

Increased B390 Rat-Running Threatens Chitterne



On July 29th 2024 Chancellor Rachel Reeves confirmed that the £1.7bn A303 Stonehenge Tunnel was cancelled. Not only has the Stonehenge tunnel been cancelled, the Winterbourne Stoke bypass and all associated improvements including changing the road priorities at Rolleston will not proceed. There is no 'plan B' to tackle the worsening traffic situation on the A303. Chitterne suffers badly from vehicles rat-running to avoid congestion at Stonehenge and Winterbourne Stoke. This puts pedestrians, horse-riders and cyclists on the B390 at particular risk.

The situation often worsens when accidents or work on the A303 forces closure between Longbarrow roundabout and Deptford. The B390 is the official diversion route for A303 traffic. The tunnel at Stonehenge and associated road improvements would have reduced the problem of rat-running, making the diversion of traffic through Chitterne no longer necessary.

"Dismayed"

Cllr Richard Clewer, Leader of Wiltshire Council, said: "We are extremely dismayed and disappointed at the Government's decision to cancel the A303 Stonehenge tunnel project. These improvements are needed now to ease traffic congestion on the A303 and reduce traffic in our communities."

"We will remain committed to this project and will continue to work closely with all stakeholders to try to bring this project back to Wiltshire, to reduce rat-running in our communities, to reduce journey times to the wider south-west, to boost economic growth in Wiltshire, and to unlock jobs and investment across the region."

"Unacceptable"

The Conservative MP for the neighbouring constituency, Danny Kruger, said the new government "must fund an alternative plan to help communities around the A303 cope with the volume of traffic. Road improvements have been needed for years but delayed in anticipation of the tunnel. The status quo is completely unacceptable."

Our own Parish Council has not been inactive; Jane Bell and Julia Hendrickse have responsibility for traffic related affairs. "We are constantly in touch with the Police and the Wiltshire Council, as well as the Highways Agency and Andrew Murrison MP to try to bring a sharp focus on the hardship and danger caused by this growing menace" they told Chit-Chat.

Other local villages, including Winterbourne Stoke and Shrewton, have already started the process by organising meetings and inviting Wiltshire Council and the local MP. Chitterne must have a voice in these discussions, as if we do nothing it will appear to the authorities that there isn't a traffic problem in Chitterne as a result of traffic avoiding the A303 jams.

The B390 will continue to be the unofficial Stonehenge bypass unless Chitterne takes action with other affected villages to engage Wiltshire Council and Andrew Murrison MP to take up the cause to demand solutions to rat-running traffic.

Residents of Chitterne are urged to write to the Secretary of State for Transport, Leader of Wiltshire Council and their MP to urge engagement and strategic action to tackle combat traffic issues caused by the A303 at Stonehenge

Inserted with this issue are the addresses of Louise Haigh, Secretary of State for Transport, and Andrew Murrison M.P. to express your anxiety and concerns.

These pictures amply demonstrate that the B390 through Chitterne is completely unsuitable as an alternative route when problems occur on the A360 or A303. Taken at random, the far left picture shows the difficulty even quite narrow vehicles have to pass at the Roundhouse; the C22 (Tilshead road) at Townsend is even worse. Note the absence of footpaths in both pictures. But lorries of well over the legal weight limit frequently use these roads, leading to congestion and danger for pedestrians, bike & horse riders.

Parish Council Notes

The following matters were discussed and agreed at the Chitterne Parish Council September meeting:

Paul Cleary of Wessex Internet, (who have been awarded the Government contract to install fibre broadband in rural communities). Fibre is available on request, but no one has to sign up. The copper network will be switched off by 2027. Work commences in January 2025. Further information: www.wessexinternet.com.

Virginia Neal thanked the Parish Council for organising the 'Horse awareness' signs. She has attended the Wiltshire Council meetings regarding the A303 and traffic. Virginia to advise on engagement with Wiltshire Council and Highways.

Councillor Vacancies. Councillor O'Driscoll has tendered her resignation due to personal circumstances.

Planning Application PL/2024/07777 - Works to a Listed Building: Pear Tree House - Replacement roof covering. No objections.

Banking, assets & finances: Treasurer's account, Profit & Loss and Balance sheet updated by Responsible Financial Officer to 31st August 2024. Bank balance at 31st August 2024 - £15,338.59. The Second Chitterne precept payment due in September. The Parish Accounts to 31st August 2024 were approved.

Chit-Chat. The newsletter will aim to encourage greater involvement of residents in village affairs and events and will also include content from Shrewton, Tilshead,

Continued P2

CHURCH SERVICES IN NOVEMBER

3rd November
10th November
17th November
24th November
1st December

Holy Communion
Holy Communion
Holy Communion
Holy Communion
Holy Communion

Chitterne, 9am
Chitterne, 10am
10am Tilshead
10am Shrewton
9am Chitterne

Continued from P1.

Codford and Warminster where relevant. The PC thanked Lindsay Lucas for her work on Chit Chat over the years.

The playing field mowing contract will be reviewed at the next PC meeting. Second Allotment invoices due to go out early October to the tenants of the two grazing plots. It is now necessary to register PC ownership of the allotments. Cllr Hulton will assist the Village Hall Committee with a 3yr. strategic financial review prior to consideration of long term funding.

The Chitterne Community Pub Group hopes to complete the purchase of the King's Head in October. (See story in October Chit-Chat). The facility for £400,000, which the PC had secured, is no longer needed.

New permanent Horse/Pedestrian signs will be installed at either end of the village. Also a Pedestrian sign at the village hall, to ensure some safety for people crossing to the playing fields.

Wiltshire Police Traffic Team have been contacted again regarding speed watch in the village. Wiltshire Councillor Newbury has been contacted to clarify the weight limit restriction signs which differ between the A36 and the B390.

Chitterne Brook (the Cut); clearance work to remove obstacles, silt, and vegetation on the banks before the Winterbourne flows again.

The new playing field shed housing the flood equipment will be made more watertight. The stone boundary wall separating the playing field from the footpath along the Cut poses a risk in several places.

SSEN will be in the village on 2nd October to attend to some trees that could cause problems to HV lines. Further work is necessary and MOD has agreed to take responsibility for trees on MOD property.

Lee Haines from Highways indicated that mowing has started on grass verges; repairs to the footway at St Mary's Close will be carried out; removal or replacement of the fence running along the west side of the C22 towards Codford from the B390 is the responsibility of the Facilities Management Department, no dates fixed as yet. Highways and Parish Steward will fix the potholes.

Work is ongoing to develop a Village emergency tool kit and directory. There will also be a meeting 30 mins before the next PC meeting to provide an overview of where to seek guidance to prevent, prepare and respond to flooding. All are encouraged to attend.

On Imber Bus day, The Cricket Club organised the parking on the playing field and raised £320.00, while the catering operation organised by the Village Hall Committee raised £2,300.

Date of next meeting Monday 4th November 2024



Few who lived in Chitterne in 2014 will forget the misery and inconvenience brought by the floods which inundated the village at several locations. In response, the Parish Council created the post of Flood Warden. The current Warden is Tony Hulton and below he explains how we should all be aware of the risks and counter-measures which affect us all.

FLOOD PREVENTION AND AWARENESS

Many of you will remember the floods of January 2014, you may have completed a household impact report that I hold. These outlined what happened to your property. Copies of these will be delivered to you this month as they may help you as you develop your household flood preparedness plan. In October, work started to clear the Cut so that it is able to flow; the Parish Steward has made some progress clearing road drains. If you spot any that are blocked please report to the Parish Clerk at 07914 264324. The Parish Council has applied to Wiltshire County Council for flood protection resources including sandbags and road signs. When these arrive we will let you know how to access them. Households are encouraged to refer to Wiltshire Council Flooding information pages on their website which provide a repository of useful information to help you prepare, respond and recover from flooding. If you have neighbours who may be vulnerable or do not use the internet please offer to help them by sharing important information. In an emergency always call 999. Wiltshire Council reminds property owners that they are responsible for protecting their properties from flooding. There is a joint WCC and Environment Agency Flood Awareness event for the public in Salisbury on 19th November which you may want to attend, details below. *Tony Hulton*

ENVIRONMENT ACTION FLOOD EVENT
Hosted by the Salisbury Area Board

TAKE ACTION
Do you want to feel more prepared and reduce the impact of flooding to your property?

19 NOVEMBER 2024
10.00am-3.00pm
Salisbury Guildhall, SP1 1JH

Make your home flood resilient | Advice and guidance from professionals | Join us at this free event

Salisbury City Council | **Environment Agency** | **Wiltshire Council**



CHITTERNE REMEMBRANCE SERVICE Monday 11th November

The Chitterne Remembrance Service will take place in front of the War Memorial, outside the Church on Monday 11th November. Please take up a position outside the wall by 10.45am. A standing area will be marked by traffic cones. The Service will start at 10.50am and last about 20 minutes. If there is heavy rain, the Service will be held inside the Church. Medals may be worn.

Immediately following the Service, everyone will be invited to move into the Church for a short Remembrance Service in front of the 3 Squadron RAF Commemorative Plaque.

Upcoming Village Events:

Breakfast Clubs on 2nd November and 7th December. (Village Hall); Fireworks on 3rd December 3/11 (Sports field)
Carol Service, 23rd December 6pm, All Saints Church. All welcome. Mulled wine and mince pies will be served after the service. There will be a 'retiring' collection for Julia House. Tell Sarah Gooch (01985 850893 mafaho@btinternet.com if you would like to request a favourite hymn.

CHIT-CHAT NEXT ISSUE

The December issue of Chit-Chat will go to press in the last week of November. All contributions, either hard copy or email to:

barry.ricketts1@icloud.com, Tel: 07914 264324

Or 'over the stable door' at Stable Cottage, 24 Townsend, Chitterne, Warminster, BA12 0LF.

To download Chit-Chat from the village website:

Visit www.chitterne.com and follow the links.

Codford Tennis's popular Curry and Quiz Night is on Friday 15th November

Autumn draws in, and the eagerly anticipated Tennis Club Curry and Quiz night is now just a couple of weeks away. The date is Friday 15th November in Codford Village Hall.

It would be good to see one or more teams (of up to 6) from Chitterne! Or come as an individual and join a team on the night. Doors open at 6:30pm. The quiz (set by Anthony Knyvet) starts at 7pm. There will be a break for a selection of delicious curries at about 8pm, which will then be followed by part 2 of the quiz. Drinks available from the Broadleaze Bar. Tickets, priced at £12.50, are available from the Post Office (Smith's Budgens) and from the Broadleaze Bar. Alternatively, call the Chairman on 850239 if you would like to reserve tickets and pay online. Funds raised will go towards Phase 2 of the replacement of the tennis court fencing. Phase 1 - the installation of heavy-duty fencing alongside the football pitch is complete and the club is now looking to replace the rest of the fencing.

Hope to see you there!

Contact for further details:
lawntennisclubcodford@gmail.com or Vincie on 850239.

Christmas Tree Trail



Yes, it will soon be here but you have plenty of time to get ready, so put your thinking caps on and have a bit of fun.

For those of you new to the village, for the past couple of years we have encouraged everyone to display a 'Christmas tree' of some sort, shape, colour, size, theme, material, inside/outside - the more random and unexpected, the better - and then villagers walk around the village to admire your wonderful, imaginative trees.

**Trees to be in place for
Sunday 1st December
Chitterne Village Hall Trustees**



Chitterne Cricketers Make Quarter-Century

Chitterne Cricket Club has cheerfully weaved and ducked its way to the end of another successful season, its 25th since the club was founded.

Success for any village cricket club is measured by the enjoyment of all those involved, preparing the ground, playing, umpiring, watching and having an excellent tea in the interval, for this year we have not won any matches. We also lost three of our ten fixtures due to weather and, on one occasion, a lack of opposition.

Drama

The season started with the drama of over-zealous moss killer on the square - but with the advice of Kevin Foster, by scarifying, re-seeding and covering with scaffold netting - it recovered very well after a few cuts. The ground was maintained to a very high standard with the help of our ageing tractor and gang mower, and the time dedicated by a team of a dozen volunteers spending their afternoons going round and round and round. During the season over 30 people, young and old, boy and girl, from Chitterne and surrounding villages played cricket for the club, the oldest 77 and the youngest 12 years old. Sadly, the grand finale of the season, the match between the President's XI and the Chairman's XI, and the club BBQ afterwards, was lost due to weather. It was another wonderful season of cricket, with great sportsmanship, camaraderie, and friendships made, and fantastic teas, thanks to the efforts of the ladies of the club. While we did not win any matches we had a lot of fun. Hopefully, next season we can encourage more villagers to join us - either as players or spectators.

John Smedley

Chitterne Firework Night

Sunday 3rd November 2024

Chitterne Sports Field

- ❖ "Gates Open" at 16:30
- ❖ Bonfire Lighting 17:30
- ❖ Competition Judging 18:00
- ❖ Fireworks 18:30

❖ Food & Beverages available from 16:30
including - Hot Food & Sweet Treats, Mulled Wine, Hot Drinks, Alcoholic & Soft Drinks
Cash Only

❖ Competition for "Best Guy Fawkes"!!
Please get creative and bring your "guys" along for your chance at winning a prize!

- ❖ Please give generously to the collection buckets on the "gates"
- ❖ The event is licenced so please do not bring any alcohol onto the site and we ask no sparklers

All profits from the event in support of Chitterne Village Hall. Registered Charity No. 305489

Advertising in Chit-Chat

Until now, advertising in Chit-Chat has been free, but printing costs, like everything else, have been steadily rising, and the Parish Council, who subsidise the publication by paying the full printing and postage costs, have requested that I look into the question of making a charge for ads. Announcements of forthcoming charity events and 'free to a good home' ads for items (complete with pictures) will continue to be free, but henceforth, I suggest a charge of £5.00 per insertion, or £50.00 for a year (a small but useful discount) might be applicable for purely commercial ads. The arrangement will apply from the January issue, unless I receive an acceptable alternative suggestion. Cheques payable to Chitterne Parish Council please. Editor.

Chitterne Team Second in League

There has been a long tradition of Darts being played in Chitterne going back many years. When The Kings Head closed, team Chitterne were without a home base and Shrewton kindly came to the rescue. Firstly, via the Sports & Social Club and then subsequently The Plume of Feathers.

The Plume already has their own darts team, it was agreed therefore that we would be the B team and that they would in future be known as the Double D's (don't ask).

We play in the Mixed Brewers' Darts League; this is a Tuesday night pub/club league for teams in Amesbury and the surrounding area.

Have we had any success ???

We were Division 2 Winners in the 2019/20 Winter Season and overall, Winners for the 2022/23 Winter Season. The 2024 Summer Season has just been completed and we finished as runners up.

We are looking forward to The Kings Head reopening, to regaining our A team status and the pleasure of hosting games back on our own home turf. Do come along and support us when the pub reopens. New players are always welcome.

Pete Emmerson



STOP PRESS!

The very popular Apple Pressing held recently in Codford is to come to Chitterne on 9th of November, at the Village Hall from 10am - 1pm.

Bring your own containers and as many apples as you wish for a donation of £5. The (delicious!) juice will keep for 7days - or for another £5 it can be pasteurised for longer storage. The juice can also be frozen. Tea and Coffee available.

CHRISTMAS STARS

Wanted! Stars of all shapes and sizes - glittery, sewn, carved or bought.

Last year we had a great response for Angels, hopefully we can do the same this year to decorate OUR Church for Christmas.

Elizabeth Johns

Beware Van Break-ins

There has been a recent series of van break-ins in the Wiltshire area. Valuable tools and machinery have been stolen. These incidents are being investigated by the police so please note and take appropriate security measures to avoid becoming a target.

Please share the following advice with your local community to help prevent further thefts:

Secure your vehicles; lock your van even if leaving it for a short time. Double check all doors and windows before leaving the vehicle unattended.

Remove tools overnight - if removing isn't feasible, consider lockable boxes inside the van or marking tools with identifiable information (such as serial numbers) Park in a safe location - lit areas or under CCTV surveillance. Park close to your home or in secure areas.

Install security devices - alarms, steering wheel locks. Install tracking devices on your high value tools and machines. Report suspicious activity - early reporting can help the police to respond quickly and avoid further incidents.

I can visit potential victims and offer some Selecta DNA kits to help forensically mark their valuable tools.

Lukasz Kolasinski 70901
Police Community Support Officer
Email:
lukasz.kolasinski@wiltshire.police.uk
Mobile: 07471029004



Please RSVP by Friday 1st November 2024 via email:

acrosstheplainwi@gmail.com

or WHATSAPP Message: ATP WI Social Chat. Thank you!



...Across the Plain WI...

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 5th November 2024
7.30pm Chitterne Village Hall, Chitterne

Sew Heart Felt
Let's get creative for a great cause



Learn how to create pairs of felt hearts that will bring comfort to those who cannot be together all the time due to illness.

It's always difficult to be apart from family and friends, especially if you're in hospital. The hope is that these hand-held felt hearts will bring comfort to both NHS Salisbury ICU patients and their loved ones throughout this period.

Let's get creative and "Do some good"...

NHS
Salisbury
NHS Foundation Trust



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