

## Pop-Up Pub Pleases Punters

Great Chishill had its own pub again in February. The Cricketer's Arms popped up for just one glorious night in a transformed Schoolroom behind the URC chapel in Barley Road, the brainchild of Chishill's cricketers, who used the event as a fundraiser as well as to celebrate the club's 150th birthday. Open from the afternoon until late at night, the Cricketers served a full menu of hot food, two keg beers, and a variety of wines, cocktails and soft drinks. Cricketing memorabilia decorated the walls as happy customers vied for a seat at a table, or even the sought-for sofa. The pub's earliest customers were children, who enjoyed scrummy meatballs and pasta made specially for them; later, the grown-ups feasted on game pie, fish pie, gnocchi, chilli, and too many sorts of pudding to mention. The hard-worked staff served over 70 meals and the event raised over £1000. Many villagers commented on what a lovely evening it was, with a great atmosphere, and how good it was to catch up! (Pics to right)



3 winners:  
Stella,  
Ian (below),  
and Ivan

Don's Vintage  
came 2<sup>nd</sup>



Robin got a 3<sup>rd</sup> for Nouveau

## Sloe Gin Competitors Celebrate

Chishill's bellringers enjoyed another night of festive competition on 22 February as the Sloe Gin competition, their longest lasting fundraising event, culminated in a grand awards party at Hall Farm Barns, courtesy of Peter and Jean Wiseman. Judges had met in secret earlier in the week to pick out the best entries in the three classes Nouveau, Vintage and Ringer's Delight. There were 44 entries in all, and the whole affair, masterminded by bellringer Jenny Leitch, was a big success. But Chishill must look to its laurels. The competition's fame seems to be spreading, and all three first class awards this year went to entrants from outside the village – Ivan Sharp collected the two Firsts for Nouveau and Vintage, while Barkway's Ian Sanders won the Ringers' Delight- fittingly, as he's a bellringer himself. Stella Russell saved the village's reputation; her Marmalade Gin won the award for Best Presented Entry (and it also tasted jolly good). Jenny Leitch was pleased – she said "Huge thanks to everyone who entered, and to Peter and Jean for hosting the event – and to everyone who brought a bottle and some food. It was a great evening". (Pics to left)

## KEN PRIOR

Bob Hatt writes:

"With much sadness I have to report that Ken Prior passed away in February. Ken was a long standing member of the Wine Circle, the Bowls Club and the (old boys) Youth Club and lived in Great Chishill for many years. Personally I have some delightful memories of Ken, these I am most grateful for." We express deep sympathy to Ken's widow Anne.

## ROYSTON CHORAL SOCIETY

ANDREW O'BRIEN  
EAST HERTS SINFONIA  
**J.S. BACH**  
**B MINOR MASS**  
Saturday 21<sup>st</sup> March 7.30 pm in  
Ashwell Parish Church  
Tickets (£15 each or £1 for under  
18s) on our website  
<https://www.roystonchoralsoc.org.uk>  
or from choir members

## SPEEDWATCH

Our loyal team of Speech Watch volunteers have now retired and the Parish Council are actively looking for some new people to assist. If you are interested, please contact Sarah Scott ([clerk@greatchillpc.com](mailto:clerk@greatchillpc.com)) and she can talk through what it entails. Thank you very much.

## A Russian evening: dine with

# DR ZHIVAGO

Saturday 28 March, 6.30pm

In HEYDON CHURCH (SG8 8QB)

In aid of proposed village community room, catering/toilet facilities  
David Lean's iconic film of Pasternak's great love story set against the Russian Revolution and Civil War. Interval food and drink with Russian flavours.

Add to the theme by wearing, if you wish, any Russian touches you possess or can devise. Ladies, look out those furs (faux is not) and boots; gentlemen, your tunics, greatcoats and ear warmers.

Doors open 6.30pm

Welcome drink Georgian wine / vodka, blinis

Film starts 7.00

Interval 9.00 – 9.30

Licensed bar and bowl of stroganoff (veg option)

Film ends 10.45

Tea and dessert

Toilet facilities available by kind permission of John and Tina Arthur in the School House opposite the church.

Tickets in advance: £20 to include welcome drink and food. Proceeds after expenses to the church building fund.

From: Melanie Chandler, Ann Lane, Jane Duffus or call or email Rollo Barnes  
01763 838309, rb@rollobarnes.com

## Great Chishill Village School (4 Heydon Road)

The school was built by Mr Savell of Barley with £380 raised from local subscriptions and opened on Thursday 13<sup>th</sup> October 1870. An HMI report in May 1881 requested an extension for the infants. From 1875 a logbook had to be maintained by the Head Teacher and copies of these can be found in the County Archive. The logs make interesting reading and are a fascinating insight into 100 years of history.

Attendance could fluctuate depending on disease (e.g. diphtheria or whooping cough), whether the fair was in the village or the children were 'docking' (weeding in the fields) or picking potatoes (all children over 12 were taken from school). At its peak the school had upwards of 105 children.

In 1884 the logs mentioned one poor boy from Shapeno (i.e. Shaftenhoe End) who had a fit in school, who was 'half-starved and had to walk to school every day a distance of 2.5 miles with scarcely any shoes on his poor bleeding feet.' In another case two boys couldn't attend as their mother was ill and confined to bed and there was no one to get them ready for school.

Inspectors' reports about the school were not always flattering, in 1880 'This school remains in much the same unsatisfactory state' and 'shows very languid progress.' In 1887 the teacher reported: 'The writing throughout the school is very poor. I think it is owing to the slates not being properly ruled.' Things weren't helped in the late

1800s by teachers resigning soon after being appointed. When Jessie Tranter took over in 1895 things began to improve. Other highlights included the fitting of doors to the girl's toilets in 1885; Mr Evered visited to extract teeth in April 1933 and running water being installed in February 1938. During WWII the children collected 481 eggs for Royston and Addenbrooke's hospitals and experienced an air raid on 25 October 1940. Their gas marks were checked in June 1945 by Reverend Hobson who was the Village Air Raid Warden. Heating and lighting were very basic. The school closed on 8 December 1887 as it was too dark to see anything and in February 1942 the temperature in the main room was 32 degrees F with the room full of smoke from the small heating stove. In 1950 Albert Reed resigned from the post of emptying the Earth Closets a position he had held for 40 years during which time his wages increased from 3/6 (17p) to 5/- (25p) a week. An inside toilet was installed in 1963.

By 1946 the Heydon School register had closed, and the schools combined. Numbers continued to fall with the seniors transferring to Melbourn from 1954 and the school closing in 1971 and children going to Fowlmere. The school was empty for several years and fell into disrepair much to the upset of the Village which had won the best kept Village competition in 1970. It was sold for conversion in 1978 and we have lived in the house since 1994.

John and Clarice Wahlich

## Women's Institute,

17 March, 7.30

## Annual Meeting

Visitors welcome, call Angela  
837353

## BIN DAYS - MARCH

Black Blue/Green

3

14

17

25

31

## URC Services

Sunday 1st March: Evensong 6pm

Sunday 15th March: Morning Service

Date for April: Palm Sunday Choral Evensong with the Village Choir at 6pm (if you're a potential choir members please email lisa.mackenzie@doctors.org.uk)

Cinema Night: "Judy" the Judy Garland story, starring Oscar winner Renee Zellweger. Doors open 7pm for 7.30 showing.

Scottish Dancing: Last Dancing Monday 16th March. We are thrilled how the numbers have swelled.

## Windmill Dance

The Windmill Dance Group held a Valentine's Dance on Friday 14 February when dancers of all abilities took to the floor to 'strut their stuff'. Ballroom and Latin dances alternated throughout the evening and there was even a short lesson for all on the Mambo. This dance is also the basis of Salsa so everyone received a BOGOF! Everyone joined in a fun elimination game where couples waltz until the music stops then bowl lemons at a bottle of bubbly. This was won by Jill and Fred Kuenzi - might they be potential recruits for the Bowls Club? All agreed that it had been a fine evening and £160 was raised for the Windmill Trust.



## FROM THE PARISH COUNCIL

The book swap facility in the telephone box is well used. However, in the last few weeks as well as quantities of books, there have also been jigsaws and a picture left in the phone box. Please can everyone respect the simple rules that are in place in the box? There is a box dedicated for children's books only which is clearly labelled, please do not use this an overflow for adult books. As this is a book swap facility, please do not leave bags of books, jigsaws or other items, it just means that someone else has to dispose of them. Also, please no magazines as these deteriorate very quickly. Thank you very much for your help and support.