



Tuesday 4th March 2025
7.30-9.30pm Chitterne Village Hall



Let the games begin...
Time to have some fun and games with lots of friends, fizz and fab cake!
Don't forget to bring your "game face".

Please RSVP by Sunday 2nd March 2025 via email:
acrosstheplainwi@gmail.com
or WHATSAPP Message: ATP WI Social Chat.
Thank you!

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



BEWARE AND BE AWARE - SCAMMERS

Have you been scammed online? I have, and I lost nearly £1500.00 The statistics about this pernicious practice are astonishing: 73% of all UK residents (around 40 million people) have been scammed, the average personal financial loss was £1,730. Anger, humiliation and embarrassment prevents many from actually trying to push back and seek some redress.

I was the same until the scammers came back a second time. Then I had the presence of mind to keep the call going on my landline, while I phoned the bank (Nationwide) emergency line on my mobile to ask for help.

My story had a happy ending - the bank reimbursed my loss, despite seven months having elapsed since the initial scam. They also sent me some very important advice about how to avoid such contacts in future. I'd like to share these with you now, since the likelihood is that any of us who uses the internet at all, is likely to experience scamming.

Don't assume correspondence is genuine. Scammers can make their calls, texts and emails look or sound like they are from an organisation or person you trust. They can also 'hack' email accounts or create copies which are identical to material which a genuine individual or organisation would send. In such a case, call the person or organisation they claim to be representing, to ask if the contact is genuine. Above all, do not allow them access to your computer (so-called 'screen sharing').

Don't let them rush you. No genuine organisation would put you under pressure to act urgently, and genuine callers will be happy to let you check with the company they are who they claim to be.

If you are in any doubt about a transaction, phone your bank's emergency line, most have dedicated departments for so-called 'phishing'.

Never share financial or account details, unless you have initiated the call to a bona-fide merchant or service and wish to pay online. Then only share the 'long number' on your card, sort code and account number - never share your PIN.

If, after all this, a scammer does get through your defences and you lose money, **do** have your device professionally cleaned so that they are unable to use your information to hit you a second time. If you have given them financial information, contact your bank **immediately** to replace bank cards and access codes - if the scammer can empty your account, they will.

Finally, on a less pessimistic note, do contact your bank and share your experience with them. Often, they are able to reimburse genuine losses to a fraudulent actor, but by far the best option is to not be taken in in the first place! It's a wicked world we live in.

Barry

Dear Chit-Chat readers, William Clifford Stacey

The above mentioned gentleman was born in Chitterne and was killed in the parachute raid at Arnhem on the 17th September 1944.

After all these years it has been realised that his name is not engraved on the Chitterne War Memorial and we need to remedy that.

However, the powers that be have determined that before this can be achieved we need written permission from a surviving relative and I have been tasked with contacting that relative. To date I have not been successful and I am hoping that one of your readers might be able to shed some light on this for me.

What I do know is that he was born in New Cross, London and married Lily Emily Fagg who had been evacuated to Chitterne in the 1920s to "escape the London smog". They had two children, William Philip Stacey b.25.02.1943 and Barbara Stacey b. 1944 who subsequently became Mrs Savage. After Lily Emily was widowed she remarried Albert Edward James Kitley who had been a POW in Changi Camp and worked on the Burma Railway. They had a son John born in 1949. She spent her final years as a resident in Saint Johns Hospital in Heytsbury.

So my purpose is to find a related Stacey or Kitley who can provide us with the required letter of authorisation. I hope your readers can help!

Murray Kent, Hunters Yard, 01985 851785

Parish Newspaper for the residents

of Chitterne, Wiltshire

CHIT-CHAT

No 214 March 2025

Editor: Barry Ricketts, Stable Cottage, 24 Townsend, BA12 0LF- 07914 264 324 email barryricketts1@icloud.com

SPRING HAS SPRUNG - Almost!



Well, at least the Snowdrops think so, and as I sit at the screen in my tiny studio, the outside temperature has risen to a sub-tropical 11 degrees! With luck, we can look forward to a slow but steady improvement in the nasty, cold, grey stuff we have experienced lately. There is much to be glad about - the Chitterne Brook, otherwise known as the 'Cut' has done its job perfectly and drained away the excess rainwater, and the storms took out some of our dead trees without severing power cables. Winter in Chitterne doesn't get a lot better than that.

Parish Council Notes Jan-Feb

A number of dead trees have been felled and removed in the playing field and adjacent to the 'Cut'. The usable wood has been donated to the King's Head, for use in the woodburners when the Pub re-opens.

The Wiltshire Council road sweeping vehicle has visited and cleared mud and leaves from Back Lane. A request has been made to the County Council for the 'Gulley Sucker' vehicle to visit Chitterne to clear culverts blocked with leaves and other debris.

Wiltshire, Dorset and Somerset have not been included in the current tranche of Unitary Authorities to be created by the Government. This means that the 'Heart of Wessex' directly elected mayor is shelved for the time being, but a government consultation is being held on line to enable the public to contribute their views.

Work has begun to clear the rough grazing area above the allotments. It is proposed to create an area of new forest, a wildflower meadow and picnic site. Various government grants are available and it has been confirmed that Chitterne is eligible for grant funding to support this scheme. Prior to the commencement of landscaping, a geophysical survey must be conducted to ensure that there are no archaeological features which may be damaged by the planting scheme.
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Chitterne Electors Meeting

On April 28th, Chitterne Parish Council will hold its Annual General Meeting (AGM) and Electors Meeting. The AGM has to be held, as the title suggest, annually, and its main purpose is to elect (or re-elect) a chairman. Normally held in May, we have brought our meeting forward to April 28 because, unfortunately, our current Chair, Charles Horsfall will be absent in May.

Progress

The Electors meeting is an opportunity for all to attend, when the Chairperson summarises the progress achieved by the Parish Council in the preceding twelve months, and sets out objectives for the next twelve. Contributions and suggestions from parishioners are welcome.

If there are vacancies on the Parish Council, applicants may come forward at this meeting. Currently we have one vacancy, caused by the resignation of Councillor John Dillon, who is now devoting his efforts to the renovation and re-launch of our Pub, the King's Head. We are very grateful to John for his past efforts on behalf of the village.

It is a good thing to have people coming and going on a Parish Council. We benefit as a village from a range of opinions and approaches. The work is not onerous; there are six meetings a year, held on the first Monday of the month - in our case the meetings in 2025 will be: Monday March 3, AGM April 28 (followed by council meeting), July 8, September 8, November 3 - meeting length varies from 45 minutes to an hour and a half, depending on the agenda.

Approval

Wherever possible, approval of actions by the clerk or the chair are sought by email. Usually, individual councillors will choose to take responsibility for overseeing a particular activity (allotments, liaison with the Village
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CHURCH SERVICES IN MARCH

2 nd March	Holy Communion	Chitterne 9am
9 th March	Holy Communion	Chitterne 10.30am
16 th March	Holy Communion	Shrewton 10.30am
23 rd March	Holy Communion	Orcheston 10.30am
23 rd March	Family Service and Tea	Shrewton 4pm

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Vehicle access and off-street parking has been suggested for the use of allotment holders and people visiting the new woodland and picnic site, and this will be examined closely in the coming month to assess feasibility. The provision of piped water for both the allotments and the paddocks is being explored currently.

It has been agreed with the Cricket Club that the Parish Council will take back responsibility for mowing the playing field on a regular, year-round basis. The club will retain the responsibility of ensuring a well-maintained square. The council is looking into the provision of a new, dual purpose shed to replace the existing sheds, capable of meeting the Cricket Club's needs and housing the emergency flooding equipment.

The council has followed up the RoSPA report on our play equipment. We have concluded that the equipment is sound, but in need of a thorough clean. A secondary support device was suggested for the 'pod' swing, and this will be explored by our maintenance team. We have concluded that the RoSPA scheme is too expensive, and insufficiently practical for our needs and we are exploring alternative safety advice. Notices will be installed in the play area to remind users that they do so at their own risk.

The next Parish Council Meeting will take place at 7pm on Monday March 3rd in the Village Hall.

From Our Readers

I just wondered if it would be worth putting something in Chit-Chat about picking up dog poo?

We do the walk up the hill where the phone mast is then turn left towards and through the forest then back down through the fields/ further or do bigger loops out etc. most days, and it's such a shame how many big dog poos are left by someone up on that mud path that looks down on Townsend. I'd suspect it's a repeat offender.

Not meant as a rant, but more a 'what can we do to raise awareness/standards'.

Name withheld but sentiment shared! This is just one of the complaints we have had about this nuisance. We are very lucky to be able to roam as freely as we do on the farmland and the Plain. It's the least we can do to be responsible dog walkers.

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Hall Committee, Village Website, Chit-Chat etc). The Council is responsible for a range of activities. We liaise with the County Council on matters such as road traffic and safety in the village, we raised the money for and maintain the play equipment in the sports field, we are now responsible for administering the allotments and the rough grazing paddocks on the hill behind the allotments, which we are planning to develop as an amenity for the enjoyment of all, and we maintain the footpaths and shared spaces in the village.

We are particularly interested in attracting recently arrived residents to serve on the Parish Council. Some of us have served for a long period and others have performed their particular functions more than once. I have been parish clerk twice, our current chair has been a councillor for over 20 years. We genuinely 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.

Barry Ricketts



Firewood From The Old Churchyard

Sarah Gooch has recently had this fine old tree trimmed to remove dead branches and give it a new lease. As can be seen from the photo, there are some excellent rounds for splitting and drying as firewood, and Sarah is happy for villagers to collect them. However, call her first on 01985 850893, so the fierce sheep (which come and talk to my dog when we walk past) can be contained. The logs are free but a donation to the church will be very welcome.

Bus Routes Serving Chitterne

Rosemary Moody, one of our excellent volunteers who bring Chit-Chat to your letterboxes every month, has reminded me that many folk in the village may not be aware of the existence and frequency of buses serving the village.

From 'Beeline' a service is available every Thursday to Kingston Deverill, Warminster and Devizes, stopping at Abdon Close at 10.15. & returning to Chitterne by 13.45. 'FromeBus' operate a service picking up from both Abdon Close and St. Mary's church at 09.30 & 09.31 respectively, visiting Warminster & Sutton Veny, returning to Abdon Close & St Mary's for 12.57/58.

More information is available on the Traveline South West website and beelinecoaches.co.uk

Don't Forget
Breakfast Club
Saturday March 1st.
Village Hall

Early Warning:
PLANT SALE
SATURDAY 17TH MAY
10.30 am TO 12 noon
PITTS HOUSE
In aid of Julia's House



How many of you us have wandered alone or with our dog past the abandoned chalk pit in Back Lane, and wondered what lies behind the tangled briars, uneven, unfinished groundworks and bits of rubble deposited there?

It has an interesting history. According to Sue Robinson, our local historian and oracle on many things 'Chitterne' now, and in the almost forgotten past, the pit on Back Lane was once the source of chalk for building cob walls etc. It was owned by Maurice William Newton, Innkeeper, coach business proprietor and the Manager of the White Hart, Chitterne's second pub, which closed in 1955, now converted to a dwelling and owned by Anthony and Tana Knyvett.

The Newtons had a son, Tony, and in the 1970s the floor of the site had footings dug out where Tony Newton planned to build a property, but it was never finished. He had

a caravan on the site for a while then lived at the White Hart after it closed in 1955. Tony ran coaches from there, and drove the children to school in Codford. He moved to Marlborough, where he died on 6 Aug 2013, aged 96. There was a further attempt to build on the site some 9 or 10 years ago, but planning permission was not obtained and the site was abandoned.

Puzzled

The Parish Council was puzzled about the site and contacted the Land Registry to find that the site is not, and never has been registered. It also appears that no-one has a valid claim (unless it is just another piece of MoD wasteland that no-one has any interest in). So, we shall attempt to clear the rubble and undergrowth, and reveal the extent of the site. A number of ideas for its future use have been advanced, from a garden waste recycling area to a tree nursery, or just as it is, a natural feature without the tangled mess of brambles and rubble that presently exist. The Parish council will debate this at the next meeting.



Mobile Library Comes to Chitterne

Wiltshire Mobile Library comes to Chitterne every four weeks. It will be here on the 21st at 11.20, in the car-park outside the Village Hall.

In this time of cuts to services we need to support facilities like this, and not everybody realises what a range of possibilities are brought to us by the Library Bus.

In addition to lending books and other publications, it offers access to a variety of databases and digital resources such as e-Books, e-Journals, Web databases, dissertations, audio books, streaming music, films, images and article databases which can be used on mobile phones, tablets or laptops. Libraries provide the means of individual self-development and facilitate all modes of education, including formal, non-formal, adult and lifelong education.

George Unsworth-White



CHEESE & QUIZ NIGHT

Saturday 8th March
7pm – 10pm
Village Hall
BAR & PRIZES

Tickets £8.50 per person
Up to 6 per table
To book your place email
l.lucas112@outlook.com
by Saturday 1st March


