



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

Chat & Chill Night!

Fancy a relaxing night in with friends?
Then come on over and let's chat, chill and catch-up. The cake is sliced, the heating on and the fizz chilled. See you there!

Friends. Fizz. Fun. Repeat.

Plus Guest Speakers from:
Wylve Valley Disabled Children's Camp

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

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

theWI **Across the Plain WI**

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

Council Notes, cont.

Woodland Planting progress.
It has been necessary to amend our Woodland plan because of the need to provide more allotments. This has now been submitted to the Forestry Commission.

Stonehenge tunnel.
The abandonment of the Tunnel project will exacerbate the ongoing problem of increased traffic flows and over-weight vehicles diverting from the A303 when accidents or congestion affect the route. The council wrote to the Minister to draw attention to this ongoing problem for Chitterne and other small villages on the diversion route. See P2.

Villagers are welcome to attend and address the Council.

Obituary - Maureen Sprack

We were very sorry to hear that Maureen Sprack passed away on Wednesday, 4th January. Maureen moved to Chitterne with her husband Alan in 1963, moving to sheltered accommodation in Heytesbury in 2023 after Alan's death. During their long stay in Chitterne, Maureen embraced village life. She was a bell ringer, arranged flowers in the church and helped with church bazaars. She also helped with the fete and gymkhana, worked in the local shop for many years and served on the Parish Council. Below: Maureen in 2002 with daughter Christine, son-in-law Geoff and grandson. Sue Robinson



Codford Tea Rooms ~
open 7 days a week for...

Afternoon Tea · Breakfasts · Cakes · Hot & Cold Drinks · Light Snacks · Sustaining Lunches · Sunday Roasts · Dog Friendly · Licensed

10.30 to 4pm Mon - Thurs · 10 - 7.30 pm Fri
10 - 4 pm Saturdays & Sundays
We're opposite The Woolstore Theatre!

01985 851095 ·
codfordtearooms@gmail.com

Chitterne comes to Codford!

We're delighted to hear how the King's Head is thriving as our local community owned village pub. And thanks to 'The Editor' for giving us a bit of space to share what complementary 'Generous Food & Friendship' your next door village tea rooms now provides. We'll return here again when we have 'new news' which would be of interest to Chitterne residents.

For those unfamiliar with us - or whose memories go back to 'The George', our hospitality roots go back (thank you David Shaw) way back to 1609!

Taking a massive historical leap forward, 2025 saw long-awaited official confirmation that we are classed as a tearooms (which is what we believe we are through and through): Codford Tea Rooms. With a big nod to our roots as 'The George' we also created George's Room - boasting pub artifacts and a restored rosy-cheeked 'George' hanging on the wall. Come and be reacquainted.

Like the first tearooms in Glasgow, we're also licensed (they didn't last long being 'tea total'!) which makes for what we feel is a great 'marriage'. We hope you agree...

What's happening from February? New Menus including some 'budget-busters'! And from 5pm on Fridays our events line up as follows:

1st Friday of the month: 'Fishy Friday' (Fish and Chips or Scampi) pre-orders inc. takeaway.

2nd Friday of the month: 'Surprise and Specials' - for February that's a 'Greek Lovers' night on the 13th, spilling over to Valentine's on Saturday 14th (candle-lit!) Menu on facebook or pop in - pre-orders only, £10 deposit and £20 plus drinks/extras on the night.

3rd Friday of the month: Nostalgic Over Fifties Menu (with sympathetic set prices)

4th Friday of the month: Live Music and a West Country Pie, Ploughmans & Pint Specials featuring our own Codford Tea Rooms Cider (best to book).

Check out our wee advert for contact details - we don't have a website but are @codfordtearooms on most of the social channels

p.s. And if you've any 'not-sure-what-its-worth' items, we're hosting a free valuation day in the tea rooms for Phixius Auctions on Wednesday 11th February from 11 to 4. E-mail stevepgroves850@gmail.com to book a slot or take your chance and turn up on the day!

'Captain Kevin', Lizzie (Wordsmithing) and the Team

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

CHIT-CHAT

No 225 February 2026

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

Barbara's Mission Accomplished



Readers will recall the moving story of L/Sgt Bill Stacey, as chronicled by Murray Kent in the March - September 2025 issues of Chit-Chat. This culminated with the Remembrance and Dedication ceremony on 11th November. Closing this chapter of Chitterne's history was the replacement of the World War 2 plaque in the Church, which for some unknown reason, did not include Stacey's name. This has been corrected and the opportunity was taken to show Stacey's daughter Barbara, who visited the village in the New Year. Picture taken by Barry Ricketts; a framed copy of the 11th November Group photograph will be hung in the Village Hall.

Richard Jammes. British Legion representative.



Golden Autumn Gives Way to Winter Wonder

We certainly have experienced an extraordinary mixture of weather this winter. A long, golden Autumn gave way to very frosty, but beautiful days - evidenced by Jan Sawyer's picture, taken during a dog-walk up Back Lane.

Now, we find ourselves enmeshed in the waves of stormy weather, seemingly coming from every direction. No sooner had the pipe-bursting cold abated, than we found ourselves looking anxiously to see when the winterbourne (the Cut) would start to rise. Belatedly, it has arrived; see *Flood Risk to Chitterne?* on page 3.

Council Notes

At the upcoming Parish Council Meeting of February 9 at 19.00, your Council will discuss the following:

Clerk Vacancy.
Mrs. Lizzy Leafield has been appointed Administrative Assistant to the Chairman and acting Clerk. It is hoped that her appointment will remove the need for a full-time professional clerk which, in the past, has proven to be beyond the needs and resources of a village as small as Chitterne. We welcome Lizzy to our team.

RA Hunt Meet.
This popular and traditional event was well attended and the arrangements agreed in advance by the Parish Council and Hunt avoided much of the traffic congestion, parking difficulties and damage to grass verges which took place in the previous year.

S.I.D. Damage.
One of the village speed indicator devices was irreparably damaged when a car collided with it in October. It is the subject of an insurance claim, which has been a rather long-winded affair, but should be settled in the near future.

Flood Prevention Measures.
The Chitterne Brook winterbourne has risen later than usual this year. Flood Warden Kevin Foster has coordinated the villages flood response, and is planning to hold a training day for those villagers who may be affected. (see page 3 for more details).

Cont. P4

CHURCH SERVICES IN JANUARY

February 1st	Evensong	16.00 Tilshead
February 8th	Holy Communion	11.00 Chitterne
February 15th	Holy Communion	11.00 Shrewton
February 22nd	Holy Communion	11.00 Orcheston

St Mark's Gospel Live!

A dramatized recital by Gerald Osborne
In aid of CRESS UK

Wednesday 25th March 2026

Doors open 6.15pm for 7.00pm
St Giles Great Wishford SP2 0PQ

"This is a compelling event. One man holds the audience with the dynamic and faith-provoking words of St Mark Don't miss it."

"No one had heard an entire gospel before in one sitting, and for everyone the confrontation with the whole narrative was a revelation, which was utterly spell-binding."

"Osborne brings the life and suffering of Jesus alive"

"a remarkable evening....a tour de force".

Tickets £7.50 from Jamie on jamlanmel@gmail.com or 01722 790781
Bank Transfer 40-40-14 40651133

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

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Russia's Arctic Lecture to Aid Chitterne's Church

On Saturday 21 March, 5.30 for 6.00pm in the Church, a talk by Maddy Wilks will take place, on Russia and the Arctic. Maddy Wilks has studied Russian and post-Soviet politics and received an MA (with distinction) from UCL with her dissertation on 'How has Finland's NATO accession changed Russia's securitisation of the Arctic?'

Tickets in advance £10 (To include wine/refreshments) From Gillian Nolan nolan545@btinternet.com or Peter Emmerson peteremerson04@gmail.com



In aid of All Saints Friends Trust (reg. charity 1195571)

Must Chitterne Always be a Rat-Run?

Chit-Chat readers may remember, back in November 2024, we published this article, expressing the fears of many in the village that the abandonment of the Stonehenge Tunnel project by government would inexorably lead to an increase in traffic of all types through our village.

Of course, in the subsequent months, our fears have been confirmed, with waves of heavy commercial vehicles and private cars frequently being diverted due to accidents, or often because of traffic congestion on the A303.

Inevitably, this has led to a deterioration in the condition of the road - large potholes have appeared; noise has increased, villagers are constantly at risk walking on the large sections of the roads through the village which lack footpaths, and speed limits are often totally ignored.

What can be done?

The fact that this situation has been going on for years, under successive governments is, in itself, no excuse for inaction. We must keep drawing the attention of legislators and local officials to the situation. In November 2025, we sent the following response to the request for comments on the revocation of the Stonehenge tunnel by the Transport Infrastructure department of the ministry:

Sir,

The Chitterne Parish Council supports the revocation of the Stonehenge Tunnel, but only if a realistic alternative is to be developed. The current single carriageway on parts of a main route to the Southwest is quite unacceptable, given the volume of traffic using the A303. At those times when the trunk road is blocked, either by relatively heavy traffic flow (a weekly

occurrence) or by an accident, it is impassable and we are one of those communities affected by increased traffic flow, including heavy transport vehicles, quite unsuited to travel on narrow country roads. Chitterne has no pedestrian pathways and, despite speed restrictions, is inflicted by speeding vehicles which cause considerable anxiety to our villagers. We will be pleased to co-operate with the Ministry to develop mitigation measures to reduce the impact of diversionary traffic in our village.
Yours sincerely,
Barry Ricketts,
Clerk to Chitterne Parish Council

The Department replied as follows:
Dear Sir,
Thank you for your email regarding the

Upcoming in Chitterne

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.

Mobile Library Visit

The Mobile Library will be in the Village Hall car park, as usual at 11.10, Friday February 20.

Breakfast Club

Saturday, 09.30 February 7. Village Hall.

Pub Quizzes

See ad below.

THURSDAY & SUNDAY PUB QUIZ King's Head Chitterne

Thursday 5th February 2026

7.15pm first question
£12.50 entry per person
Includes Curry (vegetarian option available)
Please book by Sunday 1st February 2026

Sunday 22nd February 2026

5.45pm first question
£3 entry per person
Optional Cheese Board for Table £16
Please book by Thursday 19th February 2026

To book please contact King's Head 01985 878121

proposed Revocation of the A303 Stonehenge Development Consent Order 2023. Please be aware your email will be logged and considered accordingly. We shall write to all interested parties in due course.

Kind regards,
Transport Infrastructure Planning Unit.

In the past, such replies have been the last we have heard of the matter, but this time, the Parish Council will consider how we can keep up the pressure, using whatever tools we have at our disposal - lobbying members of Parliament, using media pressure, and encouraging you, as affected members of the public, to fill the mailbags of local M.P.'s with complaints about what is becoming an insufferable situation.

The Aurora Borealis Brightens Chitterne's Night Skies



The Aurora Borealis is being seen further south in 2026 because the Sun is currently at its solar maximum. This peak in the 11-year solar cycle brings high activity, producing frequent, powerful solar flares and coronal mass ejections (CMEs) that shoot reactive particles deeper into Earth's atmosphere.

Key reasons for Southern Aurora Sightings

During Solar Maximum (Peak Activity), high levels of activity cause more frequent, intense geomagnetic storms. These strong storms expand Earth's auroral zone far beyond its usual arctic limits, allowing the lights to be seen at lower latitudes, such as across the UK and into the US. The optimal viewing times (increased activity) is often around the equinoxes (March-April and September-October) but due to unusually clear night skies in mid January, those prepared to stay up half the night - Louise Wood and Jane Bell provided our pictures - were able to take these shots. While the peak was reached in 2024, high solar activity is expected to continue through 2026.

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 February

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

Hope to see you there!

Happy Hathi Craft

INDIAN BLOCK PRINTING Fabric. Card. Clay. Repeat.
Unique Handmade Gifts and Craft Workshops using hand-carved wooden blocks from India

An Introduction to Indian Block Printing

Saturday 21st February 2026, 10am-4pm

Chitterne Village Hall, Chitterne, Wiltshire BA12 0LS

As February is the month of love, why not fall in love with something new?

If you're looking to learn a new craft which is simple and easy to do, then you'll love Indian Block Printing.

Begin your journey with an introductory workshop, perfect for anyone new to Indian block printing or for those wanting a refresher. Relax and enjoy the experience of hand printing on 100% cotton fabric or card.

Choose from a variety of contemporary and traditional designs hand-carved in Indian Rosewood by local artisans from Jaipur in India.

Learn the various techniques to create something special and unique to you. Print fabric items from a choice of Tea Towels, Pillowcases, Napkins, Tote Bags, Drawstring Bags, Cosmetic bags, Aprons, Bunting and more. Unleash your creativity. We'll provide the materials - you provide the imagination.

Try it. You'll love it!

Workshop Fee: £75 per person. All Materials & Refreshments included.

Print. Relax. Repeat. Perfect.
Find your happy place...
www.hathicraft.co.uk

To book a place please go to website or scan QR code.

Flood Risk to Chitterne?



Chitterne 'Lake' - Particularly heavy rainfall through November and December sometimes produces flooding by Middle Barn Cottages - deep enough for some brave souls to kayak in!

There is little indication that the Chitterne kayaking fraternity will have their boating lake again this year. A very dry summer and early autumn has prevented inundation of the low-lying fields around the village, although there is some time to go yet. Some new villagers have asked how it can be that there is water in the 'Cut' through the village, while it remains dry upstream? This is because much of the water now feeding our stream is fed by subterranean springs way down in the chalk. They occur all along the watercourse, and can be seen flooding into the stream as very clear, pure water. The clarity results from the filtration effect of the chalk as water from previous years is forced to the surface by fresh inundation. Only when the stream is a continuous flow, all the way from Imber, and the fields either side of the road from Middle Barn to Townsend are saturated (as in our photo from 2020) is there any chance of the road flooding in Chitterne - although some households do experience water ingress from springs beneath their foundations. Flood Warden Kevin Foster is 'on the case' and is keeping an eye on progress. He will keep us informed of any risk via Petenet, and will supply traffic notices and sandbags where necessary.