

The Chishills

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THE PIT CLUB

A secret village organisation, the Pit Club, has re-emerged to cope with planting 150 donated saplings in the



Chalk Pit. The gift was organised by TCV (The Conservation Volunteers), a national charity which aims to transform green spaces throughout the UK for the use of the local community. The Chalk Pit was deemed suitable, because it is a rare patch of woodland, amidst mainly bare chalk downland. The gift was awarded back in October and the trees arrived on March 12th. Previously, the Pit Club had been formed just before COVID struck to help clear (and get rid of) a mountain of scrap iron and tyres from the Chalk Pit.

The planting has involved the following indigenous species: oak, alder, beech, silver birch, hornbeam, rowan, aspen, wild cherry, hazel, crab apple, field maple and willow. One exotic species, a fig tree, will be donated by Rosemary Gadian.

HARRIET'S TOMS

Just a quick reminder that Harriet Scott has been busy again this year growing a variety of tomato plants from seed for her annual charity plant sale. Look out for her stall on Hall Lane.

BIN DAYS - APRIL

Black	Blue/Green
8*	14*
20	27

*Note - changed date

THE PHEASANT WILL FLY AGAIN!

We are delighted to announce (the rumours are indeed true) that The Pheasant public house will be back open for use in the very near future!

Stuart & Jenna Johnson will be taking the pub over as a 'sister pub' to The Woodman Inn, Nuthampstead. Both know the local area very well and are confident they have what it takes to bring what the community wants and needs back to The Pheasant and get the heart of the village beating once again.

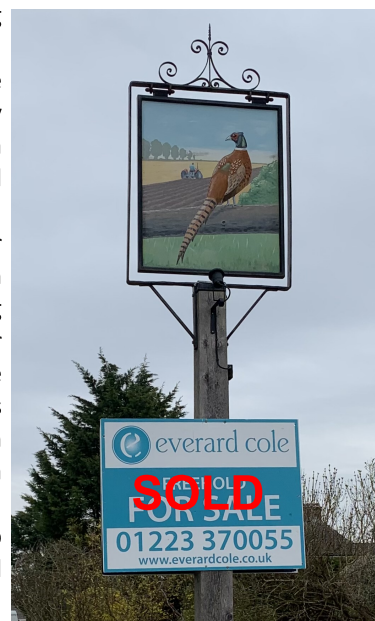
If you know The Woodman, and the Johnsons, then you will know that they are very community focussed and are passionate about a village pub providing much more than just food and drinks.

Great Chishill has been without its pub for such a long time that Stuart & Jenna want to open as soon as possible. The aim is for a soft opening on Monday 19th April and open for other bookings from Tuesday 20th April (details will be confirmed before then). Opening so quickly does mean that they will be asking you all to bear with them whilst they get it off the ground, with just a short menu and drinks available to start with.

Special thanks to The Pheasant action group who have been so incredibly welcoming and helpful throughout this process.

There will be a website, online booking system and social media pages so please keep an eye out for them over the next couple of weeks, to keep up to date with news and information.

Stuart, Jenna and their team can't wait to meet everyone and get started on this exciting project. In the meantime, if you want to contact them, please do so via email to enquiries@thewoodman-inn.co.uk



SPORTS PAVILION

In the November issue of The Chishills, the Playing Fields Association and the Cricket Club announced that they were planning to redevelop the sports pavilion. This is an update on our progress.

As with all aspects of life at the minute, Covid restrictions have hampered progress. Planned site visits by the design team have had to be cancelled and reorganised. We are hopeful that a site visit will take place sometime in April.

The pavilion is listed as a village asset for everybody to use, we therefore want everybody who uses it, or who could potentially use it, to have an opportunity to have an input on its design and its use.

As an appendix to this newsletter you will receive a document that the designers and architects use to collect ideas. Please take a few minutes to write on it any thoughts you may have on the uses of the pavilion and the playing fields. Your comments and ideas will be condensed down and will be developed into concepts and designs ready for a formal presentation to the village hopefully in July.

The final concept which will be progressed will be dependent on its suitability and cost.

If anybody has ideas on different uses for the pavilion or on ways in which they can help to progress this redevelopment, please contact alan_ferrie@hotmail.com

WINDMILL TO HAVE A SPRING CLEAN

We, on the Windmill Trust, have been rather disappointed with the darkening and staining of the paintwork of the mill. It is only two years since we started to paint it with a very expensive German paint, Kreidezeit, that was the 'go-to' choice for the application according to all the experts.

So, on March 5th, Bob Hatt and David McKeown had a meeting at the mill with a technical expert from Bedec Paints, a local (Dunmow) manufacturer of paints recommended by the Listed Property Owners' Club. He quickly established that the discolouration is a mixture of tannin released by new wood, fungal growth and general airborne dirt. He suggested that we should have the mill cleaned professionally; an idea that we had, in fact, already scheduled. So we have contacted our contractor and expect to see him on site in the next few weeks. All this depends on the weather, of course, but the aim is to wash down with a mix of two fungicides that he is sure will give us the clean look we so desire.

We will also be testing the sample of Bedec paint kindly donated during the meeting as it has the benefit of being of local manufacture at one third the price of the imported paint! Let's hope that the performance makes it real value-for-money.

We also have a promise from our millwright that he will be working on the mill by the time this article is published. This should be the last push to complete the scheduled repairs allowing us to test the self-turning action with the mechanism shielded from fingers, toes, etc. Then, subject to a favourable risk assessment, we should be able to let the mill follow the wind automatically. Chishill will have the biggest weathervane in the district!



EASTER AT ST SWITHUN'S

This Easter the Icknield Way Parish of seven churches, of which our church in Great Chishill is a member, is planning some activities.

On Good Friday a cross will be erected in the grounds of St Swithun's. The children have been making prayer cards and flowers to decorate the cross in the churchyard.

All the village children are invited to make a flower or prayer card, about the size of a cd! (with some string to tie it on). We invite you to bring your flowers and messages of hope to decorate the tree any time on Good Friday or Easter Saturday or even on Easter Sunday.



We want to make the cross a wonderful symbol of hope, reminding us that Good Friday, although sad, was not the end and that on Easter Sunday we remember the triumphant Resurrection of Jesus.

Easter is a happy time heralding the Spring and new life. We want to share this joyful time with the village by decorating the cross for all to see, and also on Easter Saturday we invite you all, especially the children, to take part in a socially distanced treasure hunt in the church grounds between 12 midday and 3 pm.

WELCOME

I would like to wish a warm welcome to Caroline Wilshaw who moved into the village during March. She lives in May Street and has moved here from Chislehurst in South East London.

She is a retired PE teacher, her main sport was hockey. Please say hello if you see her around.



SLOE GIN COMPETITION

Despite lock-down, the Great Chishill Sloe Gin Competition (the oldest in the world) took place remotely. It was judged by Ruth, Stella and Jenny, with Nigel as compere and Robin ensuring co-ordination. Quality was uniformly high, with 21 entrants and several new participants, samples being deposited in specimen bottles for each judge. Entrants were given access to the tastings by Zoom and it appeared about 15 logged on.

Whilst scores were calculated, there was a re-enactment of the 1st Sloe Gin Competition Party at Crosshill House, when a demonstration of Belly Dancing was performed by Lindsey and Rosemary (Bob still has the video!). Each participant received a Certificate of Entry. "Lockdown did not defeat them"!

I understand that a few £5 entry fees are still outstanding, if they could be deposited with the Diblees or Russells (with your name) it would be much appreciated.

The winners were:

Nouveau Class

1st - Neil Heywood. 2nd - Lisa McKenzie. 3rd - Stuart Wiseman

Vintage Class

1st - Fred Kuenzi. 2nd - Hilary Goodall. 3rd - Neil Heywood.

Ringers' Delight Class

1st - Maggie Last (Berry Brandy). 2nd - Stella Russell (Damson Gin).
3rd - Stella Russell (Apricot Bullace)



Neil Heywood



Fred Kuenzi



Maggie Last