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The Chishills

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The Pheasant plans to re-launch in April

Mark and Debbie Wickens, mine hosts at our much loved local, are looking forward to saying goodbye to the builders and showing off the improvements at a planned re-launch in April. The Newsletter's had a sneak preview of the works, which are coming on well, with a big extension to the dining area which will allow them to seat more customers. There will be a patio at the back, and French windows leading up new steps into the Pheasant's large garden, where there will be a new play area for children.



Change is in the air in the kitchen too. Chef Steve emigrated to New Zealand, so Mark is in charge for the time being – but the couple are actively seeking a successor, which will free Mark up to manage front of house and get to know his clients better. In the short term though, Mark's doing well to maintain the Pheasant's high standards with a traditional pub menu including

steaks, lamb shank and (of course) fish and chips and Sunday lunch. Even when the new chef does appear, the emphasis in the kitchen will still be firmly on traditional fare, says Mark.

Are Mark and Debs pleased they came to the Chishills? The answer's a definite yes – the children are very happy and doing well at their school in Chrishall. Mark and Debbie love the area, although, they say, they haven't seen nearly enough of it and want to explore more – the pub's popular with walkers, and it would be good to tell them more about the locality from first hand experience. It's been a challenge, say Mark and Debbie, and sometimes tiring – but they are feeling positive and looking forward to welcoming guests to a re-launched Pheasant in April. And, says Debbie, there will definitely be another Easter Egg hunt for the children to enjoy this year!

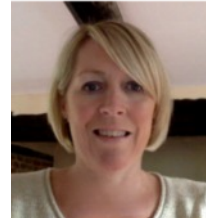
Little Chishill Church – Burns Night 2019

*Fair fa' your honest, sonsie face
Great chieftain o' the Puddin-race!*

78 guests from far and wide attended the Little Chishill Burns Night celebrations in the Village Hall on 25 January. Ian Taylor read the Selkirk Grace and the Toast to the Haggis, while Rowan Brown kept organisers entertained with an energetic and humorous toast to the Lassies, responded to in verse by Maggie Hill. Following some energetic dancing to Jump the Vortex the event closed with the time-honoured rendition of Old Lang Syne. Organiser Malcolm said that with some very generous donations, the evening raised £2000 for the Little Chishill Church Fabric Fund. Malcolm said thanks were due to everyone who helped, the donors of raffle prizes, and all who supported the evening.

Profile: Parish Clerk Sarah Scott

I am now in my 10th year as the Clerk or Proper Officer to Great and Little Chishill Parish Council. I undertake a wide range of duties over and above setting the agenda and taking minutes – broadly advising the Parish Council on policy and procedure, and ensuring everything the PC does complies with our legal requirements, and looking after the PC's finances.



During my time I have seen changes to the membership of the Parish Council. I have also trained and passed Cilca (Certificate in Local Council Administration), which is fast becoming a prerequisite to becoming a Proper Officer. Last year we successfully implemented GDPR, which necessitated incorporating lots of new procedures and policies. I also maintain the security database.

Behind the scenes, I receive many emails / phone calls about general day to day issues within the village; these mostly are about potholes, gritting, trees, speeding and footpaths. What is a trivial issue to some people is a big deal to others, so everything must be given thought and balance. Mostly these are jobs, I can quietly get on with behind the scenes and report back at meetings. Yes, it is a satisfying and interesting job and yes, there are challenges. The challenges are in part due to what we, as a Parish Council can physically organise and do ourselves and managing our Parishioners expectations. Due to cost cuts at District and County level, actually getting to talk to the correct person to help us out can be frustrating. We are lucky to be supported by our District Councillor, Deb Roberts and County Councillor, Peter Topping. Over the years, I have forged good relationships with key personnel at District Level, but I am finding that things tend to take a lot longer to process now, than they did 10 years ago.

I have lived in Great Chishill on and off for 47 years and as such have witnessed all levels of village life, from being a youngster playing at the swings (as they were then called) making dens on the Plaistow, being a grumpy teenager, a mum with a baby to a mother of a teenager. I am married to Tim, a former Parish Councillor (who has lived in the village for 25 years) and we have a daughter Harriet.

I also work as a Teaching Assistant at St Faith's School in Cambridge.

Sloe Gin Record Entry

Great Chishill's unique Sloe Gin competition, the bell-ringers' enduring (22 years) fundraiser and probably the country's oldest such contest, attracted a record entry this year. The judges (anonymous, as always) had to sip and slurp their way through 55 samples of fruity liqueur - not only sloe, but including exotica such as quince and rhubarb-based tippie. There was even a chilli flavoured example. The results party took place at Hall Farm's Stackyard Cottage, where guests were able to taste any (or all, if they were brave enough) of the entries. Host Peter Wiseman announced the winners, who got a medal if they came first, and the Newsletter's crack photographic team were there to record the event. £360 was raised for Bell Refurbishment Fund, and organiser Jenny Leitch said "Huge thanks to hosts, Peter & Jean Wiseman, the judges, every single competitor and all Tasting Party guests for coming and bringing food and wine contributions. A very enjoyable evening all round."

URC Services

Sunday 3 March: Evensong at 5.45pm

Sunday 17 March: Morning Service at 9.30 am

Cinema Night

"The Greatest Showman" starring Hugh Jackman. Doors open 7.00pm for a 7.30 start.

Scottish Dancing

We've had four fantastically fun sessions. The last one takes place on 18 March. Come and have a taster and see for yourselves, ready to join us when we resume in the Autumn.



Lucy Goode won Ringer's Delight

Ian Sanders won Vintage

Martin Hague won Nouveau

Saturday 9 March - Cocktails!



On 9 March the URC Schoolroom will once again be converted into a cocktail bar. We'll be offering a wide selection of cocktails, including non alcoholic. We'll be open from 8 till late.

Wine/prosecco if preferred Naughty but nice nibbles.

Live Music with Maggie (and dancing if you wish!) Black tie/ smart.

£10 a ticket to include your first cocktail.

Please contact Tess for tickets on 07721 398642 or tessgent@gmail.com



Women's Institute
19 March
Annual Meeting to include election of Committee and President

Visitors welcome, call Angela 837353

Councillor Suzie makes TV appearance

When BBC Breakfast News ran a feature on 22 February, the 75th anniversary of the 1944 crash of US bomber Mi Amigo in Sheffield, Chishill's Councillor Suzie Harrison was also interviewed. Suzie, who is Cambridge American Cemetery's Interpretive Guide, explained that at a ceremony on the anniversary date, sand from Omaha Beach was scattered on the graves of the three crew members whose bodies are interred at the Madingley site.

BIN COLLECTIONS

	Black	Blue & Green
MARCH		5
	12	19
	26	2 April

Royston Choral Society

Musical Director – Andrew O'Brien
with Haileybury Choral Society - and East Herts Sinfonia

J.S. Bach – St John Passion

Saturday 6th April 7.30 pm in Ashwell Parish Church

Tickets £15 (concessions £12, school students £1) from our website
<http://www.roystonchoralsoc.org.uk> or choir members (jenny/Suzie/Neil)