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Cocktails at the URC

Over 60 people came and enjoyed a selection of cocktails (12 varieties were on offer) at the URC Schoolroom. Apart from the cocktails, they relished naughty but nice nibbles and heard beautiful singing from Maggie Mather-Hill, while Lindsey Crawley entertained on her saxophone.

Organiser Tess Gent said: "The Schoolroom lent itself perfectly to becoming a cosy cocktail bar and we opened the doors into the chapel where visitors could relax, listen and chat amongst friends. We are always thrilled when we have friends and friends of friends from other parishes and villages further afield who come and enjoy one of our events."

"We are delighted to have raised in excess of £1000 in aid of St Swithun's kitchen fund. It is always a great pleasure to host these events when we receive such encouraging comments. We can't thank our guests enough for their immense enthusiasm, amazing and continued loyal support." (Pictures below)



Labrador pups

3 black girls, 3 black boys, 1 yellow girl. Ready to go 2nd week of May. Contact Tess Gent.



Meet your Councillor: Mrs Jean Wiseman

I was brought up in Sandon, where my father and grandfather farmed, with 3 sisters and one brother who still farms there. I worked for the local Corn Merchant, Cecil Sale and also for my Father and Grandfather on the farm. Further education was at Oaklands Agricultural College. Through joining the Young Farmer's Club I met Peter Wiseman and we were married in 1964. We lived for 12 years at New Farm Chishall, where we had our children Diane and Michael, and they both attended Chishall school. In 1976 when Peter's father Eric retired, we moved to Hall Farm Great Chishill, where Peter had been born, and Peter took over running the farm. I helped here with many things including corn carting and potato picking, and I ran a bed and breakfast for 28 years.



I have been involved in many happenings in this village. I was a Village Hall committee for 17 years, and a member of the WI, Church and hand bell ringing, the bowls club, morris dancing, barn dances and open gardens as well as the Wine Circle, whist and Silver Surfers!

Now I have retired and moved into our bungalow my main interest is gardening.

S(w)inging at the King William

Perhaps you don't know that once a month you can enjoy an evening of cool jazz and American song-book classics just a mile down the road in Heydon. Every first Thursday in the month Chishill's very own and hugely talented Maggie Mather (pictured left in cocktail mode), now Maggie Hill, sings at the King William. She's accompanied by her equally accomplished sax / rhythm / keyboard / bass combo, A Few in the Bar. You can have a meal or just enjoy a pint while you listen, and you're guaranteed to enjoy the intimate cocktail bar vibe that Maggie and her group create. They work together wonderfully, and their repertoire – from blues via swing to bossa nova - is wide and delivered with cool panache. We'd bet that you'll be back for more.

URC news

The season of Scottish Dancing has now finished until the Autumn. It has been the most enormous fun, a brilliant workout and great comradeship. It would be lovely to see new faces and some young. It is amazing how it invigorates and leaves one buzzing at the end of the session.

URC Services

Sunday 7 April: 5.45 pm Evensong
 Sunday 21 April: 9.30 am Easter Day Service led by Ben Palmer. The Easter Bunny may pay a visit!

Cinema Night

Tuesday 9 April: 'Bohemian Rhapsody'
 Doors open 7pm for a 7.30 start.
 To reserve a seat, please email tessgent@gmail.com

Harriet's Toms Are Back

Once again, Harriet and her Dad,



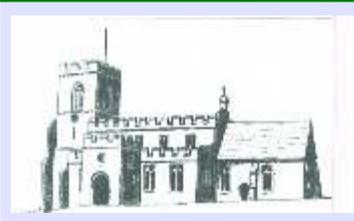
Tim have been busy growing tomato plants (pictured on left) for the annual charity sale. As ever, there is a

large variety of plants for sale which will produce fruits of different sizes and colours. Look out for the stall in Hall Lane, or email or call to pre-order. 01763 837112 or sascott42@gmail.com. Thank you.

POSTBOX IS BACK!

As the Newsletter went to press on Friday afternoon, contractors arrived at the bus shelter to install the village's new postbox, replacing the one stolen in October. It's taken 6 months, but PO Headquarters had predicted an even longer delay due (they said) to manufacturing lead-times, but in fact thanks to all the procedural hurdles needed to replace a box which must have been there for half a century or longer. The PO's sudden burst of speed seems to have been prompted by Robin Dibblee working with our excellent postman Andrew. Thanks to them both!

SAVE THE DATE!
WINDMILL GRAND RE-OPENING
SATURDAY 8 JUNE
 OPENING CEREMONY 2.30pm
 DRINKS AT THE WINDMILL
 GUIDED TOURS OF THE MILL
 SURPRISE GUESTS!
 TEA AT THE VILLAGE HALL
 SHUTTLE BUS
 More details next month, but for now:
Save the date!



Good Friday – 19 April
 Great Chishill Village Hall
 10 am - 12 noon – Messy Easter
Please come along for fun and hot cross buns!
 St Swithun's, Great Chishill
 2.00 pm Service of Meditation and Reflection

Phone Box Book Exchange – a reminder

PC clerk Sarah Scott writes: The book exchange has been a successful asset to the village. So now is probably a good time to reiterate the ground rules! It is a swapping facility, whereby when you read a book, you take it to the library and take one away with you. If possible replace the book on a shelf. It is not a recycling facility for books as we cannot facilitate small or larger quantities of books being left on the floor (as you can see in the picture) or in the plastic boxes. Please take these to a charity shop or a recycling centre. Thank you!



Great Chishill Village Hall

The village hall is run by a committee of local volunteers but we need someone to help out in a caretaker role who will be paid for their time. If you live in the village, have some time on your hands and need an excuse to get out and walk up the hill, this might suit you. It will involve calling in to the hall 2 or 3 times a week to check between bookings and keep the place tidy. You will need to do some light cleaning but we do have a separate cleaner who does the heavy stuff. This will usually take no more than a couple of hours each week and we will pay you.

The hall is a fantastic village amenity and is available for hire at favourable rates for residents of Great Chishill and Heydon. It is in great condition at the moment having recently had some re-decorating done. Could you help us to look after it? To find out more contact Andrea on 838465 or email andrea@littewissett.co.uk

Women's Institute

16 April, 7.30

Barbara McGee will be talking about East Anglian Air Ambulance

Visitors welcome, call Angela

Royston Choral Society
 Musical Director – Andrew O'Brien
 with Haileybury Choral Society - and East Herts Sinfonia
J.S. Bach – St John Passion
Saturday 6th April 7.30 pm in Ashwell Parish Church
 Tickets £15 (concessions £12, school students £1) from our website <http://www.roystonchoralsoc.org.uk> or choir members (Jenny/Suzie/Neil)

BIN DAYS - APRIL

Black	Blue/Green
	2
9	16
25 (Thursday)	

Did you know

In January Granta Medical Practice's clinicians saw / spoke to 20,256 patients. This number includes urgent appointments, routine appointments and telephone appointments. Unfortunately, there were an extra 1,026 appointments that patients did not attend (DNA). February's appointments totalled 17,876, but again there were an additional DNA's – 1,043!

Sometimes it can be difficult keeping to an appointment date and time. However, if you ring and cancel even half an hour beforehand the surgery would be able to reuse your slot for another patient.