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# The Chishills

## Windmill to Re-Open This Year

As part of its 2018 Review, the Windmill Trustees have announced the date for the re-opening of the village's cherished landmark.

Their big news for 2019 is the planned Opening Day on **SATURDAY 8 JUNE**. The Trust's David McKeown said "The first and most critical phase of restoration will be complete by then and we are opening the mill for all to see. Details of the event will be announced in The Chishills nearer the date but we have booked the village hall for presentations, chats and tea - and we will have displays in and around the windmill itself. Please keep the date!"

David reported: "The year ended with the windmill and the Trust in a very satisfactory position. Maybe the progress has been a little slower than we would have liked but extra Listed Building Consent was required and work is currently underway on the last two pieces of the structural restoration jigsaw. The grant from Historic England has sufficient remaining funds to cover work on the tail and sails required to satisfy HE's requirement for removal of the mill from the Heritage at Risk listing and the Trust has plans for income to cover on-going maintenance."

"Repair of the tail structure was deemed essential on two counts: Visitors to the mill must pass beneath the fantail, so loose, decaying timbers and ironwork were unacceptable. Next turning to wind to minimise stress on the structure is necessary for the long-term safety of the mill. Bill Griffiths, our millwright, is currently working on the tail carriage at his workshop and committee members are stripping and repainting wood and metal parts with the enthusiastic help of Chris Bates. Committee member Tony Andrews is well advanced in laying a circular track for the carriage to roll round - so we are looking good for a Spring finish to the work."

"Apart from the HE grant, the Parish Council has been most generous in offering to undertake repairs to the access stairway and the fitting of safety handrails - another essential for visitor access. Furthermore we have had a successful year with novel fundraising ideas."

"Sales of apple juice, tea towels, etc. and the raffle for our 'windmill clock', made and donated by David Brearley (nephew of Trust founder Jim Brearley), at the Craft Fair made over £500, and with half the proceeds of the Fair itself, generously donated by organiser, Lindsey Crawley, we raised over £800. This, together with contributions from the Pink Wellies metal dectorists and the kind supporters who are making donations following our standing order appeal, provides a good start to our target of a sustainable income stream that will see our iconic windmill safe for the foreseeable future."

## Meet your Councillor - John Ridge

I am privileged to have been the Councillor for the Lt. Chishill ward of the Gt. and Lt. Chishill Parish Council since 2012. Tricia and I moved to Hyde House in this little hidden corner of South Cambridgeshire with our daughters Jo and Pippa from Barley in 1987. Jo was married in Chrishall Church and Pippa in Gt. Chishill Church and we now have 6 grandchildren. I worked within the parish from 1997 until my retirement in 2012 and travelled extensively in Europe and the Far East on business. I have been involved in the Parish Council Security Sub-committee and am now, under the auspices of the Parish Council, concentrating on the security aspects of internet crime and scamming as it affects the local community and the steps that can be taken to avoid this pernicious crime. This is the latent crime wave of the future and all are potential victims. Having retired I now have time to concentrate on our extensive garden, general maintenance, country sports and horseracing.

## Postbox Delay: Complaint Raised

A villager has lodged an official complaint with the Post Office over delays in replacing the village's postbox, ram-raided and stolen in October (see picture). The PO had originally said that 11 January was the date for reinstatement of the box, but it now appears that Great Chishill will not receive a replacement until April or May, due to the PO's lengthy



authorisation and approvals process. In a letter dated 11 January to Jonathan Clements, National

Letterbox Facilities Manager, Robin Dibblee wrote "The ram-raided site is a pile of bricks which has presented a safety hazard since October and which I have reported twice to Monitor, your customer service organisation, to no effect. I have been informed that much of the reason for delays is due to bureaucracy within your department which is unnecessary (ownership of land, permission of Collections Manager etc.) as the box is a replacement, not a new site. Engineering have boxes in stock which cannot be installed without your approval." As the Newsletter went to press, Robin received a reply from the Post Office. It will still be 12 - 16 weeks, they say. More next month.....

**URC Services**

**Scottish Dancing** Monday nights 7.30-9.30 (not 18th Feb, as it's half term) last one on 18th March.

**Cocktail Bar.** By popular request the Schoolroom will again become a Cocktail Bar, open on Saturday 9 March from 8pm onwards. A wide variety of cocktails on offer, including non-alcoholic ones, live music and singing and naughty but nice nibbles. £10 a ticket, including first cocktail. Contact

tessgent@gmail.com 07721398642. In aid of The Kitchen at St Swithun's.

**Wine Tasting**

£500 was raised from the Wine Tasting Evening for the Kitchen Fund.

Janet Crouch told me at Harvest Festival that she remembered the children decorating the porch for Christian festivals. I thought this was such a lovely idea so following the enthusiasm shown by young people's groups for our joint Remembrance Service, I asked the same groups again if they would help decorate the Porch for Christmas. The response was as I had hoped and with twinkling lights and candles and three different nativity scenes, the entrance to St Swithun's looked beautiful. Orla and Tom Hilton represented the Youth Club, Libby with Alice Cockerton for Chrishall School and Charlotte Musson for The Chimps. Many little hands make sort of lighter work! We hope they'll join us for the next occasion.

**Sunday 16 December**

We were so lucky to have The Wren Choir from Cambridge organised by Dr Lisa Mackenzie singing to a full congregation at our Village Carol Service in a replica of the first Nine Lessons and Carols from Kings College in 1918. The children participated by singing the first verse of Oh Little Town of Bethlehem, which was charming. They asked if they could have a choir practice next year! Mulled wine and delicious eats followed and many people stayed to chat and there was a super festive atmosphere.

Grateful thanks go to Lisa for organising this wonderful occasion These things don't just happen!

**Tess Gent**

*Pictures of cribs below*

**Great Chishill Bellringers**

**SLOE GIN COMPETITION 2019**

All proceeds will go to St Swithun's Church Bells Refurbishment Fund (Stage 2)

**Nouveau sloe gin - made from Autumn 2018 sloes**

**Vintage sloe gin - any year you are proud of!**

**Ringers' Delight - your best home-made fruit tipple**

**Additional award for the best presented entry**

Download an entry form from the village web site

www.greatchishill.org.uk or get a hard copy from Jenny Leitch

01763 837073 / Text 07850 862199/ email

jenny\_leitch@btinternet.com

**Tasting and results party:**

**Saturday 23 February 8.00pm**

**at Stackyard Cottage, Hall Farm Yard, by kind permission of Jean and Peter Wiseman**

Non-competitors welcome to the party at £5.00 / head

All please bring a bottle and a plate of finger food (co-ordinating with Jean)

Previous award winners - Medals will be worn!

**Great CHISHILL Youth Club**

Tuesdays 6.30 - 8.30pm Gt CHISHILL Village Hall  
For all local young people Aged 10 - 16

**Club dates for 2019**

Jan	8th, 22nd, 29th
Feb	5th, 12th, 26th
March	5th, 12th, 26th
April	2nd, 23rd, 30th
May	7th, 14th
June	4th, 11th, 25th
July	2nd, 9th **SUMMER HOLIDAYS**

Youth Workers: Dan Horne 07958342821  
Steph Hicks 07514664076

Newsletter, other queries:  
Emily Brown 01763 836257



**Women's Institute  
19 February**

**Carol Pook: Ruth Ellis -  
a Scandalous Woman**

Visitors welcome- call Angela 837353

**BIN COLLECTIONS**

	<u>Black</u>	<u>Blue &amp; Green</u>
FEB	5	
	12	19 (blue)
	26	

Phil Maynard would like you to know that the Bellringers are running a series of Whist Drives in the URC schoolroom over the winter to raise money for the bells - usually around the 3rd Friday in the month. Amazingly good value at only £5 entry. You don't need a partner, or even know how to play whist, as all is explained on the night. There is a raffle, donation bar and nibbles. Prizes for the highest and lowest scores of the evening. A great way to get to chat to interesting people, some of whom you may not have met before! Next one will be on Friday 15th Feb (tbc). They do ask though that people arrive for 7.30pm sharp!