



## 'BURGLARY STILL A PRIORITY' SAYS TOP COP

Robin Dibblee and Peter Homent, members of the village's recently formed Security Sub-Committee, met with County Police Commissioner Jason Ablewhite on 22 January to raise Chishill's security concerns, challenge the underreporting of Chishill crime on ECops emails and to recruit support for a "Wine and Crime" event for the village. Mr Ablewhite told Robin and Peter that burglary remained one of the county force's 5 key priorities in policing. He had visited Heydon recently, so knows where we are - and he appreciated that our position between 3 counties led to a feeling of vulnerability. In talking to ex-offenders, Jason's view was that most break-ins were opportunistic by perpetrators with local knowledge, a history of crime since adolescence, and driven by addiction and debt. He doubted the effectiveness of security alarms, saying they were often seen as a challenge.

Jason said that ECops could not be relied on as a database for local crime, as it was used more to elicit information for ongoing cases. He directed us towards the Home Office website (which IS accurate), and which the subcommittee will monitor monthly.

The Commissioner gave us a schedule of recent Chishill crimes, showing a decline since the rash of burglaries in May. Jason was convinced that Neighbourhood Watch could be effective, and offered us a Best Practice model in Hemingford Grey, which we'll be following up.

He will support with staff our Wine and Crime Event - of which more shortly!

### Chishill reported crime 2017

	All	Burglaries
May	17	7
June	5	3
July	3	0
August	1	0

## IT'S SLOE GIN TIME AGAIN!

Great Chishill Bell Ringers are inviting villagers to take part in the annual Sloe Gin Competition, raising funds for refurbishment of the bells – stage 2. The bells of St Swithun's were silent for 25 years until the village elected to have them repaired to a 'ringable state' (stage 1) to mark the Millennium. By mid 1999 a whole new band of bell ringers were in training to ring in New Year 2000. That was nearly 20 years ago and the bells have been in constant use since then.



The Sloe Gin event peaks on **Saturday 24 February**, when the Results and Tasting Party – open to all, whether contestant or not, will be held. Entries should be in by February

20. **For downloadable Entry Form and full details of the competition and Results Party see our village website [greatchishill.org.uk](http://greatchishill.org.uk) or contact Jenny Leitch 01763 837073 or email [jenny.leitch@btinternet.com](mailto:jenny.leitch@btinternet.com)**



**CRAFT FAIR SUCCESS** It seems like a long time ago now, but Chishill's annual pre-Christmas Craft Fair, Crafts on the Hill, organized by Lindsey Crawley in aid of the church and windmill restoration funds, was again a great success. "It was a fantastic day, with lots of atmosphere, and warm too" said Lindsey. "We made £524 from donations from stallholders and teas. Some stallholders chose to donate their profits to the charities direct. Thanks to Angus for lending extra tables and to Hazel Hayden and Jill Kuenzi (pictured above) for doing the teas and home-made cakes."

*Our masthead picture this month shows January gale damage to the sheeting round the church tower scaffolding. Apparently the sheets are designed to fail above a certain wind-speed, to prevent them blowing the tower down!*

# MAGGIE'S MUSICAL QUIZ NIGHT



Saturday 3 March 7.00pm  
Great Chishill Village Hall

Can you tell your Glenn Miller from Glen Campbell or spot film music sung by a snake? Can you tell a foreign language or is it all Greek to you? All will be revealed at our Musical Quiz Night!

Presented by Maggie Mather

Bar - Supper - Raffle

Tickets £12 from Jenny Leitch 07850 862199 or Judy Saunders 01763 838571



Supporting St Swithun's Restoration Appeal 'It's our turn now to save our village for future generations'

## GOT THE HUMP?

Bob Hatt's been chasing up Herts Highways over that dangerous hump in the road from Barley, just before the bridge. Barley's Parish Clerk is on the case and is pushing for repairs sooner than the contractors, Ringway, are promising at present. We can all increase the pressure by reporting the fault on the Herts fault reporting web site <https://www.hertfordshire.gov.uk/faultreporting>.

## APRIL IS THE BUSIEST MONTH...

Seems that April is going to be a busy month in the Chishills, especially if you love music and dancing. 'Step we gaily, on we go' as the song has it: Ro Gadian is selling tickets for a Ceilidh at the Village Hall on Friday 20 April. Music's provided by the prestigious Cambridge University Ceilidh Band, so get your sporrans and dirks polished. Tickets £15 from Ro on 838343. Equally exciting is a visit from the Nottingham Cathedral Church Choir, courtesy of Lisa Mackenzie, who is an alumna of the choir. They will be singing on Saturday 7 April at St Swithun's on 7 April at 7.30pm, and tickets (£12) are being sold by Tess Gent (838941) More details of both events next month.

## Great Chishill Fun Footy

Simon Kagwidzo had the idea to start Fun Footy after he found that our village had no football activities for kids yet had a large recreation ground and many families with kids within the village and surrounding area. With Fun Footy, kids are not put under any pressure during training. Simon prefers to focus on them learning the game and enjoying it at the same time. Fun Footy is open to both boys and girls aged between four and seven and will hopefully open up to younger and older age groups as it moves forward. Training is on Saturday mornings at Great Chishill playing field and over the winter period, indoors at Melbourn Sports Centre. For more information contact Simon at [nomisportsfunfooty@gmail.com](mailto:nomisportsfunfooty@gmail.com) or 07903604166.

## BIN COLLECTIONS

	Black	Blue & Green
Feb	6	
	13	20
	27	6 Mar

**RECYCLING OPEN DAY** Waterbeach Waste Management Park is running three tours of the site, with Q&A sessions after, on 15 Feb (10-noon, 2-4pm) and 27 Feb (2-4pm). See what happens to your refuse and learn more about recycling! Email [jonathancrisp@amey.co.uk](mailto:jonathancrisp@amey.co.uk)

## URC NEWS

**Cinema - Tuesday 6 February.**

THEIR FINEST

"The spirit of the nation is in her hands"

Quote "Bill Nighy is brilliantly funny."

Doors open 7pm for 7.30 start.

(showing a week earlier due to half

term and March date back to 2nd

Tuesday 13 th )

**Silver Surfers**

20 and 27 Feb 10-12 am.

Fantastic to welcome new Surfers. Do bring your Wish List to help solve issues and concerns. All for the price of a fluffy coffee and a price of cake!

(March dates back to 1st and 3rd

Tuesday)

## Scottish Dancing

Monday 5, 19 and 26 Feb (1/2 term 12 Feb) 7.30-9.30pm.

We were delighted to welcome new dancers and always room for more.

Just come and join in. It's a great workout!

## POSTPONEMENT.

The Strictly Evening will be postponed until the Autumn.

## URC SERVICES

Sunday 4 and 18 February 9.30 am.

Sunday Club 11 th Feb 10.40am

Youth Fellowship

18th Feb 4.45pm.

## Women's Institute Fire Safety

The next WI meeting will be at the Village Hall on 20 February at 7.30 when a representative of Royston Fire Brigade will talk about Fire Safety in the Home. This will be an open meeting, when all, including men, are invited

Visitors welcome- call Angela 837353