400 paid out over the past ten months.

This all means that we must find a way of generating more income to balance the books and, more particularly if we are to be able to undertake the periodic redecoration and replacement of equipment necessary to maintain the Hall's condition. The fete will return to its traditional date of September this year. This will hopefully contribute about £1000, but we will need to run more fund-raising events.

This is where we need active support from the village – to come forward with ideas, to organise and help run events and to support them when they are laid on.

YOUR HALL NEEDS YOU!

If you feel you can help please get in touch with any member of the committee listed below:

Paul Pike (Chairman)	Steve Fisher	Andrew Cameron	Erika Snowdon-Pike
Gillian Nolan (Secretary)	Tor Strong	Maureen Sprack	Nicky Wright
Anthony Knyvett (Treasurer)	Jo Booth		

Church Cleaning and Flower Rota - Feb/Mar '12

w/c Jan 29	Marcelle Stobie	Clean & Flowers
Feb 5/19	Chris, Michael Pearson & Lillian Hopton	Clean & Flowers
Mar 4/11	Davina Toole & Gillian Nolan	Clean & Flowers
Mar 18/25	Nicola Horsfall	Clean & Flowers

*****CLEAN BY ALL - THURSDAY 29TH MARCH *****

Chit-Chat next issue

All contributions for the March issue by last week of February, by hand, CD, USB stick or email to: chitchat12@btinternet.com, tel: 850016 or at Well 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 Acrobat to read them. Downloads may take a few minutes.