

Chit Chat

Parish Newsletter for the
residents of Chitterne, Wiltshire
No. 146 February 2019

Editor: Lindsay Lucas, Chapel Cottage, 01985 850058 - chitchat.39@gmail.com

DON'T SAY YOU DIDN'T KNOW!

The Village Hall Committee has planned the events for the year and decided to let you know now, so you can put them in your diaries. Hopefully there will be something that appeals to you and we'll see you there.

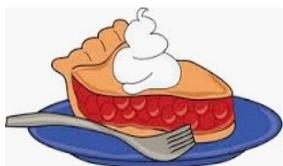
As you will see we are resurrecting the Produce Show, so as now is the time when you are planning your vegetable plot, we thought it was a good idea to indicate what the categories for vegetables are. There will be other classes, which we will let you know about later.

PRODUCE SHOW CLASSES VEGETABLES

1. Potatoes
2. Root vegetables
3. Garlic
4. Marrow or squash
5. Tomatoes
6. Onions
7. Bunch of 4 herbs
8. Any salad greens
9. Any other vegetable
10. Collection of 4 vegetables
11. Pot grown vegetable

Pudding Club

Saturday 23rd March



AGM

Thursday 16th May



Fireworks Display

Sunday 3rd November



Produce Show (am) &
Hoe Down (pm)

Saturday 14th Sept



Christmas Capers
Saturday 7th Dec



CHURCH SERVICES in FEBRUARY

| | | |
|---------------------------|---|------------------|
| Sunday 3rd Candlemas | 9am HC (CW) Orcheston 1030 Family Communion Tilshead 5pm Bible Study & Prayers Chitterne | Beccy & Marcelle |
| Sunday 10th 4 before Lent | 9am HC (BCP) Shrewton 1030 Family Communion Chitterne | Beccy & Marcelle |
| Sunday 17th 3 before Lent | 4pm Evensong (BCP) Tilshead 9am Morning Prayer Orcheston 1030 Holy Communion Shrewton | Beccy & Marcelle |
| Sunday 24th 2 before Lent | 4pm HC (BCP) Tilshead 9am HC (BCP) Chitterne 1030 Family Communion Orcheston 4pm Family Service Shrewton | Beccy & Marcelle |

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

ARMY ACTIVITIES

TRAINING

After a quiet January, February sees a large increase in troop numbers across SPTA. 1 February to 8 March sees the Field Training Unit running Exercise WESSEX STORM for light protective mobility infantry role which will use extensive areas across the Plain. The Field Training Unit will also be live firing from 15-21 February in the west, in areas 1-4. The Royal School of Artillery and Land Warfare Centre are running their usual phase 3 training courses with Armoured Ex TEAM SPIRIT and EX COMBAT TEAM deploying in the 2nd and 3rd weeks respectively. On most days there are over 30 separate units on the plain in any one day.

The public should be aware that tank crossings and bridge 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. Notice is also given that the training areas in Copehill Down and the Bourne Valley (SPTA East) will be heavily used over this period and that recreational use of the Salisbury Plain military lands in these areas are 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.



PUB NEWS

January seems to have flown by; February is here! Chitterne's own microclimate seems to have confused a lot of the plants and bulbs around the pub garden and in the boxes. They seem to think that spring is here!

It was nice to see so many people and horses around for the Hunt Meet at the pub. I hear a good day was had by all.

Darts nights are still going well, as well as the Quiz nights. If you have not come to a darts night for a friendly game, they are on every Tuesday evening. The next Quiz Nights are on 8th & 22nd February.

Note for your diary - the pub will be closed from Saturday 23rd February until Tuesday 5th March, when there will be the usual darts.

Hope to see you soon.

Kenton & Sue

Speeding in Chitterne



Over some months now, the Parish Council has received verbal complaints about villagers breaking both 20 and 30 mph speeding regulations in Chitterne. Clearly, this is not acceptable behaviour and the Council has discussed the matter at some length with the police to try to rectify the situation.

We have received assurances that the police will step up their random speed checks in the village, and will take action if names, registration numbers and time and dates of offences are reported to them by witnesses.

Please report any such incidents, either via the Parish Clerk (chitternepc@gmail.com) or by phoning 101 on the day of the incident.



DID YOU KNOW?



A mobile NatWest bank visits Warminster every Friday from 1.30pm-2.15pm. It is parked in the Central Car Park and carries out all business of a normal branch. (Thanks to Lillian for that piece of information)



Hello Members
Please join us for our first formal WI Annual Meeting.
Expect some formal stuff and some fun stuff, but nothing stuffy.
Your Voice.
Your Vote.
Your WI. ☺
See you there!

Across the Plain WI Annual Meeting

Tuesday 5th February 2019

7.30pm Chitterne Village Hall

Agenda

1. Wiltshire Federation WI Briefing
2. ATP WI Committee Election
3. ATP Annual Meeting Business
 - 2018 Annual Report
 - FY18 Financial Statement
 - President's Address
 - Plans for 2019
3. ATP WI President Election
4. Feedback, Fun & Fizz



This specific event is for WI Members only.

theWI | ... Across the Plain WI ...
INSPIRING WOMEN * Live a little * Laugh a lot * Do some good *
Supporting villages from across Salisbury Plain, Wiltshire email: acrosstheplainwi@gmail.com



It's that time of year again!

IAN CUTLER

KINDLING & SEASONED LOGS FOR SALE

01985 850408

07753466869

6 Abdon Close

FACTOIDS Pete Sawyers suggested including these as, 'the odd snippets of interesting information'. Many thanks

There are more vending machines in Japan than people in New Zealand Vicks VapoRub is illegal in Japan, Greece and Singapore

Fort Blunder, built by the US in 1816 to defend itself from Canada, was accidentally built in Canada

Aibophobia is the fear of palindromes! (Look at it very carefully!)



FLOOD WARDEN'S REPORT

The water table actually receded during the last 2 weeks according to the telemetry reports for Chitterne Down from the Environment Agency.

The reports are sketchy at the moment owing to the continuing works at the pumping station, but the situation is encouraging at the moment.

Let's see what February brings with the forecast snow. Watch this space.

Murray Kent

I love this village! You may remember that in last month's Chit Chat I put in a request for, 'the odd snippets of interesting information which I can use when there is not much village news'. The lovely Tana Knyvett hotfooted it to my door with a suggestion of 'having a chat' with some of our villagers and writing up a short article to share with everyone. It was decided she would approach Alan Sprack first and thankfully he agreed and the result follows. Hopefully, in the future, there will be other villagers who are happy to share their interesting lives with us all. Many thanks Tana & Alan.

TALKING HEADS NO 1 A CHAT WITH ALAN SPRACK



What immediately strikes you about Alan is his fine stature and his smiling features which belie his 83 years. We sat in his warm and cosy sitting room while he talked to me about his life in Chitterne since 1963.

He first came to work as a farm foreman for M R Walker Ltd, who farmed a thousand acres in and around Chitterne and initially lived in No 3 WD Cottages, since renamed Brook Walk, before moving to Brook Cottage a few years later. He worked for them for 20 years and, when Michael Walker's farm went under, he was able to stay on in Chitterne and continue to use the workshop for his welding.

In the evenings he taught basic welding to lads sponsored by the Agricultural Training Board. He also recalls the students from Australian and New Zealand agricultural colleges who came to England on working holidays. One of their jobs was to look after the grain dryer in the big barn up the road from Alan's house, which had to be kept going day and night. He remembers them doing the Haka on the concrete every morning and he still keeps in touch with one or two of them. Alan's impressive talents can be seen around the village – most notably the millennium gates by the church and his remarkable "steam engine" barbecue as well as a host of projects for other members of the village. He still does a bit of welding but had to scale down a few years ago due to ill health. He remembers using the forge at Flint House, which also included an engine-driven saw with saw-pit where Walnut Tree bungalow now is.

Very much a part of Alan's life is Maureen, whom he met aged 21 at the Shanklin Youth Club on the Isle of Wight, after a spell as a regular in the Royal Engineers. They have been married for 58 years and have a daughter and 2 grandsons. I learnt that she looks after him very well but that he does all the vacuuming! He grows the parsnips he's so fond of and keeps chickens – now down to just 6. For me one of the joys of Spring is seeing the wild flowers which he grows outside his cottage and which he assures me he intends to cultivate.

This is not the first time Alan has been interviewed. He was approached by the Country Ways TV programme, who visited him in his workshop and watched him welding a weather-vane. Alan invited the team back for lunch cooked on his splendid barbecue; they were so impressed by it (and the food) that it featured in the broadcast.

I am sure Alan could regale us with more stories about the village but these talks are predominantly about the individual. What a pleasure it was to learn more about this particular villager.

DOROTHY HOUSE HOSPICE SHOP, WARMINSTER



If anyone would like to volunteer to help out in the Dorothy House Shop in Three Horseshoes Mall, Warminster, please telephone the Manageress, Debbie Earle on 01985 215101. Any time you may be able to give would be much appreciated. I have been doing half a day a week for many years and thoroughly enjoy myself. It is a very friendly shop with a good atmosphere.

Virginia Pryor

(The shop raises money to support the Hospice at Winsley, near Bradford on Avon)

BABYSITTER

Hi I'm Hannah and I am 17 years old, I would like to offer a baby sitting service to anyone in Chitterne. I have had lots of experience with children from newborn up. I can provide a reference if anyone would like to see it. I charge £5 per hour before midnight and £6 pounds per hour after midnight.

Contact me on 01985850455



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 and then decide what we enjoyed, rather than take the advice of others; you might just miss a treat!

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

FEBRUARY DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

LIBRARY VAN

Friday 1st

Outside the Village Hall
from 1120 - 1140.

This is a great asset for our village and is well worth a visit. There are books for everyone, including children. There is a lift for those of us who have problems with the high step and a hearing loop.



WOOLSTORE

CODFORD

Wednesday 6th

THE CHILDREN ACT (12A)

As her marriage to Jack flounders, eminent High Court judge Fiona Maye has a life-changing decision to make at work – should she force a teenage boy, Adam, to have the blood transfusion that will save his life? Her unorthodox visit to his hospital bedside has a profound impact on them both, stirring strong new emotions in the boy and long-buried feelings in her.

Tickets - £6 - on sale at the Post Office counter in Budgens, Codford

Doors open 7pm with the film commencing at 7.30pm



FUTURE DATE FOR DIARIES



We are reprising the popular (and yummy) Pudding Club on **Saturday March 23rd** with classes for all - male/female/ girls and boys and a special "Free

From" category. Prizes for all winners and lush puddings for all to eat. Full details in March ChitChat.

STITCHING GROUP

Friday 1st

1030 in Village Hall



BLACK BOX & BLUE BIN

DATES

Thursday 7th & 21st

Breakfast Club

Saturday 2nd

0930 - 1130

Village Hall



Come along for a bacon butty, toast, or an egg butty and a mug of tea or coffee.

You may be lucky and find that our very own 'Mary Berry' will have baked some of her delicious buns, if she has time.

Save The Date



Chit Fest

Celebrating 20 Years of the Village Hall

Live Music, Bar, Food and Kids Entertainment
Saturday 6th July 2019
Watch this space for further information

QUIZ

NIGHTS

Friday 8th

& 22nd

King's Head

8.00pm for 8.30pm start

A good fun evening



GREEN BIN

Monday 4th & 18th



HOUSEHOLD WASTE

DATES

Thursday 14th & 28th

KINGS HEAD CLOSED

Saturday 23rd - Tuesday 5th March



Well that will teach me! I knew I shouldn't have complained about

Mike's cough, as I woke up on New Year's Day with everything but the kitchen sink thrown at me! Thankfully I am much better but that little tickle still lingers on and at times I sound as if I am on 30 a day! To anyone else who is still suffering, roll on spring, or a long stretch of cold weather to kill the bugs, or is that just an old wives' tale?

To anyone who is still unwell, let's hope you will soon be feeling much better. Remember, there is always someone who can help, should you need it.

ACROSS THE PLAIN

WI

Village Hall

Tuesday 5th (see inside)

7.30pm

FLOWER FESTIVAL MEETING



Calling everyone who would like to help with our Flower Festival (the more the merrier) to a meeting in

the Church on Saturday, 23rd February at 10.30 am.

Hope you are able to make it, but if there are any problems, please phone Becky Parker on 850023 or Helen Carter on 850925.

THE FLOWER FESTIVAL WILL BE HELD ON THE WEEKEND OF 29/30th JUNE

DARTS

King's Head

Tuesday 5th, 12th, & 19th

8pm for 8.30pm start



Chit Chat next issue

All contributions for the March issue by **Sunday 20th February** 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.