

EDITORIAL CONTACT: JANET ERSKINE TEL: 838300

Great Chishill Carpet Bowls Club

The Bowls Club meets each Thursday at the Village Hall at 7-30 until 9-30.

We have about 33 members and each week between 16 and 24 attend.

Carpet bowls probably originated as a substitute for outdoors bowls and it remains a winter game. We close down between mid May and September.

It is similar to Green bowls but as the mat is only the length of the Hall, a central barrier is positioned to force players to use the bias on the bowls to avoid it. Fundamentally, the aim of the game is to get as close to the "jack" (a smaller white ball) as possible.

The delight of bowls, I find, is that it sits happily between a sport, a game and a social gathering. Of course, we do our best, but mostly, we enjoy the fun of the fluke, or the banter of who is closest. Normally we play in teams of four, against another four, and as we have three mats, 24 people can be playing at the same time. This means that there is not a lot of hanging around, yet there is time for chats between turns. This format also mixes people up, so we find ourselves with different groups throughout the evening. Our members are all young (at heart) and are a random cross section of the village and beyond. We are welcoming to new members, who find it easy to be integrated into the club.

So, why not give it a try? Just come along and join in. The cost is £1-00 per evening, (including tea and biscuits). *John Crawley*



CHINESE LANTERNS

Although described as biodegradable, these lanterns are constructed of a canopy attached to a wire or bamboo frame and contain a fuel cell attached to a thin metal wire. When lit they float upwards and can travel up to 15 miles. They eventually float down to earth; the canopy should then biodegrade, leaving a thin wire which, if ingested, can be lethal to cattle or can become entangled around the legs of any wild or pet animal. We have already picked up three of these lanterns on our farm this year and just outside Saffron Walden 18 have been collected.

Please think carefully before you release these lanterns and pick up any you see and dispose of them safely
Thank you. *Jan Bates*

Open Gardens, Great Chishill



On Sunday 23rd May, villagers are opening their gardens in support of St. Swithun's Church.

We invite you to join us between 2pm and 5pm. Programmes from any garden displaying the open poster. There will be teas available at Hall Farm, Hall Lane and The Windmill, Barley Road.

Admission £4 adult, 50p children
If anyone would like to open their garden in Great Chishill, please contact Alex Goodwin (838797) or Janet Crouch (838301) before the end of March.

Sloe gin competition



It's 10 years since it was initiated at Crosshill House. Re-enactment on 12 March 20.00
(Entries by 9 March)
Bring a bottle, food provided
Contributions of £3 to St Swithun's Bell Fund

NEIGHBOURHOOD WATCH

Rosemary Livings writes:

Following my request for some help with Neighbourhood Watch, I have recruited Derek Smith of 5, Plaistow Way to help me. We both attended the Cambridge Neighbourhood Watch Executive Annual Conference on 6th February in Hitchingbrooke to learn more about how Neighbourhood Watch works throughout Cambridgeshire and to meet others also involved. As part of the follow up from this we have made contact with our local Police Community Support Officer and hope to improve liaison with the PCSO.

Great and Little Chishill are in a "cluster group" of villages within the NHW structure and there is a panel meeting on 20th April which we will attend.

It is hoped that it will be possible to have a regular update in the village newsletter, but in the meantime, if you feel we can help you, please contact us.

LOCAL TRANSPORT PLAN

Every home in the county will receive a leaflet outlining initial plans and offering the chance to give views on local transport priorities, by returning a questionnaire. **Please respond, and in particular please highlight what you consider to be the main problems with local transport - not enough buses, poor road maintenance, or lousy winter gritting are things you may want to mention.** If nobody responds then the County will set the priorities itself. You can respond online via a link from the main Local Transport Plan page at www.cambridgeshire.gov.uk/ltp.

HOME INSULATION GRANTS AND BOILER SCRAPPAGE SCHEME

To discover if you are entitled to any financial help in insulating your home, please visit www.easternCRI.org. There are lots of grants available; this website will also tell you how much it will cost to insulate your home even if you are not entitled to a grant.

If your boiler is one of the old style energy inefficient ones, you can claim £400 toward the cost of a new boiler which will be cheaper to run. Ring 0800 512012 or visit the Energy Savings Trust website for help and information.

NEIGHBOURHOOD POLICE PANEL: CURRENT PRIORITIES

Some of the priorities agreed at the January Police Panel include illegal and dangerous parking in Melbourn High Street near the chip shop, and **Hall Lane, Great Chishill**. Another agreed priority was speeding hot spots, including Fowlmere Road, Heydon. **The next Neighbourhood Police Panel will be held on Tuesday April 20, 7 for 7:30, at Foxton Village Hall.** All welcome, and this is an excellent way of getting very local issues onto the police action list.

MEET YOUR POLICE COMMUNITY SUPPORT OFFICERS

PCSO Lindsay Gardiner will be at Melbourn Village College every Friday from 3-5 PM, to answer questions and discuss any concern you may have about policing in your area, or any other questions about police work in our villages.



The **WI** group is organising a one off taster session of **line dancing** in the village hall on Thursday **18th March. 14.00 - 15.30.** £4.50 with refreshments. (Profits for village hall)

ROYSTON CHORAL SOCIETY

Saturday 20th March: Meridian School, Royston, at 7:30 pm. West Side Story. Plus the Royston Youth choir and the East Herts Youth Orchestra. Tickets: £8, £6 for concessions and £1 for children still at school.

Saturday 15th May: Verdi's Requiem in Thaxted at 7:30pm. Tickets: £12 and £10 for concessions



RETURNS TO GREAT CHISHILL

Sunday 21st March

sees the return of the Sport Relief Challenge to Great Chishill Playing Fields. Please visit www.sportrelief.com and select the Great Chishill Playing Field Mile. The gates open at 11:00 with the Challenge starting at 12 midday. Please contact Sarah Scott 01763 837112 or Catherine Whyte on 01763 838402 for assistance.

Neighbour Awareness

Think of those around you who are vulnerable and at risk, they may be in need of help, especially in winter months when supplies are delayed or sometimes can't get through.

PRESENTATION OF OUR POSTMAN'S RETIREMENT CHEQUE

Graham Parish will be presented with his retirement collection in the Pheasant on 17 March at 12.30. Angela Coxall is buying him lunch so all wishing to say hello are welcome.

BIN COLLECTIONS

March
05 Black
12 Green
19 Black
26 Green

April
03 Black
Saturday