

Chit-Chat

Parish Newsletter
for the residents of
Chitterne, Wiltshire

Editor: Barry Ricketts, Stable Cottage, 24 Townsend, 01895 850884

No 2, October 2005

PARISH COUNCIL NEWS



Jeanne George

At a coffee morning in the village hall on 14th Sep, the chairman of the Council made a present to Jeanne George. It took the form of a farewell card signed by a cross section of the village and a book token. This was a small gesture, from all the residents of Chitterne, in recognition of her devoted service to us all in editing the Parish newsletter for the past 21 years. We wish her a happy retirement with no deadlines to meet.

Recycling

As you will all be aware it is an imperative that we recycle more of our rubbish. The Parish council and the Village Hall committee have been investigating the way forward for the village and are continuing to do so. It has been agreed that there is no viable site for the bins in the village, other than where they are at the moment. For the immediate future we have asked the contractors to alter their collection times so that they are done after 9 am and not at the present anti social hour. You may have seen in the Wiltshire Times of 26th August that the District Council is continuing with the roll out of its individual boxes to each household with a completion date next year. We have been assured that the scheme will include Chitterne and could be in place as early as next spring. It will mean that your recycleable material will be collected one week and the remainder of your household rubbish the next.

BT payphone

We have agreed that the payphone on the village green will become cashless and operate by card only. All emergency numbers will remain free as at present.

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CHITTERNE'S SUPER SUNDAY

Sunday September 18th was Chitterne's 'Super Sunday' with Harvest Festival, a Harvest Festival Lunch in the village hall, a spirited last cricket match of the season - with a President's eleven facing the village team - and an end-of-season barbecue organised by the cricket club in the Kings Head.

All the events were extremely well supported (even, appropriately, a small Field Mouse turned out to watch the cricket, much to the delight of the younger spectators!)

As ever, the church was beautifully decorated to a harvest theme, and a mural by the nursery school children featured Eric Babey of Chitterne Farm, with his big blue tractor, (no sign of Patch the dog though). The Rural Dean, the Rev. Simon Wilkinson



officiated in a light-hearted service that involved the many children in attendance. Young Deborah Carpenter had a sparkling debut as organist for the day, turning in a wonderful performance despite slight confusion about the hymns.

Lunch in the village hall proved highly popular with young and old and the deliciously prepared menu included cottage pie or kedgerree and a mouth-watering selection of puds. Some of us even had seconds!

How better could the afternoon be spent, following such a splendid lunch, than watching cricket? A rousing match was staged between Club and President's elevens, resulting in a win for the Club (See P. 4 for more Cricket Club news).

After an excellent tea, the younger members of Chitterne society reluctantly proceeded to bed, while the remainder



prepared for a barbecue in the Kings Head in aid of the cricket club funds.

An excellent day's activity and a great credit to its many hard-working organisers.

SERVICES AT ALL SAINTS IN OCTOBER

Sunday, 2nd October	08.45 am	Holy Communion (BCP)
Sunday, 9th October	10.00 am	Group Service and Baptism
Sunday, 16th October	10.00 am	Family Service
Sunday, 23rd October	08.45 am	Holy Communion (CW)
Sunday, 30th October	10.00 am	Team Service

UP ON THE PLAIN - ARMY ACTIVITIES, OCTOBER

October will be another very busy month on the Plain. The International Validation Trial mentioned last month will not finish until the 6th of October. The following week sees the Firepower Demonstration on the Imber Ranges which will involve fast jets and artillery whilst at the same time the Annual Demonstration for the Staff College will be taking place on the East - also with artillery and fast jets. While this is happening HQ 3 Commando Brigade and 42 Commando RM will be exercising elsewhere on the East - using the new Viking personnel carrier here for the first time. A brigade level exercise, Ex Loyal Leger starts on October 20th. This involves 19 Light Brigade and 101 Logistic Brigade initially with only two battle groups here on the Plain, supported by a large logistic element but culminating during the last week and the 1st and 2nd of November in a full-scale brigade level exercise. This is the brigade's main training effort before it assumes the UK's contribution to the new NATO Reaction Force.

Live firing

Normal live firing takes place from 0830 - 170hrs daily, but may continue throughout the night - normally on Tuesdays and Thursdays only. Noise may be greater in certain areas depending upon the atmospheric conditions at the time. Dates and locations are subject to change:

- Artillery firing from Salisbury Plain (West): 7, 8, 10, 11, 12, 13.
- Late firing days on Salisbury Plain (West): *Nil*
- Heat firing days on Salisbury Plain (West): *Nil*
- Artillery live firing days from areas 7 & 8: *Nil*
- Artillery firing from Salisbury Plain (East): 10, 11, 12, 13.
- Late firing from Salisbury Plain (East): *Nil*
- Late firing days Larkhill/West-down Ranges: 4, 6, 11, 13, 18, 20, 22, 25, 27.
- Non-firing days on Larkhill/West-down danger area: 1, 2, 15, 16, 29, 30.
- Non-firing days, Bulford Ranges: 1, 2, 15, 16, 22, 23, 29, 30.
- Non-firing days, Warminster Ranges: 1, 2, 15, 16, 29, 30.

Note

Due to unforeseen changes there is always a possibility that there could

be firing on days other than those listed. This is particularly so now that operational training is being conducted to meet many and varied exigencies. The public should be careful to check that Red Flags are not flying before they enter the range. It is the time of year when we change late night firing times. From March through to October, the Tuesday, Thursday and Saturday night firing days will revert back to 2330hrs.

AIR ACTIVITIES

Dates and times which follow were accurate at the time of printing, but may be altered due to aircraft seviceability or weather conditions.

Helicopter night flying

Night flying will normally take place Mondays to Thursdays inclusive over parts of the training area, dependent upon weather and the availability of range space. In some cases the aircraft will show no lights but will operate under strict area control.

Aircraft trials

Aircraft may conduct trials over Larkhill Range on each Wednesday and Friday from 1200 to 1700hrs which could involve circuits to the East crossing the Avon Valley.

Parachuting

Parachute dropping is scheduled

to take place on Everleigh and Fox Covert DZs during normal working hours on most weekdays. Outside working hours and at weekends the dates and approximate times are:

- Fox Covert DZ (C130)
Oct 06, 1700-2300hrs
- Everleigh DZ (C130)
Oct 04, 1600 -1800hrs
Oct 12, 2200 - 2355hrs
Oct 14, 2200 - 2330hrs
Oct 17, 2200 - 2330hrs
Oct 19, 1700 - 2359hrs
Oct 20, 1630 - 0230hrs
Oct 22, 0245 - 0345hrs
Oct 26, 1630 - 2330hrs
Oct 27, 1600 - 2230hrs

Striplandings

- Upavon
Oct 28, 1645 - 1745hrs
- Deptford Down (C130) *Nil*

Fighter ground attack

- Oct 03, 1800 - 2300hrs SPTA(W)
- Oct 05, 1800 - 2300hrs SPTA(W)
- Oct 10, 1300 - 1500hrs SPTA(W)
- Oct 11, 0900 - 1600hrs SPTA(W&E)
- Oct 12, 0900 - 1600hrs SPTA(W&E)
- Oct 13, 0900 - 1600hrs SPTA(W&E)
- Oct 31, 0900 - 2000hrs SPTA(W,C&E)

Complaints

Specific complaints about army training may be telephoned through to 01980 620819 at any time.

Coming Attractions

- The village hall Open House continues on the second Wednesday of each month. Next one - 12th October at 10.30 am .
- Saturday November 5th, a White Elephant Sale and Coffee Morning - bargains at rock bottom prices
- Friday December 9th, Christmas Party. Details in November *ChitChat*.

Lost & Found

- A mortice key found in Back Road by Jane Harley. Can be collected from the Editor, Barry Ricketts, Stable Cottage, 24 Townsend.

UP ON THE PLAIN, NATURE NOTES, OCTOBER

As I write this in early September the temperatures are like mid-summer, there are abundant butterflies and huge numbers of flowers. It is hard to imagine that frosts are just around the corner, but no doubt October will be real autumn. This is the last contribution to the newsletter which I will be writing as I retire from the MOD at the beginning of October after 6 years in my post. Time certainly flies.

(I am sure I speak for all Chitterne residents in wishing Lieut. Col De Coubert a very long and happy retirement. His informative nature notes have been a source of pleasure to many. Ed.)

October can be a great month on the Plain with a wealth of wildlife to be found. As long as it has not been too dry there should be plenty of fungi with a wide variety found in the grassland and even more in the older woodlands. Many of these are edible but it is essential to know just what species you have found before eating anything. One of the best ways of learning about fungi is to go on a 'Foray', many of which are organised by local wildlife groups. I can give details of one in mid-October for anyone who is interested and for others you can contact your local Wildlife Trust.

Autumn migrations

The autumn birds are interesting too with the Redwing and Fieldfare arriving from the north and the last of the summer visitors, Swallows and House Martins in particular, preparing to depart for warmer climes. Finch flocks with Chaffinches, Linnets and Goldfinches the most prominent will be gathering on corn stubbles along with Yellowhammers and corn buntings. Stone Curlews will still be here gathered together in flocks before leaving later for winter quarters and the first Hen Harriers should be here hunting over the surrounding farmland before roosting on the longer grass on the Plain for the night.

Letter to the Editor from Joan Robertson, Glebe House.

There is a Chitterne rumour that endless summer traffic will come through the village until we have a tunnel at Stonehenge. Could we, now, look at the truth.

The tunnel discussed at the enquiry would undoubtedly relieve the traffic jam. It would cost £470 million and take over 5 years to build. First suggested in 1994, it has taken 11 years to get to find it is too expensive.

An alternative suggestion is a 'cut and cover' tunnel - much cheaper, but it may take another 11 years to decide and then 4 years to build. Any tunnel can affect our flooding problems.

NAME THE PICTURE:

Brian Jones of 25 Townsend correctly identified the two butterflies in last month's *ChitChat* as *Marbled White* and *Small Heath* sharing the nectar from *Meadow Scabious*. See what you make of the pre-historic monsters below:



Hedges and scrub will be hung with the fruits of Blackthorn, Hawthorn and Wayfaring Tree, Purging Buckthorn and Spindle as well as skeins of Black Bryony. Altogether an exciting month and finally, we have not received any records of Harvest Mice! I cannot believe that there are none there. Any records please to Rachel Crees at DE Weston Camp.

The cost of electricity to light the tunnel (all day and all night) would be £1.25 million every year - until the electricity company doubles the price!

The real alternative (and the cheapest) is a straightforward, 2-lane dual carriageway surface extension to the A303, by-passing Winterbourne Stoke, with fly-overs at the two roundabouts and an underpass for the A344 junction. We were offered this at the 1994 Conference at a cost of £1 million and it would be completed in 1 year!

Get started NOW and there will be only one more summer of the hellish traffic jam to endure! Joan has produced maps displayed in the village hall noticeboard. Ed.



Migrating birds gather on the overhead wires near Upper Barn before flying south for the winter.

WILDLIFE TRUST ASSISTS LOCAL CONSERVATION PROJECTS

Do you have an area in your village that could be improved for local people to enjoy? Would you like to help protect a variety of local



wildlife? Would you like to get involved in restoring or conserving an area within your town or village? If so, the Salisbury Plain Wildlife and Heritage Project can help you.

In March this year a small group of villagers from Collingbourne Ducis decided to restore an area of reclaimed land that had been left to naturalise for 30 years. They sought the advice of Nicky Warden, Wiltshire Wildlife Trust's Salisbury Plain Wildlife and Heritage Officer who visited the site and agreed to support the project. Nicky provided information about potential sources of funding and the Group has now received a small grant from *Sustain the Plain* as well as some money from the Parish Council and local businesses to get the project off the ground.

The villagers of Collingbourne Ducis are now well underway with their project, which they hope will provide a new community focus and improve social contacts for all villagers who choose to become involved.

Nicky can give wildlife management advice and help you to organise meetings, promote your project and identify sources of funding. For information about starting projects in your own parish, please contact her on 01722 792015 or email: NicolaW@wiltshirewildlife.org

THANKS!

Jeanne George wishes to thank all who contributed to her recent presentation. She will be writing!

Parish Council News, cont.

Playground

The slide is currently out of bounds as the woodwork is rotten. Please do not let your children use it until it has been repaired. Wicksteeds the makers have inspected the damage and will be quoting for repairs. At the same time they will be advising us of the costs for renewing the swings. The Parish clerk has just sent out tender documents for the grass cutting contract for the recreation ground and St Mary's chancel for the period beginning 1st April 2006. If you would be interested please let the Parish clerk know.

The Cut

We have been discussing the state of the Cut. In the first instance we need to be sure who owns what and who may be responsible for its maintenance. In principle the highways department is responsible from the road verge to the centre of the stream and the adjacent landowner for the other half. We are talking to the people concerned.

Budget 2006

At its meeting on 28th November the council will be setting its budget for 2006 and deciding what the precept should therefore be. *If you have views please come and air them at the open forum on that date or at the next Council meeting which is on Monday 17th October. Failing that lobby a Councillor.*

Painted People Perplex Parading Pooches

As has become customary, the weather Gods once again blessed Chitterne Fete and Dog Show with marvellous weather on September 4th, and a gaggle of 'foreign dogs' descended on the village to abscond with the major prizes! Surely, it's time there was a class for Chitterne Dogs only, to prevent the 'pot hunters' walking off with *all* the silver?

Brilliant business was done by stall holders, side-show operators and beer and cake stand proprietors (both manned by the Earle family - Ros would like to thank all who helped and provided cakes and Ed would like anyone who can remember what went on in the beer tent, to tell him!)

Particular thanks are due to organiser John Grace and his dedicated band of helpers and also to the Lawson family who gave so much assistance both before and during the day itself.

The magnificent sum of £1,482 was raised for the village hall, a tremendous effort which was undeterred by the mindless vandalism of those who found it amusing to cut and steal the bunting the night before the Fete.



Cricket Club: 'Another successful season and Teas a local legend!'

The Chitterne Cricket Club's winning match against the President's XI on Sunday 18 September brought to the close another successful season for the club. Not including this final match there were 9 games this season. Five were won, two were lost and two had to be abandoned due to rain. The team has played well throughout the season with some excellent individual performances.

Excellent pitch

On behalf of all players the committee would like to pass on their thanks to all those who have helped us this year including the groundsmen who have kept the pitch in excellent order and the supporters who have turned up to cheer us on.

Famous teas

And a big thank-you goes to the ladies who provide our cricket teas. These teas have gained a certain amount justifiable fame in the local area and are one of the main reasons teams are keen to come back and play the following season.

Come and join

The club is always on the lookout for new people to join and membership is open to absolutely anyone; the only requirements being to not take your cricket too seriously and to enjoy an excellent tea! Recruitment will start in earnest in the new year but should anyone wish to sign up early for 2006 they may do so by contacting the Secretary, Gareth Davies, at 16 Townsend.



CHURCH CLEANING and FLOWER ROTA

Oct 9th/16th	Mrs S Gooch (850893)	Clean & flowers
Oct 23rd/30th	Mrs M Stobie (850384)	Clean & Flowers/ 13th Remembrance
Nov 6th/13th	Mrs S Gooch (850893)	Sunday, poppies

Chit-Chat next issue

The November issue of Chit-Chat will go to press during the week commencing Monday 23rd October. All contributions by hand, floppy disc, or email to: barry.ricketts@btinternet.com, tel: 850884 or 'over the stable door' at 24 Townsend (Stable Cottage).