

# The Chishills

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#### JAZZ AT THE PHEASANT

Time was that if you wanted an evening of cool jazz, you had to go down the road to Heydon. No longer now it's on your doorstep. Chishill's very own and hugely talented Maggie Mather-Hill is back



home where she belongs. Maggie has agreed to perform a regular gig at the Pheasant, where you can hear and see her every first Saturday in the month from 7.30pm. She will be accompanied by her equally talented sax / rhythm / keyboard / bass combo, a Few in the Bar. You can dine (booking advised) or just enjoy a drink while you listen, and you're guaranteed to enjoy the intimate cocktail bar vibe that Maggie and her group create. Their repertoire specialising in American song book classics - is wide and delivered with real panache. Maggie's opening night is on 5th February.

### **GREAT CHISHILL BELL RINGERS' SLOE GIN COMPETITION 2022**

Great Chishill Bell Ringers invite you to take part in the annual Sloe Gin Competition, raising funds for the renovation of the bells and bell frame and installation of a new sixth bell which has kindly been donated. Work began earlier in January; hence the clock is not currently chiming! We hope all the work will be completed so the bells can be rung, as in other churches across the country, to celebrate the historic Platinum Anniversary, the first weekend in June.

This year's Sloe Gin Competition Tasting and Results Party will be held on Saturday 26th February 7.30pm in the Village Hall to allow for Covidrelated precautions. Entries should be in by February 21st. As in previous years we invite Party attendees to bring a plate of finger food and their preferred beverage. Glasses and plates will be provided, but mindful of Covid, we ask you to keep your bottles and dishes to your table. There will be the opportunity to taste the entries and see if you agree with the judges!

As in previous years there will be three classes:

Nouveau - Sloe Gin made with sloes picked Autumn 2021

Vintage - Sloe Gin made before 2021

**Ringers' Delight** - any homemade, fruit-based liqueur



For a downloadable Entry Form and full details of the Competition and Results Party see our village website - greatchishill.org.uk or contact Jenny Leitch: Tel. 01763 837073 / 07850 862199 or email jenny leitch@btinternet.com

PS Read up about the bells, and a rare opportunity to memorialize departed loved-ones on the Great Chishill website!

### **GREAT CHISHILL MORRIS DANCERS**

Would you like to join a group of morris dancers to be formed to celebrate our Queen's platinum jubilee on Saturday 4th June 2022?



If you are interested please email

jmwstacky112@gmail.com

Instructions and practices will be arranged.



### **GREAT CHISHILL BELL RESTORATION PROJECT**

This £115,000 project has started! The clock was disconnected from its faces and weights and the pendulum removed on the 12th January, and the carpenter moved in on 17th to make way for the bells to be removed from the tower. This involved removing the planks used to stand on to wind the clock, and making a big hole in the floor of the belfry through which the bells could be lowered to the ground. On the 31st January (after this has gone to press) the bells will be lowered down through the clock floor to the ringing floor, then craned out into the church where they will lie for a few days to be viewed by the local community before being taken away to Oxford to be retuned and totally refitted.

A large amount of the cost has already been raised through fund raising events over the last 21 years, and applying for grants, but we are not there yet because costs have risen so much in the last year. So we still need your support in the form of donations. In total the bells will

need 300 feet of rope, so you could congregations help by buying rope at £5 per foot. Of you could buy one of the 6 sallys (the woolly bits) at £95 each. Or maybe you could celebrate an anniversary or remember a loved one by buying a 6 x 4 inch plaque which will be mounted on a new headstock and the text recorded in a leather bound book in the church. To pay for a length of rope or buy a sally, simply visit the JustGiving page (www.justgiving.com/fundraising/gr eatchishillbells) and add a note about what you are buying. For the plaque, please contact Phil Maynard on 01763 838311

Grants have been obtained from The Sharpe Trust, The Barron Trust, Essex Association of Change Ringers, Stansted Airport, the All Churches Trust and Cambridgeshire Community Chest.

In addition we have been promised a grant of £2,000 by Cambridgeshire Historic Churches Trust (CamHCT). The Trust offers grants and loans to help

congregations look after their historic places of worship. Its main



of income, source apart from membership, is the annual "Ride and Stride". Each September sponsored cyclists and walkers visit churches, chapels, and colleges throughout Cambridgeshire, sharing the money raised between the Trust and their local church. Details of the Trust's work be found can at www.camhct.uk

## Special invitation to a SNOWDROP WALK (by Phil Maynard)

You are invited to visit a private nature reserve on a meadow which has been planted by hand with snowdrops over the last 30 years.

It is a 12 acre site only about 8 miles from Great Chishill. The owner has given us the unique opportunity of opening the area to a limited number of people for just a few hours, probably on Saturday 19th February, in order to boost funds for the Bell Restoration Project.



Sunday 6th February Evensong 6.00 pm led by Reverend Sue Fender

Sunday 20th February
Morning service with
communion 9.30 am
led by Reverend Sue Fender

BIN DAYS - FEBRUARY

Blue/Green Black

(Blue only) Tue 1 Tue 8

Tue 15 Tue 22

(Blue only) Mar 1

This will not be open to the general public.

Parts of the meadow are likely to be affected by the East West Rail link, and therefore the beautiful sight of thousands of snowdrops may well be destroyed.

If you think that you would like to be among the few lucky people to visit this site, please let me know by the end of

January. Email <a href="mailto:pm@maynardprojects.co.uk">pm@maynardprojects.co.uk</a> or phone Phil Maynard on 01763 838311

Further details will be supplied to those interested. We hope to be able to supply refreshments on site, or if it's a lovely day, feel free to bring a picnic!

