

Salisbury Plain in Bloom by Olivia

I make no apologies for running these beautiful pictures by Olivia Hannant, of wildflowers in bloom on the Plain. We are incredibly lucky to live in one of the best parts of the UK for wildflowers of all kinds. The relatively deserted firing ranges and chalk soil nurtures some of the rarest species in the UK, and many of the insects which feed on their nectar.



...And while we are on the subject of produce, the apple harvest looks as if it going to be a real record-breaker this year. Kevin Foster and his accomplices tell me they are planning another apple juicing event in September, date to be confirmed in the next Chit-Chat, so get those bottles washed and ready - we may even try some cider-making this year!





KateBee'sKitchen is back!

During lockdown, many of you ordered the delivery mealsthat I cooked in Chitterne. I'm thrilled to be offering my food locally once again! Whether you're planning a specialcelebration, hosting a family gathering, or want to stock your fridge or freezer with delicious, homemademeads, I'm hereto help.

- Celebration Catering — Birthdays, anniversaries,wakes,garden parties & more
- Fridge/Freezer Fills — Delicious, ready-to-heat meals for busyweeks

Please do get in touch!
Katy Besent
07760 351266
@katebeeskitchen
katy@katebeeskitchen.co.uk
<https://www.katebeeskitchen.co.uk>



From Page 3

Play area, to help reduce the traffic speeds and warn drivers of pedestrians crossing the road. The Traffic Speed Indicator has been moved to its other location, to help ensure an element of surprise. Tom O’Driscoll continues to monitor the devices. There has been much correspondence with the local police team regarding speeding traffic etc. The police are adamant that in order for there to be any further assistance, we need to create a new Community Speed Watch group in the village, in order to collate relevant data which will help with the traffic monitoring. They assure us that when this happens, there will be support for the group.Villagers are reminded that any general roadside maintenance issues can be reported directly on the Wiltshire Council MyWiltspapp or via the Wiltshire Council website at www.wiltshire.gov.uk/mywiltspapp

Any Other Business
Sports Field Sheds. Current arrangements are unsatisfactory and insecure, a proposal for joint action by Council and Cricket Club, to purchase a 20’ shipping container to store the equipment of the village and the Cricket Club was discussed and approved, on condition that the Clerk is able to obtain Area Board funding to assist with the cost. Play Equipment Inspections and Maintenance. Sovereign have proven unreliable and no better than our previous arrangement with RoSPA. An alternative proposal for appropriate inspection and maintenance was presented; Clerk to progress and report back.

Next meetings Monday,15 September 2025.
Monday, 3 November 2025.

AWS – Community Support (Salisbury Plain) Events –

18 Upcoming Activities and Tickets

AWS – Community Support (Salisbury Plain)

Community Support staff offer play, youth and community projects, as well as clubs, residential experiences and work within schools. We support service children, young people, and their families across the UK, and overseas, in geographically dispersed communities. Community Support staff combine direct delivery with non-public funded projects, and external links with local partners and agencies.

All these events are open to children in the surrounding areas:<https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/o/aws-community-support-salisbury-plain-33798115211>

What a difference a digger makes!
Brian Lee has been busy transforming the old quarry off Back Lane, which was once a source of chalk for cob walling, but over the years had become a dump. It now has the makings of a very pleasant woodland glade.



CHIT-CHAT

Parish Newspaper for the residents

of Chitterne, Wiltshire

www.chitterne.com

No 219 August 2025

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

RETURN of the MORRIS MEN (AND WOMEN)



Getting our Pub back has stirred fond memories among several villagers, among them Kato O’Driscoll, who found this photo of Morris Dancers visiting the Kings Head back in the last century. (Check out the flares!) Says Kato “The picture shows White Horse Morris dancers outside The King’s Head in the 1980’s. So that’s maybe 40 years ago - and they’ve danced regularly since -and before- that! So it’s fabulous that they are able to dance outside Chitterne’s pub again.”



There was a regular tradition of the Morris Men (and girls) visiting the King’s Head during Christmas week. Our pub was the last on their circuit and they danced - and drank - their way through a number of hostelrys before appearing, somewhat the worse for wear, in the bar to perform their Christmas dance, which quite often deviated from the actual story, involving knights, a dragon and much unsteady lunging about!

It’s great that they are to perform in the King’s Head again - a summer dance this time, on the 20th of August - be sure not to miss it, to whet your appetite, here is a picture of villagers enthusiastically joining in, back in June 2018.

For further details about White Horse Morris or if you would like to join us: www.whitethorsemorris.org.uk. Follow us on Facebook.

Smallest benefice churches to open for services during August



Two very small and rarely used churches are to be opened for services during August. Chitterne’s own Chancel (right) will be used for a service on Saturday 30th August at 4pm, further details will be posted on Petenet.

Rollestone St Andrew (above left and right) will host the Annual Service of Peace on August 24th. (For more detail, see article by Rev. Eleanor on page 3). The classic flint and stone chequer-work church was built mainly in the 13th century and was used by the religious crusading order of the Knights Templar for some 350 years. It’s wooden bell turret was added some time in the nineteenth century.



CHURCH SERVICES IN AUGUST

August 3rd	Holy Communion	9.00 Chitterne
August 3rd	Holy Communion	10.30 Tilshead
August 10th	Holy Communion	10.30 Chitterne
August 17th	Holy Communion	10.30 Shrewton
August 24th	Holy Communion	10.30 Orcheston
August 31st	Holy Communion	10.30 Orcheston

Council Notes

Parish Council meeting, July 7th, Chitterne Village Hall, 7pm.

Present: Cllr Horsfall (chairman), Cllr Ricketts, (acting Clerk), Cllr Bell. Cllr Hulton via (zoom)
In Attendance:Sir Nick Parker, Tim Tyler, Virginia Neale.
Apologies for absence: Cllr Hendrickse.

The minutes of meeting held on April 28 and May 16 were approved.

There were two vacancies on the parish council, Mr Graham Potter has resigned, and the council thanked him for his service. Sir Nick Parker has applied to become a councillor and was co-opted. One vacancy remains. The post of Flood Warden has been taken up by Mr Kevin Foster, and that of Police Liaison and Neighbourhood Watch, By Mr Tim Tyler.

A vacancy remains for Parish Clerk. Cllr Ricketts remains as acting clerk until a suitable person can be found to occupy the post professionally. The various tasks within the village are allocated as follows:

Clerk (acting)	Cllr Ricketts
Responsible Financial Officer	John Terry
Allotments, Village Hall Liaison	Cllr Ricketts
Traffic & LHFIF	Cllrs Bell and Hendrickse
Village website - chitterne.com	Cllr Hendrickse
Playing field, MOD liaison, Play equipment & Parish Steward.	Cllr Horsfall
Wiltshire Police liaison & Neighbourhood Watch, Mr Tim Tyler has volunteered,	
Flood Warden & Chitterne Brook	Mr Kevin Foster has volunteered
General maintenance	Brian Lee/Kevin Foster
SIDs	Tom O’Driscoll
Defibrillator	Kato O’Driscoll
ChitChat editor	Barry Ricketts
Tree Warden	Aileen Fenlon

Planning applications PL/2025/04474 -

Proposed Works to Trees in a Conservation Area WHITE HART HOUSE, CHITTERNE, WARMINSTER, BA12 0LL T1 Ash - Fell. Mr. Knyvett Application approved.

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Don't Forget Imber Bus Day, Saturday 16th August

Buses will start from outside Warminster Rail Station, but you can also pick one up at Chitterne, from outside the Village Hall, pay your fare in cash and hop on and off at your leisure. If you've never done it, it is certainly a great day out and of course, when you return, you can pop into the hall and have a well-earned cup of tea and a piece of cake! Tickets are £10 for adults and £2 for children aged between 2 and 16. Please note that no concessionary bus passes can be used on the day. Throughout the day, refreshments will be on sale in the Village Hall from 1030 onwards – tea, coffee, cold drinks, sandwiches, home-made cakes and cheese scones. Bacon butties will also be available in the morning. For further information, please visit www.imberbus.org. Also, as it is VJ Day on Friday 15th August, Kevin will have a commemorative military display set up in the church, so even if you don't fancy a trip on the buses, please pop along – I promise you, you will not be disappointed.

Growing Interest in Chitterne's Allotment Gardens



Chitterne's allotments are among the lowest cost anywhere in the county, and at a time of rising food prices, they are a very helpful economy in strained household budgets.

Special Amenity

Our project to establish a tree plantation in the paddocks will make this a special amenity for the village. Not surprisingly we have applications

from new 'allotmenters' and we are cutting out new plots, and, for the first time, mains water has been provided for all to use.

Hopefully, when we start the work to establish the tree plantation, more villagers may consider taking up a plot in what promises to be a very attractive area.

Attractive Area

If you are interested in taking up an allotment plot, please contact Barry, on 0791 264324. If you no longer have the time to maintain your plot, let Barry know and we can re-assign it, thus avoiding the expensive business of having to create a new plot on fresh ground.

Summer Celebration

Arthur and Sarah Gooch and Rowena hosted a Summer Celebration at Manor Farm – although summer this year seems to have out-stayed its welcome, leaving lawns and flower beds parched throughout the village. A good time was enjoyed by all, regardless of Chitterne's semi-arid status, and Rowena also celebrated a birthday. (*Below*)

Upcoming in Chitterne

Mobile Library

The Library van will be at the Village Hall at 11.10 on Friday 8th August.

Village Hall Events

Breakfast Club is Saturday 2nd August, 9.30 - 11.00.

Extra Church Services

Saturday 16th August in All Saints Church at 5.30pm there will be a short service of Thanksgiving to celebrate the end of the Second World War. Everyone is welcome Saturday 30th August A service in St Mary's Chancel at 4.00pm Please look out for further details on Petenet.

Imber honey:

A new stock of Imber honey is available for collection from Hunters Yard. There is set, clear and honey combs available all priced at £6.00. Please contact Murray at mistermuzzamurray@gmail.com or phone 851785 with your requirements. Imber open days are from Saturday 23rd August to Monday 25th August. The church will be open from 11.00 am until 4 pm each day. There is a very good display in the church on the history of the village and the sad fate that befell on the occupants in WW 2. There is also a merchandise shop and a cafe.

Army Activity near Chitterne August 2025

Monthly firing calendar for August 2025 (subject to late changes):

Red flags may be left up during non-live firing times for public safety due to large exercises taking place. All flags and signs are to be adhered to regardless of advertised times.

Artillery live firing days from areas 6, 7 and 8 (East of Chitterne): NIL

Artillery live firing days on Salisbury Plain (East) (North of Bulford & West of Tidworth): NIL

Live firing days on Larkhill/Westdown danger area (North of Larkhill): 18, 26, 27, 28, 29

Non-firing days on Larkhill/Westdown danger area: 01, 02, 03, 04, 05, 06, 07, 08, 09, 10, 11, 12, 13, 14, 15, 16, 17, 19, 20, 21, 22, 23, 24, 25, 30, 31

Non-firing days on Bulford fixed firing ranges: 02, 03, 04, 05, 06, 07, 08, 09, 10, 11, 12, 13, 14, 15, 16, 17, 25, 30, 31

Non-firing days on Warminster fixed firing ranges: 02, 03, 08, 09, 10, 11, 12, 13, 15, 16, 17, 22, 23, 24, 25, 26

Live firing days on Imber ranges, areas 1, 2, 3, 4 (East of Warminster): NIL

Range opening times for the dates above (Subject to short notice changes)

Monday: 9am – 11.30pm
Tuesday: 9am - 11.30pm
Wednesday: 9am – 11.30pm
Thursday: 9am - 11.30pm
Friday: 9am – 11.30pm
Saturday: 9am - 11.30pm
Sunday: 9am – 11.30pm

CHIT-CHAT NEXT ISSUE

The September issue of Chit-Chat will go to press in the last week of August. 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 and follow the links.

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Correspondence:

An email about traffic volume and speed from villager Gillian Nolan to Wiltshire Council was discussed. Virginia Neale reported on the continuing danger to residents walking and riding through the village from speeding cars and overweight lorries. Gillian Nolan's letter to the Wiltshire Council produced the usual response: that nothing would be done for villages which did not have a Speedwatch team, and anyway, there was no alternative route for vehicles when the A303 was blocked or congested. A discussion ensued and it was agreed that we need a higher profile if any progress is to be made. Tim Tyler agreed to look into the formation of another Speedwatch team; Clerk will contact the Parish Clerk in Shrewton to see whether a joint approach can be taken; Virginia Neale will continue to try and get a response from Andrew Murrison MP.

Banking, assets & finances:

Treasurer's account, P&L and Balance sheet were updated to 7th July 2025. Bank balance at 1st July 2025 - £11,690.19 Parish Accounts to 30th June 2025 were approved and signed.

Reports from Councillors:

Cllr Horsfall: Chitterne Brook: MOD deny responsibility for ditches from Middle Barn to Townsend. Wiltshire Council confirm their only responsibility is for the carriageway. The ditches are the responsibility of the adjacent land owner - the MOD.

The Parish Steward has been attending to potholes, clearing gullies and weeding at the roadside and along pavements.

A request has been made to Wiltshire Council for the road sweeper to attend to verges on the approach roads into Chitterne and to carry out other minor works / repairs.

Further work to trees on the playing field and other areas will be carried out for two days during August. The MOD have been asked to attend to their trees along the Cut.

Brian Lee continues to maintain the playing field and to attend to the footpaths. He will also be carrying out necessary tidying up work in the Cut and in the Chalk pit on Back Lane.

Cllr Ricketts: The EWCO (English Woodland Creation Offer) application has been submitted and acknowledged by the Forestry Commission who have requested further information, Tree Warden Aileen Fenlon and Clerk to progress. If successful we shall be spending around £7,500 to purchase trees and ancillary supplies during September. This will be recovered via the Rural Payments Scheme. The clearance of the paddocks and the preparation of new allotments continues. We expect to deliver the Heras fencing to Wilton Round Table next week, and should receive £500 from them.

Cllr Bell: Traffic

Permanent Horse & Pedestrian signs have now been erected at both ends of the village on the B390. The temporary signs have remained to slow traffic down for horses in the road. We also have a new pedestrian sign by the Village Hall

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NEED ANY HELP IN THE HOME OR GARDEN OVER THE SUMMER?

AVAILABLE £6.50/HOUR IN THE SCHOOL HOLIDAYS

CONTACT ME:

EMAIL - DOUGCANHELP@OUTLOOK.COM



Hey! Across the Plain WI Detectives. Fancy an adventure?

- ❖ Join us for a fun Treasure Hunt around the charming village of Tilshead. Discover its history and places you didn't know existed.
- ❖ Follow the trail of cryptic clues to find the destination of each new question.
- ❖ The team to answer the most questions correctly unlocks the buried treasure!

Please RSVP by Sunday 31st August 2025 via email:

acrosstheplainwi@gmail.com

or WHATSAPP Message: ATP WI Social Chat

Thank you!



Based in Chitterne with members from across the south of Salisbury Plain, Wiltshire Email: acrosstheplainwi@gmail.com



Parish events during August- Rev Eleanor

This is always a lovely month for catching our breath, isn't it? The thing I rather like about August is it also marks the beginning of the turning of the year...we notice the nights drawing in a little bit, the autumn fruits are beginning to ripen, but there's still that late summer feeling around. There's plenty happening in the parish during this month, however, so you may find something in the list below to suit you. If I don't see you I hope you all have a happy and restful summer, and look forward to catching up with you soon.

- 3rd August 9am is our usual early service in Chitterne
- 10th August, 10.30am we welcome Rev Mark Christian to lead worship in Chitterne church
- 15th August- VJ day, marking the end of the 2nd World War. There will be an act of remembrance in Shrewton on this day, and then, concluding the Imber Bus Day, there will be a short service at 5.30pm on 16th August in Chitterne.
- On 24th August we will have our annual Service of Peace in Rollestone, St Andrew, a tiny church on the way out of Shrewton (turn right as you come to the top of the hill on the road towards Airman's Cross). This service at 6pm will include music by our choir, and conclude with a moment of quiet acknowledgment of the ending of the 2nd World War. Afterwards we'd love to welcome you to stay for refreshments with us.
- On 26th August we mark the end of the school holidays with our now – annual - Teddy Bears Picnic Drop In. Come by between 11am and 12noon to St Mary's Church, Shrewton, and enjoy a few activities together. Suitable for all ages, especially those up to 'top juniors'.

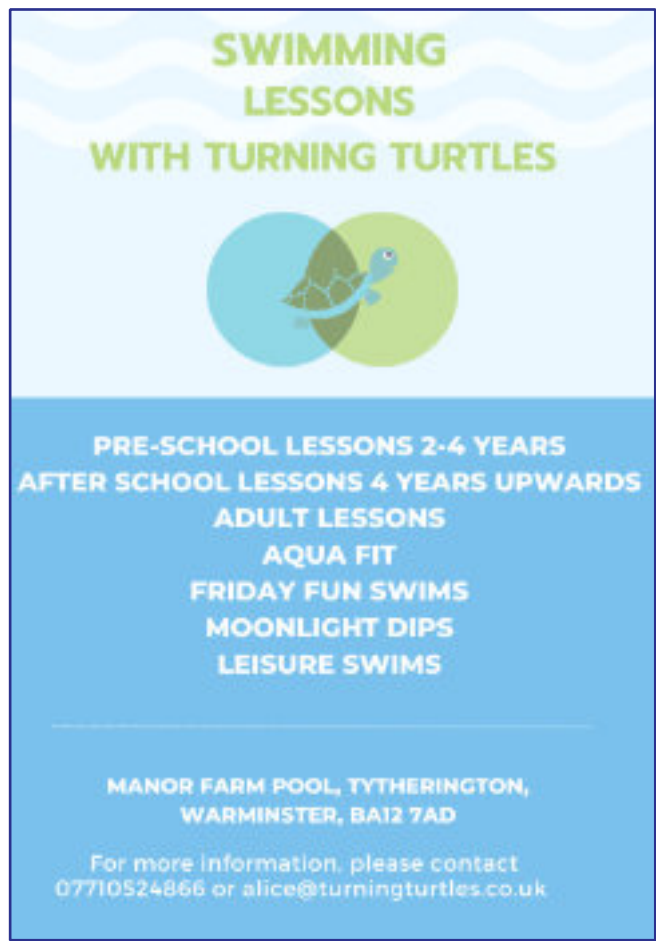
Throughout the summer we are continuing to collect supplies for our Community Pantry. Although sited on Tanners Lane just outside the school in Shrewton, the pantry is for everyone to use. There's a collection box for donations in each of Tilshead and Shrewton churches, as well as at Oasis, the café in Shrewton. At the end of the summer we will host our very popular 'back to school' shelf, with supplies for students of all ages. Donations of food, toiletries and pet supplies are also always welcome.

Our very last service of the month falls on a '5th Sunday'- 31st August. This month it will be at 10.30am in Orcheston, St Mary.

As I suggested- plenty to get involved in!

Have a happy summer,

Rev Eleanor x



Readers Letters:

Dear Editor

I write on two counts, firstly the excellent news that the Kings Head has reopened. It was whilst there I picked up a copy of Chit-Chat and read your article regarding the marvellous ladies of Chitterne WI and the magnificent amount raised as the 'Prosecco Queens' in aid of Salisbury Hospice Charity. My wife Gill was a member of Chitterne WI until her death last August. I was humbled when told that Salisbury Hospice was to be their chosen charity for this year. Well done ladies, I'm sure Gill was looking down on you and with you every step of the way.

Thank you.

George Murray
Waylenfield, Tilshead, SP34RY.
07710435171