



Chit Chat

Parish Newsletter for the
residents of Chitterne, Wiltshire
No.132 November 2017

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IT'LL SOON BE CHRISTMAS!



At the Breakfast
Club on Saturday
2nd December, the
Christmas tree will
be up but 'naked'!

A few years ago we asked you to bring
along a decoration that 'said'
something about you. With time,
some of these are now looking a little
worse for wear, so we are asking again
if you could bring along another
decoration to hang on the tree.

Many thanks, VHC

CHITTERNE ELVES/FAIRIES??

Have you ever wondered just how our village always
manages to look so amazing; so neat and tidy?



When we walk through the village we are always
amazed as to how well kept it looks. Up until now we
thought it was the Wiltshire Council who kept it like
that but, just by chance, we happened to be out one
Saturday evening and heard the pfft pfft of small
engines. Ah, we thought, someone is doing the last
mow of their lawn before winter. Then, from around
the corner, three villagers appeared, each with their
lawn mower and they were mowing the verges
alongside The Cut! They had started at Townsend
and were making their way, mowing, to the pub,
where they were going to have a well earned drink.
So that's how it's done!

We then started to think just how much more happens around us that we
assume the Council does. It appears to be quite a lot and we are ashamed to
say that we never realised we had 'little elves and fairies' who quietly notice
things need doing and just get on and do it. So we would certainly like to say
a huge thank you to the 'Chitterne Elves & Fairies'; you are doing a wonderful
job and perhaps now we will get off our backsides and come and help the next
time you are asking for volunteers.

*Leading on quite nicely from the above, some
other 'Chitterne Elves' have been busy out the
back of the Village Hall. No longer have we a
tatty, half eaten fence but we now have a
beautifully constructed new one. Money had
been raised from the profits made at the
Imber Bus Day, which was very successful. The
Village Hall would like to publicly give a vote
of thanks to Brian Lee, aka Chitterne Elf, for
his time and effort given in working
alongside a Village Hall Committee member.
Thank you so much.*



DATE FOR YOUR DIARY

CHRISTMAS PARTY

Saturday 16th December

7.30 to midnight

Christmas Raffle

Games

Disco (later on in
evening)

Buffet & bar

Tickets £10

More details next month



CHURCH SERVICES in NOVEMBER

Sunday 5th All Saints	9am HC (CW) Orcheston 1030 Family Communion Tilshead 5pm Bible Study & Prayers Chitterne	Clean by all
Sunday 12th Remembrance	1015am Remembrance Shrewton 1015am Remembrance Tilshead 1030am Remembrance Orcheston	Helen Carter
Sunday 19th 2 Before Advent	9am Morning Prayer Orcheston 1030 HC (CW) Shrewton 4pm HC (BCP) Tilshead	Helen Carter
Sunday 26th Christ the King	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

Following a very busy October, the month of November will see an increased level of activity across the whole of Salisbury Plain. The month is dominated by **Exercise LIGHTING ACE** run by 12 Bde. 1 Scots Guards Battle Group (BG), supported by a German company and The Royal Lancers in CVRT, will be trialling the British Army's latest data communication hardware and software. The BG will be conducting all phases of combined arms operations across the whole plain to test the data communications. 3(UK) Division are also on the plain running their own planning and communications exercise. The first and last weeks will see Land Warfare School running 3 major training exercises with Challenger 2 and CVRT. They will be joined by the final course exercise from the Defence Logistics School, **Exercise TIMBER TRUSS**. 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.

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

GOVERNANCE

Members of the public are reminded when on land subject to the Salisbury Plain Military Lands Byelaws 1981, no person may "engage in or carry on any trade or business of any kind whatsoever..." To do so may result in a Warning Off, whereby you will be asked to leave the Training Area or a fine being issued. In simple terms - this means for example, Commercial Dog Walkers are not permitted to conduct their commercial activities on Military lands without prior permission, (meaning a commercial licence issued by the MoD). This does not affect your right to use public rights of way, but **you are reminded that you are expected to have your dog(s) under effective control, as advised by the Countryside Code and must not interfere with military training**.

PROHIBITED ACTIVITIES

When on Military Lands, except with prior permission no person may: deposit refuse, rubble, waste or litter or abandon any vehicle or vehicle part or article; damage, cut or remove grass, turfs, growing crops, shrubs, trees, timber, wildflower roots or humus; remove sand. In simple terms this means: **do not fly-tip or litter, do not cut down trees for logs or remove foliage/turf and do not remove sand on/from Military lands**.

IMBER RANGES

The public are excluded except when the roads are specifically opened. The next planned open dates are: **Remembrance Day 0900hrs - 1300hrs Sat 11 November**



News from the King's Head

Looks like winter is here; dark evenings and rainy days and the odd bit of wind.

The darts nights and quiz nights are still going strong. Darts is every Tuesday and the next **Quiz Night is the 10th November**. (Further details on back page) This is the British Legion Quiz, which is being organised by Andy Cameron. All donations for food will go to the British Legion, so hope to see you there. The following Quiz is the **24th**.

Don't forget **Cheap Ale Night on Thursday's** - £2.50 a pint.

(I wish I drank beer, 'cos I love a bargain! Editor)

Hope to see you all soon.

Kenton



IAN CUTLER

KINDLING & SEASONED HARD WOOD LOGS FOR SALE

**01985 850408
07753466869
6 Abdon Close**

News from St Thomas à Becket School

I am delighted to be able to announce that I have been appointed as the permanent head of St Thomas à Becket School which is a special place full of amazing children and positive, caring adults.

We have a wonderful community of staff, governors, parents and friends of the school who are committed to helping every child to do their best and fulfil their potential. My aim is to work, with the staff and governors of the school, to continue to improve the education, welfare and safety of the children and to ensure the very best provision for all of our pupils.

October was a busy month for us in school. The year 4, 5 and 6 children were invited to take part in the launch of Wiltshire's Clean-Up Wiltshire in association with Landmarc who work with the MOD to manage the Plain and training areas. The children had an informative and enjoyable morning picking up litter and learning about the consequences of littering and fly tipping on their environment. Press were there to film and interview us which was very exciting. I hope you managed to hear us on Spire fm.

We had a fabulous whole school trip to Avebury and it has brought their topic of the Stone Age to life. The children learned so much and had such a good time. They visited the museum, walked around the stones and had the history of the area explained to them.

Talking to them now, they are so knowledgeable about this period of history.

Congratulations to the winners of our apple pie baking competition in our own Tilshead 'Bake Off!' We were very impressed with the standard of pies and the children enjoyed eating the pies!

Last month, as part of our Harvest Service in the church, we collected an impressive array of food which we donated to the Trussell Trust. They are a local charity, based in Salisbury, who distribute donated food to low income families in need. They expressed their thanks to everyone for their generosity.

We are also supporting the **Trussell Trust in their Christmas Box appeal**. We are asking families to make up a box of gifts or donate items that we will put together in boxes. These presents will make their way to abandoned children living in state care in Bulgaria and Serbia, to poor rural schools and kindergartens, women's refuges, prisoner's children, housebound elderly people and refugee centres. **If anyone has items to donate please bring them up to school and we can add them to our donations.**



Farming News by Murray Kent

Driving back from Codford I was surprised to see not one but three Red Kites swooping in the sky near the track up to the Old Dairy. They no doubt had their beady eyes open for road kill as there are plenty of squashed pheasants and partridges on the road at the moment. This was the first time I had observed more than one kite and as much as I like to see these magnificent raptors in our skies I view them with trepidation.



They were first introduced in the Chilterns, where I used to farm, by our neighbour John Paul Getty, on the Formlessly Estate in 1989. There were four Swedish and one Welsh bird released. At the same time six Swedish birds were introduced into the north of Scotland. Altogether, on both sites, 93 birds were released up to 1994. It wasn't until 1992 that the first pair succeeded in hatching its first brood. Since then there has been an explosion in numbers and many would say that they are now out of control. So what is wrong with that?

The Red Kite has no natural predator, other than man, and aided and abetted by some of the local population who put out feed on a regular basis, the increase continues. Although thought of as a scavenger, which was their role in Medieval times in London, there have been confirmed sightings of Kites taking small mammals and birds too. Herein lies my problem.

The hare for me is one of the most magnificent native creatures in the wild. There is nothing more pleasing and beautiful than to see mad March hares "boxing" in the springtime and chasing each other zigzagging around the open fields which is their natural habitat. Such was their numbers, that in the 1970s it was common to have hare shoots in order to keep their numbers under control and prevent the loss of cereal crops where they would live in their "forms" and bring up their young leverets. Talking to my old Chiltern farming colleagues, it is now a rarity to see a hare at all. Although the decline in numbers is put down to "intensive" farming methods, shooting and coursing, I believe that the major contributor to their decline is the Red Kite. In the spring they can be seen circling over the open farmland and with their exceptional eyesight swooping down on the newly born leverets. I cannot adhere to the old maxim of letting nature take its course, for if that were to occur we might quite likely see the total demise of the hare wherever there is a large Kite population.

So if the hares can be culled to contain their numbers, why not cull the kites to contain their numbers and maintain a healthy hare population. Is that too much to ask? I suppose so in these times when not only can the March hares be classified as mad but also

Riding for the Disabled Association VOLUNTEERS WANTED

Warminster RDA is looking for volunteers to help support the children and/or lead the ponies during their riding sessions.

These sessions are held every Tuesday during term time, and run from 12.15pm to 3.00pm. However, if you can't manage the whole period we would be grateful for any time you can find.

Helping these children to ride our lovely gentle ponies is extremely rewarding and hugely beneficial for the children. You do not need any experience just patience and a sense of fun.

For further information contact Derinne on 01985 850089 or email derinnepargiter@gmail.com

REMEMBRANCE SUNDAY CHURCH SERVICE



The Royal British Legion Remembrance Day Service is to be held in Stockton church on Sunday 12 November. The service, which is open to all, will start at 1045 but those attending should be seated by 1035. Members of the Royal British Legion planning to take part in the march past should be at the forming up point, located at the end of the lane beyond the church.

Following the service, there will be a curry lunch (alternatives such as vegetarian or standard non-curry meals can be provided with advance notification) in Chitterne Village Hall, commencing at 1200. Tickets for the lunch, costing £14, can be purchased from the Post Office counter in Budgens store in Codford. Tickets sales will close on 8 November. Requests for alternative meals are to be registered when purchasing tickets. Drinks will be available for purchase. Attendance is not restricted to Legion members but restricted to a total of 60.

Any queries should be passed to Douglas Stobie by E.Mail: dmms@btinternet.com or telephone 01985 851048.

Mostly Mouses

Christmas Gift Fair

16th ~ 19th November 2017
Sarnia Cottage, 27 Chitterne Road, Codford BA12 0PF
Thursday ~ Sunday 10.30am ~ 5.30pm

Unique and individually handpainted gifts by Local Artist Nicky Broster
Complementary Mulled Wine, tea or coffee on arrival

Contact details: 01985 851224 email: mostlymouses@gmail.com



SUDAN LUNCH CHITTERNE VILLAGE HALL

Wednesday 6th December
at 12.30 pm

(Our annual fund raising effort is to support the Schools in South Sudan)

Tickets £7.50 from:

Mrs Christine Pearson
m_pearson7@sky.com
01985 850240

Mrs Virginia Pryor
virginiapryor@btinternet.com 01985 850255

FOR SALE



Approx. 12 foot diameter

Galvanised steel frame

Little used & free to a good home

Contact 01985 850671



WINTER CLEAN

The good people of Chitterne are asked if they can spare a little time on **Saturday 4 November at 10.30** to dust a pew or two in the church - to get it ready for the winter season!

It's a Church "Clean by all" do, to fit in after Breakfast Club.....

EMMA COLE



ACUPUNCTURE & other Chinese therapies

01985 850928

NOVEMBER DATES FOR YOUR DIARY



WOOLSTORE CODFORD

Wednesday 1st
November

HIDDEN FIGURES (PG)

Doors open 7pm with film
commencing at 7.30pm

Tickets £6 from Budgens

BLACK BOX & BLUE BIN DATES

Thursday 2nd, 16th & 30th



Breakfast Club

Saturday 4th
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!

BONFIRE & FIREWORKS

Sunday 5th November

Sports Field

Bonfire lit 6pm &
fireworks 6.30pm

Gluhwein, soft drinks
& hot dogs for sale

Roundabouts
(hopefully)



There is no charge for this but please
remember to bring some cash to put in
the buckets as a contribution towards
the fireworks. The less money we
collect the less fireworks we can have
in the future.

DARTS

King's Head

Tuesday 7th, 14th, 21st
& 28th

8pm for 8.30pm start



HOUSEHOLD WASTE DATES

Thursday 9th & 23rd



STITCHING GROUP

We meet in the Village
Hall on **Friday 10th &
24th 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
10th**. 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!



THE KING'S HEAD IS PLEASED
TO HOST THE NATIONWIDE
ROYAL BRITISH LEGION PUB
QUIZ

FRIDAY 10th NOVEMBER

Kick-Off will be at 8:30pm

Bottle of malt whiskey to the winning
team

Free to All – Come and Beat the
Quizmaster

Donations to the Royal British Legion



ELEVENTH HOUR, ELEVENTH DAY, ELEVENTH MONTH SERVICE

A short service of
commemoration, about twenty minutes, is
to be held on **Saturday 11 November at
Chitterne Church Memorial**. If the weather
is inclement, the service will be held inside
the church. The service will **start at 1050**
and will include the Silence and playing of
the Last Post and Reveille. There will also
be a wreath laying Service inside the
Church at the 3 Squadron RAF Colours.

GREEN BIN DATES

Monday 13th & 27th



PARISH COUNCIL MEETING

Monday 13th
November

7pm in Village Hall

Agenda will be posted in Village Hall notice
board



QUIZ NIGHTS

King's Head Pub

Friday 24th

8.00pm for 8.30pm

start

Winning team receives a £20 voucher
to spend on drinks



Heroes & Villains Charity Event

Saturday 25th November



Come and join us for a night of
fun as we raise money for
charity

Join us for Fancy Dress, food
buffet, beverages, DJ, raffle, games & prizes.
You are welcome to BYOB

Prize for Best Dressed Male & Best Dressed
Female

Raising money for Get Kids Going! This
inspires disabled youngsters to compete in
sporting events from beginners to Paralympic
level.

Tickets £7.50, available from Jackie 851739

GET WELL SOON

To anyone who is feeling
under the weather at the
moment, we hope you will
soon feel better. To anyone who is in
hospital, let's hope you are back home
soon.



Chit Chat next issue

All contributions for the November issue
by **Tuesday 21st November** 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.