



Chit Chat

Parish Newsletter for the residents of Chitterne, Wiltshire
No.167 December 2020

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CHERRY ORCHARD SURGERY

CHRISTMAS OPENING TIMES

Please note that the surgery will be closing at 1.00pm on Christmas Eve



Monday 23rd December - normal opening times (8am - 6.30pm)
Tuesday 24th December - normal opening times (8am - 1.00pm)
Wednesday 25th December - closed
Thursday 26th December - closed
Friday 27th December - normal opening times (8am - 6.30pm)
Saturday 28th December - closed
Sunday 29th December - closed
Monday 30th December - normal opening times (8am - 6.30pm)
Tuesday 31st December - normal opening times (8am - 6.30pm)
Wednesday 1st January - closed
Thursday 2nd January - normal opening times (8am - 6.30pm)
Friday 3rd January - normal opening times (8am - 6.30pm)

Dispensary is open from 8.30am - 12noon and 2.30pm - 6pm
on the days the surgery is open as normal

Other pharmacy opening times in the surrounding area can be found at www.nhs.uk

For urgent medical assistance please dial 999 or 111 for advice

DOORSTEP CAROLS



Shropshire radio are encouraging everyone across the nation to sing carols from their doorsteps on Wednesday 16th December. Some of us thought

that was a wonderful idea but instead of standing on your own doorstep, we are asking you to come down to the outside of the **Village Hall at 6pm**, socially distance yourself and join in with the singing and spread some much needed cheer. We have chosen 6 Christmassy songs, including 2 that the children will probably know better than the adults, and we will have some backing music to accompany us. Nearer the time we will send out the words on Petenet for you to print off. There will be a bucket for any donations for the charity **Jack's Place** (hospice for young adults)

So, come on everyone, wrap up warmly, bring a torch, money for the bucket and we will sing our hearts out, spread a little happiness and have some fun! Children please come as well; we need you to help with the singing.

If you come in a car please do not park in the car park. The Quirks, house opposite, have very kindly said you can park in their drive. Many thanks



I would like to say a huge thanks to all you lovely Chitternites for supporting Plain Ales through these rather odd times. We are also genuinely humbled by the amount of support from those of you who have purchased rewards to help our Crowdfunding project reach over £15K. Cheers and an early merry Christmas to all.

James and Ellie xx

MESSAGE FROM PAUL THE POSTIE



Due to our present situation I would encourage you to send your parcels and cards off as soon as possible., to ensure that they will arrive on time.

Whatever you get up to over Christmas please keep safe & well.

HAPPY CHRISTMAS

CHITTERNE COMMUNITY PUB GROUP UPDATE FROM CHAIRMAN IAN BELL

Dear Chitterne Pub Patrons

Many of you will have been watching Tom Kerridge's 'Saving Britain's Pubs' and asking yourselves what is happening with our beloved King's Head. Let me update you.....

The Chitterne Community Pub Group are pressing on and doing all we can to secure the pub. A community hub for now and a lasting legacy for the future. COVID 19 has inevitably had an impact and delayed our progress. The plan is the same, a public works loan supported by our share option. Kenton is still keen to sell and we are keen to buy. The next step is to secure the funding and agree the deal with Kenton.

In the near future we will be launching the share option and will be seeking your support in the purchase of shares. While I cannot give a definitive timeframe I sincerely hope we will own the pub early in 2021. There is a great deal of work to be done and a committed team are working hard to make it happen. The next you can expect to hear from your pub group is the launch of the share option and after that, we hope, that we have 'sealed the deal'.

Wishing you all well and thanking you for your support. Your pub group look forward to raising a glass with you in our very special village pub.

Kindest Regards
Ian



I'm being good. I've cut back on drinking. I now only drink Prosecco on two occasions... When it's Christmas and When it's not. Ho, Ho, Ho!

Across the Plain WI

CHRISTMAS FESTIVE FUN NIGHT IN!

Tuesday 8th December 7.30 - 8.30pm via ZOOM

Fancy some fabulous Festive Fun, Fizz and Frolics with Friends?

Please join us to celebrate the festive season. Let's kick start the countdown to Christmas and kick out the coronavirus Grinch!

BYO Fizz & Christmas Jumpers!

Zoom Video Conferencing

To join us at one of our online events, all you will need is your PC, Laptop or Smartphone with a built-in camera; the free ZOOM application; your lippy; and your sense of humour! We'll do the rest.

theWI INSPIRING WOMEN

...Across the Plain WI... Live a little Laugh a lot Do some good

Guests are very welcome. Online meeting details and a link to the FREE ZOOM application will be sent to ATP WI Members & Guests via email prior to the meeting. Please confirm attendance via email to: acrosstheplainwi@gmail.com

WELCOME

A new family has just moved into the village, so may I on behalf of everyone, extend a huge welcome to you. You will see that we don't allow a thing like Covid 19 stop us from doing things and hopefully we may have the opportunity to meet you, albeit at a distance, over the Christmas period.

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

CHRISTMAS MOSAIC TREATS!

There is still time to make a mosaic for your Christmas tree – children over the age of 10 are most welcome. Snowmen, Baubles, Stars, Christmas trees and more!

Time 1000-1300, studio open every day
Special rate for Chitterne villagers

Contact Emma at abelmosaics@hotmail.com
074111 07916

DON'T FORGET

There is no Royal Artillery Boxing Day meet this year; hope to see you all next year.



REMEMBRANCE DAY

A different Service of Remembrance but still a very moving one.

The ability to sell poppies has been severely restricted. Chitterne raised £411.20 which is an excellent achievement. The Royal British Legion Poppy Appeal will be most grateful for this donation. Thanks to all those who proscribed.



Many thanks to Marcelle & Nick for the photos

RESILIENCE GROUP

It would appear that this second lockdown has been less of a strain on our "Street Reps" but shopping and medicine collection carries on for those who need. A big thank you to those of you who give up your time to help others.

We move into Tier 2 and below is a resumé of our rules. A more detailed explanation can be found in the email sent on Petenet on the 26th of November which is the latest circular from Wiltshire Council.

From 2nd December the Government will be reintroducing the tier system where different levels or restriction apply in different parts of the country.

Wiltshire has been placed in Tier 2: High alert, which is one higher than before the current period of national restrictions. This means that from 2nd December measures will be in place including:

- you must not socialise with anyone you do not live with, or who is not in your support bubble, in any indoor setting, whether at home or in a public place
- you must not socialise in a group of more than six people outside, including gardens or public spaces
- businesses and venues can continue to operate, in a **COVID Secure** manner, other than those which remain closed by law, such as nightclubs, pubs and bars must remain closed, unless operating as restaurants and alcohol can only be served with substantial meals
- hospitality businesses selling food or drink for consumption on their premises must provide table service and are now required to close between 11pm and 5am with last orders being taken at 10pm

Please try to look out for anyone who could do with a little extra support and company over what could be a very different Christmas season for all of us.

FOOD BANK

We have planned to have a collection in early December for the Food Bank, and from Saturday (5th), for 2 weeks, Jo Major will have her box out to receive any donations. For those who are not able to contribute in this way, but would still like to support this essential service, you could send a contribution either by Bank draft or cheque To:-

Warminster and District Food Bank, C/o Lloyds Bank, A/c 01858628 Sort code 30-99-13

Cheques should be made out to Warminster and District Food Bank
Dewey House,
North Row,
Warminster, BA129AD

Many thanks, Virginia Pryor



PARISH COUNCIL NEWS

On the 24th of November the Parish Council held a "virtual" meeting with our local MP, Dr Andrew Murrison. Present were councillors Kent, Emmerson, Horsfall, Lucas and Neal, Nikki, our clerk, Councillor Newbury from Wiltshire Council and Ian Bell representing the Chitterne Community Pub Group. Four main topics had been raised by villagers.

Lack of mobile signal in village: Thanks to a number of villagers contacting their providers and the fact that EE have erected a mast to cover the village for the emergency services to use, some positive action seems highly likely and Dr Murrison was asked to lobby on our behalf for space to be allocated on this mast for commercial use.

Radio signals: It was pointed out that Chitterne, like many other local spots, received a very poor DAB radio signal and it was imperative that the FM signal was not discontinued until such time as there was 100% DAB coverage.

Purchase of Kings Head: Dr Murrison was made aware of the efforts to secure a loan to purchase the Kings Head and was asked to assist in any way to secure that government funding.

Traffic issues and Valley Farm tip: This topic was reserved until last and the maximum amount of time was devoted to it. Dr Murrison has been aware of our problems for many years and it is very difficult to see what can be achieved with regard to speed calming measures on top of the efforts that have thus far been taken. The financial constraints on the W C budget make it impossible for any major expenditure at the moment. The other area of concern is the construction of the tunnel on the A 303 which is bound to incur much more "rat running" to avoid the inevitable congestion on the A 303. This will increase the volume of traffic in the village. Dr Murrison was also pressed to assist in lobbying English Heritage to make sure that coaches visiting Stonehenge were routed back down the A 303 to Deptford and then use the A 36 to continue to Bath for although quiet now this will increase when life returns to normal. The Valley Farm tip seems to be filling up fast and the volume of lorries travelling through the village is high at times but it was noted that most Earthline lorries respect the speed limit but it would help if more could be persuaded to arrive at the tip via the Knook junction.

The 30 minutes allocated to us ran to 45 minutes and it was a useful and new way of contact with our parliamentary representative. Dr Murrison will be sent a written resume of the meeting and we wait with baited breath to see what will transpire.

Murray Kent

WHAT WERE THE SHADOWS?

1. Flag pole
2. Church railings

CHRISTMAS 2020 IN CHITTERNE



A challenge for all Families in the village

Please help us to create a Crib for 2020, so that we can celebrate this Christmas season in style.

Kevin Foster has made a wonderful stable which will be installed outside the church in early December.

If you would like to make a shepherd, or a king or some sheep, please get in touch with:

Sarah Horne 850513 or Sarah Gooch 850893

We can have figures all round the village making their way to the stable - a sort of Christmas scarecrow trail!

The village hall will display the three kings and other figures can be placed in the windows of the church.

A porch or a picture window onto the street would provide a wonderful way of displaying any figures which might suffer from winter storms.

I have material and lots of odds and ends which can be used, so please contact Sarah Gooch (850893 or mafaho@btinternet.com) and we will plan a suitably distanced method of providing some resources.

Many thanks

COMMUNITY SPEEDWATCH



Chitterne has run Community Speedwatch for 10 years, but retired from it in 2018. It is quite clear that vehicles speeding through the village and overweight lorries are now at a very high rate. When speaking to the Police, who are currently investigating a report about speeding, they suggested it would be a good plan to take part in Community Speedwatch again. We could consider doing it for a limited period, say 3 months. Involvement consists of being involved for, usually, one hour at a time at a location of your choosing. I resigned as leader of the Chitterne Team, having done it for 10 years, but if we started again, if nobody wanted to lead, I will do so. The question is, would you volunteer to join Community Speedwatch. Please inform me if you are willing to participate - Douglas Stobie 01985 851048 or dmms@btinternet.com

HONEY AND IMBER CHURCH

Some of you might well be wondering what on earth have honey sales and Imber Church got in common. Imber Church is the only building left in Imber that is not owned or controlled by the MOD. Having requisitioned the village in 1943, giving the inhabitants just 41 days to vacate their homes, the villagers thought they would return after the war but as tenants of the then War Office there was no firm promise this would happen. Imber village remains a major training area and out of bounds except at the 3 or 4 'open' periods during the year. However the Church has flourished up to the present time under the superb leadership of Neil Skelton and the Churches Conservation Trust. The Church has been renovated with a new roof, a new set of bells and is the main focal point for anyone visiting the village on the open days that are usually allowed. Sadly Covid 19 has put an end to the visits and consequently any fund raising events. This is where the honey comes in. One of the fund raising activities when the church is open is the sale of Salisbury Plain Honey. It is from hives situated on and around the Plain. It is a known fact that the consumption of honey produced from your local area has health benefits. For instance it is claimed that eating just 2oz of local honey a day can reduce cold symptoms by 2 days! With the shut down of Imber came the shut down of honey sales until it was decided to try and sell it with the help of a few Imber volunteers. Lo and behold over £1000.00 honey sales have been achieved since March 2020. Obviously not all profit comes to Imber Church but it helps to keep the bank balance the right colour. What a wonderful stocking filler a jar of honey would make or a gift for a host on a night out, if and when permitted. **Murray Kent has a good stock so to keep your larder stocked before the onslaught of winter, so give him a ring on 851785 and he will arrange collection or delivery.**

If you are interested in following what goes on at Imber why not subscribe to the Imber Church Newsletter that has many interesting articles and links to all matters relating to the Plain as well as the Church. You can register on the website at www.imberchurch.org.uk

Have a sweet Christmas



PLANS FOR CHRISTMAS SERVICES

We have to begin by saying that we clearly cannot guarantee that we will be able to have services in our churches during December, or on Christmas Day. But what follows is aimed at helping us prepare so that we can safely host Christmas services in church, should we be permitted

to do so. We cannot provide Carol services, Nativity services, or Midnight Mass this year, so all of those things will be moved across to our 'virtual' platforms, YouTube and Zoom. Regardless of what happens in the coming weeks, we will be providing services on YouTube, printed worship booklets, and our daily audio clips of prayers. During Advent we will also provide a daily audio clip of readings.

**The Christmas Service for Chitterne (All Saints & St Mary's Church) is:
25th December Christmas Day 9.30am**

Attendance at a service in church on Christmas morning will be subject to the following:

- Attending in your own village
- Booking of exact numbers for your household
- Priority being given to those who are going to be on their own for Christmas or who have been bereaved during the past 12 months
- When a building is full, people will be moved onto a waiting list in case of cancellation of a booking

We know that some of you honestly don't know what your plans are for Christmas. We therefore ask you to give us your 'best guess' as soon as possible. For example, if you hope to be in the village, and may have two family members visiting, please book 3 spaces in church for the service. If at a later stage you realise your family will not be present, or you are instead going to visit with them, please let us know so we can re-allocate spaces.

We very sadly have to stress that we will not be able to admit anyone into church on Christmas morning if they have not been booked in. We also know that we will not be able to accommodate everyone who wants to come to church, and therefore we encourage you to book in good time.

Booking forms may be requested from the Church Office: reveleanorance@gmail.com or 01980 620580



CONGRATULATIONS

Congratulations to Joe and Louise, of Elm Farm, on the birth of their baby boy (8lbs 15ozs) on Saturday 28th November at 1404. All are doing well.

CHRISTMAS

It's that time of year when we go up into the loft and drag out the box, or in some cases, boxes, full of the Christmas decorations. We have the great debate as to whether to stick with the artificial tree that we've had since the children were born, or do we break out and buy a real one! Do we go for a purple & gold theme, or keep it simple? This year let's go crazy! Some of us may have frowned upon putting lights up outside, and heaven forbid that anyone should stick a blow up Santa & Rudolph outside! This is the year for going OTT. This is the year for making our homes & gardens as festive as possible. By doing this, anyone who walks by, or drives by, will surely have to smile, and that's a wonderful thing. Don't forget to take some photos and send them to the editor by 27th December, to include in January's Chit Chat.

CHRISTMAS MESSAGE

What a year this has been... I write this as we have just concluded the period of Remembrance. Here on Salisbury Plain it felt inconceivable that we wouldn't be permitted to mark such a season. I expect I wasn't alone in being deeply moved by the way individuals prepared tributes, brought them to our War Memorials, or placed them around their homes. We've done that a lot during the past 9 months. In all the misery and separation many things have drawn us together. New connections and friendships have miraculously appeared, whether from dropping off flour or shopping or prescriptions, making a new 'phone buddy', sharing sewing resources to make masks, swapping seeds and later, produce, finding ways to support those who were struggling; in all it has actually been a very beautiful year for our villages. Government food parcels were diverted from people who didn't really want or need them to those who absolutely did, we worked with the GPs, local agencies, social care, our schools, local charities. We made, this year, a new safety net, and that is such an incredibly good thing.

But now we come to a season which is often a challenge at the best of times. I know there's been lots of chatter about Christmas being taken away from us. But let's be honest, often Christmas is hard and awkward anyway. So what I want to do is try to apply some of that creativity and warmth we've seen all year to this coming month. For centuries, millennia in fact, we've faced the coming of short days, long nights, cold weather, ill-health with light, with friendship and with food. We've pulled together because it's how we get through the darkest times. So maybe we won't be able to have huge parties, maybe we won't be able to sing, maybe we won't get to see every single one of our relatives at the same time. But we can still push the darkness away. We can still share love and light with one another - with loved ones and new friends. We can still look out into the darkness and seek out the homeless or the hungry and offer them something from our own small supplies, we can pick up our phones and chat to the people we know have been bereaved or who are truly struggling right now.

When I was a very little girl, my Mother gave me a book called Papa Panov's Special Day. It tells the story of an old shoemaker in Russia, who, like me, was quite religious. Late on Christmas Eve he had a dream that Jesus told him he'd visit the following day. All day long, the old man works in his shop (note, on Christmas Day), peering out into the street for his visitor. He gets distracted multiple times, by the old road sweeper to whom he gives hot coffee and bread, by a young woman with a baby who is wearing no shoes, by people on their own, with whom he shares a kind word and a smile. At the end of the day, in tears, he sits down thinking he's missed the most important visit of all. He's been distracted by all these people from welcoming God himself. He's angry with himself for getting his priorities wrong. But then again he hears a voice, like the one from his dream. And God says to him - every time you showed kindness or friendship, every time you fed someone, when you gave those tiny shoes to that baby - you were meeting with me.

We can do this; we can face a different Christmas and make it a really special time. We can push back the darkness and march on through to a better place. Sentimental though I may be, I truly believe that our communities will be the richer for this period of huge challenge. We therefore wish you a very Happy and Peaceful Christmas, and we pray for all of us that we will have a fruitful and positive New Year.

Rev Eleanor Rance