



The ancient tradition of beating the bounds, which was led by the vicar was a way to make sure no one was encroaching on the village land. Every year Salisbury Plain Benefice meet at the confluence of the villages of Chitterne, Tilshead, Orcheston and Shrewton on the old road between London and Bath on Salisbury Plain. Three of us walked the 3 miles from Chitterne to Copehill Down to take part. It was a blustery walk!
Marcelle Stobie

MIGHT EGBERT WELCOME CHITTERNE DRINKERS?

The refurbishment works at the pub are now nearing completion, and we have a moving in date of 1st June for our new tenants, Jo and Nick. It will take them 2-3 weeks to get organised and make sure everything is up and running as it should be. An opening date during the second half of June is still the plan, which will be great. The King's Head sign is likely to be Egbert - a later Wessex king, (see selfie below) and a sign is currently being designed. Works have been continuing at the pub with kitchen equipment being delivered and fitted, and carpets being laid in the tenant flat. The outside of the windows and doors have also been painted, and look much cleaner and fresher. The refurbishment and painting of the tenant flat has been completed and it looks really good.





Happy Hāthī Craft

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Indian Block Printing Workshop

Summer Lovin' Linens



Saturday 5th July 2025, 10am-4pm
Chitterne Village Hall, Chitterne, Wiltshire BA12 0LS



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PLANT SALE

Thank you so much to everyone who supported the Plant Sale. We had a lovely morning in the sunshine and raised the amazing sum of £1,150 which will be shared between Julia's House Hospice and the village church.

As always, a huge thank you to all our wonderful growers, bakers and helpers that make it all possible; we really couldn't do it without you.

We hope that all the plants are now thriving in their new homes!

Nicholas & Emma

CHIT-CHAT

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Parish Newspaper for the residents
of Chitterne, Wiltshire
www.chitterne.com

No 217 June 2025

PROSECCO QUEENS ARE THE TOP FUNDRAISERS

On the evening Saturday 26th April, the sparkling "Prosecco Queens" - made up of ten members of the Across the Plain WI based in Chitterne - stepped out in style and completed a fun 6 mile sponsored walk around the streets of Salisbury.

Compassionate
The glitter and glam themed Midnight walk was organised by Salisbury Hospice in order to raise some much needed funds to support the critical and compassionate work they provide within our community.

Thanks to the generosity of family and friends, the "Prosecco Queens" managed to raise an amazing £3,845 for Salisbury Hospice and became the top fundraising team for the Midnight Walk event. Way to go Queens!



The Prosecco Queens
Back Row (L-R): Anne-Marie Trott (Shrewton); Sarah Horne (Chitterne); Toni Baird (Fisherton de la Mere); Jackie Bull (Chitterne); Sally Kyte (Tilshead).
Front Row (L-R): Nollaig Bailey (Orcheston); Liz Emmerson (Chitterne); Rachel Wilkinson (Chitterne); Anne Neve (Chitterne); Wendy Graham (Shrewton).

Chitterne 4x4 Safely Delivered to Lviv, Ukraine



In the April edition of Chit-Chat, we reported the generous gift by Valley Farm, of a 4x4, which Nicholas Walters and Anthony Knyvett were to drive to Ukraine, for use on the front line. Nicholas takes up the story: "The four of us (John Russel, Michael Drummond Smith, Anthony Knyvett and Nicholas Walters) have raised £16,666 from friends, families and community contact groups not least Chitterne Village. Thanks to the generosity of Neil Harley and Jane Harley we did not have to buy our second pick up and so we have £8,000 left. We are now planning to join a second convoy in the autumn. Unless we can source another donated pick up from another generous local farmer we will need to raise another £5,000 so that all four of us can go with 2 pickups. If this proves difficult then two of us will go with one pickup which we will purchase in the summer. We plan to try and repeat the presentation we made in the Village Hall in surrounding villages such as Codford and Shrewton to help us reach our revised target."

CHURCH SERVICES IN JUNE		
1 st June	Holy Communion	9.00am - Chitterne
1 st June	Holy Communion	10.30am - Tilshead
8 th June	Holy Communion	10.30am - Chitterne
15 th June	Holy Communion	10.30am - Shrewton
22 nd June	Holy Communion	10.30am - Orcheston
29 th June	Holy Communion	10.30am - Chitterne

- ### Council Notes
- Playground Maintenance:** This is still under review. The Council made an initial arrangement with an alternative service company to RoSPA, to combine the functions of inspection and service, but this has so-far not proven satisfactory. We continue to look for a supplier to provide on-going, practical maintenance and ensure the safety of the children's play equipment. the Clerk has also been asked to investigate grants for playground maintenance.
 - Flood equipment storage and use.** There is some question about the suitability of the storage for this equipment. The sand and the filler which is used to fill smaller bags for villagers to prevent water ingress to their properties has been located in a lean-to shelter on the rear wall of the Hall. This is no longer considered adequate. As a partial solution, some of the equipment was moved to a small metal shed on the playing field, However, this was recently vandalised, and although no equipment was stolen, it is clearly not secure. We are currently in the process of obtaining more secure premises for the storage and use of the equipment, (comprising generator, pump, sandbag filler and sand plus various items of ancillary equipment).
 - Remedial tree work** is progressing well with a new contractor, who appears to be both more thorough and affordable than our previous tree surgeons. Further work will be required to make safe diseased trees on the playing field, bordering the Cut and in other public spaces.
 - Allotments and paddocks.** Clearance work is progressing well, we have been able to clear land for more allotments and enlarge two existing plots. Two skips have so far been hired to contain and remove rubbish, it is anticipated that we shall need another soon.
 - Tree-planting grant.** Tree Warden and Clerk are processing the paperwork of the Forestry Commission EWCO grant. When complete, and an offer is received, we shall consult villagers and the full Parish Council before acceptance. The Grant is expected to cover the purchase of trees and other necessary equipment (protective tubes to prevent deer damage etc.) and maintenance costs for a further 15 years.

Army Activity near Chitterne June 2025

We have printed a rather more extensive report on Range activity in this issue, since walkers may visit more areas of the Plain in the summer months:

June will see a EX WESSEX STORM on the plain with a live fire exercise in the West, pushing all other users to the centre and the East. On completion of the Live Fire package, the exercise will be sweeping across the area in a free play exercise, both day and night. The training schools will be out preparing the future commanders for their roll in Defence.

Accessing MOD land carries risks to your personal safety. Our Respect the Range guidance sets out simple steps you can take when visiting SPTA to help keep you and our armed forces safe:

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

Monthly firing calendar for June 2025 (subject to late changes)

Artillery live firing days from areas 6, 7 and 8 (East of Chitterne): NIL

Artillery live firing days on Salisbury plain (East) (North of Bulford & West of Tidworth): NIL

Live firing days on Larkhill/Westdown danger area (North of Larkhill):

02, 03, 04, 05, 06, 09, 10, 11, 12, 13, 16, 17, 18, 19, 20, 23, 24, 25, 26, 27, 28, 29, 30

Non-firing days on Larkhill/Westdown danger area:

01, 07, 08, 14, 15, 21, 22

Non-firing days on Bulford fixed firing ranges:

01, 13, 14, 15, 21, 22, 27, 28, 29

Non-firing days on Warminster fixed firing ranges:

01, 06, 07, 08, 14, 15, 20, 21, 22

Live firing days on Imber ranges, areas 1, 2, 3, 4 (East of Warminster)

01, 02, 03, 04, 05, 06, 07, 08

Range operating times during exercises: 0900-23.30.

CHIT-CHAT NEXT ISSUE

The July issue of Chit-Chat will go to press in the last week of June. All contributions, either hard copy or email to barry.ricketts1@icloud.com 07914 264324

or deliver by hand to Stable Cottage, 24 Townsend, Chitterne, Warminster, BA120LF

To download Chit-Chat from the village website, go to www.Chitterne.com and follow the links.

Upcoming in Chitterne

Mobile Library

the Library van will be at the Village Hall at 1100 on Friday 13th June.

Village Hall Events

Breakfast Club is Saturday 7th June BUT the July one is the 12th not the 5th.

Village Party on Saturday 19th July has been postponed to September (date to be finalised, so keep looking in Chit-Chat for an update).

Chitterne Cricket Club Fixtures

Chitterne Cricket Club is the quintessential village cricket team. A friendly, welcoming team, we play short, 25 innings, games on Sunday afternoons about 8 times a year. We are continuing to grow the club and in recent years have had a number of new members join from across the valley. If you have ever bowled a ball or picked up a bat, and would like to join us for an afternoon we would love to hear from you. Equally if you know anyone who would like to get involved with any aspect, from playing to umpiring - or even making the occasional cake - then please do let Nick Martin know (chitternecc@gmail.com). We would love to keep growing the club and filling the pitch with players and families of supporters. This year we have the following matches against other equally amateur teams:

2025 Season Fixtures

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 30th August Lambeth Wanderers

Soroptomists Seek Bras

Salisbury Soroptimists* are once again asking Salisbury women to turn out their drawers and donate ‘gently used’ bras.

The collection will start on May 1st and run until the end of June.

“Almost everyone has a bra which lurks in a corner and isn’t often worn”, said Salisbury Soroptimist President Michele Smith. “Why not liberate it and let us send it to Africa, where someone will use it? We accept bras which can be reused, new or lightly used.”

Unlike many charity bra collections, these bras will be saved from landfill and material recycling centres to be used by women who otherwise wouldn’t be able to afford such a garment.

In many parts of Africa, budgets are tight, and women are at the bottom of the family expenditure pecking order. A bra may be considered a luxury item. The bras are distributed by various charities working in local communities.

Salisbury Soroptimists are working with ZABRA - Afreebra initiative, an organisation founded by Jeanette Kruger. Jeanette has been financing the storage and transport of the bras until she recently retired. She is now seeking financial donations to help the work continue.

Salisbury Soroptimists have made a donation and hope others might be able to help too via the Zabra JustGiving page.

There will be collection points at Five Rivers Leisure Centre and 60 Endless Street.

Salisbury Sorpotomists added, "If you can collect from your local area or club, please contact us so we know which area you are covering, sarumsoropts@gmail.com.

"Last year we collected a record 6014 bras thanks to the generosity of local people. Can we do even better this year?"

**Soroptomists:Members of an international volunteer organisation working to improve the lives of women and girls through programs leading to social and economic empowerment.*

Village Hall Plans

After our Village Hall AGM held on Monday 19th May, the Trustees would like to share our future plans for the hall. Should anyone wish to review the accounts please contact Anne Neve.

The Village Hall is now 25 years old and therefore certain elements need to be updated or replaced. The Trustees have drawn up a 5-year plan to address this. So far, we have replaced the windows, as well as the flooring in the main rooms and toilets. The plan is a guide and is subject to change should other issues arise.

- 2025: Total refurbishment of kitchen & external decoration estimated £10,000
- 2026: Review of heaters estimated £6,000
- 2027: Toilets estimated £6,000
- 2028: New chairs & furniture, estimated £4,000
- 2029: Patio & outside area estimated £2,000

The possibility of having solar panels is also being looked at but this would depend on receiving grants.

As you can see from the above, we need to continue to raise money for these projects, but also around £2,500 is needed every year just to open the doors (insurance, rates, electricity, Wi-Fi, TV licence, water + septic tank, WVHA membership), so your support is very much appreciated and important.

We are looking to increase our lettings by contacting local businesses and using social media to publicise our wonderful facility.

LOCAL POLICING

Come along for a friendly chat with your local police officers. This will be your chance to:

SHARE ANY CONCERNS OR ISSUES IN YOUR AREA

GET CRIME PREVENTION ADVICE

LEARN MORE ABOUT LOCAL POLICING

MEET YOUR COMMUNITY OFFICER FACE TO FACE

No appointments needed – just drop in and say Hello! We look forward to seeing you there!

Lukasz Kolasinski 70901 Police Community Support Officer

Warminster Rural Beat

Warminster Area Neighbourhood Policing Team (Warminster, Westbury, Tisbury, Mere)

Police Station, The Avenue, Warminster, BA12 9AA

Email: lukasz.kolasinski@wiltshire.police.uk

Mobile:07471029004

Chitterne’s exotic summer visitors. One of the great advantages of living on Salisbury Plain is the great range of wildlife species that less fortunate folk rarely encounter. These are Six Spot Burnet moths, browsing on Ragged Robin - a beautiful wild flower prolific on the Plain - the moths obviously think so too!



Chit-Chat - The Origin Story

It isn’t very often that there is insufficient material to fill an issue of Chit-Chat. My usual problem is how to fit all the copy sent in by readers into four pages of A4. However, this month has been an exception, and in casting around for a good space filler, it suddenly occurred to me that not all villagers know where and when Chitterne’s little newspaper originated.

In fact, it was originally called ‘Chitterne Chat’ and was a photocopy and paste-up production which was the brainchild of Jeanne George, a lovely lady who lived in her cottage, 11 Townsend, or ‘Duck-yer-nut’as it was, and still is called. (it had a rather low entrance). Jeanne had a photo-copier at home, and provided a copying service to villagers, as well as editing and producing the newsletter for an amazing 21 years, a record I am entirely unlikely to equal - and the content was varied and informative and sometimes very funny.

For example: “Dry cleaning your dog: instead of always giving your dog a bath, rub bicarbonate of soda into his coat thoroughly and then brush off. It deodorises as well as it cleans”. I’ve tried it, and it really works!

History

As well as household tips, excellent recipes, country wisdom and invaluable information for new-comers to the village, Jeanne also regaled readers with local history. She describes the ‘Robbers Stone’ which is erected about a mile across the downs from the Tilshead to Chitterne road. The inscription reads:

“This monument is erected to record the awful death of Benjamin Colclough, a Highway Robber, who fell dead on this spot in attempting to escape his pursuers after robbing Mr Dean, of Imber, in the evening of October the 21st, 1839, and was buried in Chitterne, without funeral rites. The Robbery of the wicked shall destroy them (Prov 21:7) His three companions in iniquity, Thomas Saunders, George Waters and Richard Harris were captured and sentenced at the ensuing Quarter Sessions at Devizes to Transportation in the Term of Fifteen Years. Though hand joined in hand the wicked shall not be unpunished (Prov. 11, 21.).

Timeless

Another short snippet which demonstrates the historic continuity of life in Chitterne references the ‘Jubilee Tree’ of 1920, which had been planted as a Horse Chestnut Sapling 25 years earlier to celebrate and commemorate Queen Victoria’s Diamond Jubilee. It was only replaced in 2022 to commemorate the Platinum Jubilee of our late Queen Elizabeth 2nd.A fitting reminder of the timeless nature of our small Wiltshire village.

