

The Chishills

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GREAT CHISHILL WINDMILL INVITES NEW VOLUNTEERS

Great Chishill's historic windmill attracted more visitors and raised more funds than ever in 2023, and another busy 2024 programme of open days is being planned which is essential to maintain and refurbish the mill for everyone to enjoy. But the open days depend on people to provide the tours lasting about 20 minutes and we would love to meet and appoint a few more people interested in joining our team of mill guides and volunteers. Typically, you will be asked to show people around and in the mill throughout a 3 hour session. The sessions are a lot of fun and the feedback from visitors of all ages is very rewarding. No experience required. Please get in touch and we'll tell you more. Call Neil Heywood on 07941 682052 or email neil@neilheywood.com

JANUARY IN THE PHEASANT

Wednesday 10th:

Quiz night - 7.30 pm start.

Friday 26th:

Fishy Friday. Booking essential, menu online. From 6 pm.

Every Monday:

Bring Your Own Vinyl - dust off your old records and bring them down for a spin. 6 - 9 pm.

Every Tuesday:

Ruby Tuesday - eat in or takeaway.

Every Wednesday:

Pie night - excellent selection from 6 - 9 pm.

Every Friday:

Boozy Bites - Our version of 'Happy Hour'. Our chefs will keep you well fed and we will pick up your boozy bites tab, all you have to buy is your booze!

CHRISTMAS TREE FESTIVAL



Most of the village's many clubs and organisations worked hard to produce a themed tree for the Christmas Tree Festival in the URC which Tess organised so well. The chapel was filled with a wide range of different trees and over two days villagers came to view and enjoy refreshments and mulled wine. The weekend ended with families and children singing carols around the

trees, listening to a lovely Christmas story read by Sue Fender and re-enacted by parents and children. There was a fantastic atmosphere! £500 was raised towards the Playground fund.

Visitors were able to vote for the best tree. The Playground Group had submitted two trees, which were joint winners - followed by the Windmill tree in second place.

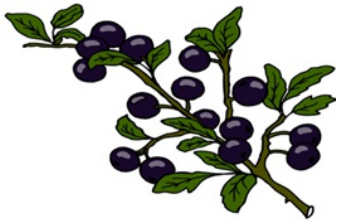


VILLAGE ADVENT WINDOWS.

Once again, Tess and our wonderful window volunteers provided a treat for Chishill villagers. 27 windows were unveiled over the 25 Advent days. This time they were accompanied by a quiz which could be collected from the Manse or downloaded from the village website. Each window contained the names of some Christmas elves. Participants had to find as many elf names as possible to win the prize! It was great fun for the families who entered. The answers are not included here because the newsletter went to print before all windows were unveiled. Thank you to everyone who contributed!



**SLOE GIN
COMPETITION 2024**
Saturday 24th February
URC 7.30 pm



UPDATE FROM HUBERT

In early December many villagers donated goods to Hubert, who was donating his Mitsubishi 4x4 to the Ukranian services. He has now sent me this:

A huge thank you for all the donations! The vehicle was completely full as I left with my colleague Freddie for Zurich, and then onwards with Simon and Tom on Thursday evening.

Our journey took us past Munich, Linz, Vienna, Brno, Katowice before our rendezvous outside Krakow on Saturday evening.



1400miles in all from Great Chishill.

We met Lukas, a contact of 4x4Foundation.com, and less than 24 hours later it had already been taken across the border and handed over to the unit from 308th Battalion, before preparation and onward deployment, where it is earmarked for drone operations.

The humanitarian aid has been sorted into 'family' and 'frontline' and will be distributed accordingly.

Hubert de Froberville

A FESTIVAL OF CAROLS AT ST SWITHUN'S.



A beautifully decorated and candlelit St Swithun's played host to this year's traditional Service of Nine Lessons and Carols which was enjoyed by a packed church of lustily singing villagers, supported most ably by our own Chishill Voices and - more exciting still - by the newly formed children's choir, Chishill Junior Voices.

Traditional carols - complete with those essential descants - rubbed shoulders with newer works, including two brand new pieces composed especially for the choir, and a further carol - *O Nata Lux* - which is being heard up and down the country this Christmas for Choirs Against Cancer: a musical project raising money for the essential work of Macmillan.

The Reverend Sue Fender led a team of readers from both our URC and Anglican communities, and the impressive four-part choir was punctuated with beautiful solo moments - notably tenor Eamonn

Quigley taking on the famous '*Once In Royal*' opening verse and arriving at his final line perfectly in tune, and our own musical medic, Dr Lisa Mackenzie, giving the professionals a run for their money with a beautifully poised *In The Bleak Midwinter*. A cast of fabulous Kings - Neil, Nick, Jenny, Elaine, Tess, and Holly - sent us into the final sequence where Musical Director Jamie literally pulled out all the stops to show what the organ could do, which, the eagle-eyed in the congregation will have spotted was not the church's own, but an impressive cathedral-style assemblage of wires and technology powered by iPad! Look out for our next issue to hear all about our portable organ project!

In the meantime, if you or your child has caught the singing bug, do make contact with Jamie (Chishill Voices) or Helen and Alison (Chishill Junior Voices) to join us!

Jamie W Hall

THE YARN BOMBERS



The Christmas-themed hats on our post boxes have been produced by the members of 'Knit Barley', who are supporting 'HYH - Herts Young Homeless' a local charity which offers free support to vulnerable young people in Hertfordshire. If the 'bombing' has made you smile please help others this Christmas by donating at the Barley shop.

BIN DAYS - JANUARY

Tue 2 Blue only
Tue 9 Black
Tue 16 Blue & Green
Tue 23 Black
Tue 30 Blue only

United Reformed Church

Sunday January 7th
Evening Service at 6 pm
led by Reverend Sue Fender

Sunday January 21st
Morning Service at 9.30 am
led by Reverend Sue Fender

St Nicholas, Little Chishill

Sunday January 7th 9.00 am
Morning Prayer

St Swithun's
Sunday January 28th 10.45 am
Family Worship