

# Chit-Chat

Parish Newsletter for the  
residents of  
Chitterne, Wiltshire  
No 71, March 2012

Editor: Kato O'Driscoll, Well Cottage 01985 850016 - [chitchat12@btinternet.co.uk](mailto:chitchat12@btinternet.co.uk)



Battle Back Cyclists in Chitterne during a training session

## 'Battle Back' Training Ride

Chitterne featured as a waypoint for a *Battle Back* training bike ride on Saturday 10th March. A number of Chitterners gathered outside the church to cheer the cyclists on.

The training ride is part of an ambitious project which will see a relay team of eight paracyclists compete in the June 2012 Race Across America (RAAM). A squad of athletes is being prepared from which four upright cyclists and four recumbent handcyclists would be selected.

**Battle Back** is a new Tri-Service initiative which uses so-called 'adventurous training' and sport in the aftercare of wounded Service personnel to aid their rehabilitation and to help them return to an active life. The scheme is funded using public money.

Since September 2011 specialist training for the RAAM has been taking place. This has largely been centred around Tidworth's Tedworth House, which is the location of the Battle Back Phoenix Project. The organisation 'HandcyclingUK' have also been assisting with training and advice.

Training weekends consist of long road rides on Saturdays through the Wiltshire countryside. Typically the rides have ranged from 25-35 km. Once the road rides are complete, the riders then prepare to ride a 24 km (15 mile) time trial at Hullavington Airfield, which is also in Wiltshire.

Selection for the Battle Back RAAM team will take place in May. There may be further team training events coming through the village - give the cyclists a cheer if you see them!

For more information on Battle Back or RAAM check out the following websites: [www.mod.uk](http://www.mod.uk), [www.army.mod.uk](http://www.army.mod.uk), [www.helpforheroes.org.uk](http://www.helpforheroes.org.uk), [www.handcycling.org.uk](http://www.handcycling.org.uk).



Chitterne's Parent and Toddler Group meets every Thursday during term-time in the village hall from 10.00 am to 11.30am.

We have lots of toys, refreshments and arts and crafts activities for children to take home, all for just £1 per child.

For more information, please call Nicky on 850028



Chitterne's own champion cyclists cheer on the Battle Back paracyclists

## CHURCH SERVICES in MARCH/APRIL

|  |       |                      |                       |
|--|-------|----------------------|-----------------------|
| Sunday 11th March, Lent 3                    | 10.00 | Group Service        | All Saints, Chitterne |
| Sunday 18th March, Lent 4 (Mothering Sunday) | 10.00 | Family Service       | All Saints, Chitterne |
| Sunday 25th March, Lent 5                    | 08.45 | PC                   | All Saints, Chitterne |
| Sunday 1st April, Palm Sunday                | 08.45 | Holy Communion (BCP) | All Saints, Chitterne |
| Thursday 5th April                           | 19.30 | Maundy Thursday      | All Saints, Chitterne |
| Sunday 8th April, Easter Sunday              | 10.00 | PC                   | All Saints, Chitterne |

# ARMY ACTIVITIES, NOV 2011

## TRAINING IN MARCH

Exercise PASHTUN DAWN (12 Mechanised Brigade's operational pre-deployment training) will continue until 11 March. It will take place across the whole Plain and involve some 8000 troops, over 500 armoured vehicles and both fixed wing aircraft and helicopters.

Large convoys will operate on the training area and there may be some disruption to civilian traffic at tank crossings.

During Ex PASHTUN DAWN there will be no public access to Larkhill Artillery Ranges and permissive stone tracks in the Tilshead/Chitterne/Shrewton triangle (Copehill Down area) will be closed in the interest of public safety. Members of the public using Salisbury Plain for recreation are required to keep to the public rights of way.

Military convoys leaving the Plain at the end of the exercise may cause some disruption from late afternoon on Saturday 10 March until Monday 12 March.

From 12 – 23 March normal training will resume as local armoured units from Tidworth, Bulford and Land Warfare Centre, deploy onto SPTA. The Royal Netherlands Marine Corps arrive on 12 March for 10 days of live firing with 120mm mortars, followed at the end of March by 1st Battalion The Royal Irish who will conduct pre-operational training.

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

## Late Firing on Larkhill & Westdown

**Ranges:** 1st - 13th inclusive, 15th, 20th, 22nd, 27th, 28th March

**Larkhill Ranges.** Public rights of way through Larkhill Ranges are closed when red flags are flying. **No firing is planned for: 17th, 18th, 31st March**

**Military Flying.** Helicopters, Hercules (C130) and fast jets may be active at any time. Fox Covert & Everleigh Dropping Zones will be active throughout.

## Provisional Dates for Major Exercises.

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

## 2012

|               |                   |
|---------------|-------------------|
| 13 Feb-11 Mar | Ex PASHTUN DAWN   |
| 21- 25 May    | Ex LION STRIKE    |
| 6-20 Jun      | Ex WESSEX THUNDER |
| (New Date)    |                   |
| 13 Aug-16 Sep | Ex PASHTUN DAWN   |

## Roads Open to Imber Village:

6-9 April Easter Bank Holiday

1-5 June Bank Holiday (New dates).

10th November from 10am-midday for Remembrance Day Church Service only.

NB:

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.

## Possible Further Open Dates for Imber:

4-10 August TBC

St Giles's Day (1st September) is during the next Pre-Afghanistan exercise and available dates will be published when known.

Christmas and New Year Close Down, dates TBC.

Please report suspicious activity to **PLAINWATCH (01980 674700)**.

If a crime is taking place call 999 and do not challenge the offenders.

## Useful Telephone Numbers:

SPTA Walks Line/Access Timings: 01980 674763

Firing Noise Complaints: 01980 620819

Low Flying Complaints: 0207 218 6020 or e-mail [lowflying@mod.uk](mailto:lowflying@mod.uk)

## Chitterne's Celebrations for HM The Queen's Golden Jubilee

Get out your diaries NOW and mark down this date.....

## SUNDAY 3rd JUNE 2012

Once again, Chitterne will host a

'Right Royal Knees Up' with the help of



**Will Blake's 7 Piece Band** - we only had 3 of his 'pieces' last April so it'll be more than twice as good this time....

Picnics, Games, Competitions and fun, fun, fun!

Dig out your best red, white & blue and get ready to Party!

## The Annual Parochial Church Meeting & The Meeting of Parishioners

This will take place on Thursday 19th April in the Village Hall at 7pm.

Everyone is welcome.

The Parochial Church Council (PCC) invites you to come and have a drink at 6.30pm before the meeting.

We very much hope that anyone interested in the affairs of the Church in this village will come.

It is your opportunity to raise any concerns you may have.

Virginia Pryor, PCC Secretary

## For Your Diaries...

### Weekly

(venue: Village Hall unless stated otherwise)

**Mondays, 9.30-10.30am**  
Yoga Essence

**Tuesdays, Church, 6.30-7.30pm,**  
Bellingring 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 -**  
Pitts House Annual Charity Plant Sale

**Sunday 3rd June -**  
Golden Jubilee Party  
Sportsfield

**Saturday 8th September -**  
Chitterne Village Fete

## THE VINTAGE NOSTALGIA SHOW

The Vintage Nostalgia Show will be in Stockton Park over 25th-27th May 2012.

It's a local Festival celebrating 'yester-year'...Enjoy a family event with all that is old and interesting from auto-jumble, vintage fashions, good food, vintage stalls, classic cars, traditional children's activities and more!



## A DATE FOR YOUR DIARIES

**THE GRAND NATIONAL LUNCH**  
on  
**SATURDAY 14TH APRIL, 2012**  
at 1.30pm  
**IN 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, Nr. Warminster  
Wiltshire, BA12 OLG  
01985 850255



### News from Our Village Pub

**Firstly, Happy (belated) Birthday to Thea, our landlady, for Sunday 4th March from Chit Chat and all its readers.**

**I'm sure everyone in Chitterne would also like to join me in wishing both Thea and Kenton all our love and best wishes at this time and throughout Thea's treatment. Ed**

The Kings Head is continuing its fortnightly Sunday Night Quiz's - the next one is on Sunday 18th March and the one after will be on 'April Fool's Day' - Sunday 1st April. Nigel Dean is writing the quiz for the 18th, so ensure you know what his favourite colour is for that one!

Darts Nights on Tuesdays will also continue as normal.

Food/nibbles will be available on Quiz Nights and Darts Nights, but is suspended otherwise at the moment due to Thea's treatment.

Kenton and Thea  
850770

### Village Email List

If you wish to be included on emails sent round to villagers about events etc, **please email Kato O'D on tomankato@btinternet.com**

Occasionally when Chit Chat is delayed time critical news is emailed to all those whom the Editor has email addresses for, together with a plea for the information to be passed to friends and neighbours who are not online.

## Readers' letters

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

### From The Coldwell Family

Jo, Lance and their family would like to thank everyone in Chitterne and the surrounding villages for their love, support and overwhelming generosity.

We have never known a community to be as involved and caring as Chitterne. Everyone pulled together and helped us during Louie's illness and supported us through the dark times. There were kindnesses, letters, poems, cards, flowers, meals and hugs from everyone that got us through every day. We never felt alone.

We've always said Chitterne isn't just a village - it's a family. The love and support shown and felt in the church on Louie's funeral day was truly beautiful.

Thank you from the bottom of our hearts. We're sure that Louie could also feel the love and it will last forever.

God bless you all. Xxx

### Free to a Good Home

Dear All

There are white lilacs, forsythias, gooseberry bushes as well as other interesting items growing in Mother Nature's very own garden at 98 Codford Road. ALL FREE! Collection by arrangement.

Ray Feltham

### How to Make Your Gardens Grow...

Dear All

FREE HORSE MANURE!

Treat your roses and veggie patches.

Please call Jo (850501) or help yourself to one-year old, well rotted horse manure for applying directly to your garden.

New manure is also available for adding to your own compost heaps.

love Jo M

**Wylve Valley Primary School**  
**Quiz Night**  
**Friday 23rd March 2012,**  
**7.30pm, Codford Village Hall**  
**Tickets £6.50 from Budgens**

## Chitterne Village Fete

Chitterne Fete will return this year on  
**Saturday 8th September.**

An evening Barn Dance (in the Village Hall) is also planned for the same day.

The Village Hall Committee is looking for willing volunteers to help set up and run stalls for the fete.

We have a fantastic setting - so let's make the most of it and pull together to make Chitterne's fete an annual and unmissable event!

Ideas for stalls, games etc and offers of help to Paul Pike - paul@classicfireworks.co.uk - or to any member of the Village Hall Committee (via Chit Chat if necessary).

**Thank You!**

## Community Payback in Chitterne

The Community Payback team are finally coming to the end of their task of clearing trees and shrubs from the Chitterne Brook, working from Townsend to Middle Barn. The team started their work in Autumn 2010, took a break in the summer of 2011 so as not to disturb nesting birds, and came back in Autumn 2011. They hope to finish the work this month.

Community Payback is a scheme run by the Probation Service and tasks offenders to work within communities, learning new skills and also benefitting communities such as ours here in Chitterne. The workers are all subject to court orders and part of their sentence is to carry out unpaid work.

The work that the team has carried out in the brook has been free of charge to the Parish. I would like to thank Supervisor Pete Aldridge, who has lead the team through good and bad weather to complete the job so effectively. If the Parish Council had had to pay for the work it would no doubt have resulted in a hefty bill.

Pete has kept the team working and they certainly enjoy a good bonfire. At the same time, hi-visibility jackets have helped slow down traffic along the road to Tilshead over the last few months when the team has been in Chitterne.

I would now like to see if we can encourage the MOD or Wessex Water to help with removing some of the silt which has built up at the tank crossing and around the pumping station. We may have had a dry winter this year, but anyone who was in the village just a few years ago, will remember that the Chitterne Brook can rise very quickly and it is important that the brook runs without obstruction to reduce any danger of flooding.

Aileen Fenlon  
Parish Council Chairman

## Housing Needs Survey

Chitterne Parish Council has been working with Gill Shell of the Wiltshire Rural Housing Association (WRHA) to assess whether there is a need for more affordable housing in Chitterne - see Summary of Parish Council Meetings in Chit Chat June 2011 & February 2012 (available on [www.chitterne.com](http://www.chitterne.com)).

WRHA states that 'House prices and private rents in Wiltshire villages are out of the reach of many on low incomes and we are committed to proving much needed affordable homes and keeping villages sustainable.'

WRHA rents its homes to people who have a connection with the village in which the home is situated. A local connection is classed as one of the following:

- Currently lives in the parish or has lived in the Parish in the past
- Currently has close family members, such as parents, children, brothers or sisters living in the Parish
- Works in the Parish

Wiltshire Council will be carrying out a Housing Needs Survey in March & April to ascertain what the housing needs are in Chitterne.

**A form will be dropped into all houses in the village sometime between 21st March and 4th April. It would be useful if as many people as possible could complete the forms so that an accurate assessment can be made as to whether or not there is a need for affordable housing in Chitterne.**

**Forms will need to be completed and returned by no later than 20th April.**

## Chitterne Cricket Club AGM

This year's AGM will take place on Sunday 15th Apr at 12.30pm.

Location to be confirmed as either the Village Hall or The Kings Head - in which case the time may be brought forward slightly. It has been suggested that the meeting should adjourn to the pub on completion in any case.

Please confirm your intention to attend and any agenda items to Richard Hendrickse ([richard.hendrickse@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:richard.hendrickse@hotmail.co.uk)) by Sun 1 Apr.

## Flower Arranging Demo & Workshop in Chitterne

**Tuesday 1 May, 10am - 1pm**



For further details contact Gillian Nolan on [nolan545@btinternet.com](mailto:nolan545@btinternet.com) or 850391

## Louis Joel (Fox) Coldwell



'Louie'

**22nd December 2001 -  
18th February 2012**

## To Hire Chitterne's Village Hall

Looking for a venue to hold a party, meeting or seminar?

*Chitterne's Village Hall could be just the place - it's a characterful, large, but flexible space. It has excellent facilities, including a well equipped kitchen.*

For more information on prices etc check out [www.chitterne.com](http://www.chitterne.com) and click on 'Village Hall'. You do not have to live in Chitterne to hire the hall.

To book the Village Hall call Doris Windsor on 850288 or email Gillian Nolan on [nolan545@btinternet.com](mailto:nolan545@btinternet.com).

## Pitts House Annual Charity Plant Sale

Now that winter is nearly over, it is time to remind everyone that the annual Plant Sale will be held this year at Pitts House on Saturday 19th May.

This year's Plant Sale will again be in aid of our village Church and Jack's Place (Registered Charity No: 1002832).

Jack's Place is part of Naomi House Hospice in Sutton Scotney, Hampshire and is specifically for young adults. It provides a range of services to help to relieve families from the day-to-day pressures of looking after a young person with a life-limiting condition. We were thrilled to be able to donate to them last year and hope that we can raise even more this year.

The Plant Sale would not be possible without all the wonderful support from the villagers with green fingers. Thank you so much in advance for all your hard work - and happy planting!

More news nearer the time too about the excellent cake stall and raffle.

Many thanks.  
Emma Walters  
850416

## The First Long Altar Rail is Finished!

The Stitchers are proud to announce that the first of the two long Altar Rail Kneelers has been finished.

The project is part of the celebrations of the 150th Anniversary of our Parish Church, Chitterne All Saints, which occurs in November this year. The Kneeler Project has attracted much attention, both locally and further afield, and has even been featured in a BBC Wiltshire radio programme.



Photo: The Altar Rail Kneelers 'in production' during 2011's Wylde Valley Art Trail (photo: Sue Robinson's blogsite - [www.suerobinson.me.uk](http://www.suerobinson.me.uk))

## Church Cleaning and Flower Rota

|  |                            |                  |
|--|----------------------------|------------------|
| Mar 11                                       | Davina Toole/Gillian Nolan | Lent, no flowers |
| Mar 18/25                                    | Nicola Horsfall            | Lent, no flowers |
| ****Mar 29 Clean by All****                  |                            |                  |
| ****Apr 8 Easter Sunday - Flowers by All**** |                            |                  |
| Apr 15/22                                    | Virginia Pryor             | Clean & flowers  |
| Apr 29                                       | Davina Toole/Gillian Nolan | Clean & flowers  |

## Chit-Chat next issue

All contributions for the April issue by last week of March, by hand, CD, USB stick or email to: [chitchat12@btinternet.com](mailto:chitchat12@btinternet.com), tel: 850016 or at Well Cottage.

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 and the monthly issue you want. You will need Adobe Acrobat to read them. Downloads may take a few minutes.