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The Chishills

Poppies near Barley

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Sam Smith re-opens Chishill Windmill

300 people packed the Chishill windmill site on 8 June as the village's own singing star Sam Smith cut the tape to mark the completion of our unique mill's extensive restoration programme. Sam's visit had been a closely kept secret, known only to Hazel Hayden, Chair of the Great Chishill Windmill Trust, and the Trust's members. Sam mixed happily with his old friends, and stayed on to join in the celebrations. He even turned up for a cuppa at the tea party in the Village Hall afterwards. Sam told villagers "I'm delighted to be back in Chishill, the village I grew up in from the age of four. I have many happy memories, like running through the fields behind us, dancing to Beyoncé." He posted on

Instagram later that it "made me so emotional to be back home with my family and friends" – and that he was "honoured" to be part of the unveiling.

Donations

The programme for the re-opening included a celebratory drink at the windmill, a coach shuttle, and complimentary tea and entertainment at the Village Hall. Hazel commented that though there was no charge to attend the event, donations of over £1,900 had been received as everyone expressed their delight at the friendly atmosphere the event generated.

Grants

David McKeown, the Trustee responsible for managing the project, explained that grants had been received from Historic England, SPAB, the Parish Council, and South Cambs Community Chest, and the Trust itself had raised over £26,000 by fundraising events. The restoration has so far cost £120,000, but he expects the total cost to exceed £150,000. This should see the windmill safeguarded for another 100 years.

A Pint in the Pheasant

David went on to say "The mill might today well have been a pile of firewood or completely replaced by a new house were it not for Jim Brearley and Jeff Gill. They put their heads together (over a pint in the Pheasant as I understand it) and came up with a plan to form The Great Chishill Windmill Trust and set about raising money for a major restoration to save the old beauty." Among a long list of thanks, David praised farmers Chris Bates, Peter Wiseman and Terry Ingle for their time, effort and use of equipment and facilities, as well as the efforts of Tony Andrews, David Livingstone and John Wahlich, amongst many others.

Families Represented

Pauline and Simon Brearley later unveiled a bench they had donated in memory of Jim, the Trust's first Chairman, who died in 2017. There have been only two milling families at Chishill over the last 300 years – the Andrews and the Pegrams – and members of both these families witnessed the re-opening. Many of them made special efforts to attend, including Andrews descendants Viv McCullough from NZ and Margaret Evans from Malta who came to England just for this event.



St Swithun's Weekend Reminder

Friday 5 July

7.30pm 'Pimm's O'Clock': Pimms and Jazz with summer raffle in the URC Church's garden

Saturday 6 July

French Lunch in Stretthall, in aid of Chrishall School (contact Anne Tozer, anne.tozer@gmail.com, 01763 838890)

Sunday 7 July

9.00 – 10.00 St Swithun's Pop-Up Breakfast Cafe

9.30 Great Chishill Bike Ride departs for Brent Pelham. A scenic 14 mile ride for enthusiastic riders

10.00 St Swithun's Flower Show opens with a 'Raindrops and Apples' theme for St Swithun. Including children's section: garden in a plate, original arrangement or scarecrow entries

10.00 the Great Chishill Treasure Hunt and orienteering – open to children of all ages

12.30 BBQ lunch, tea, coffee and cakes

14.00 The Elderly Brothers @ St Swithun's

17.30 Our very own *Songs of Praise* in the church. *A village event open to all ages – choose your favourite hymn, poem or prayer.*

For more details or to register your choices for the service, contact Tess: tessgent@gmail.com or 07721 398642



Some more windmill opening pics...



PLANTS! Ro Gadian is running a Plant Stall at the St Swithun's weekend. Donations of plants or cuttings for sale would be very welcome! Call Ro 838343

TOMATOES! Thank you very much to everyone who bought tomato plants from me. I raised £130 for The Stroke Association and £130 for Young Minds, as well as some pocket money for myself. I hope you enjoy your tomatoes. Harriet.

**Women's Institute,
16 July, 7.30**

Summer Meeting at Phyllis's - bring a dish of food to share
Visitors welcome, call Angela 837353

BIN DAYS - JULY

Black	Blue/Green
2	9
16	23
30	

There won't be an August Newsletter. See you in September!

The Pulsatillas

Laughter, song and wit, along with wine and canapes, all in the company of friends!

Saturday 27 July at 7.00 for 7.30



Comedy duo Sarah Harrison and Ros Holbrow will deliver their fast-moving comedy revue comprising songs, poems and patter laced with a dash of pathos, **for the last time ever!**

Come to Holy Trinity, Heydon, as Sarah, a full-time blockbuster authoress of 27 novels together with Ros, a talented musician and fundraiser, deliver their swan song.

The bar will sell wine and beer and soft drinks.

Tickets for what promises to be a lively night are £15, including a glass of fizz on arrival and finger food at the interval.

Contact Ann (838366), Angela (837163) or Mel 838289.