



# The Chishills

Edited by:  
Will Parsons 07831 636719  
wilprsns@gmail.com

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## GRAVEYARD NEWS

An interesting discovery was made in the chapel graveyard last summer. It is of a grave belonging to a young man who was wounded at Ypres on November 16th, 1914. As a result of his wounds he was discharged from the army and spent the remainder of his life in the Star and Garter, Petersham, home for disabled sailors and soldiers. He died aged 24 on January 15th, 1917. As a result of finding his burial records and confirming he is buried in the Chapel garden, Thomas Waller will now be officially recognised as a casualty of the Great War, 103 years after his death. Previously his death had not been recorded as a result of wounds inflicted at Ypres, although his name is recorded on our own war memorial (pictured below).

The Commonwealth War Graves Commission will now be looking into erecting their own memorial. Watch this space for the next chapter of Thomas Waller, a name read out each Remembrance Day in the village, but now with a little greater recognition and understanding of who he was and how he ended his days.

If anyone is interested, Angus Gent has a copy of the entry for the day he was wounded, from the regimental war diary and other such documents.



## THE PHEASANT - AN UPDATE

Thank you to everyone who took the time to respond to the last questionnaire. You may know that The Pheasant is currently 'under offer' and a professional (to the pub and hospitality industry) is hoping to purchase the pub. The Great Chishill Community Pub Group have met with the potential buyer and are fully supportive of their intentions to acquire the pub. However, the group will remain in place and ready to continue their efforts should the sale not go through.



Finally, thank you to all of you who offered to volunteer and assist the group going forward. In the event that we need to continue our efforts, we will of course be in contact with you.

If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact us on [greatchishillcommunitypub@outlook.com](mailto:greatchishillcommunitypub@outlook.com) and we will endeavour to answer your questions.

## Church Floodlighting (by John Crawley)

For the past 40 years, the church has been illuminated over the Christmas Period by floodlights which were generously donated. They focused attention on the church as the central icon of the village. The church was visible from the surrounding area and for those returning to the village after dark, the lighting has radiated a feeling of "welcome home".



Unfortunately the lights are no longer safe, due to significant deterioration. There has been considerable water penetration. I am therefore not prepared to erect them next year, and recommend that the current system should not be set up, without modification.

## SLOE GIN COMPETITION CANCELLED!

I think most of those who might have taken part in the 2021 annual sloe gin competition already know about this, but sadly, the latest Covid lockdown has made its impact felt here as well. There will be no competition in 2021. We hope to get back to normal in 2022!



## UNITED REFORM CHURCH

Sadly, there will be no more services at the URC until lockdown is over.

## BIN DAYS - FEBRUARY

Black

Blue / Green

9

2

23

16 (blue only)

## Life in the Chishills in the BC years

Those wonderful village activities which so many of us enjoyed before Covid will return again one day. We hope that day is later this year.

One such activity was the Great Chishill wine circle, which started about 40 years ago. Bob Hatt tells me that it was originally set up by the Reverend Croft who liked a tippie now and then. Meetings were held in the Rectory in Heydon on a regular basis. At that time there was a considerable amount of home brewing in Great Chishill. When Bob and his wife arrived in the Village they were invited to George Stirling's house in Barley Road for an introductory drink and to meet some villagers and neighbours. Bob consumed 2 pints of George's brewed beer and had to be taken home!

In these early days Veronica (who ran the Village Shop) organised times and so on. When she left, Bob took over as Secretary.

The wine circle and its members have been the initiators of various projects in the Village such as the new Village hall, the Sloe gin competition, the Village Show (now sadly gone). There have been some memorable 'one-offs' such as the Haggis hurling competition, which came to an abrupt end as a small dog ran off with the Haggis!



### From the Editor

I am thinking of including a "Welcome to the Chishills" feature in future editions of this newsletter. If you or someone you know has recently moved to the village and would like a short piece written about them please contact me on [wllprsns@gmail.com](mailto:wllprsns@gmail.com). A photo would help as well.

They have run events for fund raising for the Village Hall - one particular dance consisted of homemade Barley wine and a fish & chip supper . . . . . the Barley wine proved to be very strong. Three cars were written off that night and one gentleman did not regain consciousness for two days! I hasten to add that this was some 30 years ago and things were different then!

When life returns to normal we will advertise the wine circle monthly meetings here in the newsletter. Any villager can attend and once you have attended any meeting you become a lifetime member.



Royston & District Community Transport are involved in taking people with no other transport options to their Covid-19 vaccinations. With the expected large increase of appointments for the vulnerable and elderly we ask for any drivers to come forward that will help to take people for their Covid vaccinations.

Advice on the safety of both passenger and driver will be given, and drivers receive 50p per mile expenses. However, for ease of passenger loading we do need at least a medium size, 4-door car.

If you can help please ring the RDCT Office on 01763 245228 between 9:00am and 3:00pm Monday to Friday.

## Weather in the Chishills

Chris Bates, of Little Chishill, and Peter Wiseman, of Hall Farm in Great Chishill, have both collected and recorded weather information for the Chishills for many years.

Over the last 16 years the average annual rainfall here has been 634.9 mm (25 inches in old money). 2012 was the wettest year (910.6 mm) and it followed one of the driest years; only 440 mm of rain in fell 2011.



During this last year of 2020, Chris Bates reports that a very wet Autumn and Winter followed a very dry Summer.

Oct 2020	147.4 mm
Nov 2020	47.0 mm
Dec 2020	131.8 mm

You may not know the scandal of the vicar Reverend Griffenhoofe, who lived in the Old Vicarage. He and his wife got divorced which was an amazing scandal in Victorian times. It was reported in The Times that apparently he dragged her by her hair through the house!! During his time as vicar he persuaded his churchwardens that the iron band all the way round the tower was unsightly and they decided to have it removed, it wasn't long before the church tower collapsed. This was the same year that the tower collapsed in his previous Parish. . .

### Thank you!

I would like to thank all the villagers who have helped us in the last couple of weeks whilst I have been incapacitated somewhat (not the dreaded covid) I won't name names but they know who they are. A BIG THANK YOU.

From 'Rene & George at no.21

## COVID-19 VACCINATIONS

We are now well into the national vaccination programme, which is being delivered by both GP practices and vaccination hubs. Due to the extreme demand for the vaccine around the country they may get deliveries at short notice, which means you may be contacted at short notice.

**Please note that you will NEVER be asked for payment for a COVID-19 vaccination and any texts, phone calls, or letters requesting payment or bank details should be ignored.**

Please continue to keep yourself and our community safe by adhering to national restrictions, social distancing, wearing of face masks and hand hygiene.

