



## RING IN THE NEW.....

*As Great Chishill rings in another New Year, it's a good time to remember the bells that have served the village for 330 years. Jean Wiseman tells the story.*

The five bells in St Swithun's Church tower have an interesting story, and may be unique. The Treble, 2<sup>nd</sup> 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup>, all dated 1686, have the inscription 'William and Philip Wightman, London', and the Tenor 'Thomas Mears II London 1841'. In 1892 the bells fell down when the tower collapsed. It was rebuilt in 1895, the bells returned to their rightful place, and ringing was possible again. In 1977 ringing had to be stopped yet again, as the bells were deemed unsafe and remained silent even for special events. But in 1998 the village was asked what they would like to do to celebrate the Millennium. The result of the survey was "We want to hear our church bells ring out."

So with the help of some experts and village volunteers we managed to get the bells ringing again. We collected spare parts such as redundant pieces of wheel from other churches, and the village raised nearly £20,000. Five expert ringers carefully tried out the bells and a very brave man sat (with ear protection) watching each one to ensure that they were safe. Most of the villagers gathered in the church and churchyard to listen to their bells ringing again, together with a large number who had never heard them before. Everyone was so thrilled and some of the older villagers had tears in their eyes. Of course, now we had to persuade some people to learn to ring. With the enormous dedication and instruction of Fred and Mary Bone from Stansted and Rosemary Dean, we managed to get started and we were able to ring for the millennium. Recently we have been very pleased to welcome some newcomers.

The tower renovations are complete but we still plan to have the bells completely refurbished, replacing the frames and adding a sixth bell. We have raised over £30,000, and we want to get started on the project as soon as we can - but I think we will have to try to at least double this amount.

We would be most grateful for any help or advice that might be out there in the village of Great Chishill!

For more information contact Jean Wiseman  
[wisehall@btconnect.com](mailto:wisehall@btconnect.com)



St Swithun's bellringers



Tenor bell weighs 10 cwt

## MEET YOUR COUNCILLOR- SUZIE HARRISON

Initially I trained as a Geologist and worked in the oil industry for 10 years in the UK, US and Colombia. I spent time at the rig, but mostly managed Core Analysis Laboratories evaluating rock cores taken from exploration wells.



After a career break to raise four children, I became a woman returner at the Imperial War Museum Duxford's Department for Learning. I also worked in Airfield Services organising Air Shows and dealing with finance. I decided to gain further qualifications and gained a Master's Degree from Leicester University in 'Learning and Visitor Studies in Museums and Galleries'. This qualification enabled me to become Learning Officer at the American Air Museum at Duxford. After 14 years there, I decided to move to the Cambridge American Cemetery and have worked there for just over three years. I am the Cemetery's Interpretive Guide, leading visitor tours that describe the role of the American Battle Monuments Commission and give a historical context to this World War II cemetery. I also carry out research into the personal histories of those commemorated in order to weave their stories into the narrative.

Since coming to Great Chishill 27 years ago, I have brought up a family, the youngest of whom was born here, and who all think of themselves as local. Felicity, Miles, Guy and Polly were educated mostly at Chrishall Primary School and Newport Free Grammar School. I believe that to be part of the community you have to get involved, and being a Parish Councillor fulfils that criterion – it is my small way of paying something back for being able to live in such a beautiful environment, by helping to safeguard it for future generations.

# PICTURES FROM CRAFTS ON THE HILL AND SENIORS' TEA



## A Burns Night Celebration

In support of:  
**St Nicholas Church  
Little Chishill**

Haggis \* Whisky \* Recitations \* Dancing

**Dancing to Jump the Vortex**

Great Chishill Village Hall  
Friday 25<sup>th</sup> January 2019  
7:00 p.m. to 11:30 p.m.

Tickets £25.00 Cheques Payable to "DCC of Little Chishill"  
by Sunday 6<sup>th</sup> January 2019 to:  
E. Knobel-Forbes, 17 May Street, Great Chishill, Royston SG8 8SN Tel 01763 838781  
**Numbers Are Limited Please Book Early**

### URC Services

**Advent Evensong:** We would like to thank Ben Palmer for conducting such a lovely Advent Evensong, enjoyed by so many. It was a wonderfully atmospheric and thought provoking service. Evensong appears to be a popular time and so we are looking to hold them on the first Sunday of the month.

**Dates :** 6 January: Evensong 5.45pm led by Arthur Brignall  
20 January 20: 9.30am led by Angus Gent.  
**Cinema Night:** Tuesday 8th January 'Hidden Figures'. Doors open at 7pm for a 7.30pm start.  
**Scottish Dancing:** Monday January 14th 7.30pm- 9 .30pm. Come and join us. It really is the greatest of fun.

**Wine Tasting Evening :** Following our very entertaining and successful evening, we raised £500 for the Kitchen at St Swithun's. Thank you so much for your most generous support.  
**Happy New Year**  
We would like to take this opportunity to wish everyone a very happy and healthy 2019 and to thank you all for your loyal support.

### Royston & District Choral Society

Our next Open rehearsal takes place at the Methodist Church, Mill Road, on Tuesday 8 January. We'd love to see you. You won't be asked to sing on your own!

### Sloe Gin

Great Chishill Bell Ringers' Sloe Gin Results Party will be held at Hall Farm on Saturday 23 Feb with judging Thursday 21 Feb Enquiries to Jenny Leitch 07850 862199 (text message preferred)

### Women's Institute

15 January

Janet and Daphne

Crafty Ribbons and oddments

Visitors welcome- call Angela 837353

### DOORSTEP CAROLS RETURN TO CHISHILL

Thanks to the initiative of Robin and Ruth Dibblee, bands of roving waits, bearing lanterns and wrapped up against the cold, surprised Chishill villagers by singing carols at the door and collecting for Syrian refugees. So many (34!) people volunteered to join in, that two choirs were formed so that more homes could be visited. £395 will go to the Syria charity as a result. Picture shows singers serenading the Vicar!



### BIN COLLECTIONS

	Black	Blue & Green
JAN	2 (Wed)	8
	15	22 (blue)
	29	