

EXCELLENT PROGRESS ON ALLOTMENTS AND PADDOCKS

Those of you who have allotments, or who live adjacent to them will have noticed the increased activity taking place in the paddocks and at the side of the plots nearest to Eric's field. In the December issue, we covered the transfer of ownership of the allotments and paddocks from Wiltshire Council to Chitterne Parish Council, and in February, we advised of plans to tackle the loss of trees in the village, due to disease and the great age of many of our trees. An early suggestion was to use part of the land as a tree nursery, but we have been advised that part-grown saplings do not do particularly well when transplanted. Various options have been explored, and the Parish Council would like to hear from anyone who feels they have a view on the future use of the Paddocks.

Phase 1
Clearly, the most pressing job has been to clear the land, which was rather neglected, and something of a dumping ground! With invaluable help from Brian Lee and Kevin Foster, plus a team of extremely hard-working volunteers, 'Phase 1' has included moving a mountain of accumulated junk, including an old caravan, through which a tree had grown! Taking down redundant barbed wire and electric fencing, and - at last - for the keen allotment holders, who have had to rely on rain tanks for water for years, we have established a proper mains water supply which has had a pipe connection installed both to the paddocks and allotments, and will shortly be connected and available for use.

New allotments
In addition, we have been able to provide 3 extra full-size plots, and already have 2 new allotmenters. There is scope for further development of the allotments if required.

Brian Lee has undertaken a first cut of the Paddocks, and our Council Chairman Charles Horsfall has done great service in removing long established, self-seeded Elder and other trees which have obstructed access to the water mains supply. There are piles of useful logs for fires and wood burners scattered around the site, and villagers are most welcome to take them - first come, first served!

Any Volunteers?

There is a long way to go before the 'Phase 1' job of land clearance is complete. There are several large bonfires waiting to be ignited when the wind is in the right direction, and the fires will need to be tended and supervised to ensure safety.

Strong helpers will be needed to dismantle and load the Heras fencing - we'll notify via Petenet.

Quite a bit of junk still needs to be disposed of. We'll order another skip, and advise through Petenet again.

There is a lot of wire netting and fencing posts which can be re-cycled, allotment holders are welcome to take them.

Future uses
We are already exploring one option for the site - totalling 2.5 hectares - which is to develop a small, permanent woodland to provide wind relief for the allotments, while leaving good site-lines of the magnificent views from the hill, and at the same time provide a pleasant area for us all to enjoy. There are grants available for such planting, which is being encouraged by both national and local government, to increase the UK's badly depleted woodlands. Other suggestions have included a wildflower meadow, and there is room for both. We need to move forward with this plan now; Phase 1 will be complete by the end of Spring. Please let us hear from you. Either in support of the existing ideas, or with new ones. The area is covenanted and can only be used for agricultural, horticultural and recreational purposes, but that leaves scope for a range of activities. Please contact me by email or phone (see Chit-Chat masthead) any of our councillors, or use Petenet.

A final word about the trees we are losing in the village; we are actively pursuing grants for their replacement, where necessary, with disease-resistant trees. This may be a fairly long-term process, since we, sadly, have a large number of diseased and dead elms, ash and other trees requiring attention and removal, and we can only proceed at a rate consistent with the funds we have available for such work.

Pictures, from top:

Enthusiastic volunteer Emma Cole removing the seemingly endless lengths of post and barbed wire stock fencing surrounding the paddocks. The Heras fencing behind Emma will also need to be removed. A buyer has been found. We need to dismantle it and deliver. Any volunteers to help?

Brian Lee undertakes the first cut. The area was less 'tussocky' than feared and there is a good depth of healthy soil.

Kevin cuts out the first of three new allotment plots.

The water pipeline to the allotments and paddocks is laid by a special 'mechanical mole'.



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Editor: Barry Ricketts, Stable Cottage, 24 Townsend, BA12 0LF- 07914 264 324 email barryricketts1@icloud.com

A Promise Fulfilled



Following my call for information regarding Sergeant Stacey in last month's Chit-Chat, I received a phone call from someone who said he could help. Sadly it was a 'number withheld' call so I am unable to thank him, but with his help I was directed to an address in Warminster, where I found the son of William Stacey's widow who had remarried in 1948.

He put me in touch with his half-sister, Barbara Savage, whose father was William Stacey. She was born in Flint Cottage in Chitterne and remembers growing up playing with at least one member of our current community, Virginia Pryor. Sadly she was born just three days before her father died. She says her mother, Lily Emily, was always puzzled as to why her husband's name had not been engraved on the Memorial. Until the day she died she asked her daughter to continue the quest and she and her husband Steve conducted an epic search, which culminated last year on the 80th anniversary of the Battle of Arnhem, also known as 'Operation Market Garden.'

Barbara's mother died in Saint Johns Hospital in Heytesbury in 2016. She had written in her will that the medals, photos and other memorabilia be donated to the Arnhem Museum. Barbara and Steve were also able to be present at the ceremony. Undecided on how to get there they eventually decided to go by coach. As luck would have it their guide on the coach was an ex-Para who did some research for them and said he could take them to the spot where her father had been killed. William was one of the first to jump and was

waiting for his jeep to be parachuted in. He was shot and wounded by the SS and his comrades went back for him only to find he had been shot again and had died of his wounds. If that was not emotion enough, as they stood imagining the scene, five Dakotas flew over and the sky was full of parachutists rehearsing for the anniversary display. Imagine that!

Roll of Honour
The museum told them that it would take at least a year for everything to go on display so much to her delight she received a letter two weeks ago with pictures of her father, his medals and other memorabilia set up and on display in the museum. Furthermore, three days later she heard that, at last, William Clifford Stacey's name will be engraved on the Roll of Honour on our War memorial.

Richard Jammes and I have now traced a living relative of two of the four names missing from the War Memorial. There will be a dedication at the Memorial, hopefully in time for the VE Day commemoration, and we are honoured that the relatives will attend the service.

Murray Kent

Arnhem hero William Stacey's daughter Barbara and the dossier compiled with her husband Steve, which helped to validate their request for Sergeant Stacey's name to be engraved on the War Memorial in the Grounds of All Saints, Chitterne. Inset: William's portrait and medals in the Arnhem museum.

Parish Council Notes

Chitterne Parish Council Meeting, Monday, March 3rd, 7.00 pm, Chitterne Village Hall.

Present: Charles Horsfall (chair) Barry Ricketts (clerk) Cllr .Tony Hulton, Cllr. Jane Bell, Cllr. Julia Hendrickse. Apologies for absence: Cllr. Graham Potter.

Submissions from the Public.

Nick Martin made a presentation indicating ways Earthline may be requested to assist in reducing run-off into gulleys which empty into the Cut, he agreed to draft a letter to this effect for the Council.

A group of residents of Back Lane made a submission requesting that the proposal for the conversion of the disused chalk-pit on Back Lane be withdrawn, due to concerns about rat infestation, increased vehicular traffic and the possibility of fly tipping. *See below, 'Unregistered Land, Back Lane'.*

Minutes of the EGM of 9th December and the meeting of 20th January were approved.

There were no dispensations, declarations of interest, or Chairman's announcements.

Planning Applications.
Householder Application PL/2025/01416 - Teckel House, 104A, Chitterne, Warminster, BA12 0LH Proposed alterations to existing single storey rear extension Mr Angus Brown. Approved

Correspondence. A parishioner has written to ask whether the delayed cable installation for Wessex Internet is likely to lead to cancellation. Chairman confirmed that the installation over MoD land will take place in April. *Continued P2.*

VILLAGE HALL EVENTS - For Your Diaries

Don't miss the Great Chitterne Car Wash - Saturday 26th April 0930.

Willing helpers would be appreciated - contact Paul Pike on paulmpike@gmail.com

Breakfast club, Saturday, April 5 9.30-11am.

In February's CC it was mentioned that there would be an event on Thursday 7th May - VE Day. This has been cancelled but we will be 'celebrating' **VJ Day** on August 16th, combined with **Imber Bus Day**

Please remember **Village Hall Refreshing Weekend** on 17th & 18th May - more info will be in May CC. We are aiming to clean, paint, sort, garden etc

Also, a big thank you to everyone who came along for pancakes & coffee on 4th March, especially to Sarah & Rowena in their roles of chef & barista.

And finally, a huge thank you to everyone who came along and supported the VH Trustees at the Quiz & Cheese Night on 8th March. This was a fun evening and for some, quite a competitive one!! Congratulations once again to team Cheesy Nibbles.

CHURCH SERVICES IN APRIL		
6 th April	Holy Communion	Chitterne 9.00am
13 th April	Palm Sunday Service	Chitterne 10.30am
17 th April	Maudy Thursday Service	Shrewton 6 pm
18 th April	Good Friday Service	Orcheston 12 noon
20 th April	Easter Day Services	Chitterne 11.00 am
30 th April	Annual Parochial Church Meeting	Tilshead 6.30pm

STOP PRESS!

We have new Licensees for the Kings Head

FULL DETAILS IN MAY ISSUE



THE GREAT CHITTERNE DUCK RACE

We are very much hoping to be able to organise another Great Chitterne Duck Race on Easter Monday (21 April) but, with the level of the cut going down quite fast, we think we had better wait a few weeks before formally advertising it so as to be more confident that it won't have completely dried up by Easter Monday. So do put it in your diary and, hopefully, we will be able to send out information on Petenet on about 10 April on how you can buy your ducks. As last year, there will be morning coffee and cakes in the village hall and this year we will be collecting in aid of The Salisbury Hospice.

Continued from P.2

Banking Assets and Finance. The balance sheet and accounts were approved. Cllr Hulton requested that assets should be depreciated annually.

Receipts and payments. Payments for February were presented and approved.

RoSPA play equipment. Clerk will clean swing seats. Cllr Bell concerned that RoSPA recommendations may not yet be fully implemented despite examination by village maintenance staff.

Alternative Inspection Arrangements. Chairman referred to dissatisfaction with the cost and service arrangements provided by RoSPA. Requested approval to contact an alternative inspection and maintenance company: 'Sovereign'. Approved.

Proposed Playing Field Mowing Arrangements. A contract for year-round mowing of the playing field by Mr Brian Lee was approved.

Allotments and Grazing Areas.

A Geophysical Survey of the proposed site for new woodland was refused. Work to clear the site will continue.

Unregistered Land, Back Lane. In view of the concerns expressed by residents, the proposal to use the site for garden waste composting was refused. Clearance will continue.

Website Management. Cllr Bell will explore the possibility of employing an Internet and Social Media manager.

Dead Tree Removal. Chairman proposed immediate action to remove several dead trees from the playing field and adjacent to the Cut. Approved. Discussions are ongoing to obtain the services of a tree surgeon to look after tree health in Chitterne on a longer-term basis.

Parishioners Meeting, Election and AGM.

Meeting to take place on April 23rd. No applications to fill vacancy on Parish Council as yet. Chair will stand for another year. Cllrs. Hulton, Potter, Bell and Hendrickse will remain in post. Clerk to continue to advertise vacant post.

Any Other Business. Chitterne website address to appear on masthead in Chit-Chat, also, Army Reports to be re-instated. Pedestrian and equestrian traffic signs will be erected soon.

Date of next meeting: April 28th.

Upcoming in Chitterne

A303 Winterbourne Stoke road closures will impact Chitterne.

A 4.5km section of the A303 through the village of Winterbourne Stoke in Wiltshire is to be resurfaced. Works will start from the evening of Monday 31 March until Friday 02 May, and take place in both directions between Longbarrow roundabout up to the start of the dual carriageway section to the west of Winterbourne Stoke.

The majority of the works will be via overnight closures (Monday – Friday, from 9pm to 6am) in both directions between Longbarrow Roundabout and the A36 junction to the west of Winterbourne Stoke. This includes the road through the village of Winterbourne Stoke. There will be one full weekend closure, from 9pm on Friday 25 April until 6am on Monday 28 April.

The A303 will be open as usual during the day and at weekends. There will be no working over the Easter weekend from 17– 21 April.

The following diversions will be in place: Light vehicles (under 14ft) - eastbound will follow the A303, the A36 down to Wilton, then back up the A360 to Longbarrow Roundabout. Westbound traffic in reverse. HGV's (over 14ft) - eastbound will follow the A303, the A36 up to the B390 junction to Chitterne, follow the B390 through Chitterne toward Shrewton, join the A360 then the B3086 to rejoin the A303 at Longbarrow Roundabout. Westbound in reverse.

Foodbank Collections

We are, once again collecting food for the Warminster Food Bank. If you could put your donations in the box inside the door of the Church, that would be appreciated.

They need: Tinned fruit, pasta and meat. Fruit juices. Small bars of chocolate. Pasta sauce. Jam. Peanut butter. Marmalade and Instant coffee.

To all those who have put their candle stubs in the Church - thank you. This is an ongoing event, so when you have collected some more please do drop them into the little cardboard box, also in the Church.

We are lucky to live in such a generous village - thanks to all.
Marcelle

Mobile Library

Mobile Library will be at the Village Hall from 1110 to 1130 on Monday 28th April.

Anyone for Cricket?

Chitterne Cricket Club is always looking for new players to join us for some not too competitive village cricket; no matter how long it is since you last played, and no matter what age, sex or ability you are, you will be very welcome! If interested, please contact our Captain Nick Martin (07710 468011) or Secretary Richard Hendrickse (850120).

We have eight fixtures arranged for the coming season, all at home less for the match against Erlestoke.

Sunday 25th May	Nairobi Nomads
Sunday 8th June	Erlestoke (A)
Saturday 22nd June	Horningsham
Sunday 6th July	Michael Horsfall/Rafe Seymour XI
Sunday 20th July	Avon Valley
Sunday 3rd August	Heytesbury and Sutton Veny
Saturday 31st August	Lambeth Wanderers
Sunday 7th Sept	President's XI



Picture by Jane Bell

Don't be like the cows and rock up to Breakfast Club on the wrong day, at the wrong time - It's Saturday April 5th, from 09.30 to 11.00, don't be late!



PLANT SALE at Pitts House

With any luck we will soon be enjoying some lovely spring weather and getting out into our gardens a bit more. Thank you to everyone, in advance, for growing things for us to sell. If you are planning to grow some things perhaps you could let us know and I will be in touch with our regular growers to make sure we don't end up with all tomatoes and no leeks!

We hope to have the usual wide range of plants and vegetables so please save a space in your gardens for them! We will also have a lovely selection of cakes and home produce. There will be coffee and tea of course so do please come and see us on Saturday 17th May at Pitts House from 10.30am to 12 noon to support Julia's House and the village church.

Many thanks, Nicholas & EmmaTel: 850416

Local Elections, May 1st.

On Thursday, May 1st, local elections will take place all over England. We elect our County, Town and Parish Councillors, in the case of Parish councils, for a period of four years, after which, they must stand again.

In Chitterne, your present Parish Councillors will stand for re-election again; they are: Charles Horsfall, (Chair), Tony Hulton, Graham Potter, Jane Bell, Julia Hendrickse and me, Barry Ricketts, I am also the voluntary clerk to the council, and Chit-Chat editor. Chitterne is divided into two 'Wards'- Saint Mary's and All Saints. This is because there used to be two churches - therefore parishes - in Chitterne. Saint Mary's is allocated two councillors while All Saints has five. Councillors Horsfall and Hendrickse are in St Mary's but the remaining councillors are representing All Saints. This means, of course that there is a vacancy in All Saints. This has been advertised on Petenet and we all hope that someone will have chosen to be nominated for the position by the time you read this issue. The 'Ward' you are in no longer matters as far as doing the job is concerned. We treat Chitterne as one Parish to all intents and puposes. However, even if you have not applied yet, but feel that you would like to join the group of councillors who are responsible for the Parish, it is possible to be 'co-opted' - usually if you have a skill that would help the council to administer some aspect of Parish affairs. Contact any one of the councillors, or me, and we can start the process.

Full Fibre “Closer to Reality”

After a delay to the original build schedule, Wessex Internet's ultrafast broadband is moving closer to reality in Chitterne. I am pleased to confirm that, at the time of writing, our teams are scheduled to begin building the network in April, with completion predicted for early Summer. The network will provide a vital new full fibre infrastructure to the village, and will leave a provision for a full fibre connection to over 150 premises, as part of Project Gigabit's South Wiltshire contract (for further information see www.wessexinternet.com/project-gigabit-south-wiltshire).

Those people already registered with us will receive a communication when the build is due to begin. If you would like to register your interest, or place an order, you can do so here: www.wessexinternet.com/order/interest This will allow us to keep you updated on the progress with the build, and contact you about the services we can bring to your home. Our sales people can answer any of the questions you might have about a potential connection and suggest the best solution for your situation. We look forward to bringing our award-winning service to Chitterne!

Paul Cleary, regional community manager for Wessex Internet



Army Activity near Chitterne April 2025

April will see the end of Exercise Wessex Storm, but there will still be a large number of armoured vehicles from the RTR, HCR and 5 Rifles operating across the Estate. There will be live firing days on the Larkhill/ Westdown danger area (North of Larkhill) throughout April.

Business Dog-Walkers without a licence for the SPTA are to remain on Public Rights of Way in accordance with the bylaws. If you do not comply and there is an incident, your insurance will not apply, since you were breaking the law at the time of the incident.(Licences can be obtained through Landmarc Support Services).

The headquarters of Salisbury Plain Training Area now has a Facebook account and an 'X' account:www.facebook.com/HQSalisburyPlainTrainingArea/ and X - @HQSPTA.

When accessing MoD land, remember our Respect the Range guidance:

- **Look out for red flags - live firing is taking place**
- **Check armed forces training and firing times before your visit**
- **Pay attention to signage and information displays**
- **Stick to public footpaths, bridleways and byways**
- **Do not touch any military debris - report its location for safe disposal**

Anti-social Behaviour - parishioners are encouraged to report all illegal activity on Salisbury Plain, including illegal off-roading, motorbiking, drone use, poaching, hare-coursing, camping on MoD land, petty theft and kite flying, to the MoD police on 01371 854444. If a serious crime is encountered, ring 999.



Please RSVP by Sunday 30th March 2025 via email: acrosstheplainwi@gmail.com or WHATSAPP Message: ATP WI Social Chat. Thank you!



< *Picture left* Very many thanks to those of you who have donated in support of Nicholas Walters and my appeal for Pickups for Peace. This amazing charity takes 4WD vehicles, loaded with aid, to hand over to the Ukraine Army, which then uses them for casualty recovery, evacuation of civilians and support of frontline troops.

To date the charity has delivered over 500 vehicles and we will be taking out one more. A particular thank-you to Neil and Jane Harley from Valley Farm for their incredibly generous donation of a Toyota Hilux, which Neil had been planning to part-exchange. Donations are still possible through Justgiving and would be most welcome; just search for "Knyvett" or "Walters" on the Justgiving site!

Wiltshire Police are investigating reports of a number of burglaries in villages between Warminster and Wilton.

The offences over the weekend include the theft of a motorbike from a barn in Upton Lovell and a large-scale theft of plant machinery from a hire company in Westbury, amounting to £106,000. Inspector Lou Oakley, from Warminster Police, said, "We have received reports of theft along the A36 corridor, and we'd like to reassure communities that we are investigating and will be carrying out extra patrols.

"Victims are being offered advice on marking their tools and vehicles in the event that if they are stolen and recovered, we can return them to their rightful owners.

"We are not linking these incidents at the moment and believe there are other offences that have happened in this area that have not been reported to the police.

"If you have been targeted or have information that could help with our enquiries, please contact us at 101 or through our website: *report a crime/ wiltshire police*"

If you are storing valuables in outbuildings we would urge you to:

Think like a thief - Take a look at your shed and consider how you would break in
Alarm it - Consider a battery-operated shed alarm
Lock it, hide it or mark it

You can find more crime prevention advice on our website: *crime prevention advice /wiltshire police*

CHURCH OF ENGLAND ELECTORAL ROLL

Every six years there is a renewal of the Electoral Roll, being on the Electoral Roll enables you to vote at the Annual General Meeting.

There are application forms to renew/join the Electoral Roll in the Church. On the notice board within the Church there is a 'Notice of Preparation of New Roll' explaining the rules. Please either leave your application in the Church or put it through the door of 1 St. Mary's Close. If you need any further information please either email me on marcelle.stobie@btinternet.com or phone on 01985 851048. You could, of course, email me your completed form.

Tuesday 1st April 2025

7.30pm Chitterne Village Hall, Chitterne

How to Create Beautiful Beeswax Candles

Guest Speaker:
Rebecca Bollen

www.potternehoney.co.uk



Roll-up, Roll-up!

**Fancy having a go at candle rolling?
It's a simple technique for making candles by wrapping a wick in a sheet of wax and rolling it into a straight shape. Simple!**

**Buzz on over and join us. You'd be a (April) fool to miss this one.
It's going to be the bee's knees!**

Please note that a variety of beautiful products from the lovely Potterne Honey Bees will be available to purchase on the night.

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



The clocks have sprung forward an hour, the daffs have done their thing, and everywhere we can see signs of new life. I don't know about you, but I always find this month a pretty hopeful one. Coming up in April we have some significant opportunities to mark Easter across the parish and specifically in Chitterne as follows:

Chitterne will have its usual service at the beginning of the month with 9am traditional Holy Communion on 6th April and then on 13th April, Palm Sunday, the 10.30am service will mark the beginning of Holy Week. All are welcome to join us for this special service which includes the blessing of palm crosses and the reading of the whole of the Passion story. If you want to join us mark the last days of Jesus' life, then please do also feel very welcome to attend the following services:

- Maundy Thursday, 6pm, St Mary's Shrewton- Holy Communion of the Last Supper
- Good Friday, 12noon, St Mary's Orcheston- An Hour at the Cross
- On Easter day there will be a service of Holy Communion in Chitterne at 11am.

As the school holidays actually end just after Easter, we are focusing our usual activity packs on Holy Week this year. So if you have children 2-9yrs (approx) and would like an activity pack for them, please do drop me a line on the parish mobile: 07486 355674. With best wishes for a Happy Easter when it comes...
Rev Eleanor



The trustees are delighted to announce that the All Saints Friends Trust (ASFT) 100 Club Lottery is now fully up and running.

The inaugural draw took place at the March Breakfast Club. Although the number selected did not correspond to a winning ticket, the prize of £35 will roll over and be added to next month's prize. Since the launch, there has been an increase in the number of members who have actioned their bank standing order forms, indicating growing interest and engagement with the charity's aim to support the future repair and maintenance of our iconic church. The trustees are optimistic that this trend will continue, and lead in time to full 100 membership allowing for a £250 prize each month.

The ASFT 100 Club Lottery operates on a straightforward yet effective mechanism. Members contribute £5 each month via standing order, which is then pooled together to form the prize fund. Each participant is allocated a unique number, which is entered into the monthly draw. The winning number is selected at random, and the corresponding member wins the prize fund for that month. If no winning ticket is drawn, the prize fund rolls over to the next month, increasing the potential winnings. We look forward to the next 100 Club draw at April Breakfast Club. Be sure to get your standing order forms submitted in time.

More Standing Order Forms are available from Peter Emmerson 01985 850472 and John Smedley 01985 850567. Best of luck everyone.