

## SLOE GIN 2016



Jenny Leitch writes: The Sloe Gin Competition on 20 February made £236 for the Bell Fund. It was good to see the next generation coming along with entries, and several newcomers to the village taking part. Thanks to Peter and Jean Wiseman for hosting the party again, and to the judges. You can see the results with comments, on the village website.

### 31 Bus Reminder:

The 31 bus users' meeting will take place on 14 March, at 7:30pm, at Great Chishill Village Hall.

Cllr Susan van de Ven's next Drop-in Surgery: March 7, 2:30-3:30, Melbourn Hub. Call Susan on 07905 325574, [susanvanden5@gmail.com](mailto:susanvanden5@gmail.com)

## WINDMILL: TURNING A CORNER, SAYS TRUST *David McKeown, Windmill Trust Secretary, explains*

Our windmill is a sad sight - paintwork untouched in years; outdated notice warning of its dangerous state; and a tarpaulin cover that is torn and flapping in the wind. No wonder villagers ask "Is anything happening?"

I'm sure we all know that a village Trust was formed to oversee renovation of Great Chishill Windmill and that it was given a 125 year lease on the property in May 2014.

Things are happening, albeit much more slowly than anyone would wish. It took two years merely to settle the lease but why, nearly two years further on, has no physical change to the site occurred? Unfortunately, there is a lot of 'red tape' to be negotiated and the Trustees have had to learn the approaches and find experts who could help them but, hopefully, a corner has now been turned.

Our windmill is one of only five open trestle mills surviving in the country. Cambridgeshire is fortunate to have three of them; as well as ours, there are Bourn and Great Gransden mills. The Trustees have teamed up with mill restorers, David Pearce and Martin Davies, who have responsibility for work at Gransden and have previously brought Wicken Fen mill back to working order. They have been in touch with both Historic England and the South Cambs Conservation Officer to determine the path to be taken to achieve the necessary permissions. In the first instance, we must apply to the District Council for Listed Building Consent and have now established that this is best achieved in small, clearly definable, phases.

The most urgent work is the reinforcement of the trestle on which the mill is supported. In its present state there is a real risk that the mill might be blown down. Funding for this phase has been achieved, thanks to a very generous legacy from a local family

plus money from a number of fund-raisers and donors. In fact, an iron framework has been built and is ready to be fitted as soon as consent is granted. The exact scope of



work to be described in the Listed Buildings Consent was agreed in outline at a Windmill Committee meeting on Nov 18. The technical experts will convert this to the detail required by the Planners and submit the form as soon as possible.

There is also a need to consider any effect on bats. An initial survey by licensed ecologists found a dead bat in the mill so we are required to determine if there is any possibility that the mill has a breeding roost before any work can be allowed on the weatherboarding. We are seeking quotations for a night survey which needs to be carried out during the summer breeding season.

Then there is that tarpaulin. Covering the mill roof was a temporary measure to halt water ingress, but with the ravages of the wind and the extended length of time before the weatherboarding can be tackled, a replacement will be needed. Whilst not ideal, we hope that everyone will see the necessity to make non-intrusive protection until such time that the real work can begin.

Our windmill is a very rare example of part of our rural past - once virtually every village had a (continued over)

**Women's Institute**

15 March

Annual Meeting

Village Hall 7.30pm

Visitors Welcome

Contact Angela 837353

**ROYSTON CHORAL SOCIETY**

Concert for Palm Sunday

Sunday March 20<sup>th</sup> 7.30pm Standon  
Parish Church

Royston Choral Society's March concert features great music inspired by Christ's Passion.

**Stainer's The Crucifixion** With spine tingling melodies and hymns for audience participation.

**Mendelssohn's Hear my Prayer** includes 'O for the Wings of a Dove' with boy soloist Thomas Scrope

**Handel - Messiah** - Handel's moving evocation of the events leading to the Crucifixion

**Musical Director - Andrew O'Brien**  
**Organ - Michael Smith**

**With choristers from Heath Mount School**

**Tickets £12 (concessions £9, school students £1)**

From Royston Library, choir members and at the door.

**COME AND SING - STAINER'S CRUCIFIXION**

Saturday March 5<sup>th</sup> 12.00-5.00 Royston Parish Church Tickets £10

Details and booking form at

<http://www.roystonchoralsoc.org.uk>

**Transportation to Church**

Would you like to go to a church service anywhere within the parish on Sundays but are unable to get there ???

We can now offer a lift thanks to a number of volunteers who are willing to come and collect you and take you to church with them. To book a lift ring Erica in the church office (837272) until midday on Friday or Liz Stott 01799 521217

(continued) mill of some sort. It should be a graphic, vibrant site enabling students and enthusiasts to experience a window to earlier times. Please be assured, we are

committed to bringing our windmill back to life and to placing it in its rightful position in our social history.  
*David McKeown*

**Sport Relief is here again**

The Sainsbury's Sport Relief Mile is back - and returning to Great Chishill for the highest event in Cambridgeshire. The village is set to host its sixth Sport Relief Mile on Sunday 20<sup>th</sup> March, and needs local people to come together and make themselves proud by entering now at [www.sportrelief.com](http://www.sportrelief.com). Local heroes from the area will be walking and running themselves proud during the Sainsbury's Sport Relief Mile to raise life-changing money for Sport Relief 2016. Setting off from Great Chishill's Playing Fields the Mile will pass through adjoining fields and is set to be an incredible event. The course is very scenic and fun for children as well as a challenge for the more serious athletes. The WI will be on hand to offer delicious refreshments before and after - it is truly a great family event. Gates open at 11:00 for registration (we would prefer you sign up in advance), there will be a musical warm up at 11:45 with the mile event commencing at approximately midday. Sarah Scott said: "The Sainsbury's Sport Relief Mile in Great Chishill is here and it's your time to walk or run yourself proud. From little ones with their mums and dads, to runners up against the clock there's something to make everyone feel proud on this special day." **FOR FURTHER INFORMATION PLEASE CONTACT: Sarah Scott - [sascott42@gmail.com](mailto:sascott42@gmail.com) or call 01763 837112 / 07891 313584**

**County Budget: Council Tax Frozen, but More Cuts Coming**

Cambridgeshire County Council has at last set a budget for the new financial year starting in April, after a meeting lasting 12 hours. Dominated by central government's austerity programme, the budget settlement sees core council tax remain unchanged. Councillors voted not to impose the permitted 1.99% general increase, but there will be a special 2% precept which must go to pay the extra cost of the higher minimum wage announced by the Chancellor last year. Carers' pay is a big element of the Council's social care costs.

Chishill's County Councillor Susan van de Ven told the Newsletter: "The painful slide of disappearing public service funding will be more difficult than necessary in the coming financial year, following a controversial vote by Cambridgeshire County Council not to raise council tax by the 1.99% that central government allows. The impact of that tax rise would have been negligible on households, and brought in nearly £5 million which could have been deployed for example on better transport support for students from low-income families, keeping more roads gritted, or better support for people registered blind."

It's certainly true that there will be some severe service cuts in the coming year. Services to children, families and adults will be cut by £26.4m, according to the Cambridge News, and £4.2m will be lopped off economy, transport and environment spending. We'll report on South Cambs's budget next month.

**BIN COLLECTIONS**

	<u>Black</u>	<u>Blue &amp; Green</u>
MAR	4	11
	18	26 (Saturday)
APR	2 (Saturday)	8