

Chit-Chat

Parish Newsletter
for the residents of
Chitterne, Wiltshire

Editor: Barry Ricketts, Stable Cottage, 24 Townsend, 01985 850884

No 12, August 2006

Parish Council News

Emergency Planning

Mr Paul Pike, who is the Council's point of contact for emergency planning, briefed the council on his qualifications and outlined the sort of occurrence for which we should be prepared. It was for instance not impossible that a Hercules could crash on the village destroying houses, causing fires and injuring people. The first ten minutes after such an incident before the official emergency services can react are the most important in saving lives. The Council agreed that it ought to have a plan and identify people with skills who were willing to help. It was proposed that between now and 11 Sep, the date of the next council meeting, we would start the process of putting a plan together. The plan would then be tested by taking part in a County Council run exercise on Thursday 12 Oct. Mr Pike has kindly agreed to act as our leader in this matter.

How can you help? We need volunteers of all sorts even if you work away from the village. You can never predict when something is going to happen it could be at night or on a weekend. You are asked therefore to get in touch with Mr Pike, who lives at 14 Abdon Close and whose telephone number is 851053.

Best Kept Village

In the small village category there were six entries. The judges were most complementary about Chitterne but still placed us 5th. A big thank you to all who worked so hard on the clean up day.

Traffic

As you are all aware, we continue to do what we may to abate the continuous stream of traffic running through the village. Our Member of Parliament has now written on our behalf to the Minister responsible urging him to action. It is hoped that improvements to the A303 and A 36 will reduce traffic using Chitterne as a rat run. We are now waiting for a reply, and will continue to worry away at the problem.

Youth Club

The Chairman has been approached by several of the young people in the village to start up the Youth Club again. The village has good facilities for suitable activities both in and out of doors. What is required is an enthusiastic volunteer to come forward to lead it. If you would like to help please talk to Mr Reid. (See over)



A mini issue of Chit-Chat this month, as we all recover from the exertions of June and July, and get our minds round holidays and the Chitterne Fete to come in September. The picture is to remind you all of the wonderful things there are to see on the Plain during August. Easy to forget we live in one of the most prolific areas for wildlife and flowers in England, and it's all free!

SPOOKY SIGHTING ON CHITTERNE DOWN

I received the following email as Chit Chat was going to press. At first, it just confirmed my belief that July is the silly season for news, but then I read the email address... (Editor)

Dear Sir

My name is Sam Edwards and I live in Trowbridge. A few weeks ago I went on holiday to Turkey with friends. We flew from Gatwick and left a car up there. On the journey home we travelled back along the M3 and A303 and along the Chitterne Downs. This is the reason for this e-mail.

Whilst travelling along this road my friend in the front passenger seat suddenly said to the driver "Wow! slow down, theres a guy in the middle of the road." This made me look up from the back but neither I nor the driver saw anything. He then shouted to stop but again there was nothing to be seen. This was rather spooky as he could even say

what the person was wearing - a black shirt and jeans and looked like he was carrying a bottle of spirit.

Curiosity got the better of me and I started to look into this further. I contacted Sue Robinson who advised me there are flowers left along that road on the last tank sign before the village so she assumes something tragic has happened there in the past. She suggested I sought an answer to this puzzle by asking Chit-Chat readers if they have any information.

Sam.Edwards@wiltshire.pnn.police.uk



SERVICES AT ALL SAINTS IN AUGUST

Sunday, 6 August	08.45 am	(BCP)
Sunday, 13 August	10.00 am	Shrewton Group Service
Sunday, 20 August	10.00 am	Family Service
Sunday 27 August	08.45 am	Holy Communion (Chancel)

UP ON THE PLAIN - ARMY ACTIVITIES, August 2006

The first week of August will be quite busy with a large armoured exercise involving the Land Warfare Centre, Warminster. Thereafter it will be very quiet with little activity other than Cadet Summer Camps on the Plain until the 21st August. A series of minor unit level exercises will then run through to the end of the month before 19 Mechanised Brigade deploys onto the Plain on 4th September to conduct a major exercise prior to their operational tour in Iraq.

Live firing

Normal live firing takes place from 0830 - 1700hrs daily, but may continue throughout the night - normally on Tuesdays and Thursdays only. Noise may be greater in certain areas depending upon the atmospheric conditions at the time. Dates and locations are subject to change:

- Late firing days Larkhill/Westdown Ranges: 1,3, 31.

COMPLAINTS MAY BE TELEPHONED THROUGH TO STONEHENGE (01980) 620819 AT ANY TIME.

Helicopter night flying

Night flying will normally take place Mondays to Thursdays inclusive over parts of the training area, dependent upon weather and the availability of range space. In some cases the aircraft will show no lights but will operate under strict area control.

Air activities

Dates and times given below are those listed at the time of printing, but may be altered due to aircraft serviceability or weather conditions.

Parachuting

Fox Covert DZ (C130)

- 03. 2200 - 2400
- 10. 2300 - 0230
- 16. 2300 - 0100
- 17. 2300 - 2400
- 24. 1800 - 0200
- 31. 2300 - 2400

Everleigh DZ (C130)

- 08. 1800 - 2400
- 09. 1700 - 0230
- 15. 2300 - 2400
- 21. 1700 - 1900
- 22. 1800 - 2400
- 23. 1800 - 2000
- 25. 1800 - 0200
- 29. 1800 - 2400
- 30. 2300 - 2400

Striplandings -Upavon

- 30. 1900 - 2000
- 2300 - 2400
- 31. 2300 - 2400

Fighter ground attack (FGA)

- 14. 0800 - 1700
- 15. 0800 - 1700
- 16. 0800 - 1700
- 17. 0800 - 1700

Parish Liaison Day 2006

DTE SP will be hosting a Parish Liaison Day on Thursday 21st September at Westdown Camp commencing at 10.30 hours. We will be discussing general issues in the morning - signage, flagging and future training trends and after lunch, a major presentation on the Eastern Infrastructure Project. We anticipate concluding at 1530 hrs; formal invitations will be posted at the beginning of August.

Imber Ranges

Imber Range will be closed throughout August. Due to continued refurbishment at St Giles, there will be no service there again this year.

Conservation Notes

In many ways, August is the best month on the Plain with the most spectacular display of flowers. The grassland is dominated by Knapweed and the shorter Harebell, Clustered Bellflower, Autumn Gentian and Thyme but there are still masses of yellow flowers scattered amongst these, especially where grazing has taken place earlier in the year. Notable among these are Birdsfoot Trefoil and Dyers Greenweed.

Butterflies, too, are abundant with Meadow Brown, Small Heath and Dark Green Fritillary in the longer grassland with Brown Argus, Chalkhill Blue and Common Blue where the turf is shorter.

Others to look out for are Wall Brown and Adonis Blue later this month. Where the grass is very short and intermingled with the bare ground, one of the rarest butterflies on the Plain, the Grayling, can be seen.

YOGA ESSENCE

An effective work out to strengthen your body, calm your mind and lift your spirits.

Wednesdays 7:15pm to 8:15pm at Chitterne Village hall.

Ring Lisa for details 850405 - £5 per session, sign up for 6 wks and save!

For your diaries:

Sudan Feed-A-Need lunch

Chitterne Village Hall, Aug 9.

CHITTERNE ANNUAL FETE AND DOG SHOW

SUNDAY 3rd SEPTEMBER 2006

The dog show will start 12.30pm

The Fete will open 2pm - 4.30pm

Grand Raffle many prizes

All the usual stalls and lots lots more

If you have any ideas, want a stall or can help in any way at any time, please contact: Kathleen Babey 850369 or Gill Lawson 850237.

FOR SALE - TP GARDEN CLIMBING FRAME

Comprises slide, pirate swing and trapeze. Totally sound but needs clean-up so only £40. To view at White Hart House tel 851108

Chit-Chat next issue

The next issue of Chit-Chat will go to press during the week commencing Monday 25th September. All contributions by hand, floppy disc, or email to: barry.ricketts@btinternet.com, tel: 850884 or 'over the stable door' at 24 Townsend (Stable Cottage).

To download Chit-Chat in colour 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 Acrobat to read them.

Downloads may take a few minutes.

Council notes continued

Vandalism

It is sad to note that the swings on the recreation ground have had some of the anti bird spikes broken. The Council has spent your money having them refurbished. Please take action if you see someone doing something stupid like that.

Next Meeting

There will be no Parish Council meeting in August with the next meeting planned for Monday 11 September. Amongst other things we will be discussing Footpaths. If you have a view let a Councillor know or attend and speak at the open forum.

CHURCH CLEANING and FLOWER ROTA

Aug 06	Mrs C Pearson	Clean and flowers
Aug 13/20	Mrs S Gooch	Clean and flowers
Aug 27	Mrs A. Neeve	St Mary's Chancel, Clean and flowers
Sep 03	Mrs M Stobie	Clean and flowers
Sep 10/17	Mrs V Pryor	Clean and flowers