



Chit Chat

Parish Newsletter for the
residents of Chitterne, Wiltshire
No. 201 January 2024

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First and foremost, may I wish you all a Happy New Year

I make no apologies for this month's Chit Chat being full of photographs. Over the Christmas period there were angels in the church, Christmas trees around the village, twinkling lights in abundance, and Mary & Joseph even found somewhere to rest, although I believe the roof got blown off during the high winds and they had to make an unplanned departure!



What a wonderful idea this was. Ladies, and you know who you are, the church looked beautiful bedecked with angels of all sorts - who knew that an old Radio Times could be transformed into an angel with a wonky halo, or that pieces of wood could become something quite uplifting!

Happy New Year!
Happy New You.



Please RSVP by Friday 5th January 2024 via email:
acrosstheplainwi@gmail.com
or WHATSAPP Message: ATP WI Social Chat
Thank you!



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 9th January 2024*
7.30pm Chitterne Village Hall, Chitterne



**Top Tips for
Top to Toe Health**
find your best mind
set and put your best
foot forward into
2024!

Guest Speakers:
Erika Snowden-Pike, Lead Primary Care Nurse, The Orchard Partnership
Lexa Turner, Psychological Well-being Practitioner, Help for Heroes

Please join us for a practical and informative talk on Well-being, Mindfulness and Leg & Foot Health. Get Top to Toe health tips from our very own practitioners, Lexa and Erika. A great way to start the new year...


Happy New Year! Happy New You!

* Please note the change of date for our January 2024 event.
Non-Members Welcome. First Visit Free. £5 Guest fee thereafter (Max 3 visits)

CHRISTMAS HAMPER WINNERS

1st prize **RED 107** Sheila B
2nd prize **BLUE 49** Wendy J
3rd prize **RED 219** Wendy
4th prize **RED 38** Virginia N

Congratulations to all the winners and many thanks to everyone who bought tickets to support Wiltshire Air Ambulance, the charity Across the Plain WI are supporting in 2024.



Wiltshire Air Ambulance
funded by you, flying for you



BREAKFAST CLUB
Saturday 6th January
0930 - 1100
Village Hall

Remember to find a seat and a 'waitress' will take your order.

This is the first Breakfast Club of 2024 and a great opportunity to come along and wish everyone a 'happy New Year'.

CHRISTMAS QUIZ ANSWERS

I hope you found a bit of peace and quiet during Christmas to try and work out the anagrams set in last month's Chit Chat. Here are the answers and I must apologise for adding an extra 's' in number 9 - I blame it on the sherry!!

- MOTEL SITE (9) **MISTLETOE**
- FIRMEST CRASH HAT (6, 9) **FATHER CHRISTMAS**
- TINY VITA (8) **NATIVITY**
- KNIFE SCANNER (12) **FRANKINCENSE**
- RESIST REMATCH (9, 4) **CHRISTMAS TREE**
- COORDINATES (11) **DECORATIONS**
- VICARS THEMES (9, 3) **CHRISTMAS EVE**
- HE BILLS LEGS (6, 5) **SLEIGH BELLS**
- CONGRESS LIAR(S) (5, 7) **CAROL SINGERS**
- GAP PAWN RIPPER (8, 5) **WRAPPING PAPER**



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For all workshop dates, venues and prices please go to website or email rachel.wilkinson1@icloud.com for more information.
Workshops for private groups at local venues also available on request.

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Looking for something unique and hand-crafted as a gift? Visit Happy Hāthī Craft on the first floor of The Phoenix Emporium, 115 Tollgate Rd, Salisbury SP1 2JG
www.thephoenixemporium.co.uk
The Phoenix Emporium. The Home of Retro, Hand-Crafted, Collectables.



MOBILE LIBRARY
Friday 26th January
11.10 - 11.30
The bus parks outside the Village Hall



Many thanks to Anne, Dave, John, Lexa, Mike and Sarah for sending me their photos to share with everyone.

THINKING OF YOU



To any one who is feeling unwell at the moment, in hospital, or just finding life a little bit difficult, we wish you well and hope that things begin to improve where they can.

CHIT CHAT NEXT ISSUE

Please may I have all contributions for the February issue by Tuesday 23rd January. Please email them to the Chit Chat address.

ALL SAINTS with ST MARY'S CHITTERNE CHURCH CLOCK

For the more observant of you, you will have noticed that the above church clock has been restored. This restoration was the result of the church wardens admiring the recently restored faces on the clock at Corsley Church and the Alms Houses at Longbridge Deverill. It was agreed that the clock face was rather tired and difficult to read. The funding of the works was from a resident of the village. All works were carried out under the supervision of David Pollard, who carried out the overhaul and servicing of the movement, whilst restoration work on the face was carried out by Wiltshire Steeple Jacks of Trowbridge.



David Pollard has sent me this article on the history of the church & clock which I thought you may be interested in.

There is a history of worship in the village since the thirteenth century, when there was a church for each of the two parishes, Chitterne All Saints situated a little to the north of the present church, and Chitterne St Mary's which was towards the west end of the village. The two churches were both rebuilt in the fifteenth century but were small buildings, as can be seen today by the only remaining part of the two, the chancel of St Mary's, currently used as a Mortuary Chapel, and where the graveyard is still in use. The population of the two parishes had increased to nearly 800 by 1861 and a decision was taken to replace both small churches and build one larger one to accommodate the worshippers. Much of the material from the redundant buildings was used in the construction of this new church.

The new church was built around 1863 to a design by T H Wyatt. Incorporated in the design was a clock movement made by J W Benson Ltd of the Steam Factory, London. They were official watchmakers to the Admiralty and held royal warrant to the Prince of Wales and later by Queen Victoria. He perfected a reliable turret clock design and made a clock for the Great Exhibition of 1862.

No record exists of the purchase of the clock at All Saints Church but I (David) suggest the cost of this maker's products would have been considerably higher than a movement from, such as, Smiths of Derby. I further suggest that this clock was funded by private means from a parishioner and resident of the village.

The clock is made of cast iron, referred to as a flat bed. All gear work is in turned brass with steel pinions and shafts, two trains, one for the going movement and the second for the striking train; the clock hammer is fixed to strike on the third bell of five, which is the oldest bell, having been retrieved from one of the two former churches, cast during the late 1300s. The bell founder was J Barber, who died in 1403 in Salisbury, so it has sounded its voice to the inhabitants of the village for over 600 years!! The face is a solid sheet of copper, not to the same quality as the movement, and has been painted with hand applied weather proof paint, Trafalgar Blue, and numerals and hands in 22 carat gold leaf.

From the church records, it is shown that from 1867 to 1904 numerous clock winders were employed and received a yearly sum of £1 for their efforts! The present clock winder is Mike Lucas, whose other duties include being ringing master of the bell ringers; whether he receives a yearly sum of £1 is not known!