

Chit Chat

Parish Newsletter for the
residents of Chitterne, Wiltshire
No.134 January 2018

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The following was given to me by George UW, as it is 100 years this month, that the incident happened. I have amended it slightly in order to fit it all in; hope I haven't missed out the more important bits George.

'This is a copy of the letter which my dad typed following his swim ashore after the Raglan was sunk on Jan 18 1918 off the coast of Imbros near the entrance to the Dardenelles. I have the book describing the class of ship with lots of pictures in it. They were designed for shore bombardment, were of shallow draft and only a slow speed capability.

The Goebens and Breslau had just escaped into the open Mediterranean and were sunk an hour or two later.'

HM Hospital Ship KARAPALA, at Mudros, 26th January, 1918

Sir,

I regret to report the lost of HM Monitors RAGLAN and M28 on the 20th January, 1918 under the following circumstances:-

At 0534 LIZARD rounded Welcome Point making the signal "Cruiser and Battle Cruiser in sight". At the same time BRESLAU was seen rounding Grafton Point firing at LIZARD, Drifter ANCHOR OF HOPE 2295 and Drifter SUPERNAL 3244. Emergency was made. As I considered that the BRESLAU did not for the moment see the RAGLAN, I gave orders to the six inch gun not to open fire at once in order to wait for the turret. A few minutes later the BRESLAU opened fire on RAGLAN using a director, the first salvo falling about a thousand yards short, the second about five hundred yards, the third about four hundred yards over. After the first BRESLAU'S salvo, the six inch gun commenced, the first round falling short. After the second salvo, the turret fired but missed astern. A spotting correction was applied but the fall of shot was not seen, as at this time one round of the BRESLAU'S fourth salvo hit the fore-top killing the Gunnery Lieutenant and wounding my Coxswain.

Just previous to this I had myself seen the GOEBENS rounding Grafton Point with her turrets trained on RAGLAN and not more than about five thousand yards away but the same shell knocked me down and I did not see her fire. The BRESLAU now fired rapid salvos and the director top was hit twice in quick succession, killing the director layer and wounding the director trainer and sight-setter. After six rounds had been fired from the six inch gun, the Officer of Quarters found that all the six inch supply party had been killed. He then fired the seventh remaining round and gave orders to the six inch gun's crew to take cover on the main deck where they remained until the order to abandon ship was given. In the engine room, after the second salvo which hit the ship, all lights went out and telephone communication was destroyed. In the next salvo one shell entered the engine room on the port side and seemed to strike the IP cylinder. All communication with the stoke-hold and dynamo room was cut off and the engine room ratings were then ordered on deck by the Engineer Officer.

As soon as both turret guns had been loaded for the second time, a shell entered through the eight inch armour and ignited the charges of both guns. Both Gunlayers, Turret Trainer and Sightsetter were probably killed on the spot. The First Lieutenant and five ratings escaped out of the turret through the back, and the First Lieutenant then seeing that the top had been badly hit, presumed that I had been killed and as no gun was now capable of being fired and the upper deck being in flames, he gave the order "Everybody over-board and swim for it". The twelve pounder magazine and shell room were ignited and blew up. This caused the ship to commence sinking by the head which put out the fires and prevented the main magazine and shell room from blowing up. After about 8 or 9 salvos from the BRESLAU, the enemy ceased firing on her and BRESLAU opened on M28 who had commenced firing with RAGLAN. After one short salvo she was hit and almost immediately the cordite in the nine point two magazine caught fire and burnt in one fierce flash, the ship remaining on fire. The BRESLAU then ceased firing on her and about a quarter of an hour afterwards, M28 blew up. In the meantime, the RAGLAN settled to the bottom on an even keel with the water at a level with the fore-bridge. All confidential books were sunk with the ship with the exception of those kept by the signalman on the fore-bridge.

I have the honour to be Sir,
your obedient Servant,
Broome (Commander)

CHURCH SERVICES in JANUARY

Sunday 7th Epiphany	9am HC (CW) Orcheston 1030 Family Communion Tilshead 5pm Bible Study & Prayers Chitterne	Erika
Sunday 14th Epiphany 2	9am HC (BCP) Shrewton 1030 Family Communion Chitterne 4pm Evensong (BCP) Tilshead	Vinna
Sunday 21st Epiphany 3	9am Morning Prayer Orcheston 1030 Holy Communion Shrewton 4pm HC (BCP) Tilshead	Vinna
Sunday 28th Epiphany 4/Candlemas	9am HC (BCP) Chitterne 1030 Family Communion Orcheston 4pm Family Service Shrewton	

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

ARMY ACTIVITIES

TRAINING

The range is fully operational from 8 January although the majority of staff are back on 2 January. The new Training Year will start on a very quiet note for the first two weeks with a Challenger 2 Armoured Squadron and 2 Mechanised Infantry Companies conducting low level collective training in the Centre in the East from 15 January onwards. A Brigade Headquarters is conducting a manoeuvre and communication exercise run by 3 (UK) Armd Division. The last two weeks of January see two armoured companies and two armoured squadrons, with Challenger 2 as the main users, with various courses from Warminster and Larkhill. Live firing is taking place in the centre with Light Gun, Mortars and Small Arms. There are a number of specialist FIND units out using their optical and radar detection equipment. The red flags will be down in the WEST and CENTRE until the 8 January. 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. Notice is also given that the training areas in the Copehill Down and Bourne Valley (SPTA East) areas will be heavily used 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.

BOXING DAY HUNT

At the annual Boxing Day Hunt gathering on the Sports Field, one of our own villagers was Master of the Hunt.

Alex Connell, of Townsend, took up the post of Joint Master of the RA Hunt in May 2017, a post he holds for a year. He came into the post with 20 years experience behind him. He is also secretary of the RA Hunt Point-to-Point.

Many thanks to Jan for this photo.



News from the King's Head

Christmas has now gone and a new year begins. I hope everyone had a good festive season.

On December 22nd we ran the Christmas Quiz, which is always fun. Lorna read the quiz in her great Scottish manner and Andy marked it; in the middle came The Mummings. What a great job they did again and we raised £150! Well done to everyone.

Darts Nights return to normal Tuesday evenings and the next Quiz Nights are 5th & 19th.

Hope to see you all soon and Happy New Year to everyone.

Kenton & Sue



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.

News from St Thomas à Becket School Tilshead

Amazing news! We are the only school in Wiltshire where 100% of the pupils achieved age related expectations in Reading, Writing and Maths. Nationally, out of 20840 primary schools, we are one of only 83 who achieved that 100%. A huge well done to all the children and teachers. Not only that, we are one of the four schools in Wiltshire with the highest percentage of children achieving greater depth in all subjects.



Everyone has returned refreshed and ready for another term. Our Christian value to start off the year is Thankfulness, very appropriate after all the lovely gifts received last term.

Please take a look at our fabulous new website. It can be found at <http://www.st-thomas-a-becket.wilts.sch.uk>. News and photos of events in school will be added regularly so you can see what we have been doing.

We are lucky to be supported by Dauntsey's school who provide us with specialist sports provision. This term the Children in years 4, 5 and 6 will receive football coaching and then will utilise their skills in a tournament against other local schools. These coaching sessions are of huge benefit to the children to increase their skills in addition to the PE lessons we teach within school.

We ended the term with a wonderful trip to Salisbury Playhouse. All of the children thoroughly enjoyed the day which was very generously subsidised by our fabulous PTFA.

We are lucky to have so many people that give help to us throughout the year. Particular thanks go to Roger who is always on hand to help us out with odd jobs and DIY – he has got us out of trouble at short notice on many occasion. We are also enormously grateful to Bernard who keeps the outside of our school looking great by tidying up, cutting back our hedges and sweeping the playground to keep it free of stones and leaves. We don't know what we would do without both of you.

We wish all our families and the wider community a very happy new year!

Farming News by Murray Kent

Now we are in the depth of winter you may have noticed that our local cattle are moving closer to home. There are many reasons for this but the most important reason for the stockmen is that it makes their job that much easier and quicker. It is not a lot of fun checking cattle when they are miles away on the ranges and if there is snow cover, additional fodder would have to be carted out for them. If it is really frosty the water supply becomes a problem with frozen pipes from either the mains or bowsers which means more time taken up defrosting pipes. Another important factor is preparing the fields for the next summer's hay making. The cattle, and sheep, are now consuming all the old grass and pulling the sward down tight, very similar to scarifying and final mowing of your lawn. This leaves the sward in prime condition for the onset of spring and the new flush of growth for either grazing or hay and silage making. The main downside of overwintering the cattle is the damage that can occur if the ground becomes waterlogged, think football pitch after match in heavy rain, and in the worst cases fields might need re-seeding in the spring.



The implication of having the cattle closer to home for local walkers, with or without dogs, is obvious. If they are in a field on a PUBLIC footpath or bridleway you can still walk at your own risk. It is wise to keep your dog on a lead but if you are in close proximity to the cattle and you are concerned by their behaviour, they are normally just curious, let your dog off the lead as the cattle will chase the dog, who can run faster anyway, rather than you. If a cow approaches you stand your ground and shout at it at the top of your voice, which should stop it in its tracks. The most dangerous cow is one with a new born calf as they can be very protective, and why not? The bulls we have around us are all beef breeds and are normally very docile. The fiercest bulls are Channel Island bulls, Jerseys or Guernseys but we do not have any of them or other dairy breeds near Chitterne. If you are walking through sheep, then always keep your dog up. Sheep are very timid so it is best to walk away from them at this time of the year as they could well be pregnant.

Good walking to one and all for 2018. We are so lucky and privileged to have the wonderful walks we have.

Murray Kent

FLOODING REPORT

We received one and a half inches of rain over the Christmas period which will eventually have an effect on our water table but at the moment we have an eleven metre buffer before there will be any of the Environment Agency's flood warnings issued. In the last 4 weeks the water table has risen just half a metre and the well at Hunters Yard is still bone dry.

Murray Kent

TRAFFIC MANAGEMENT

SID and his cohorts are now up and running, smiling or scowling at us. All technical issues now resolved (putting the fuse back in!). Feedback from villagers appreciated as to their impact thus far.

Murray Kent

NEW BARMAID AT THE KING'S HEAD?

For those of us who went to the King's Head on Christmas Day, to meet and wish fellow villagers 'Seasons Greetings', there was a 'sight to behold'! 'I didn't know where to look', said one lady; 'Almost put me off my beer', said a gentleman; 'Page three has nothing on that!'

So 'page three' it is! Not quite The Sun but I would hope a better quality 'newspaper'!!



Many thanks Sue for the photo. Come back Kenton, all is forgiven!

CURRY NIGHT

Saturday 27th January

7.30 pm

Village Hall



Food, drinks & raffle

This is not a charity night, just a night of good food & fun, run by the Village Hall Committee

Tickets £8.50

Available from Pam 851785 or at Breakfast Club on Saturday 6th

PLEASE NOTE THAT CHIT CHAT IS NOT GOING INTO HIBERNATION NEXT MONTH, AS STATED IN DECEMBER'S CHIT CHAT; CHANGE OF PLAN!

THANK YOU



Ashley Jewell (Pete & Jackie Bull's daughter) would like to thank everyone for their donations to the charity that she is supporting when she takes part in the London Marathon in April.



Brian & Soo Lee would like to inform everyone that due to 'gremlins' getting into their phone, they have changed their number.

It is now 851896.

The Late Raymond Poolman

I was most grateful for the people of Chitterne's support at Ray's funeral service in the church and afterwards in the Village Hall.

For all the lovely flowers, letters, messages, cards and all the donations for the Parkinson's and Mission Aviation.

For the friends who took me to Salisbury District Hospital to visit Ray for the last 3 weeks of his life.

Thank you all very much.

Freda

JANUARY DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

DARTS

King's Head

Tuesday 2nd, 9th, 16th,
23rd & 30th

8pm for 8.30pm start



HOUSEHOLD WASTE DATES

Saturday 6th &
Thursday 18th

GREEN BIN DATES

Monday 9th & 22nd



STITCHING GROUP



We meet in the Village Hall on **Friday 5th & 19th 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.

LIBRARY VAN

The next date is **Friday 5th**. The van parks **outside the Village Hall from 1140 - 1200**.

For those of you who are new to the village, this is a great facility. There are books for everyone, including children. You can easily join. Just bring along one form of ID with your name and current address, and it's FREE!



WOOLSTORE CODFORD

Wednesday 10th



THE EXCEPTION (15)

A riveting World War II thriller that is filled with espionage and romance in equal measure, it follows German soldier Stefan Brandt as he goes on a mission to investigate exiled German Monarch Kaiser Wilhelm II. The Kaiser lives in a secluded mansion in The Netherlands, and as Germany is taking over Holland, the country's authorities are concerned that Dutch spies may be watching the Kaiser. As Brandt begins to infiltrate the Kaiser's life in search of clues, he finds himself drawn into an unexpected and passionate romance with Mieke, one of the Kaiser's maids whom Brandt soon discovers is secretly Jewish. When Heinrich Himmler, Head of the SS, decides to come for an unexpected visit with a large platoon of Nazis in tow, the stage is set for a breathtaking showdown, as secrets are revealed, allegiances are tested, and Brandt is forced to make the ultimate choice between honouring his country and following his heart.

QUIZ NIGHTS

King's Head Pub

Friday 5th & 19th
8.00pm for 8.30pm
start



Winning team receives a £20 voucher to spend on drinks



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GET WELL SOON

It's that time of year again when colds and flu can start affecting us. If you are one of the unfortunate ones to suffer, let's hope it is all over quickly and doesn't develop into anything nasty.



For those of you who are having a bit of a hard time, for whatever reason, let's hope things begin to improve and you can start enjoying 2018.

Breakfast Club



Saturday 6th
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.

Curry Night tickets will be on sale.

BLACK BOX & BLUE BIN DATES

Thursday 12th & 25th

CURRY NIGHT



Saturday 27th January

Not a charity night, just an evening of good food, fun & a fabulous raffle!

Chit Chat next issue

All contributions for the February issue by **Monday 22nd January** 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.