

Chitterne's Pub With No Beer - Yet!



Below, Villagers Jane Bell, Emma Cole and Cllr. Tony Hulton joined other well-wishers to view our new acquisition. Unfortunately, drinks could not be served; the pub is not yet licensed. See page 2.

At last, the King's Head is owned by Chitterne Community Pub Group - that is all the villagers and non-residents who became shareholders- enabling the pub to become the village's hostelry again. The purchase was finalised on December 20 when the keys were handed over by Kenton Stone to Mike Neave and John Dillon (picture left). But there is quite a way to go yet to get the pub refurbished and open as a licensed premises.



Parish Council Notes

An Extra-ordinary General Meeting was held on December 9 to deal with several outstanding issues:

1. RA Boxing Day Hunt Meet: The Council has received a comprehensive risk assessment and detailed plans to ensure public safety during the proposed Boxing Day event on the village sports field. The plans provide for separation of the public and the horses and hounds, although controlled interaction will be allowed. It was unanimously agreed to proceed with the event.

Cont. P2.

CHURCH SERVICES IN JANUARY

5 th January	BCP	Chitterne 9am.
12 th January	Holy Communion	Chitterne 10.30 am.
20 th October	Holy Communion	Shrewton 10.30 am.
27 th October	Holy Communion	Orcheston 10.30 am.

Storm 'Bert' Topples Townsend Trees



Storm Bert was - mercifully - a bit of an anti-climax for Chitterne. Around four trees were felled in the village, no damage or injury was caused and the two that fell on the road were swiftly made safe. However, it was a reminder that we must do something about the poor state of many of our trees in Chitterne. The two storm-felled trees by the Cut were covered with ivy, which was probably a contributory cause of their demise. Many others are similarly affected. The Parish Council has commissioned a survey of tree health in the village and there is no doubt that much work is needed to replace dead, diseased or badly placed trees.

Pub, continued from P1 Unlicensed

We had hoped to open the pub in some form over the Christmas break, it was not possible to complete all the paperwork necessary to obtain a licence. However, many villagers and investors took an opportunity to 'stick their heads in' on New Year's day between 1pm and 3pm, to look around and get an idea of the work to be done.

Volunteers wanted

Our ulterior motive was to provide an opportunity to volunteer to help with some of the future work, or even to lead on a particular task if you are up for it or have a specific skill. A big clear-out is still required and we are looking for a weekend date in January to make some space. There are some jobs for professionals and they are being booked in, however there is also plenty of work for gifted amateurs, such as decorating, cleaning, or just helping to heave stuff about.

If you were unable to make it on New Year there will be further opportunities; we have the keys! If you have any questions, please don't hesitate to ask. Help us to get these pumps serving beer again!

Richard Hendrickse:
www.richard.hendrickse@hotmail.co.uk



Not everything about Storm Bert was bad, we particularly liked this picture by Gillian Nolan of the sunset after the storm, and thought we would share it with you. If you have pictures you are particularly proud of, please send them, and if we can, we shall publish them.

Continued from P1

2. Earthline Site Visit

Chairman, Vice Chairman and Clerk have visited the site and discussed ongoing work with Austin Lillywhite, Earthline Compliance Manager. Villager Nick Martin also attended. While the site is approaching the final stage of use, it was not possible to give a final date for completion. Cllr Dillon reminded the meeting that on the Wiltshire Plan, the site will remain as a possible location for waste disposal after it is vacated by Earthline, and returned to Valley Farm.

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Workshops for private groups at local venues can also be arranged subject to availability and suitability of venue.



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3. Potential use and funding for the grazing land recently acquired from Wiltshire Council.

Cllr Dillon and Clerk have visited the site with a view to forming a plan for its use as an amenity for villagers. A subsequent meeting was held with Naomi Styles, Wiltshire Council Woodland Officer. Naomi was very positive about the possibility of using the site as a tree nursery and a recreational picnic area for the village. She has indicated a number of funding streams that could be available to Chitterne, both for the establishment of such a facility, and for its ongoing maintenance. It is also likely that Wiltshire Council will assist with the applications for funding. It was agreed that Cllr Dillon should prepare a detailed proposal for the CPC, with the assistance of the Clerk.

4. Wiltshire Traffic Plan

Chitterne P. C. Response. Wiltshire Council have circulated a Wiltshire Transport Plan and have invited response from the public, by January 23. Cllr Bell will advise on the response (if any) from Chitterne. Clerk will also invite villagers to respond in an article in the January issue of Chit-Chat.

The meeting concluded at 7.30 pm. Agenda for the regular Parish Council Meeting of January 6th. Members of the public are welcome to attend the Parish Council meetings. Please inform the clerk if you wish to speak.

Cheese & Quiz Night

Saturday 11th January 2025
7pm-10pm
Village Hall

Bar & Prizes

Tickets £8.50 per person
Up to 6 per table
To book your place email
l.lucas112@outlook.com.

CHITTERNE - DEVIZES BUS SERVICE (55 Service)

Villagers who may like to shop in Devizes may not be aware that there is a weekly bus service which allows a useful 3-hour stay in the town. It runs on Thursdays only, so coinciding with Devizes Market.

Depart from Abdon Close at 10.15am, arriving Devizes Market Place (Costa) at 10.45am.
Depart Devizes Market Place Bus Island 13.15, arrive Abdon Close 13.45

Further information can be found on the Beeline coaches website: <https://www.beelinecoaches.co.uk/bus-timetables>

REPORTING ISSUES to WILTSHIRE COUNCIL

'MyWilts' enables you to book services and report issues to Wiltshire Council simply, quickly and easily. Use MyWilts to report issues such as potholes, drainage, gullies and manholes, fly-tipping, public rights of way, grass, hedges and shrubs, pavements and kerbs. You can download the App or via <https://my.wiltshire.gov.uk>

Earthline Helps Out

All Saints Friends Trust, the local charity which helps to maintain and repair the village church, has received a grant from Earthline. The charity wanted to purchase a projector and large screen to use in the church for events such as presentations or lectures and Earthline has very generously made the money available for that purpose. So a big thank you to Earthline!

Webmaster Wanted!

Any budding website gurus out there? The Chitterne website needs someone to maintain it. It is a voluntary role but help and support is given. Please contact the parish council: chitternepc@gmail.com

Chit-Chat next issue

The February issue of Chit-Chat will go to press in the last week of January. All contributions, either hard copy or email to:

barry.ricketts1@icloud.com

Tel: 07914 264324

Or 'over the stable door' at Stable Cottage, 24 Townsend, Chitterne, Warminster, BA12 0LF.

To download Chit-Chat from the village website: Visit www.chitterne.com and follow the links.

Sheep Safely Grazing



Anyone walking down Back Lane could not fail to notice the small flock of sheep that have been alternating their grazing between the paddock behind the Village Hall and the paddock behind the Gate House. To most of us a sheep is a sheep but individual breeds fulfil one of four main functions, the production of wool, the provision of meat and the supply of milk, mainly for cheese but also the supply of breeding stock for future generations. The Back Lane ewes' role is to maintain the supply of pedigree rams whose efforts will keep us in lamb roasts and chops throughout the year.

Half a century

The Suffolk breed originated around Bury Saint Edmunds, and was the result of half a century of cross breeding between Norfolk Horn ewes and Southdown rams in the late 1700s. Originally known as Blackfaces the first noted use of the term 'Suffolk' dates to 1797. However it was not until 1859 that it was recognised as a distinct breed with the English Suffolk Society being formed in 1886. Characteristics include clean face, crutch and legs. Clean means that there is no wool growth in these areas which reduces the risk of fly strike. Fly strike is the

unpleasant result of flies laying their eggs on dirty wool and the maggots actually burrowing into the flesh of the animal with the resulting contamination. Also a strong constitution means a high resistance to internal parasites.

Genetic potential

The Suffolk ram is referred to as a "terminal" sire. That does not mean he is going to keel over tomorrow, it refers to the fact that his progeny from cross breeding with another breed is the "end" product. So what is so special about a Suffolk ram? His genetic potential is the key. He has hard hoofs and feet problems are one of the main health problems with sheep. The female progeny have wide pelvic dimensions for easy birthing and the breed is renowned for the excellent quality of its meat, lean and flavoursome, and this is, of course, carried over into the progeny. It also has the best growth rate which means the lambs can get to market earlier than progeny from other breed sires.

So we have this wonderful sire for the lady sheep but what type of lady will he be introduced to? All will be revealed next month.

Murray Kent

theWI The NFWI Resolution Shortlist 2024-25
INSPIRING WOMEN

VOTE

1. Let's Talk About Incontinence
2. Bystanders can be lifesavers
3. Join the repair revolution
4. Eliminate landfill of medication packaging

Your WI. Your Vote. Your Choice.

Your Vote Matters.

theWI Across the Plain WI
INSPIRING WOMEN

Live a little Laugh a lot Do some good

Based in Chitterne with members from across the south of Salisbury Plain, Wiltshire. Email: acrosstheplainwi@gmail.com

Tuesday 4th February 2025
7.30 - 9.30pm Chitterne Village Hall

Review of NFWI 2024-25
Resolution Shortlist and
ATPWI Members Vote

Calling all ATP WI Members –
It's time to vote!

Please join us for a fun and informative evening showcasing the four NFWI 2024-25 shortlisted resolutions.

Sit back, relax, have a glass or two of prosecco, maybe a slice of cake, listen to the resolutions and vote for your favourite. Simple!

Please RSVP by Sunday 2nd February via email to: acrosstheplainwi@gmail.com

or via the ATP WI Social Chat WHATSAPP channel

Please note that this is a Members only event.

Christmas in Chitterne

Chitterne's annual Carol Service was a particular success in 2024, with a near-full church and a congregation in good voice. The church was resplendent in its star-themed decorations, and the service was led by Sarah Gooch, with readings from Ian Smith, Lindsay Lucas, Arthur Gooch, Bella Horton, Gillian Nolan, Kato O'Driscoll, Araminta and Cosima Martin and mum Charlie. Many thanks to the bell ringers and to Kevin Foster, who supplied and decorated the tree, which was still standing as we went to press!



The Carol Service opened with a duo performance from Tilly and Wilf Havelock of 'Once in Royal David's City'. Mark Nash was the organist and Anthony Knyvett played trumpet.



Light Show. Below and left: Piccadilly it wasn't, but Chitterne's lights were wholly in keeping with the ambiance of a small village; Santa's sleigh tearing across the night sky is not really our style! There were a number of Star-themed displays in windows, echoed by the church decorations.



Grand Turnout for Boxing Day Hunt Meet



One of the English countryside - and Chitterne's characteristic traditions is the Boxing Day Hunt Meet, and 2024 was no exception. A crowd of supporters, estimated 300-strong, gathered on the sports-field to share mulled wine and mince pies with hunt members of all ages.