

GREAT CHISHILL BELLRINGERS

SLOE GIN COMPETITION 2015

SATURDAY 22 FEBRUARY AT HALL FARM

Nouveau - made with Autumn 2014 sloes

Vintage - any year you are proud of!

Ringers' Delight - your best homemade fruit-based tippie

Entry per class is £4.00 (includes party admission) Non-competitors welcome to the Party at £4.50/head. Please bring a bottle and a plate of finger food (co-ordinating with Jean)

Entries to Hall Farm, or to Jenny at 6 Colt's Croft, by Tuesday 17th February

Details: Jenny 01763 837073 Email: jenny_leitch@btinternet.com or Jean Wiseman 838263

Entry forms available on the village website - www.greatchishill.org.uk or by request from Jenny.

All proceeds to St Swithun's Church Bells Refurbishment Fund

But why are the bell ringers still raising funds when St Swithun's is appealing for funds for major repairs and improvements? Jenny Leitch explains.

Clearly, the bells cannot be rung if the tower is not safe. Great Chishill Bell Ringers are fully behind the St Swithun's Appeal and are represented on the committee. The bell ringers want to ensure sufficient funds are available to fund the necessary work on the bells, fitting in with the structural repairs. Renovation of the bells was the village's chosen Millennium project. We raised enough to make them ringable - strengthening the wooden frame that they are mounted in - made out of recycled timber in the mid 1600s!! - and supplying second hand wheels, which were not necessarily the right size for the bells. 4 bells, probably cast in the churchyard in 1686 do not have the clapper hanging dead centre, So the ring of the bell is not even, ringing early when the bell swings one way, and late

when it swings the other ('odd struck'). The crowns of the bells need replacing so that they ring evenly, with the right size wheels and new bearings. This requires the removal of the bells (the biggest weighs 10cwt) to a bell foundry, and the clock would need to be dismantled. The bells would then be totally renovated, ideally a new metal frame made, and the whole lot reinstalled. Costs at the last estimate were in the region of £27k + vat with no new frame or £46k + vat with a new frame. When the bells are no longer odd struck it will be easier for the ringers to produce a reliably harmonious performance for services, weddings, and national events. It will also make it easier for new ringers to make progress. The Great Chishill Sloe Gin Competition was conceived as part of the Millennium fundraising for the bells and has continued to be the mainstay of bell fundraising ever since.

A CONCERT OF CHORAL SURPRISES

**Royston Choral Society
supporting St Swithun's Appeal Fund**

**Saturday 14th March 7.30
St Swithun's Church, Great Chishill**

The Police Tell Us.....

There have been three house burglaries where vehicle keys have been the target since the weekend. Do make sure any vehicle keys are not within easy reach of doors or windows especially on the ground floor, keep them somewhere secure, or take them upstairs with you at night. We have received a report **18/01/2015** of a suspicious vehicle visiting local farm premises, and outbuildings.

WOMEN'S INSTITUTE MEETING

Tuesday 24 February at 2.30 pm
Afternoon Tea at Vivien's

The vehicle, a Ford 4 x 4, was seen close to Great Chishill pumping station. Three males were seen inside the vehicle part reg: JCF... If you see this vehicle or spot suspicious activity please do report it to the police.

PC NEWS

The Parish Council met on 22 January. Sarah Scott reports on the PC's discussions and decisions

PRECEPT

The Parish Council has set the Precept for 2015/16 at £22500. This is third year that we have maintained it at the same level with no increase.

SPEED LIMIT

Reduction in the speed limit from the Windmill. We have heard from 2 out of the 3 bus companies (as required in the consultation process) and they too, are in favour of this reduction.

We also applied to Highways for a Minor Highways Improvement Grant for this project and were delighted that our bid was successful and we have secured funds to pay for half of the works.

PARKING AND DOG BINS

Dog bins. The Clerk is awaiting approval from South Cambs District Council for this this work to commence.

The car park by the bus shelter will be resurfaced in late March.

RECYCLING

In early March (8th March) we will welcome a local cycling group to the village. They will use the car park by the bus shelter as a pit stop, which they did last year. Please avoid parking there on 7th March, as they PC will be sealing it off in readiness for the event. However, if the water main works are not complete in that area, then the event may not happen.

To be confirmed in the next newsletter.

CLOCKS

The Parish paid for St Swithun's clock to be serviced in January. They also paid for the repairs to the Pavilion clock. It is now in working order.

LOCK-UP

We are will be doing up the lock up at some stage this year.

CANCELLED MEETINGS

Due to the planned Village Hall refurbishment, some activities and events have had to be cancelled. Here are the ones we know about:

CHISHILL CHIMPS last session in February will be Thursday 12th February and we hope to reopen end March. See the Chimps group page on Facebook for more details and alternative get togethers over this period. **YOUTH CLUB:** will be closed over mid February to mid April. The last club will be Tuesday 10th Feb before we reopen on Tues 14th April.

GT CHISHILL WINDMILL

TRUST Village Meeting Unfortunately, the information meeting due to be held on the 14th March, 2015 has had to be postponed. A new date will be advised as soon as possible.

BIN COLLECTIONS		
	Black	Blue & Green
FEB	6	13 (B&G)
	20	27 (Blue)
MAR	6	13 (B&G)

DO YOU LIVE ON HEYDON ROAD?

The cast iron water main that serves your house is being replaced by a plastic pipe. This *may* mean that your home is no longer properly earthed, and Cambridge Water are advising that you have this checked by an electrician - at YOUR expense!

Neil Dartnell, a qualified electrician with connections (*sic*) to the village has said that he can do the electrical tests at a special rate if there are enough people who want it done. If you are interested please email pm@maynardprojects.co.uk, phone Phil Maynard on 838311 or contact Neil directly on 07779 157821.

Diary Date

St Swithun's Midsummer Ball at Great Chishill

Saturday 20 June 2015

In Aid of the St Swithun's Church Restoration Appeal

Christmas Card Competition 2015!

We are looking for winter scenes of Great Chishill. It could be a photograph, drawing or painting no larger than A4. Categories are age 7-11, 12-18 and 18+. Entries will be accepted until 31 March (entrance fee 50p) with the winning six entries being turned into the Great Chishill 2015 Christmas card pack.

The cards will go on sale towards the end of the year with proceeds going to the St Swithun's Appeal. You can collect an entry form from the church or print one off from the Great Chishill website www.greatchishill.org.uk.

Show us your creative side and enter now!

From our County Councillor

I was recently asked by a resident for information on the County Council's gritting schedule. There is a great deal of information on the Council's website: www.cambridgeshire.gov.uk. As I write this article, Gritting is featured on the website's front page, but if that has changed by the time you read this, please go to 'Residents', then 'Travel, then Roads and Parking,' then 'Roads and Pathways' and then 'Gritting.' I have requested to ride on one of the gritting lorry runs and so if you have any questions you'd like me to ask on your behalf please drop me a line.

The council's website can be used to report faults on roads and pavements. Indeed when people report potholes to us, we log them onto the public website. If you try this, you will be able to see whether the problem has already been reported. Please use the same sequence as for Gritting but choose 'Report a Fault' - and do let us know if you encounter any difficulties.

A vast amount of data about our county, including village by village demographic statistics, is held on

the council website. At the home page please go to 'Your Council' and then 'Research and Statistics'. It is very compelling to find the broader picture of where we sit in a large and diverse county.

Thank you very much to everyone who has written to the County Council about the Bridgefoot Farm Quarry fire. We are continuing to support for the Environment Agency's enforcement role and recent suspension of the permit required to operate the site. The management of the current phase has now been taken over by South Cambs District Council in its Environmental Health role, and it has created a webpage with current information: <https://www.scambs.gov.uk/content/bridgefoot-quarry-fire>.

Having provided you with umpteen websites, we are also available to talk with you at any time! So please don't hesitate to pick up the phone, or come and see us at our monthly surgery at the Melbourn Hub - first Monday of the month, 2:30-3:30.

Susan van de Ven, 261833, susanvandeven@yahoo.co.uk, Jose Hales, 221058,