

Obituary, Veronica Reid.

Veronica Reid passed away on 29th January 2026, at Henford House Care Home.

Her children, John, Charlotte and Mil have written the following for Chit-Chat, to sum up their impressions of their mother's life in Chitterne. Husband and father Jeremy remains an active and very popular Chitterne villager.

'When our parents, Jeremy and Veronica moved to Chitterne 30 odd years ago, Veronica was "retired". However, to us, she seemed as busy as ever; still helping at RDA and Exeter House, making a lovely garden, wrangling grandchildren and traveling. And then there was "village busy" – church flowers and the Flower Festival, bringing on plants for the plant sale, manning stalls at Village fetes, making cakes and puddings for cricket teas and village lunches, Book Club, there was always something she was involved with. Most important though were the friendships she forged, many of you have written to say how warm and welcoming she was and we are glad that she meant as much to you as you meant to her.'



Jeremy and Veronica Reid

Chitterne War Memorial awarded Grade II listed building Status.

2025 was quite a year for Chitterne's War Memorial.

First, it received a thorough clean-up, next, it was brought up to date by the addition of three more names of Chitterne servicemen killed in the Second World War, then, in November, on Armistice Day, it was the centre of attention at the Dedication Ceremony to honour the sacrifice of the newly added soldiers.

Historic England stated in their submission: "After examining all the records and other relevant information and having carefully considered the architectural and historic interest of this case, Historic England concluded that the Chitterne War Memorial is a well-crafted structure built of high-quality materials which memorialises the lives of local residents lost in the First and Second World Wars. It stands as an eloquent witness to the tragic impact of these world events on the local community and the sacrifices it has made in the conflicts of the Twentieth Century. For these reasons it has architectural and historic interest and merits listing."



Council Notes continued from P1

meeting will be convened with allotment holders to clarify longer-term arrangements and leasehold terms.

Governance and Forward Planning
There remains one vacancy on the Parish Council. If you are interested in contributing to village life please speak to one of the councillors.
Work is also underway on succession planning

and updating mandatory Council policies to ensure governance remains robust and transparent.

Other Matters:

- The damaged Speed Indicator Device will be replaced using insurance funds once received.
- A proposal to plant a tree in memory of Mr Polden has been agreed in principle.
- The Council will follow up a complaint regarding tree cutting in The Hollow.
- Entry into the Best Kept Village Competition will be deferred until next year to allow time to build momentum.

The next Parish Council meeting will be held on Monday 11th May 2026 at 6.00pm in the Village Hall. Residents are very welcome to attend.

Full minutes are available on notice board outside the village hall, the village website or from the Clerk on request.

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of Chitterne, Wiltshire
www.chitterne.com
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Editor: Barry Ricketts, Stable Cottage, 24 Townsend, BA12 0LF- 07914 264 324 email barry.ricketts1@icloud.com

CHIT-CHAT

Managing Chitterne's Flood Risk



Main picture shows the extent of flooding this year. Compared with the inset picture from 2020, less ground is inundated and the fields either side of the C22 (Tilshead road) are not submerged.

It often comes as a surprise to people that Salisbury Plain, with an average elevation above sea level of over 100 metres, is an area of flood risk. However, as many Chitterne residents are only too aware, flooding is an annual risk to several households in the village.

The reason is that the plain is the largest area of chalk downland in Europe and chalk downlands act as a gigantic sponge, absorbing and filtering all the rain that falls upon them and storing it in vast underground aquifers or voids. Continual excessive rain, bearing down on these large caverns of filtered rainfall, forces the crystal clear stored water to the surface, through wells, winterbournes, (like our Chitterne Brook, or 'Cut') and sometimes through the foundations of our houses. Some of Chitterne's dwellings were built with the knowledge of this phenomenon, and have escape channels allowing the water to flow away - usually back into the Cut. Some households are less fortunate, and do experience the ingress of water in years of heavy rain, and cellars, and sometimes ground floor rooms can be flooded.

Known Hazard

Because this is a known hazard, and because rainfall is predicted to rise due to climate change, the Parish Council is actively involved in measures to mitigate, as far as possible, the impact on villagers whose properties are affected. Our Flood Warden, Kevin Foster, has been very active this winter, supporting those residents experiencing flooding problems. Kevin is an experienced water engineer, and can advise and help those homes with a flood problem. The village was equipped some years ago with generator, pumps and other equipment to help remove excess water from properties, and Kevin has deployed this equipment in locations in the village during high water-

level incidents this year.

2026 has, so far, been a moderate year with fairly average water levels, but some properties have been affected. Where a house is regularly prone to flooding, residents have installed pumps to remove excess water, and if your property has been affected, this is a measure you may wish to consider. Kevin can advise, and help with installation.

Main Danger

Ground water is not the only problem. Very rarely, water can rise to flood parts of the B390 and the C22 - (Townsend) - and the main danger then is vehicles of all types driving through the floods at excessive speed, creating a 'bow-wave' which washes water into the gardens and entrances to houses - a particular problem for the Kings Head and the neighbouring properties and houses in upper Townsend. Fortunately, so far this year, the water has not approached the level to make this a threat, but we are able to supply sandbags to help seal entrances and reduce this risk.

The last time the village experienced flooding which inundated the roads was in 2014. Since then, we have been active in ensuring that the waterway through the village is cleared of vegetation and other obstructions so that flood water clears the village rapidly and flows into the Wylye at Codford. We have been aided by land-owners between Chitterne and Codford who keep their waterways clear, and this all helps to ensure that Chitterne stays (relatively) dry. Unfortunately, contacts with Wiltshire Council and the MoD to encourage them to adopt measures to control the rate at which water flows into the village, have been less successful, but we shall persist.

On the bright side, all this rain should ensure that our reservoirs are well supplied, reducing the risk of hose-pipe bans in the coming summer.

Council Notes

The Parish Council met on 9th February at the Village Hall.

Precept and Finances
The Council has agreed its 2026/27 precept at £11,133, meaning there will be no increase in the parish element of Council Tax this year.

Our current balance stands at just over £7,700. The Annual Plan for 2026/27 has been approved, this year's Maintenance Plan is slightly over budget due to one-off tree works.

Flooding and Resilience
Following the recent flooding, the Council would like formally to thank Kevin Foster for his efforts to prepare and assist those at risk, and monitoring the situation. A review of future flood preparedness - including potential costs - will be discussed at the next meeting to ensure we remain ready for similar events.

Highways and Traffic
Potholes on the B390 have been reported to Wiltshire Council. Recent speed monitoring on the B390 near the Dairy turn-off recorded a number of vehicles travelling at excessive speed, and further enforcement visits are expected. The Council intends to develop a Traffic Action Plan, drawing on speed data and involving volunteers. If you would be interested in supporting a community speed watch or traffic group, please let us know. Separately, Codford has requested a reduction in the speed limit on the Chitterne/Codford road from 60mph to 40mph. This is currently on hold pending Wiltshire Council's review of its speed limit policy.

Chitterne Woodland Project
Plans for the woodland and EWCO grant scheme require amendment following the decision to create additional allotments. Once approved, approximately 1,500 trees will need to be planted within three years. It is hoped that planting will be undertaken by village and other volunteers. If there is a delay, the land may be grazed by sheep in the interim, with penning responsibility resting with the livestock owner.

Allotments
As we now have increased capacity a

Council Notes continued P4

Russia and the Arctic
a talk by
Maddy Wilks MA

Saturday 21st March 2026
5.30 for 6.00pm
All Saints and St Mary's Church, Chitterne

Maddy Wilks MA has studied Russian and post-Soviet politics at UCL where she received a distinction for her dissertation on "How Finland's NATO accession changed Russia's securitisation of the Arctic"

Tickets £10 in advance
(to include wine/soft drinks)

Tickets available from:
Gillian Nolan nolan545@btinternet.com
Peter Emmerson peteremerson04@gmail.com

In aid of All Saints Friends Trust (charity number 1195571)

Chitterne Village Hall
Available to hire for morning, afternoon, evening or all-day events

Book. Meet. Party. Repeat.

For all booking enquiries, please contact the Booking Secretary at bookchitternevillagehall@gmail.com

Discounted hire rates are available for Chitterne residents
Chitterne Village Hall Registered Charity No. 305489

Tuesday 3rd March 2026
7.30pm Chitterne Village Hall, Chitterne

Reading with Autism & Learning Difficulties

Guest Speaker:
Christian Emmerson
Teacher, Actor, Illustrator, Author

Please join us for an interesting insight into living with Autism Spectrum Disorder and specifically the challenges of reading with Autism and learning difficulties.

Please RSVP by Sunday 1st March 2026 via email: acrosstheplainwi@gmail.com
or WHATSAPP Message: ATP WI Social Chat. Thank you!

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Across the Plain WI

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Based in Chitterne with members from across the south of Salisbury Plain, Wiltshire Email: acrosstheplainwi@gmail.com

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

Can You Help?

Chitterne Village Hall NEEDS YOU!

Volunteers Wanted

Are you interested in joining a small team of volunteers who look after our village hall and help organise and support village events?

If so, we'd love to hear from you. To find out more, please contact:

paulmpike@gmail.com

Paul Pike, Chairman, Chitterne Village Hall Trustees

Speeding in Chitterne

7 vehicles were recorded speeding on 2nd February 2026 in Chitterne on Bidden Lane. (the Shrewton Road) This stretch of road has a speed limit of 30mph. The fastest vehicle was recorded travelling at 52mph. It was overcast with occasional showers and roads were wet from previous rain. Depending on previous convictions and history, 6 drivers will be offered a speed awareness course, 1 driver will be subject to court recovery. Speed Enforcement Officer **Debbi Hide 70349**

Counterfeit

banknote warning:

Fake notes were used recently to purchase high-value electrical items locally via online selling platforms. We recommend using online banking or secure electronic payments, especially when buying or selling high-value goods on social media marketplaces. If a cash transaction is unavoidable, please follow the guidance below:

Texture: Genuine polymer notes have raised print, particularly on "Bank of England" and in the corners.

Hologram: Tilt the note. The hologram should change between the note's value (for example: "Twenty" and the word "Pounds").

Windows: Look for a clear, see-through window featuring a precise metallic image and the note's value around it.

Quality: Authentic notes have crisp, sharp details. They are not blurry or faded edges. If you discover a counterfeit note, place it in a plastic wallet or envelope to protect fingerprints. Do not attempt to use it. It has no monetary value and must be surrendered to the police or your local bank. A Retention of Counterfeit Currency form will be completed. Make notes of any relevant information, such as the description of who gave it to you, vehicle details, or CCTV footage if applicable. For more information, email Becky Grist, Wiltshire Police Fraud Protect Officer: becky.grist@wiltshire.police.uk

THURSDAY & SUNDAY PUB QUIZ
King's Head Chitterne

Thursday 5th March 2026
7.15pm first question
£12.50 entry per person
Includes Curry (vegetarian option available)
Pleasebook by **1st March 2026**

Sunday 22nd March 2026
5.45pm first question
£3 entry per person
Optional Cheese Board for Table £16
Pleasebook by **19th March 2026**

To book please contact
King's Head 01985 878121

What's Happening in Chitterne?

Darts Night Victory - Again!

Wednesday night is Darts Night at The King's Head. There is no team as such and it's open to all comers to enjoy a glass or two and a bit of good old fashioned pub game camaraderie. Word is spreading and regulars entertained players from The Red Lion Heytesbury a second time at a team game on Wednesday 18th February.

The Kings Head beat them last time so they came with their darts sharpened and revenge high on the agenda. Despite leading throughout the first game they beat us to the double and were one game up. Having got the scent of victory they stormed ahead in the second game but struggled to finish on a double so it became one game all.

Would we call it a draw? Absolutely not and the decider game was tense. The lead went backwards and forwards but a quick Kings Head double just in the nick of time made it two games to one - phew !!!

They promise to come back and show us a clean pair of heels next time. We'll see about that.

Food Bank

Once more, there is a box in the church for donations to the Warminster Food Bank during Lent. Chitterne has a very generous reputation, let us continue the tradition.

Mobile Library

The Mobile Library will be on the Village Hall carpark on Friday, March 20 at 11.10.

Plant Sale date

The Plant Sale will be held at Pitts House on Saturday 9th May (please note that this is a week earlier than usual).

More information to follow in April's Chit Chat.

Lottery

The winning ticket in the Friends Lottery December Draw was Number 27, Tim Tyler, who wins £127.50 with the rollover. Hurry hurry and get your standing order in to be included. Forms are in the church and available from Peter Emmerson peteremerson04@gmail.com and John Smedley xjbsmed1@outlook.com. The draw for January will be made at the Village Hall Breakfast in early February. The winning ticket in the January Draw was Nick Parker, who wins £67.50. Hurry hurry and get your standing order in to be included.

Forms are in the church and available from Peter Emmerson peteremerson04@gmail.com, com and John Smedley xjbsmed1@outlook.com. The draw for February will be made in early February.

Calling... CHITTERNE LADIES WHO LUNCH

Please join us every second Thursday of the month for some great food & great company

12.00pm The King's Head Chitterne

Everyone welcome.

Next Lunch Date: **Thursday 12th March**

Please RSVP to Lindsay Lucas
l.lucas112@outlook.com

Hope to see you there!

KING'S HEAD



Fish & Chips!!
2 portions for £27 Wednesdays,
Lunch or Dinner
Eat in or Takeaway

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Home Security:

Our team of Home Security Operators works tirelessly to help people feel safe and secure in their own homes. They carry out home security and fire-risk assessments, install essential safety devices, and provide practical support to those affected by domestic abuse. In the most extreme cases, and in partnership with local authorities through the Sanctuary Project, a safe room can be installed within a property. This provides a secure space where a family can remain protected during an incident until the Police arrive. Last year alone, we secured more than 1,500 homes and delivered over 200 awareness talks. We also install doorbell cameras; some free of charge in areas where Parish Council funding is available, working closely with Local Neighbourhood Policing Teams to identify and support those most at risk. For further information about this service, please visit www.wiltshirebobbyvan.org.uk

Stay Safe Online: Since 2017, our Stay Safe Online Service has supported residents across Wiltshire and Swindon particularly those aged over 60 and adults over 18 with registered disabilities to protect themselves from online fraud and scams. We provide personalised guidance and deliver group talks to help residents stay safe and confident online, enabling them to:

- Protect themselves from online fraud
- Access essential services securely
- Stay connected with friends and family

Chit-Chat 20 years Ago

NEW SOUTH AISLE ROOF FOR ALL SAINTS

During February, the roof of All Saints church over the south aisle was re-tiled, ending months of serious damage from rainwater pouring in during bad weather. Treasurer Arthur Gooch told Chit-Chat that the essential work was made possible only by a generous legacy from the estate of Roger Hammick, late of St Mary's Close.



"Without the legacy we could not have afforded the £16,586 cost of the re-roofing" said Arthur. "We have been able to complete the south aisle roof and replace all broken window glass in the church."

we could just not keep up with routine maintenance. He praised the efforts of the parishioners who organise the fundraising and perform voluntary maintenance tasks at the church, without whose work All Saints would undoubtedly deteriorate rapidly.



It seems Chitterne hibernates during the winter months - lack of copy to fill the March issue had me scratching my head looking for content - when I came across an issue from March 2006 ; yes, I was the editor back then too!

It told the story of the struggle to raise the funds to renovate our village church - new roofs don't come cheap. Of course, now that's history, the campaign was successful and much has been done since then to improve the look and the function of Chitterne All Saints and St. Mary's.

Indeed, just two years later this photo (below) of the interior of the church during the annual Flower Festival appeared, interestingly, at the same time that we were able to announce that Chitterne had won 1st place in the 'Small Village' class of the Best Kept Village competition - an ambition that some villagers are keen to repeat next year.

It sometimes pays to look back! Barry.



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ALL MONIES GO TO CRESS UK. www.cressuk.org
Refreshments available in the interval - donations accepted

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Murray's Mystery Manifestation Lands Near Codford

Anyone of an inquisitive nature driving east towards Codford might just be wondering what on earth had landed in the field adjacent to Manor Farm. Is it some cast-off part of an alien spaceship or perhaps the beginning of some theme park development? Exciting as that would be, can you imagine the Daily Martian Journal headlines, "One small step for a Martian; one giant leap for Martiankind" but sadly, neither is the case. Alternatively imagine the local children's excitement at the thought of a theme park within walking distance, again sadly that is not the case. No, the said object has a two word definition, the second word being "Bail". Nothing to do with cricket but those four legged creatures keeping it company could well solve the mystery. One clue: it could be an important artefact from Wiltshire's historic agricultural past. All will be revealed in April Chit Chat so keep guessing.

Murray Kent



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An Introduction to Indian Block Printing

Saturday 14th March 2026
Morning Workshop: 9.30am – 12.30pm
Afternoon Workshop: 1.30pm – 4.30pm

Fisherton Mill Galley & Café, 108 Fisherton Street, Salisbury SP2 7QY

Looking to learn a new craft which is simple and easy to do? Then you'll love Indian Block Printing.

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