

Pub Buyout Getting Closer

Brilliant news - the funds are now in place to commence with the purchase of The Kings Head. The share offer has raised a little over £300,000 so far, and along with the loan facility, means the purchase process has commenced, and our solicitor has been instructed accordingly. A huge thank you to all our investors, who now number almost 100.

Shares

The share offer will remain open as more funds are needed for renovation works, and also to reduce the size of the loan. So, it is not too late to become an investor and a member of the Chitterne Community Pub Group Benefit Society - we do need you. Each share is valued at £1 with the minimum investment being £250 and the maximum £100,000 per individual. Details of the share offer can be found at www.chitternecbs.co.uk We have also identified some grants that we are now eligible to apply for, to help with the finances.

We are hoping to complete the purchase by the end of October, and possibly be open by Christmas. There will be some renovation works to be done within the pub, and also the garden and car park areas.

Key

A key element to the success of the pub is finding the right tenant, the search for which is intensifying as we become more certain of the purchase date. If you know of anyone suitable who might be interested please do let us know at chitternecombensoc@outlook.com. Whilst we intend to get the pub open in the short term - and we will - we accept that this is a longterm project. Once the pub is owned by the community we need to keep it that way for many, many years. Further services will be developed once we have the pub side up and running e.g. a small community shop, cafe and prescription dispenser, to name but a few.

Once again, thank you all for your support. Raising the funds to purchase really is a key milestone, and a great feeling!

John Dillon, Chitterne Community Pub Group



Community Pub Group member Richard Hendrickse is interviewed by a BBC Points West team.

Parish Council Notes

The following topics were discussed and agreed at the July meeting of the Chitterne Parish Council, (CPC):

The Council agreed to consider a tree protection order on the recently planted chestnut tree on the village green as part of the Village Tree Health and Safety assessment.

CPC will advertise for a Locum Clerk or Administrator.

There were no objections to existing planning applications

Parish accounts were approved and signed; recommendations by internal auditors will be considered.

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CHURCH SERVICES IN OCTOBER

6 th October	Holy Communion	Chitterne, 10.30am
13 th October	Holy Communion	Chitterne, 10.30 am (followed by Harvest Lunch, Village Hall, 12.00)
20 th October	Holy Communion	10.30am Shrewton
27 th October	Holy Communion	10.30am Orcheston

Villagers Visit To Warminster Maltings

A party of Chitterne villagers visited the Warminster Maltings during July. One of very few remaining traditional Maltsters, the buildings were rescued from demolition in the 1990s by their current owner Robin Appel, and have been returned to their original working condition. Further, the ‘Maris Otter’ strain of malted barley produced there is in demand by quality brewers and distillers world-wide.

Robin explained the significance of the malting process to brewing industries - both beer and whiskey - and shepherded the group around the Maltings to better understand the art of malting.

Warminster Maltings employ around 20 people, working shifts dominated by the fermentation process of the grain, which can vary, so the maltsters experience is crucial.

After the tour, the group was treated to an excellent buffet and a chance to sample the delicious flavour of traditionally produced beer.



A Warminster Maltings experienced Maltster aerates the fermenting grains with a traditional hand ‘plough’. Inset, Robin Appel explains the process to group members.

Parish Council Notes continued from page 1 :

All allotment rents have been paid. Ownership of the allotments is now transferred to CPC and a meeting will be held with allotment holders to review any necessary works.

Horse and pedestrian traffic warning signs have now been agreed with Wiltshire Council on a shared cost basis.

A soft surface area is to be installed under the monkey bars in the children’s play area

Councillor Hulton will conduct a Flood Awareness briefing for the village in October.

A tree health assessment will be carried out with input from the M.O.D.

A contribution of £500 to Village Hall operating costs was approved. Councillor Hulton will assist the Village Hall Committee to develop a 3-year income generation plan.

A Community Emergency Awareness Plan will be discussed with Wiltshire Council.

The CPC will discuss the optimisation of the print and online versions of ChitChat with the new editor.

Full versions of the CPC Minutes and annexes can be viewed on the Chitterne website (chitterne.com) and prior to the next meeting on the Village Hall noticeboard. Next meeting: Monday November 4th.

Classical Concert at Edington

The Britten Sinfonia is one of the UK’s most respected and dynamic orchestral ensembles in the UK, with a reputation far beyond these shores. On Saturday October 19th three of their internationally renowned players, all well-known soloists and chamber ensemble players in their own right, are coming to perform at Edington Priory Church as the Britten Sinfonia Wind Trio.

Nicholas Daniel (oboe), Sarah Burnett (bassoon) and Joy Farrall (clarinet) have put together a great programme for this relatively unusual combination of instruments, from a Beethoven Trio and a Divertimento by Mozart to pieces by Ibert, Milhaud and Poulenc. Edington Arts is incredibly privileged to be able to welcome them to the Priory Church.

Tickets for this concert are on sale now from £11 to £25 with a 10% discount for Edington Angels on all seats, and can be secured through the What’s On page on the Edington Arts website, www.edingtonarts.org, or by phoning Chrissy on 01380 831256. Students 18 and under come free. The performance starts at 7.30pm and will end at approximately 9.30pm, including an interval.

What Goes Around...

Nineteen years ago, in September 2005, I produced the very first issue of ChitChat. Now, in 2024 I am astonished that all those years have passed! The publication has had a number of editors during that time; the most distinguished and long-serving of whom has been Lindsay Lucas, who commenced her labours in xxxx. We feature some of the village career of Lindsay on page xx, but it goes without saying that she has earned the admiration and thanks of us all for her great contribution. I propose a few changes to ChitChat over the coming months, but essentially, it is your publication, so I shall be pleased to hear your suggestions for future items and features. I can’t promise that all will be adopted, but I shall try to produce a paper which pleases! Barry.

CHIT-CHAT NEXT ISSUE

The November issue of Chit-Chat will go to press in the last week of October. 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.

Chitterne’s Best Bus Day Bonanza

This annual event, involving trips around Salisbury Plain in vintage and modern buses attracts thousands of people from all over, including London and even further afield in Europe. 2024 was again very busy as anyone visiting Warminster saw, with huge crowds arriving at the station to embark on their buses. It is the biggest fund-raiser for Chitterne Village Hall and the subject of a great effort from our volunteers. It does not go unappreciated. To quote regular Imberbus visitors; "Chitterne has the biggest and best offering of a refreshment stop on the routes" and there were lots of appreciative comments and thanks, always good to hear!

Huge
A huge effort starting several months in advance ensures success. Before the event there is liaison with the Imber Bus Team, painting woodwork, erecting the marquee, visiting multiple shops to source the "best" deals for ingredients and stock, cleaning, weeding, making signage, moving stock, money for change and much more. This year there were several new additions; cooking and serving over 120 bacon rolls outside the hall and the visitor car park. The Chitterne Cricket Club ran a visitors car park on the sports field, to improve the Imberbus visitor experience and raise funds for the CCC. It was very busy and many visitors said how much better it was than trying to squeeze into Warminster car parks.

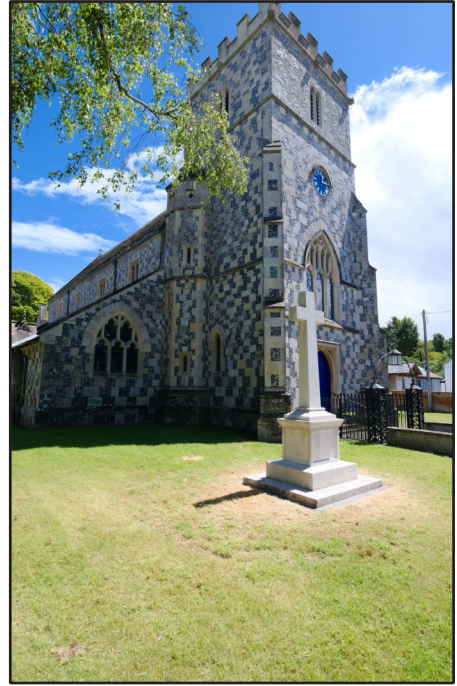
Delights
Food mixers and ovens were busy for days before the event with much baking. Many trays of cakes, over 120 cheese scones, biscuits and other homemade delights were prepared in readiness for the event. We estimate over 420 eggs were used across all the baking and the egg mayonnaise sandwich filling. The day itself involves setting up, traffic management, cooking, serving, clearing up after and ‘directing’ the thousands of visitors who stop in Chitterne - sometimes 5 buses stopping at once.

No exception
2024 was no exception to the ‘rule’ that something has to go wrong and unfortunately this year it was injury and illness within the volunteers; a sprained

ankle, a fractured elbow, a back injury, hospital stays, an injured foot - and a visiting dog ate over a kilo of cooking chocolate the night before resulting in an emergency vet trip (the dog was fine thankfully and oblivious to the chaos this caused)! There was a quick response from several people offering to step in and help so that Chitterne's part in Imber Bus Day 2024 was once again a great success. The best news too, all casualties are fully recovered or recovering well!

Thanks
The event is possible only through the time, energy and effort of a small army of volunteers from the village. Firstly a big thank you to Lindsay who hosts the Imber Event team meetings, organises everyone and is hugely instrumental in the planning of the event. Also, in no particular order, the fabulous team were; Lindsay and Mike Lucas, Anne Neve, Paul Pike, Erika Snowdon-Pike, Kevin Foster, Soo Lee, Jan Sawyers, Murray and Pam Kent, Liz Emmerson, John Dillon, Jo Lloyd, Jackie Bull and myself. A thank you also to the families and friends who supported in other ways - a huge team effort! Bring on 2025!

Article and pictures, Lexa Turner.



Monument Clean-up Complete
Villagers will have noticed the transformation of our war memorial. As reported in the July edition, Steve Davies, a Military Grave Restorer, with sustained support from General Sir Nick Parker, combined their efforts to complete the work. The picture shows the refurbished monument.



Pictures from top: "And then five come along"; Anyone for afternoon tea?; We Brits still lead the world in orderly queuing; All change now; One of this summer's few open-top days.



Dispatches from the Front



On the 80th anniversary of operation Market Garden and the battle for Arnhem, a group of friends and I spent a very busy week riding and camping along the route XXX Corps took to try and reach "The Bridge Too Far."

The distance from start to finish is around 40 miles but we managed to clock up 430 miles buzzing along the lanes and villages exploring the area. Around 600 personnel and 200 WW2 vehicles travelled the route in glorious weather, through villages and hamlets, changed a great deal since the war. The crowds however had not, they stood in their hundreds along the route and waved, honked their horns, and threw flowers and apples.

Princess Anne

Although few veterans remain, we had the privilege of riding alongside the London taxis taking ten veterans of Arnhem to meet Princess Anne and

got to chat with locals who were small children during that time and had vivid tales to tell.

Surprise

To our great surprise, we were invited as special guests to the village of Reek, just south of the Grave bridge. It was their liberation day celebration and had been planned for months, with an exhibition in the Church and a diary kept during the German occupation by the local Priest copied into large print for all to read. Lots of excitement when I could identify some of the artifacts found in the area, but quiet reverence when a quick online search revealed a mess tin had belonged to a soldier killed in action.

Local Hero

In the Chapel, a photograph hung of a local boy who escaped before the occupation and enlisted with the Free Dutch into the British army but was killed during the battle for the Bridge. Before we left, and with permission, we took our Union flags from our bikes and placed them around the Chapel. Finally, to much clapping and laughter, I gifted a pair of wooden clogs engraved "HOLLAND 1944" and sold to troops as souvenirs for their wives and girlfriends, with a promise that like the clogs we would come back one day too.

Article and picture: Kevin Foster.



Not content with tearing about the Dutch countryside on his ancient, but much-loved Dispatch Rider's motorcycle, Kevin and partner Emma organised and hosted an all-day open garden party in their beautiful Townsend garden for all villagers and friends and relatives. Enjoyed by all, but especially by this young lady who was delighted to discover apple-bobbing.

Lottery Coming Soon:

All Saints Friends Trust, a charity set up to support the maintenance and repair of our iconic church building, will shortly be launching the ASFT 100 CLUB.

This is a monthly lottery with membership of £5 per month. We hope to build up to 100 members, so that each month there is £500 to be split equally between the winner and the Friends Trust.

We aim to launch at the beginning of October, so please watch this space or contact one of the trustees for more information : *Peter Emmerson, John Smedley and Gillian Nolan.*

Letters to the Editor:

Dear Readers,

I hope this is the first and last time I contribute my thoughts to this column. I look forward to a healthy postbag from all of you - no subject barred!

Some of my friends have doubted my sanity in taking back the task of editor, but I am sure I am not the only villager who longs for

a return to the vibrant place that Chitterne was before Covid and the loss of our pub. We shall soon have the Kings Head back - the Village Hall is still there with its strong posse of Trustees and volunteers, It's up to the rest of us to make the most of these assets and bring old and new villagers back into Chitterne's charmed circle.
Barry.



Lindsay Lucas, seen above with Aileen Fenlon, judging a class in a Chitterne produce show, before Covid brought a halt to many village activities. Lindsay and husband Mike have contributed much to village life since they arrived in Chitterne in 1993.

Lindsay worked as a teacher in Tidworth until 2010, and she took over the editorship of Chit-Chat from Kato O'Driscoll in August 2012.

Lindsay and Mike have been prominent in many of the village's events and affairs over the years. She has been the church organist, a leading member of the Village Hall Committee, where Mike, too has been a strong 'behind the scenes' force. "We really have missed the pub as our community hub" she notes "before Covid, everyone knew everyone else, which is the way a small community like ours should be."

We wish Lindsay joy going forward, and welcome her as a Chit-Chat reader rather than editor!



Sunday 13th October 2024
HARVEST FESTIVAL LUNCH
12.00 noon Chitterne Village Hall
Everyone welcome

Two Course Lunch
Tickets £7.50

Children 5 years old and under free

Tickets available from:

Marcelle Stobie 01985 851048

Sarah Gooch 01985 850893

When booking tickets please advise of any dietary requirements/vegetarian etc.
Profits from the sale of tickets for All Saint's Church

A Raffle will also be held in aid of the
All Saints Friends Trust Charity No. 1195571
Salisbury Plain Benefice Charity No. 1173846

