

TO DO LIST:

- ✓ Reduce
- ✓ Recycle
- ✓ Reuse
- ✓ Save the planet!

Please RSVP by Sunday 5th April 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

Tuesday 7th April 2026
7.30pm Chitterne Village Hall, Chitterne

Thrift it. Vint it. Pre-Love it. Sustain It!

Guest Speaker:
Victoria Lockhead

Business Owner at Frankie & Ruby Online Dress Agency, Sustainable Personal Stylist and Author of "In the Jumble: The joys of finding, buying and wearing second-hand clothes"

Please join us for what promises to be an interesting and informative evening about the joys of pre-loved clothes and saving the planet one outfit at a time! Let's go rumble in the jumble...

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

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

Army Matters

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

CHIT-CHAT

No 227 April 2026

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

After the Deluge, the Flowers of Spring



Well, hardly a deluge. This year's Winter rains were rapidly absorbed by Salisbury Plain's massive capacity to contain water and the village escaped too much rain damage, (although some residents experienced minor inundation).

The spring flowers soon brightened up the village - the banks of daffodils and wood anemones, seen here in the grounds of Chitterne Manor, were much appreciated by those of us who were delighted that the daily dog walks no longer required Arctic clothing.

Council Notes

Annual General Meeting
On May 11th, Chitterne Parish Council will hold its Annual General Meeting (AGM) and Electors Meeting. The main purpose is to re-elect the Chair, who will then summarise the Council's activities during the past year, and set the objectives for the coming year. Villagers are encouraged to attend, they may raise issues for the Council to consider. This is also the time to apply to become a councillor, there is, currently, one vacancy.

We are particularly interested in attracting recently arrived residents to serve on the Parish Council. We welcome the stimulus of new approaches and ideas. If you are interested and would like to know more, do email or phone me (address and telephone on the masthead) and I will be glad to help.

The meeting will start in the Village Hall at 7.00pm with the election of the Chair, who will deliver a brief report on the council's activities. Time is then allocated for any representations by parishioners (5 minutes is allowed per subject). The AGM will then be closed and a routine Council meeting will follow. Any parishioners who wish to raise anything during the AGM are asked to let the Parish Clerk know before the meeting.

Chalk Quarry Clearance
Since our last meeting, (February 9th), good progress has been made on clearing and improving the Chalk Quarry on Back Lane, to provide a shady resting place for villagers and walkers on the Imber Range Path. Emma Cole has kindly volunteered to undertake the restoration and maintenance of the site, which is already shows considerable improvement.

Allotments
Allotment plots have been provided for the residents of the new homes on Bidden Lane and they are ready to cultivate.

The Speed Indicator Device/Speeding
The S.I.D. on Bidden Lane wrecked late in 2025 by a collision with a car, has been re-ordered following a successful insurance claim, and will be re-installed shortly.

A meeting will take place soon at the suggestion of the **Police & Crime Commissioner** to discuss Chitterne's speeding problems and review possible improvements.

Maddy Down-sizes the 'Russian Arctic Threat'

Maddy Wilks MA, grand daughter of Dick and Elizabeth Johns, who spent much of her childhood in Chitterne, graduated from University College London with a distinction for her dissertation on 'How Finland's accession to NATO has changed Russia's securitisation of the Arctic'. Chitterne residents had an opportunity to hear Maddy present her findings in a lecture in All Saints church on Saturday March 21.



Realistic
The tendency of the media to exaggerate the threat of escalating Arctic East-West tension was examined and placed in a more realistic perspective in a well-presented and argued presentation. Maddy pointed to the strain on Russian resources and manpower caused by the ongoing conflict in Ukraine, and demonstrated how it rendered an imminent and violent clash of opposing forces in the Arctic region less likely than suggested by media speculation.

Imber Village and St Giles Church Opening Times and Access

Imber Village is open to the public on several occasions throughout the year and St Giles Church Imber is open to the public on most occasions. The Church, situated in Imber Village on Salisbury Plain Training Area (SPTA) west, is open for a variety of events throughout the year, which are planned and executed by the Church Warden. The Warden is assisted by several volunteers who assist with administration and safety of the public.

Imber Village Events.
The church is open on the following occasions throughout the year:

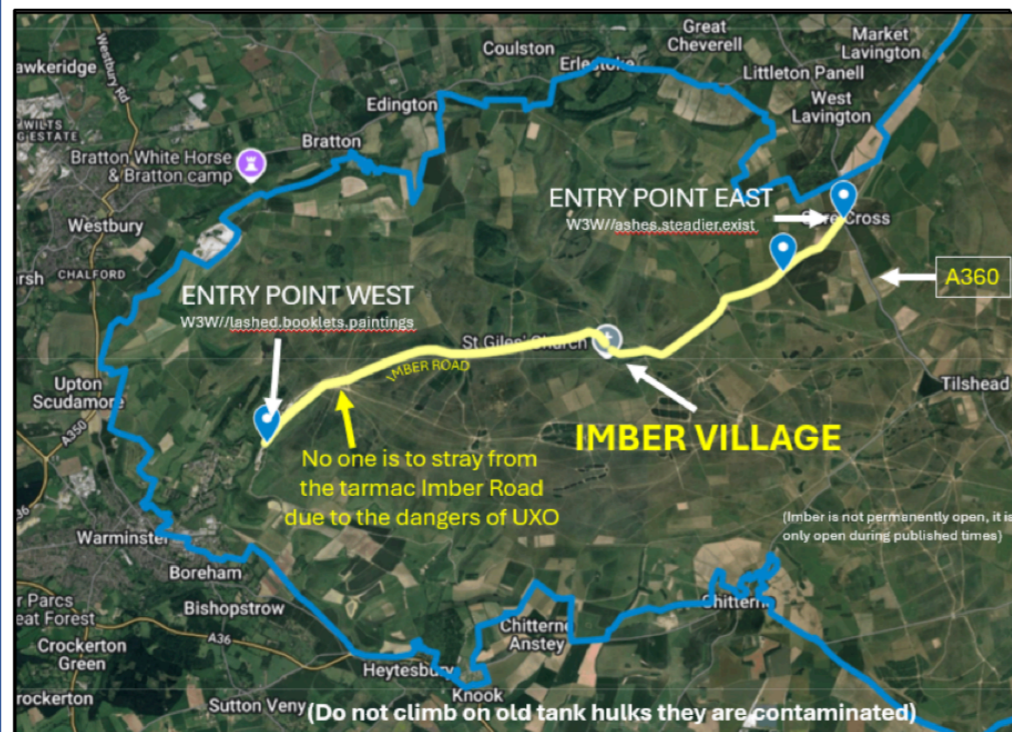
- Easter Sunday – Church open to the public.
- Imber Bus Day – Church open to the public.
- Bank Holiday Weekend - Church open to the public.
- Remembrance Church Service - Church Service only open to authorised guests.
- Christmas Church Service - Church Service only open to authorised guests.
- December Public Access – Church open to the public.

It must be emphasised that the opening of the church can be cancelled at any time for safety and other reasons, decided by the warden or HQ SPTA.

Imber Village Entry. The public have limited access into SPTA west and the village; there are 2 entry points open to the public:

- VP2 – Grid-ST 901 466 – via Imber Road
- VP3 – Grid-ST 998 500 – via Imber Road

The public have no authority to leave the Imber Road en-route to Imber Village. Apart from unit training that may still be taking place, there is a threat risk from unexploded ordnance (UXO on the map).



Upcoming in the Kings Head:

Chitterne Creative Art and Craft Workshops

at the **Kings Head, Chitterne**
Thursdays, once a month
10:30am – 2:30pm



Tutor-led group. All abilities welcome, from complete beginners to experienced artists. Join our friendly and inclusive creative group.

PRICE PER SESSION: £45
Includes tuition and all quality materials

For information & to book, contact Catherine
catherine@flippence.net or 07792 354937

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: **April 16th**

Please RSVP to Lindsay Lucas
l.lucas112@outlook.com
Hope to see you there!

CHURCH SERVICES IN APRIL

2 nd April (Maundy Thursday)	Chitterne, Holy Communion	11 am
3 rd April (Good Friday)	Tilshead, Evensong	4 pm
5 th April (Easter Day)	Tilshead, Holy Communion	11 am
12 th April	Tilshead Holy Communion/Evensong	10. am/6pm
19 th April	Shrewton Holy Communion	11 am
26 th April	Holy Communion Orcheston	11 am

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

What's Happening in Chitterne?

PLANT SALE
The recent spring weather has got us in the mood for gardening and we've been busy in the greenhouse! If you are planning to grow some things for the Plant Sale, which would be great, please do let us know.

We will have the usual wide range of plants and vegetables plus a lovely selection of cakes and home produce. There will be coffee and tea so please come and see us on Saturday 9th May at Pitts House from 10.30am to 12 noon to support Julia's House and the village church.

Many thanks, Emma & Nicholas Tel: 850416.

Drop-in at Warminster Garrison Community Centre, : 21st April, 2026 14:00

We're holding a Community Drop-In Session at Warminster Garrison Community Centre, Warminster BA12 0BY.

Upcoming Dates & Times:
21st April 2026: 14:00-16:00
13th May 2026: 10:00-12:00
16th June 2026: 10:00-12:00

These drop-in sessions are a great opportunity for residents to get crime prevention advice and community updates

No appointment needed, just drop by for a chat! We're always happy to meet members of the community and hear what matters to you.

Mobile Library Visit:
Friday, April 17, Village Hall Car Park at 11.10.



Emboldened by the success of 'Ladies Who Lunch' some of Chitterne's Chaps decided to attend an event of their own in March. It was a great success and the next one will be Wednesday April 29. All are welcome.

THURSDAY & SUNDAY PUB QUIZ
King's Head Chitterne

Thursday 2nd April 2026
7.15pm first question
£12.50 entry per person
Includes Curry (vegetarian option available)
Pleasebook by **a.s.a.pl**

Sunday 19th April 2026
5.45pm first question
£3 entry per person
Optional Cheese Board for Table £16
Pleasebook by **17th April 2026**

To book please contact King's Head 01985 878121



Kings Head - Open Bank Holiday Monday.
Food: 12noon - 4pm, Bar 12noon - 6pm.

ANYONE FOR CRICKET?
The village Cricket Club is always looking for new members, young or old, male or female, and of whatever standard, to join us either regularly or just for the occasional match and would love to hear from anyone who would be interested in playing some not too competitive cricket with a convivial group of players in our picturesque village setting.

We have 8 weekend matches arranged for 2026 against other local villages and private teams. We usually play 25 or 30 over games and matches, which are all at home, start at 2:00 or 2:30pm. We like to think we enjoy the best cricket tea in the county, so even if you don't play yourself, we would love to see you as a supporter!

This year's fixtures are as follows:

Sunday 31st May	Nairobi Nomads
Sunday 7th June	QDG SAG
Sunday 21st June	Horningsham
Saturday 4th July	Michael Horsfall/ Rafe Seymour XI
Sunday 19th July	Avon Valley
Sunday 2nd August	Heytesbury and Sutton Veny
Saturday 5th Sept	Lambeth Wanderers followed by CCC BBQ
Sunday 20th Sept	Chairman's XI v President's XI

For further information please phone or email:
Nick Martin (Captain) 07775 431509
chitternecc@gmail.com
or: Richard Hendrickse (Secretary) 01985 850120
bedlamrules@hotmail.com

Hot IT Tip
I recently had a major panic when my mobile phone suddenly informed me that it contained myriad viruses, a hacker in China had got into it and was taking sensitive details - and 'pop up' ads kept informing me I should buy this, do that etc. I resorted to Google and found the Repair Hub in Wine Street Devizes. A quick phone call (01380 699325) convinced me this was worth a visit. One hour later I had a nice clean phone with lots of tips to boot. Would thoroughly recommend.
Murray Kent

BIG BATTLEFIELD BIKE RIDE THE SOMME
23-28 June 2026

I'M FUNDRAISING IN SUPPORT OF WOUNDED VETERANS

CHARITY CAR WASH
from 11.30am on Saturday 9th May
from 9.30am on Saturday 13th June
Chitterne Village Hall

Get your car sparkling, grab a brew, enjoy a bacon bap AND support the Armed Forces Community!

CASH ONLY OR SCAN TO DONATE

More than 250 miles over 4 days. Please sponsor me.

HMP for HEROES

KING'S HEAD

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



All-Saints Window Repairs

The Victorians built the church that we have today standing proudly in the middle of our village, so it is not surprising that many of the windows are now in a poor condition. A glazing survey revealed various issues including some windows that have an urgent need for re-leading, others have cracked or missing diamond panes whilst others have supporting ironwork that is rusting and cracking the surrounding stonework.

We have engaged Salisbury Cathedral Stained Glass to repair and refurbish several of those windows that are most at risk. Work is scheduled to start in mid-April and is expected to last several weeks over the summer. During this period our church will continue to remain open for all.
Ian & Marcelle Church Wardens.

Murray's Martian Mystery Manifestation Unraveled

The mystery reported in March Chit-Chat is unraveled. The "bail" had nothing to do with Chitterne Cricket Club and the preceding word is "milking". But before the Codford conundrum a little agricultural history. In 1922 a very progressive Wiltshire farmer called Arthur Hosier, who farmed on the Marlborough Downs, decided that his cows were spending too much time walking back to the homestead for milking so he came up with the idea of taking the milking parlour to the cows. Thus the "Milking Bail" was invented.

Basically, the bail comes in two sections, the first where the cows stand to be milked and the second which houses the power plant and milk reception. Both units are either on skids or wheels so the unit is completely mobile and can be moved as and when required. In the summer it could remain for up to four days in the same position when conditions allow but during wet periods it requires moving every day.

Welfare
The welfare of the cows also comes into play as walking back and forth to the homestead creates muddy tracks that cause all manner of foot problems for the cows and, of course, they expend less energy by staying in the field that can be used in their milk production. Back to Mr. Hosier whose family still farm locally. His concept soon caught on, and Hosier bails became a common sight in the dairying areas and became a stand-alone profitable business.

Foremost
He became one of Wiltshire's foremost agricultural innovators along with Chitterne's own John Wallace Titt, designer of wind pumps for extracting water and working on the early mechanization of arable farming. The writer was a student farm worker in Cornwall in the mid-60s and spent many an hour milking a wild herd of Ayrshire cows at a bail on the North Cornwall coast. Move forward, just over 100 years and we see the arrival of a very different milking bail at Manor Farm Codford, but still adhering to principles created all those years ago. More information about what is happening at Manor Farm will be published in the May addition of Chit-Chat!

If you are really interested Google Waglandsfarm.com for Hosier history.
Murray Kent

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INDIAN BLOCK PRINTING Cotton. Card. Clay. Repeat.

Indian Block Printing: Lovely Luminous Lampshades

10am-4.00pm, Saturday 11th April 2026
Chitterne Village Hall, Chitterne, Wiltshire BA12 0LS

Try something new and illuminating this year. Print your own Lampshade!
Relax and enjoy the experience of hand printing your own unique fabric Lampshade using hand-carved wooden designs. Choose from a wide range of contemporary and traditional designs, from beautiful birds to bright botanicals, all hand-carved in Indian Rosewood by local artisans in Jaipur, India. Various sizes of drum lampshade kits available which can be used as a pendant ceiling light, table or floor lamp.

During the workshop you will be guided through the simple process to print and create a beautiful fabric Lampshade that will be unique to you. We'll provide the materials—you provide the imagination. **Try it. You'll love it.**
Workshop Fee: £90 per person. All Materials included.

Print. Relax. Repeat. Perfect. Find your happy place...
www.hathicraft.co.uk
To book a place on this workshop or other Indian Block Printing workshops please go to website or scan QR code.

Great Chitterne Duck Race

I know that the charity duck race we organised two years ago was very popular and a number of villagers have asked whether we are planning to run one this Easter. The cut was too low to run an event last year and we have sadly concluded that the same is true this year; it has been going down fast and, by Easter Monday, is likely to be even lower. So our thinking is to organise it earlier in the year next year and we will look to organise a race in the Spring Term break in mid-February.

Rowan, Jesse, Walter and Ted have put the animals from Noah's Ark in the garden, which is situated in the church porch, out of the cold end-of-March wind.

Let's hope that April will be kind to the spring flowers, and those who plant them.

Anthony and Tana



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The Lavingtons.

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