

# War-Dead Honoured - After 80 Years



Gen. Sir Nick Parker places a wreath to commemorate three Chitterne servicemen killed in WW2

What ended up as one of Chitterne's most notable events in recent years, followed the cleaning of our 1st World War Memorial last year. It was apparent that one of the four main panels carried no engraving, and no names of 2nd World War servicemen appeared on the monument. A clear opportunity presented itself. Our Royal British Legion representative, Richard Jammes proposed to have the names from the brass plaque in the church added to the memorial. Initial research revealed that there were in fact, three servicemen from the village who died in the conflict. The idea began to take on the appearance of a project - not to say a crusade - to add the three names to those of WW1.

## Permission

In essence, it seemed simple, in practice it was nothing of the sort! To make changes or additions to a war memorial, permission is required from the Church, six other Statutory Societies and Bodies, the regiments of the soldiers and last, but by no means least, the living relatives of the deceased. There was also the issue of raising the funds to cover the cost of the engraving.

Chit-Chat readers will remember the story of Lance Sergeant Stacey, researched and carried out by Murray Kent. Richard took on the task of obtaining the necessary background information and permissions for Lt. George and Pte. Salter. This required extensive research with regimental associations, National archives and genealogy sites. Ultimately contact was achieved and three very happy families readily gave their permission. The Church Faculty process continued with the aim to get the engraving done in time to unveil the panel and dedicate the memorial on the 11th day of the 11th month of 2025 - 80 years after the cessation of hostilities in 1945 - Armistice Day.

## Admiration

The project had caught the attention and admiration of many and we were honoured that the Bishop of Salisbury dedicated the memorial, which was unveiled by our own General Sir Nick Parker. All the regiments sent senior representatives and in some cases mascots (Pegasus V), Andrew Murrison the local MP, Colin Beagley the RBL Standard Bearer, the Bugle Major from 5 Rifles, BBC TV Points West and a number of the soldier's relatives attended a moving and evocative ceremony. The poor weather meant that a fly-past of 5 Tiger Moths had to be cancelled but Kevin Foster's excellent military memorabilia display made for a unique village commemoration. That 20 school children from Tilshead School could witness such an event, was also of particular note.

## Great Significance

We hope that the families of the fallen sons of Chitterne now feel that their relatives have deservedly, received the public recognition due for their service and sacrifice. We know how important this is for them, but also for us as a village community. To be able to commemorate on one memorial, all those from the village who died in both world wars is of great significance.



His Grace The Bishop of Salisbury dedicates the memorial to Lt. Edwin George of the Wiltshire Regiment; Lance Sgt. William Stacey of the Reconnaissance Corps and Pt. Leonard Salter of the Green Howards.



Cheryl Dennis of Points West interviews L/Sgt. Stacey's daughter Barbara for the BBC West News at 6.30 and 10.30 pm.



Never work with children or animals! - Pegasus the Shetland Pony, mascot to the Parachute Regiment did his best to steal the show!

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## Restored chalk quarry, Back Lane.

Weather permitting, topsoil donated by Earthline will be used to consolidate the cleared area of the old quarry. It will be seeded with grass to prevent run-off, and it has been suggested that, once the work is complete and the grass established, a bench may be provided to make a pleasant area for villagers.

## Chitterne Woodland

Tree Warden Aileen Fenlon and the Clerk will attend a workshop organised by the Forestry Commission as the next stage in the development of the forested area above the allotment gardens.

## Council Meetings

It was agreed that future meetings of the Parish Council will be quarterly, with business between meetings conducted via a WhatsApp group.

Picture, right: Air Chief Marshal Sir Dick Johns delivered the Kohima Epitaph under the No.3 (Fighter) Squadron RAF standard, followed by a Blessing and Act of Commitment from the Bishop.

Below: Kevin Foster's military memorabilia display included some unique items from WW2 and attracted much attention from visitors



## Essential Donations for Ukraine

Friends of mine are taking much needed supplies to the Ukraine in December. This is something that they have been doing successfully every year, but they need help with donations.

Are you able to help? They are especially asking for donations of **warm clothes for women, men and children** e.g. coats, jumpers, trousers, socks, gloves, scarves and hats. Also very welcome are: **baby clothes, baby formula, nappies, toys, shoes & boots, toiletries, feminine products, candles and torches.**

If you are able to contribute to this great cause, please bring along any donations to Chitterne Village Hall from 2.00pm on Tuesday 2nd December.

Thank you in advance of your kindness and support. 💙💛

Anne-Marie Trott, Across the Plain WI

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of Chitterne, Wiltshire  
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# CHITTERNE'S HEROES REMEMBERED



A very unusual and moving Armistice Day Remembrance ceremony took place in Chitterne this year. In addition to remembering our lost heroes of the Great War, three of the village's sons who did not return from the Second World War had their names at last added to the village war memorial. A dedication ceremony was carried out by His Grace the Bishop of Salisbury, and attended by relatives and descendants of Lt. Edwin George of the Wiltshire Regiment; Lance Sgt. William Stacey of the Reconnaissance Corps and Pt. Leonard Salter of the Green Howards. Full story and pictures on page 4.

## Council Notes

### Speedwatch and Traffic Issues

Cllr Tyler has been successful in arranging for a survey of traffic density and speeds on the 30 mph section of the B390 through the village. The results of this will determine whether the village will receive speed monitoring activity by the police in future and is an important step toward establishing an effective Speedwatch operation. Data collected by Speedwatch teams is now used, where appropriate, in enforcement activity.

### Stonehenge Tunnel Cancellation

The Central Government decision to cancel the Stonehenge tunnel underlines the need for greater traffic management measures to address some of the difficulties experienced by the villages along the inadequate alternative routes used when closures occur on the A303 and A36 roads. A group of concerned councillors and villagers will contribute suggestions to a representation to the Ministry of Transport.

### Winter Flood Preparations

Although the ground water levels are relatively low, following the dry summer, high volumes of rain are forecast through November and December. Thanks to the excellent work of volunteers organised by Flood Warden Kevin Foster, the 'Cut' has been cleared of much of the vegetation likely to cause obstruction to the flow, thus threatening some households in the village. Kevin is planning to hold a training day for volunteers to familiarise them with the use of the village flood equipment: generator, pump, sandbag filler etc. We shall also be prepared to use road signage in an attempt to slow traffic through any standing water on our roads, to avoid water being washed into properties.

Cont P.4

**SWITCH ON!**  
from Saturday 6th  
December 2025

## Chitterne's Christmas Tree Trail 2025

Holy Jingle Bells! It's almost time for the **Chitterne Christmas Tree Trail**. If you're interested in entering a Christmas Tree for this fun festive event, please contact Erika Snowden-Pike to confirm your entry via email: [snowdonpike@gmail.com](mailto:snowdonpike@gmail.com)

As a reminder, Christmas trees can be real or artificial, large or small, in the window or in the garden. Any theme. Any colour. Anything goes! As long as you can see your tree from outside your property, the more random and unexpected the location, the better!

**Switch On will be from Saturday 6th December 2025.**  
The Chitterne Village Hall Committee

## CHURCH SERVICES IN DECEMBER

November 30 <sup>th</sup>	Holy Communion	11.00 am. Tilshead
December 7 <sup>th</sup>	Evensong	4.00 pm. Tilshead
December 14 <sup>th</sup>	Benefice Carol Service	11.00 am. All Churches
December 25 <sup>th</sup>	Family Service	10.00 am. All Churches
December 28 <sup>th</sup>	Holy Communion	11.00 am. Orcheston

**Calling...  
CHITTERNE  
LADIES WHO LUNCH**

Please join us every month  
for some great food & great company

**12.00pm The King's Head  
Chitterne**

Everyone welcome.

Next Lunch Date:  
**Thursday 11<sup>th</sup> December 2025**

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

Hope to see you there!




**UPCOMING IN CHITTERNE  
CHRISTMAS IN CHITTERNE**

**Sat 6<sup>th</sup> Dec**, Breakfast Club 9.30-11am  
A festive tabletop sale in the church  
10am – 12.30 pm  
*We already have a variety of stalls  
but have room for more.*

**VILLAGE LIGHT UP!**

**Sat 13<sup>th</sup> Dec**, Church decorating  
(BELLS please) 10am onwards.  
*Bells may be left with Elizabeth  
(850039) earlier if more convenient.*

**Sun 14<sup>th</sup> Dec**, Carol Service 4 pm  
This is the Benificence Service for  
Chitterne, Shrewton Orcheston and  
Tilthead.  
Bishop Andrew will officiate and  
everyone is most welcome.

**Tuesday 23<sup>rd</sup>** Celebrating the joys  
of Christmas: Village Carols 6 pm

Our informal and very popular  
celebration in church of carols and  
readings for all, young and old.

**Thursday 25<sup>th</sup> 10 am**  
A short Christmas morning  
family service.



**What's On at the Pub**

In response to public demand, we  
have **GAMES NIGHT** starting the  
30th November - this will be every  
Sunday evening (except 21st Dec  
due to Quiz night). You can come  
any time between 6 and 9pm to play  
the following games or bring your  
own! Crib, Backgammon, Chess/  
Draughts, Darts, Jenga, Shut the  
box. There will be help if you would  
like to learn how to play Crib,  
Backgammon etc. All levels and  
ages welcome. Please come along  
to help make this a BIG success

**AT LAST -Christmas opening  
hours!**

**Christmas Eve - Open all day!**

Food 12-2, 6-9pm Carol singing at  
the King's Head at the front of pub  
from 5.30pm - please come and  
support this great idea, all levels of  
singing welcome!  
**Candles and Mulled wine  
supplied.**

**Christmas day - Open for drinks  
only 11-1pm**

**Boxing day - Open 12-4pm No food**  
(apparently Nick wants a day off)  
but bar snacks and Nicks amazing  
sausage rolls will be available to  
purchase.

**New Years Eve - Open 12 -4pm  
(food served 12-3pm)**

Then from 7pm till the New Year come  
and party like its 1980 with Karaoke  
and Dad dancing! Prize for best 80's  
Outfit.

**New Years day - Open 12-6pm  
(food served 12-3pm)**

We hope we have something for  
everyone during the festive period and  
we are very much looking forward to  
celebrating our first Christmas in  
Chitterne with you all!

**Tuesday 2<sup>nd</sup> December 2025**  
7.30pm Chitterne Village Hall, Chitterne

**So here it is, Merry Christmas!  
Everybody's having fun...**

**Let's Celebrate!**  
Please come and join us for a fabulous  
Christmas Celebration and Craft Night.

**Fun, Fizz & Festive Craft.  
Absolutely Fabulous!**

Craft: DIY Decorated Light-Up Bottles for Christmas

Please RSVP by Sunday 30<sup>th</sup> November 2025 via email:  
acrosstheplainwi@gmail.com  
or WHATSAPP Message: ATP WI Social Chat. Thank  
you!

**theWI** **Merry Christmas**  
INSPIRING WOMEN **...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

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




**KING'S HEAD CHITTERNE  
THURSDAY  
Quiz  
NIGHT**

**Thursday 4<sup>th</sup> December 2025**  
7.15pm first question  
£12.50 Entry per person  
Includes Lasagna  
Book by Sunday 30<sup>th</sup> November  
To book please contact  
King's Head 01985 878121

**Mobile Library - Next Visit**

There will not be a visit by the Library Van in  
December (it would have been on Boxing Day).  
The next visit will be on 23 January 20.

**Christmas Hamper**

WI Christmas Hamper raffle tickets will be on  
sale at Breakfast Club in the Village Hall,  
Saturday 6th December, 0930 - 1100.

**Be Secure**

Sadly, this time of year often sees an increase  
in thefts from houses and gardens. Please be  
aware of the Bobby Van Trust, a registered  
charity who work alongside Wiltshire Police  
and offer a completely free service to anyone  
over 60 (or over 18 and registered disabled).  
They offer a **free Home Security service**  
which includes checks for door and window  
locks, lighting, dummy CCTV cameras and  
more. They also offer a Stay Safe Online  
service which will help prevent any fraud  
related offences occurring. Their contact  
number is 01225 256867 and their website is  
BobbyVanOnlineSafety@wbvt.org.

**SUNDAY  
PUB QUIZ  
King's Head Chitterne**

**Sunday 21<sup>st</sup> December 2025**  
5.45pm first question  
£3 Entry per person  
Optional Cheese Board for Table £16  
Book by Thursday 18<sup>th</sup> December  
To book please contact  
King's Head 01985 878121

**PLUS  
Christmas Jumper Competition!**




**St. Giles Church Imber, Remnant of a Lost Village**

As we have a number of new residents in the  
village who may not be aware of the  
historical "lost" village on our doorstep, a  
reminder of access times seems appropriate,  
but firstly a brief history:

**'Rural Idyll'**  
Imber village in the heart of Salisbury Plain  
was a sleepy rural idyll until in the middle of  
WW 2, when the residents were given just  
over 40 days notice to leave the village. That  
was everybody, farmers and their farmhands  
and families, the vicar, the publican the  
postman and the post office, the school  
teacher and the children. In other words,  
everyone. They were promised that at the  
end of hostilities they would be able to return  
home. It proved to be a very hollow promise  
and to this day it is deserted except for the  
troops who still regularly train there.

**Brilliant Display**  
The village and the military road to it are  
open to the public from the 29th December



*Picture: Kevin Stokes*

until the 1st January inclusive. St Giles  
Church is open during that period from 11  
am to 4 pm where you will find a brilliant  
comprehensive display of the history of the  
village and church, a cafe to warm and  
refresh yourself and various books and  
memorabilia for sale.

You can check it out if you Google St Giles  
Church Imber. You won't be disappointed.  
*Murray Kent*

**CHIT-CHAT NEXT ISSUE**

The January issue of Chit-Chat will go to press  
in the last week of December. 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](http://www.Chitterne.com) and follow the links.

**Across the Plain WI**

**HAPPY CHRISTMAS  
HAMPER RAFFLE!**

**ENCIRCLES**  
Supporting the homeless and hungry in Salisbury and  
the surrounding area

**WIN Christmas Hampers  
full of fabulous festive fun!**

**Raffle Tickets: £1 each or £5 a strip**

**Tickets available to purchase from:**  
Lindsay Lucas [l.lucas112@outlook.com](mailto:l.lucas112@outlook.com) (Chitterne residents only)  
Vicki Harris [vickiharris1986@gmail.com](mailto:vickiharris1986@gmail.com) (Rest of the World)

**Raffle Draw: Friday 19<sup>th</sup> December 2025. Raffle Open to All.**

100% of proceeds will go to the Encircles charity supporting the homeless and hungry  
in Salisbury and the surrounding area. Please help us to help them this Christmas.  
Thank you!

Winners will be notified via email or telephone after  
the draw. Hampers delivered by 23rd December.  
Good Luck!

**theWI** **...Across the Plain WI...**  
INSPIRING WOMEN **Live a little Laugh a lot Do some good**

Promoter: R. Wilkinson, Chitterne, BA12 0LF Registration No. LC202406-13724. Registered under the Gambling Act 2005 with Wiltshire Council

