



KINGS MEN FILL CHURCH AGAIN, RAISE £2500

A year after their first appearance, Cambridge's Kings Men, 7 choral scholars and an organist from Kings College Chapel, paid a welcome return visit to St Swithun's. As last year, a packed church heard a diverse programme, from



Picture: Gordon Brown

mediaeval to pop, mixed with much humour and Christmas cheer. The atmosphere was enhanced by candlelight, while the audience enjoyed mulled wine and a great many mince pies, sausage rolls, and slices of Christmas cake. Angus Gent, Chairman of the St Swithun's Appeal, who not many years ago was Housemaster to some of the singers, tells us the

concert raised over £2,500 towards the church's much-needed reburishment.

A THANK YOU NOTE

We would like to send a massive thank you to our village community for being so wonderfully supportive and kind to us after our devastating fire. We have been humbled by generous offers of accommodation, food, clothes, spectacles (!), slippers, laundry, salvage of files, photographs and computers and much else. Many of the people working on our house in the aftermath of the fire have commented on Chishill's amazing community spirit. We are fortunate to be able to stay in the village during the rebuild, which will take up to 18 months.

A passing motorist saw the roof on fire at midnight on Saturday 28th November and managed, together with neighbours, to wake us up and phone the fire brigade (the smoke alarms in the house hadn't gone off as the fire at that time was confined to the roof). It could have turned out so differently.....We have salvaged photos, important files, computers, some furniture and pictures from downstairs, but the roof has fallen in upstairs, and everything is wrecked by water, soot and ash.

We have learnt many lessons, for example about insurance policies and the cover that they provide, about smoke/heat detectors (we will be fitting some form of heat / smoke detector in our loft when it is rebuilt) - and last not but not least about the enduring values of our small village. We shall never forget the wonderful spirit and kindness within our community and the support that has helped so much in sustaining us through this difficult time. Thank you all.

David and Ro

CRAFTS IN THE BARN



Back by popular request in its old home at Lynchets Farm, 'Crafts in the Barn' saw crowds of villagers eager to snap up a pre-Christmas bargain. You could buy leatherware, jewellery, cards, knitted goods, wreaths made to order, home-bakes, Christmas trees and wreaths, and even Angus's hot dogs and burgers. Raising funds for the Windmill and St Swithun's appeals, the event raised £300, and Tessa Gent's Christmas wreaths a further £400. Special thanks to hosts Tom and Ellie Mead and organiser Lindsey Crawley!

Great and Little Chishill Parish Council would like to thank you all for your support during the last year. We wish you all a Merry Christmas and a happy and healthy 2016.



Women's Institute

The meeting on 19 January will be very special. Mark Linney will talk about 'Help for Heroes'. This will be an open meeting when ALL, both men and women, will be very welcome.

The Windmill Dance Group

We started in September as absolute beginners but by the end of November had made really good progress on five dances - waltz, slow rhythm, quickstep, cha-cha and rumba. The group has settled down to around 16; not everyone makes every week but the pace is geared to helping people catch up. It has been a most enjoyable time, both for those learning and those teaching, and the Trust has benefited by over £500. In fact it has been so successful that the group intends to continue classes in the New Year and maybe even organise a dance so that we can put into practice what we have learnt.

Classes next year start on 8 Jan and continue through to 12 Feb. There will be revision of the dances covered so far, some new moves, a start on the jive, and maybe even the tango. Look out for further announcements or contact David McKeown on 838087, email mckeown.david@gmail.com if you would like to discuss the possibility of joining in and helping a good cause.

A WALK THROUGH HISTORY NUTHAMPSTEAD AIRFIELD

SUNDAY 28 FEBRUARY 2016 at 9:30AM.

Join us as we lead a walk through the historic airfield at Nuthampstead, home to the 55th Fighter Group and the 398th Bomb Group of the 8th USAAF during World War Two. If you're interested in landscape history, airfield archaeology, or just fancy the chance to have a walk in the unique landscape of this World War Two airfield, this walk is for you.

Parking: Anstey Village Hall, SG9 0BY- behind Anstey First School

Distance: Guided Walk 3.5 miles (from Anstey Village Hall to the Woodman Inn), then Un-Guided 1.6 miles (Woodman to Village Hall) - Total 5.1 miles

We should arrive at the Woodman Inn, Nuthampstead at 12:30pm. The guided walk will finish here and you must make your own way back to Anstey Village Hall of your own accord.

Please bring your own refreshments, or alternatively book lunch at the Woodman Inn or the Blind Fiddler, Anstey. Bookings essential.
Terrain - Leisurely. Cost - Free.
What to bring- outdoor shoes and clothing appropriate to the weather.

www.8theast.org



The Youth Club enjoyed a Pizza Party on their final club of the year on Tues 8th Dec. Thank you to everyone who donated raffle prizes...the young people eagerly awaited the calling of tickets and voted for Cancer Research as their charity of choice for the £35 raised. As always, in exchange for their party treats, the young people made donations of food for the Hitchin based homeless hostel 'North Herts Sanctuary'. Thank you to all our members for the large box full of food Dan was able to deliver to this worthwhile cause. See you all in the New Year on Tuesday 5th January!



An afternoon of amusement and merriment was enjoyed once again this year at the Children's Christmas Party on the 6th December. The children of Gt Chishill and Heydon were entertained by the marvellous Stripey Wipey and his furry friend 'Peanut Butter Sandwich' before receiving a very special visitor... thank you Father Christmas for flying in and visiting us at such a busy time of year!

BIN COLLECTIONS



| | Black | Blue & Green |
|-----|---------|------------------|
| Jan | 9 (Sat) | 4(Mon) Blue only |
| | 22 | 15 (B & G) |
| Feb | 5 | 29 (Blue only) |
| | | 12 (B & G) |



Wartime scenes at Nuthampstead

