

## CHITTERNE'S BONFIRE SPECTACULAR

Chitterne celebrated Bonfire Night with customary flare, (see what I did there) fun and festive food for all, as is our tradition.

The whole event is managed and only possible due to wonderful Chitterne residents volunteering. Like any event there is much to arrange in advance from alcohol licence applications, chilli and cake making, sourcing fireworks to erecting gazebos and that's just the before! A huge thank you to everyone who kindly volunteered and made this event such a success.

### Generosity

2024 was the most successful year yet, due to a variety of factors including more people purchasing food and drinks as well as the generosity of donations into the buckets towards the fireworks. Firework night is the Village Hall Charity's second biggest annual fundraising event (after Imber Bus Day) and we can only continue to run it if we have enough volunteers - a huge thank you all. Thanks again to Paul Pike and Erika Snowdon-Pike for a truly incredible display. In just 3 hours, the team sold over 200 drinks, two huge trays of toffee apple cake and more than 140 hot dogs and bowls of chilli- "Jackie's chilli" is still being talked about!

The CVH committee would like to thank the Chitterne Cricket Club for building, overseeing and managing the bonfire safety this year, it is a fantastic addition to our event and we hope you all enjoyed warming up next to it. *Lexa Turner*

### Upcoming Village Events:

Breakfast Club on 7<sup>th</sup> December. (Village Hall)

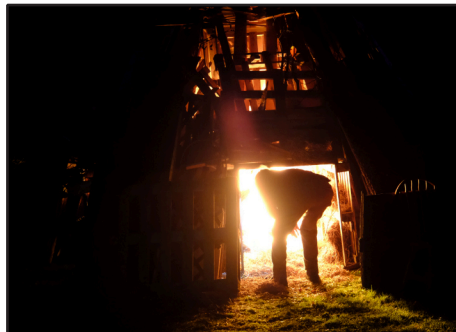
(Please Note; No January Breakfast Club, The Village Hall staff are having a well-deserved break.)

Carol Service, 23<sup>rd</sup> December 6pm, All Saints Church. All welcome.

Mulled wine and mince pies will be served after the service. There will be a 'retiring' collection for Julia House.

Tell Sarah Gooch (01985 850893

mafaho@btinternet.com if you would like to request a favourite hymn.



Pictures left, from top:

The stunning finale lit up Chitterne's night sky, bringing a special evening to a brilliant close.

Anthony Knyvett lights the blue touch paper and retires. Anthony's ancestor discovered and arrested Guido Fawkes and his gunpowder barrels beneath Parliament!

Young Charlie Emmerson celebrates his winning 'Best Guy Fawkes' competition entry

### Parish Council Notes

The following matters were discussed and agreed at the Chitterne Parish Council December meeting:

Parishioner Dick Johns drew attention to a number of road and traffic related issues: 'cats-eyes' in need of replacement; badly worn painted white lines, over-large vehicles transiting the village and the lack of a speed limit on the Codford Road.

Wiltshire Councillor Christopher Newbury advised that greater resources have been allocated to traffic-related issues, but he accepted that more was needed. Traffic police prefer to attend villages with a community speed-watch team. The Wiltshire Council policy of only providing physical traffic calming measures if street lighting is present, persists.

Charles Carter of the RA Hunt, expressed the Hunt's desire to continue the tradition of a Hunt Meet gathering on Chitterne playing field on Boxing Day. The Council urged the Hunt representatives to prepare and present a comprehensive risk-assessment including crowd control measures as soon as possible.

Barry Ricketts was co-opted as Clerk/Councillor.

Councillors (and residents) are invited to contribute to a 'Needs Analysis' (Continued Page 2)

## CHURCH SERVICES IN DECEMBER

1<sup>st</sup> December

8<sup>th</sup> December

8<sup>th</sup> December

15<sup>th</sup> December

22<sup>nd</sup> December

23<sup>rd</sup> December

25<sup>th</sup> December

Holy Communion

Holy Communion

Benefice Carol Service

Holy Communion

Holy Communion

Carol Service led by Sarah Gooch

Family Service led by Sarah Gooch

Chitterne 9am

Chitterne 10.30am

Tilshead 4pm

Shrewton 10.30am

Orcheston 10.30

Chitterne 6pm

Chitterne 10am

(From P.1)

of development possibilities for the village.

Chitterne has contributed to an Electric Vehicle charging point survey by Wiltshire Council. It was suggested that the King's Head might be a suitable location.

Progress continues to extend Vodaphone coverage in the village

The updated accounts were accepted and signed. (Available on request)

The removal of dead trees has commenced, and a 'Tree Health Survey' has been carried out. Action will follow to remove further dead trees, or those which constitute a danger to traffic, pedestrians or power lines.

A recent RoSPA report, commissioned by the Council has indicated certain maintenance issues with the play equipment. This will be dealt with using our own resources. Clerk suggested that a general maintenance survey should identify further needs which can be addressed internally.

The new arrangements for the village newspaper were acknowledged and approved by the Council, Clerk to continue as editor.

The solicitor dealing with the King's Head purchase expects completion before Christmas.

Clearance work has taken place on the 'Cut'. It was hoped that dredging could also take place, but rising ground water has prevented further work.

The Parish Steward's monthly visits continue. However, he is frequently diverted for emergency work resulting in not much being achieved in the village. Road sweepers and Gully emptying vehicles will be made available on a more frequent basis.

A solicitor has been instructed to register the change of title with the Land Registry, from Wiltshire County Council to Chitterne Parish Council. Agreements for the two grazing plots are being reviewed.

The LHFIG (Local Highways & Footways Improvement Group) have now approved all funding for the new Pedestrian/Horse signage which we have requested for the village. The Parish Council have already approved their part of the funding and LHFIG have ordered the signs. LHFIG confirmed that the signs will be installed in November.

*Date of Next Meetings*  
Monday Jan 6; Monday March 3,

## Full-Fibre Internet is Coming to Chitterne

Like many rural villages, Chitterne suffers from a very slow broadband internet connection speed leading to frequent loss of sound and picture while your set struggles to find enough band-width to cope. Hope is at hand, and from a local source as well. At a meeting in the village hall on November 12, two representatives from Wessex Internet explained to villagers their plans to connect the village to a full-fibre network by early next spring.

Individual connections to households who wish to be connected will be carried out by teams who will liaise with residents about their installation and advise on the best option for connection and functionality within the home.

### Higher Speeds

Internet speeds will range from 100Mbps to 900 Mbps, depending upon the package purchased (currently, we are lucky to get a consistent 30 Mbps in Chitterne. Prices range from £29 per month for 100 Mbps to £79 per month for a whacking 900 Mbps - sufficient for multiple simultaneous users - with options in between.

The existing copper cable network (which supports your landline telephone service) is due to be switched off nationally by 2027, however, Wessex Telephone is the 'VoIP' service offered by Wessex Internet which replaces the traditional copper connection for those who wish to make the swap now.

### Excellent response record

No more will we struggle to speak to someone in Bangalore to find out why the TV has died in the middle of East Enders. Wessex Internet is a locally-based (Dorset) company, employing local people on their helpline, and having an excellent record for response times and problem-solving.

*If you missed the village hall meeting, call Robin Churchill on 07425 420995 (email: robin.churchill@wessexinternet.com for full information on both internet and telephone services.*

*Following the recent announcement about All Saints Friends Trust 100 Club Lottery. There is a lot going on at the moment so the trustees have decided to delay the launch until after Christmas. Please watch this space for details or contact one of the trustees for more information: Peter Emmerson, John Smedley and Gillian Nolan*

## CHEESE & QUIZ NIGHT

Saturday 11<sup>th</sup> 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](mailto:l.lucas112@outlook.com)  
by Friday 3<sup>rd</sup> January 2025

Tickets also on sale at December  
Breakfast club



**Christmas Carol Service**  
Come and Share the Joy of Christmas  
Monday 23<sup>rd</sup> December at 6.00pm  
All Saints' Church, Chitterne  
Carols and Readings including the Christmas story in chocolate!  
Mulled wine and mince pies will be served after the service  
Retiring collection in aid of Julia's House  
Mark Nash will play the organ accompanied by Anthony Knyvett



## Flood Update

Following on from last month's update the majority of the cut has now been cleared of tree trunks, roots and overgrown bushes. This will hopefully allow the water to flow more easily through the village. Inserted into this month's Chitchat is a flood information note, it does not replace anything that is available from Wiltshire Council or the Environment Agency but is something you may want to stick on the fridge as a quick reference tool.

## CHRISTMAS STARS

*Wanted! Stars of all shapes and sizes- glittery, sewn, carved or bought.*

*Last year we had a great response for 'Angels', hopefully we can do the same this year to decorate OUR Church for Christmas.*

*Elizabeth Johns*

## CHIT-CHAT

Next Issue

The January issue of Chit-Chat will go to press in the third week of December.

All contributions, either hard copy or email to:

[barry.ricketts1@icloud.com](mailto: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](http://www.chitterne.com) and follow the links.

*Commercial advertising in Chit-Chat will cost £5.00 per issue from January (£50 per 12 issues) announcements, upcoming events or charities will remain free.*

## Christmas Tree Trail



Yes, it will soon be here but you have plenty of time to get ready, so put your thinking caps on and have a bit of fun.

For those of you new to the village, for the past couple of years we have encouraged everyone to display a 'Christmas tree' of some sort, shape, colour, size, theme, material, inside/outside - the more random and unexpected, the better - and then villagers walk around the village to admire your wonderful, imaginative trees.

Trees to be in place for Sunday 1<sup>st</sup> December  
Chitterne Village Hall Trustees



Please RSVP by Friday 29<sup>th</sup> November 2024  
Email: [acrosstheplainwi@gmail.com](mailto:acrosstheplainwi@gmail.com)  
WHATSAPP Channel: ATP WI Social Chat  
Thank you!



**Tuesday 3<sup>rd</sup> December 2024**  
7.30 - 9.30pm, Chitterne Village Hall

**So here it is, Merry Christmas!**  
**Everybody's having fun...**

**SO, LET'S PARTY!**

**Please come and join us for a fun Christmas celebration and Games Night.**

**Festive Fun, Fizz & Friends.**

**Fabulous.**



Non-Members Welcome. First Visit Free. £5 Guest Fee thereafter (Max 3 visits)

## COMMUNITY SECTOR GROWS

Those of you who have bought, or are thinking of buying shares in our community pub, the King's Head, may be interested in an event I attended in the House of Lords at the beginning of the month. It was the launch for the annual report of the Plunket Trust on the state of the Community Ownership sector. The Trust is a valuable source of advice and support to our Community Pub Group.

### Sector Growth

This year's report was especially important because of the change of government. In an opening address from the Minister for Rural Affairs, Hon. Steve Reed OBE. M.P. praised the work of the Plunket Trust. There were 5 key messages I took from the presentation:

The sector continues to grow, with 35 new businesses starting and only 8 (all shops) closing. There are now a total of 797 community businesses with a survival rate of 94%. To date £38M has been raised to set up community pubs. Despite difficult trading conditions, 34% of community owned businesses were able to reinvest surpluses into local projects or make donations to charity. Rising energy prices are the biggest cause of financial pressure and future grant funding would be best used to invest in energy saving and efficiency measures.

### Community Business Success

Community businesses are seen by the government as an important method of providing access to employment in rural areas and should/would be supported by policy. Community shares continue to leverage further investment from outside the community. For every £1 raised via community shares, communities have attracted (on average) £2.33 from other sources of funding.

The last point is key and the grant that has just been approved from the Wiltshire Rural Hubs fund, to support our refurbishment, may just be the start (another £650K is possible if we achieve the average!)

### Useful

It was a useful event to attend, if only to confirm that we are not alone, but one of a growing group of organisations that have chosen to invest in our community, and are starting to coalesce into a sector of significant size and importance that is attracting attention and policy support.

Hopefully the next time you hear from me will be about the pub opening plans.

*Richard Hendrickse*



**WIN Christmas Hampers full of fabulous festive fun!**

**Raffle Tickets: £1 each or £5 a strip**

**Raffle Draw: Tuesday 17<sup>th</sup> December 2024. Raffle Open to All.**



**Ho, Ho, Ho! Please have a go, go, go...**

100% of proceeds will help support Salisbury Hospice. Please help us to help them this Christmas. Thank you!

**Raffle tickets available to purchase from:**

Lindsay Lucas [lucas112@outlook.com](mailto:lucas112@outlook.com) (Chitterne residents only)

Vicki Harris [vickiharris1986@gmail.com](mailto:vickiharris1986@gmail.com) (Rest of the World)

Winners will be notified via email or telephone after the draw.  
Hampers delivered by 23rd December. Good Luck!



Promoter: R. Wilkinson, Chitterne, BA12 0LF Registration No. LC202406-13724. Registered under the Gambling Act 2005 with Wiltshire Council

# So You Think the Cut Clearance was Hard?

*If you were one of the very welcome volunteers who helped with the recent (and past) 'Cut' clearance efforts, and found it testing, check this out- Richard Beatty OBE lives in Village Barn, and recently had a rather damp experience of his own:*

**Earlier this year I was fortunate enough to be invited to join an expedition to attempt the first descent of the Hana River as it winds 100km through the vast Tai National Park in Cote d'Ivoire, West Africa.**

The plan was to spend 'about 10 days' paddling downstream in inflatable canoes, meeting up with a two supply boats coming upstream after 'a couple of days'.

## **Unknown**

Organised by PAMS a conservation Non Government Organisation and the National Park Service to study the biodiversity and assess potential for tourism (that was where I came in). Little is known of the river and its thick jungle canopy prevents satellite observation.... a leap into the unknown.

Our canoes inflated and loaded, we set off with great enthusiasm. We soon encountered the first of about a thousand trees that had fallen across the river! That gave us an insight into the coming days ...a combination of hacking branches away and hauling the boats over the huge trees – gruelling work! It also meant the supply boats couldn't come upstream to meet us! so, we had to stretch the 2 days of rations we had with us out for 8 days! Hard physical work and little food is a great weight loss regime!

## **Torrential**

Late each afternoon we looked for a flat bit of ground in the jungle that wasn't too wet



*Not sure that canoe meets the loading regulations. Below, those trees could do with a bit of work*

to pitch camp for the night – most nights we had absolutely torrential rain!

The Tai NP is home to a wide variety of wildlife. Cute pigmy hippos to forest elephants, troops of chimpanzees and monkeys as well as vibrant bird life. Fortunately, the river only had pigmy crocodiles which are rather timid, as we spent a lot of time up to our necks in the water!

## **Adventure**

The expedition had the critical ingredients of a real adventure – unknown territory, untold challenges, uncertain outcome! But with some grit, resilience, ingenuity and humour we managed to overcome them!

Anyone want to come on the next descent?



## *Chitterne takes over land for community use*



Under a scheme recently adopted by Wiltshire Council, ownership of the allotments and grazing has been transferred to the village. The land has to be devoted to agricultural or horticultural use, but this does not mean that it cannot add to the recreational assets of the village, and the Parish Council will be debating possible uses at a forthcoming meeting.

They would like to encourage your participation, in the first instance to put forward ideas and suggestions for the

utilisation of the land, which has probably the best view in Chitterne. Access is from Bidden Lane (aka Shrewton Road); do go up and have a look around. Possible uses for the land include:

Allotments; regular plots for adult allotment users;  
Junior allotments for young users, with volunteer adult help and instruction;  
Tree nursery to grow-on saplings to replace the many dead and diseased trees in the village;

A picnic site, positioned to take advantage of the view and equipped with tables, benches etc:

Grazing for ponies and smaller animals; (Horse-box access is difficult).

An orchard with mixed fruit trees (Chitterne already has an excess of apples).

*You may have ideas you would like us to consider, if so, send them by email to: Councillor John Dillon at [jdchitternepc@btinternet.com](mailto:jdchitternepc@btinternet.com)*