



Chit Chat

Parish Newsletter for the residents of Chitterne, Wiltshire
No. 137 April 2018

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Editor's Ramblings

Every so often when I am sitting down trying to piece this newsletter together and discover that the final piece doesn't fit and I have to rejig the whole thing, I think, why do I bother; would anyone really notice if they never got it? Then, out of the blue, I got a phone call from a lovely man, who used to live in the village, wanting to know why March's Chit Chat was not on the web site. He likes to keep up to date with what is happening here and was just wondering what had happened! Of course nothing had happened, apart from the fact that I had totally forgotten to send it to Andy to put on the website - I had a very busy few weeks! Now that's why I do it and I thank John for his timely reminder.

We've just returned from Northern Ireland and missed all the snow and the excitement it brought to Chitterne. We had our own excitement, as we went to my niece's wedding on St Patrick's Day. Of course there was the other excitement that day; something to do with a game that plays with a strange shaped ball; but I shall say no more, apart from the fact that everyone at the wedding was extremely happy, apart from my poor, dear husband!!

CALAMITY IN BACK LANE



Many thanks to Barry for the photographs.



They say that every picture tells a story and the above pictures certainly prove that! If any of you wondered why your garden waste wasn't collected on Monday, it was because the lorry had a slight problem when driving along Back Lane. Rather than driving through the snow drift, the driver decided to 'bypass' it, not realising that there was a gully on the right hand side andoops!

CHURCH SERVICES in APRIL

| | | |
|--------------------------------|--|------------------------------|
| Sunday 1st Easter Day | 6am Dawn Service Orcheston 9.30am Easter Communion Shrewton 9.30am Easter Communion Tilshead 11am Easter Communion Chitterne 11am Easter Communion Orcheston | Virginia P, Veronica & Carol |
| Sunday 8th Easter 2/Low Sunday | 1030 Family Communion Chitterne | Virginia P, Veronica & Carol |
| Sunday 15th Easter 3 | 9am Morning Prayer Orcheston 1030 HC Shrewton 6pm HC (BCP) Tilshead | Virginia P, Veronica & Carol |
| Sunday 22nd Easter 4 | 9am HC (BCP) Chitterne 1030 Family Communion Orcheston 4pm Family Service (CW) Shrewton | Virginia P, Veronica & Carol |
| Sunday 29th Easter 5 | 1030 Benefice Service Orcheston | Virginia P, Veronica & Carol |

Should anyone wish to contact the Rector, The Rev Eleanor Rance, please phone 01980 620580

ARMY ACTIVITIES TRAINING

After a busy March, activity on the Plain will be significantly reduced in April. There are three mechanised company groups with warriors and a squadron of CVRT, deployed across the plain at varying times in the first three weeks. From 21st April to 4th May there is **Exercise Joint Warrior**, a large air assault exercise with four parachute drops on the various Dropping Zones across the plain and lots of aviation in support. The Battalion is supported by a Dutch armour Battle Group with American tracked M113s. **The key days are 28th - 30th April**, where the Battle Group is moving from West to East and back again. The public should be aware that tank crossings over the A360, A345, A338, B390, and the C22 (Tilshead to Chitterne) roads will be very busy and if conditions are wet mud clearance parties will be working on the crossings. In dry weather conditions dust clouds may produce a hazard at these crossings. Notice is given that the training areas in the Copehill Down and Bourne Valley (SPTA East) areas will be heavily used by tracked and wheeled armoured vehicles over this period and that recreational use of the Salisbury Plain military lands is to be restricted to public rights of way only as per the byelaws.

Please report all concerns to the Complaints Help Desk on 01980 620819 in the first instance.

IMBER RANGES

The public are excluded at all times, except when the roads are specifically opened. Planned opening dates for Easter are as follows:

| | Open | Closed |
|---------------|-----------------------|----------------------|
| EASTER | 1800hrs Thur 29 March | 0800hrs Tue 03 April |

BYELAW GOVERNANCE – Antisocial Behaviour

Parish members are encouraged to report all illegal activity on Salisbury Plain to the Wiltshire Police. If **serious crime is experienced then 999** should be dialled, and for all other reports including: illegal off-roading, illegal motor biking, drone use, poaching, hare coursing, petty theft, camping on MoD land, kite flying please **call 101 and list the call as 'antisocial behaviour'** and a Byelaw violation. **Once reported please inform Range control on the Plainwatch number: 01980 674700 or email PLAINWATCH@landmarc.mod.uk**



News from the King's Head

Well, the 'Beast from the East' certainly made its presence felt in Chitterne for March. We were busy after sledging and snow clearing, as quite a lot of people had long weekends with not being able to get to work.

The darts nights are still going well, as are the quiz nights. Darts are on Tuesday evenings, so if you fancy a go, just pop in.

Thanks to Rachel for using the pub for the W.I. Get Together on Tuesday 27th March.

Quiz Nights for April will be posted up in the pub, so please call in.

Hope to see you soon.

*Kenton & Sue
850770*



ROYAL WEDDING

Saturday 19th May

Village Hall

Tickets £5 (incl. free glass of bubbly)

Restricted to 50

The Village Hall Committee are organising an event to celebrate the forthcoming Royal Wedding. This will be shown on a big screen and food will be provided & a donation bar will be available. Timings will be announced in May's Chit Chat.

Tickets available from Pam Kent - 851785

Elston Veterinary Clinic



**Elston Lane
Shrewton**

We care for your pets!

Professional, friendly,
and fully equipped,
we specialise in companion
animals.

All our patients are treated
like one of the family

01980-621999

Village Hall AGM

*Thursday 10th May
6pm in Village Hall*



**NOT TOO SHABBY
NOT TOO CHIC**

**GIVING FURNITURE A
NEW LIFE**

**ON SALE AT THE KING'S
HEAD**

Pop in during
opening times for a
look



IAN CUTLER



**KINDLING &
SEASONED HARD
WOOD LOGS FOR SALE**

**01985 850408
07753466869
6 Abdon Close**

EMMA COLE



**ACUPUNCTURE &
other Chinese
therapies**

01985 850928

Following the three part piece on the Warminster Maltings I have arranged an evening visit to the Maltings on Wednesday 30th May, leaving the

Village Hall at 6.30pm. The numbers are limited to 26 and before the guided tour we will be given a buffet supper and supply of Warminster Gold Ale. I will also put the detail out on "Pete Net" as a reminder. It will have to be on a first come first served basis. There is a **charge of £17.50 per head plus the cost of a mini bus** from the Village Hall. In the first instance please apply to mistermuzzamurray@gmail.com or bang on my door. It is a fascinating visit just to see this wonderful piece of Victorian industrial history let alone the skill involved in producing some of the best malt in the world.

FARMING NEWS by Murray Kent

It's back to basics this month and a reminder of what is happening on livestock farms all around the country this spring time.



In the livestock sector farmers and farm staff will be busy preparing to turn their stock out to grass if they have been housed for the winter. This particularly applies to dairy farmers and any beef producer fattening his cattle indoors ready to be finished on the lush spring grass. The main priorities are to fertilise the pasture, harrow it to remove dead grass and mole hills and then roll it with a heavy roller which not only ensures any dirt does not get into the sward during hay and silage making but also helps to retain moisture later on in the year. The fertiliser would be a straight nitrogenous one that is normally applied as a prill (pellet) or sometimes as a liquid. The next important operation is to check the fencing to ensure there are no straying animals on the roads or in neighbours gardens. The average life of a good stock fence is around 15 years so it's a bit like the Forth Bridge. Once there is a good "bite" of grass for the stock and the weather is fine, they can be turned out. It is probably one of the most pleasing sights seeing cattle turned out in spring. Even the oldest of cows will charge around like a young calf, cavorting and kicking its legs in the air, snorting with delight. With dairy cows, the turn will be rationed so as not to upset their digestive system and overload them with lush grass that can cause deficiencies and health problems. Beef cattle don't carry the same risk and are usually turned out and stay out. On most dairy farms there is usually a small increase in milk yield when the cows are turned out and in the West Country especially, milk production systems focus on producing as much milk as possible from grazing. Our woolly friends are not so lucky and mostly spend their winters outside clearing up the pastures after the cattle and they are renowned for their pasture improvement capabilities, although some flocks are housed prior to lambing but that's another story. All this is not something we are accustomed to around here on Salisbury Plain where there is a plentiful supply of coarse grass to over winter the cattle on and a much more extensive grazing area, hence we see cattle outside all through the winter period.

All this talk of spring has inspired me to include some rural culture I learnt at an early age.

Spring is sprung

The grass is riz

I wonder where the birdies is

The bird is on the wing

But that's absurd; the wing is on the bird.

What class to end upon. Next month what does the arable farmer get up to in the spring?

TO ALL DOG OWNERS



There is a dog poo bin along Back Lane. Within 3 metres of the bin there are FOUR dog messes. For Pete's sake please pick it up and deposit it in the bin and if you have not got a bag, have the decency to return with one and clear it up. It's not rocket science it is just common good manners and consideration to others.

Irate of Chitterne

GET WELL SOON

To anyone in the village who is not feeling very well or just feeling a little bit blue - it has been a long winter - we hope that you are soon feeling much better and able to enjoy life again. Spring is round the corner - I hope!



THANK YOU THANK YOU



The Parish Council would like to say a big thank you to all villagers who contributed to our collection for a leaving gift to Virginia Neal, our departed Parish Council Clerk. Thanks to your generosity Virginia and John will be enjoying a two night stay on the Gower Peninsular very soon, somewhere John assured us she wished to visit!

CPR/Defib Refresher Training

Thursday 10th May

7pm

Village Hall

Free wine & nibbles (healthy!)

Presentation of cheque to BHF



PLANT SALE

The annual Plant Sale will be held at Pitts House on Saturday 26th May from 10.30 – 12.00.

As you will have read in last month's Chit Chat we are supporting St Thomas à Becket CE (Aided) Primary School and raising money for the PTFA (Parent Teacher Friends Association) who regularly raise funds to help with special projects for the school. When we told them that this was what we were doing this year at our Plant Sale I received an email from the Head as follows:

We are delighted to hear that you plan to share the profit from the plant sale with us. It comes at a really good time as we are in the process of developing the strip of land at the side of the school into a wildlife garden in conjunction with the Wiltshire Wildlife Trust. We plan to spend the money on this project including purchasing insect friendly plants, a small pond to attract wildlife and also bug houses.

We look forward to letting you know how our project goes and will keep you updated.

It seems entirely appropriate to help them with this wonderful idea and I hope they will be able to purchase plants from us to get the project off to a great start!

As usual the money raised will be divided equally between them and All Saints & St Mary's Church.

At last spring seems to be upon us and with the lighter evenings I hope that some of us will be in the garden getting seeds underway. Any help would be much appreciated! We will also have our usual raffle and fantastic cake stall.

Once again thanks so much for all your help and support.

Emma Walters
850416



WELCOME

To anyone who has recently moved into the village, may I extend a huge

welcome on behalf of all villagers.

One of the best pieces of advice we were given when we moved here was, for the first year, to go to everything that was happening and then after that, decide what we really enjoyed and do it again the following year. If you just go on what someone recommends you may miss out on something that is fantastic.

We have an excellent email system which keeps us up to date with day to day life in the village. If you wish to be included in this, please contact Pete (aka Hawthorn Pete) at jp_monte@btinternet.com

APRIL DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

GREEN BIN DATES

Monday 2nd & 16th



DARTS

King's Head

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

8pm for 8.30pm start



Breakfast Club

Saturday 7th

0930 - 1130

Village Hall



Come along for a bacon butty, toast, or an egg butty and a mug of tea or coffee. Other goodies may be on offer if the village 'Mary Berry' has had time! If you are new to the village, this is a great place to meet your fellow villagers.

ANZAC

COMMEMORATIONS



ANZAC Day will be commemorated by a Service in the Codford St Mary Cemetery at 06.30 am on Wednesday 25th April.

Everyone is welcome. Park in the High Street only and walk up to Cemetery. There will be off-road overflow space available in the paddock at No 55 which will be signposted.

A Gunfire Breakfast will be served at 7.00 am in Codford Village Hall.

Tickets are on sale at the Post Office Counter, Budgens Store, Codford, from 30 March at a cost £6.00 for adults. (Children eat free). Please pick up tickets early as we are expecting a large attendance as this year is the centenary.

WOOLSTORE CODFORD

Wednesday 4th

Film Stars Don't Die in Liverpool (15)

The story is based on the memoir by British actor Peter Turner and follows the playful but passionate relationship between Turner and the eccentric Academy Award-winning actress Gloria Grahame. First meeting in theatrical digs in London, the legendary femme fatale and her young lover share a passionate relationship for a time but then drift apart. Years later she collapses while on tour in the North of England, and turns to her one-time lover for help and support. He takes her home to Liverpool to his parents to be looked after.

Tickets - £6 - on sale at the Post Office counter in Budgens, Codford
Doors open 7pm with the film commencing at 7.30pm

HOUSEHOLD WASTE DATES

Thursday 12th & 26th

STITCHING GROUP



We meet in the Village Hall on **Friday 13th & 27th at 1030**. We are a friendly bunch of ladies who have a common love of stitching but we are equally happy to have a coffee and a chat. This is another way of meeting other villagers.

QUIZ NIGHTS

King's Head Pub

For dates, either
pop into the pub
or phone

8.00pm for 8.30pm start

Winning team receives a £20 voucher to spend on drinks Don't worry if you haven't got a team, as there is always a 'waifs & strays' who will be more than happy to join you.



PLOUGHMAN'S & PUD



Saturday 28th April

1230

Village Hall

Tickets £7.50

Raffle (of course!)

This year The Labrador Rescue Trust celebrates 30 years this year and to mark the occasion in our Labrador in Need Week at the end of April, the above is taking place.

Lilian Hopton

BLACK BOX & BLUE BIN DATES

Thursday 5th & 19th

LIBRARY VAN

The next date is **Friday 6th** and this replaces the scheduled 30th March visit. The following date is **Friday 27th**. The van parks outside the Village Hall from 1120 - 1140.

For those of you who are new to the village, this is a great facility. There are books for everyone, including children.



Sunday 29th



Just to let you know that there is a cycle event going through the village on this day and they are using the Village Hall as a water stop.

Chit Chat next issue

All contributions for the May issue by **Tuesday 24th April** by hand or email to: chitchat.39@gmail.com
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 Reader.