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LETTERBOX LAMENT

Delivering newsletters in Heydon and Chishill can be a challenging, and occasionally risky, venture - especially if you're new to it. The first requirement is to identify whether a muddy track actually leads to a house, and whether a sprawling building is one or several homes. Presumably, each letterbox represents a single unit...IF you can locate it: is it in or next to the front door, or the back door, down the side, on a gate, or even a flap hidden in the ship-lap? Once identified, you have to get to it. This may necessitate squeezing between a car and a gate, with a sign helpfully warning you that dogs are free on the other side of it, just in case you were unaware of leaping, barking canines hurling themselves at you, as you gingerly make your way across.

Alternatively, you cleverly deduce that the absence of a letter box at the gate indicates that it must be in the grounds somewhere....but how to access? Ah, an intercom button. Press. No response. Hmmm. "Press the button and the gate will open" says a helpful passer-by. And then: "Ooh no, don't push it. And there's another button on the other side to let you out again". Excellent - mission accomplished; newsletter duly delivered. Except that to vacate the premises you need to

know (but to be fair you quickly discover after the initial panic of being stuck there ad infinitum) that you must press and hold briefly to trigger the mechanism, and then beat a retreat as the gate moves inexorably towards you.

Letterboxes themselves present a range of challenges. Some of them are finger-friendly, others have springs so strong that pushing them open can require both hands, and a hasty withdrawal is essential to avoid digital amputation. Yet others have intersecting brushes which appear to have been designed to screw up your flimsy newsletters, however conscientiously folded. Who designs these things, I wonder? And whose law is it that those dwellings where one must linger longest are so often the ones that have dogs indoors competing with the letterbox to bite your hand off?

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Many thanks to those who deliver the newsletter!! *Editor*

DEVELOPMENT PLAN MEETING

This issue of the newsletter was written before the meeting so any outcome will appear in the March issue.

NEIGHBOURHOOD WATCH REPORTINGS

A generous and well-meaning member of our village was recently conned out of £38 worth of petrol by a man having bank card problems and in need of fuel. The promised refund didn't take place.

Before the cold weather, a nudist (discreetly pouched)

was seen on the layby on the road between Heydon and the A505. He was also seen in the car park in Saffron Walden where, it seems, some pay and some display. If he is spotted and there is any concern, you can contact **Neighbourhood Watch on 838708**



UNUSED SPECTACLES

Maryanne and Tim would love to be able to take any unused spectacles back to Botswana with them as it is very difficult for folk to get prescription glasses over there. So we would like to collect ANY glasses for them. We can collect or you can place them in our post-box at White horse Cottage, 26 May Street.

Many Thanks

Chris and Chris Cartwright

GREAT CHISHILL BELL RINGERS

invite you to participate in their

SLOE GIN

COMPETITION & PARTY 2013

Results Party

Saturday 23rd February

8.00pm

at Hall Farm by kind invitation of Peter and Jean Wiseman.

Entries to Hall Farm, or to Jenny at 6 Colt's Croft by Tuesday 19th February



MOBILE LIBRARY TIMETABLE

2nd Friday in the month
8 Feb, 8 March

WOMEN'S INSTITUTE MEETING

Great Chishill Village Hall
19:30 19th February
"Hands On" French craftwork with Serviettes - Anne Datson

JUNIOR QUIZ

Find the answer to the following question:

When was the first meeting of the Great & Little Chishill Youth Club held?

Answers to the editor for a prize.



POLICE REPORTS

Conmen frequently impersonate officials stating that they are

from Action Fraud and that the person they are calling is entitled to compensation from a recent incident. The scammer then asks for money to be sent via a Ukash voucher in order to process the compensation claim. Action Fraud is warning people not to pay these bogus telephone callers. Action Fraud is in no way affiliated with these scammers and would never under any circumstances be involved in processing claims for compensation.

To report any fraud or internet crime call the Action Fraud team on [0300 123 2040](tel:03001232040).

Between 9pm and 9.20pm on Wednesday the 9th of January 2013 **Foxton Primary School** was burgled and the safe was taken. CCTV footage shows two offenders of large build in balaclavas and dark clothing. They drove off in a silver vehicle, possibly a Ford Mondeo. We are appealing for any

information in relation to this crime or any suspicious behaviour that might have occurred before the incident.

Three burglaries took place in early December in **Heydon**. One in each of the following locations; Chishill Road, Fowlmere Road and High Close. All the premises were sheds where tools were stolen.

If you see any suspicious activity, call 101, the non-emergency number for Cambridgeshire Constabulary. Alternatively you can contact Crimestoppers anonymously on [0800 555111](tel:0800555111).

In an emergency or if you believe a crime to be in progress, dial 999.

FROM OUR COUNTY & DISTRICT COUNCILLORS

COST OF COUNCIL CHAMBER NEW FURNITURE GREATER THAN GRANTS

We've been asked by the newsletter team for the cost of tables and chairs for SCDC's council chamber, voted through in a controversial vote by the council's administration back in November, and to put this in some sort of context in terms of other council expenditure. The total cost of the tables and chairs is £45,000. At the moment, **grants** to the Citizens Advice Bureau, Care Network, AGE UK, Crossroads Care, Family Mediation Service, Disability Cambridgeshire, Relate, Connections Bus and others total £42,512. This is **£2,488 less than the cost of the new furniture for the council chamber**. Superfast Broadband registration seems to have

reached a plateau and stands at 55% - but that doesn't mean it's too late to add your interest to the register, at www.connectingcambridgeshire.co.uk.

The County Council's 'Cambridgeshire Future Transport' project is under budget and behind schedule. So, the consultation that was expected this spring for the removal of subsidies for the 31 is likely to be delayed. No change to the 31 for the time being.

If you have any questions about anything at all, please don't hesitate to get in touch, or come along to our monthly surgery - first Monday of the month, 2:30-3:30, Melbourn Library Access Point, The Moor.

Meldreth, Shepreth and Foxton Rail User Group

AGM on 13 March 2013, 19:30, at Meldreth Manor School.

There is loads of information on our award-winning webpage of the Melbourn Village Website: <http://melbourn.org.uk/railusergroup/>

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BIN COLLECTIONS

	Black	Green & Blue
Feb	01 15	08 22
March	01	08