



The Chishills

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

Volume 14
Issue 9
January 2021



2020 was a strange year! It is now looking as though life will gradually return to normal in 2021. We do hope so. We wish all our readers a happy, healthy, and normal new year!



THE WINDMILL TURNS TO THE FUTURE

Last year saw only slow progress with the windmill restoration plan but we did pass another major milestone. The tail structure and mechanism were repaired and tested and, on Sunday September 27th, Bill Griffiths, our millwright, untied the mill and let a stiff NE wind spin the fantail to turn the mill on its post about 120°. There is a video of the event on the windmill Facebook page <https://www.facebook.com/GreatChishillWindmillTrust/videos/368102864369575>. If you drove past in the following week you couldn't fail to notice the new view the windmill presented.

Further tests in gentle breezes showed that the mill turns quite easily and at the time of writing it is tied up once more, but facing south. There are still safety measures to be applied, not least woodwork to cover the wheels and driving gear, but we hope that the mill turning to face the wind will soon become the norm. Of course, we need to carry out risk assessments before we can decide if this will be for demonstration only or if the mill can be allowed to turn automatically. As it is the only open-trestle postmill in the country with a tail mechanism, it would be a unique sight to see it carefully following the wind as it changes direction.

People ask us about the main sails, but they are completely separate from the tail mechanism and will not be turning anytime soon as a further significant restoration programme is required to put them in working order.

The immediate priorities for the Windmill Trust are to establish a safe routine for allowing the mill to turn to wind and to create a steady income to fund planned maintenance (like cleaning the paintwork of fungus that has grown rather too quickly!) We are, however, very pleased that we enter 2021 in a good position to achieve both of these targets. We thank you for your continued interest and support and wish you all a very Happy New Year.



CHURCH REORDERING UPDATE

The work at St Swithun's is progressing well and we hope it will be complete by the end of February. At one end of the church the chancel ceiling has been stripped down to the beams. It is being replastered with lime and horsehair plaster and repainted. At the other end of the church a new kitchen facility is being installed to create a community area. At the moment the flooring is underway, then the plumbing and new electrics have to be fitted. Quite a task given the very thick church walls which have to be drilled through!

Angela Patrick-Sutcliffe is selling pretty bottle lights to raise money for the church building; these are proving to be very popular by those who have already bought them.

If anyone would like to buy one or two to brighten up their homes during the dark nights, they are £10 each, all the money being raised will go to the building fund.

Contact Angela on 01763 837353 or Angela.patrick@btinternet.com

If you wish to make a donation to the St Swithun's reordering fund just point your camera at this QR code and a link to a Just Giving donation page will pop up.



BIN DAYS - JANUARY

Black	Blue / Green
31 Dec*	7*
13*	19 (blue only)
26	
* Note - changed date	

ARE YOU PAYING TOO MUCH FOR WATER?

Does your house rainwater go to soakaways? Check with Cambridge Water you are not being charged for it going down the sewage drain. waterinfo@cambridge-water.co.uk. You could get six years rebate and reduced future bills.

Are you on a meter and use water for the garden (or Playing Fields) from an unmetered outside tap? You are paying for water to go down the sewer. Just a small approved meter on the outside tap and you can claim an abatement from Anglian Water and a reduction in wastewater charges, as there is less going down the sewer. (CustService@anglianwater.co.uk).

CALLING ALL MAKERS OF SLOE GIN AND OTHER FRUIT-BASED LIQUEURS, AKA 'RINGERS' DELIGHT'!

As previously reported, Great Chishill Bell Ringers, hope to run the Sloe Gin competition in February as usual, even if we can't, as sadly looks most likely, hold the usual popular Tasting & Results Party.

Before committing to running the competition, it would be helpful to know the level of interest from contestants, in submitting Nouveau Sloe Gin (made with Autumn 2020 sloes), Vintage you have in stock, or Ringers' Delight - any homemade, fruit-based liqueur.

We would hold the judging in an airy conservatory with judges socially distanced of course and announce the results on line or at an appropriate outdoor location.

This is run to raise money for the refurbishment of the church bells, so donations are expected.

Please email Jenny Leitch at jenny_leitch@btinternet.com to register your interest in competing and in which categories, by Friday 8th January and watch Great Chishill website for the outcome.



URC SERVICES

Sunday 3rd January
Evensong 6 pm

Sunday 17th January
Morning Service 9.30 am

We will ensure that we follow government guidelines for services at all times.

CHRISTMAS WREATHS

by Tess Gent

Thank you so very much to all those who kindly ordered their Christmas wreaths from me. Together with orders from people from other villages, and the village Advent Calendar, I was able to send a cheque for £500 to Alzheimer's Research and a further £150 to the NHS charitable trust. I did so enjoy making every sort, size and description of wreath. I hope you were pleased with your outcome!



STOP PRESS

Uttlesford DC have refused permission for the barn at Langley Park

FATHER CHRISTMAS VISITS!

The Children's Christmas Party team were thrilled to welcome THE Father Christmas to Great Chishill and Heydon on 12th December. Santa and his



Elves made a very special visit to bring jolly music, magic, sparkle and some much needed cheer. He was so pleased to meet all the children and parents, hear about all

your Christmas wishes and hand out gifts. Never before has he been greeted with such wonderful cheers, waves and smiles - from all ages!

VILLAGE ADVENT CALENDAR

Last month's advent calendar was a great success. With one, or sometimes two, new windows being opened every day there was plenty to look at and talk about. Thank you to Tess Gent for organising it and a big thank you to everyone who contributed! Here are just a few pictures from the 33 homes which kindly agreed to produce displays. If you would like to say thank you to Tess and the generous window creators, why not donate to the charity which Tess is supporting, raising money for Alzheimer's Research. If you, or anybody you know, has been affected in any way by this cruel disease please do give as generously as you can to help find a cure.

To donate please visit the JustGiving page. Thank you.
http://www.justgiving.com/4Thousand4Granny?utm_id

