

Great Chishill DCC wins Heritage Lottery Fund support for urgent repairs to the church tower



Great Chishill DCC (responsible for the care of St Swithun's church) is delighted to announce the award of £29,700 from the Heritage Lottery Fund (HLF). This development funding will allow us to begin urgent work to repair the tower. We will start with preparatory work to investigate structural defects in

the church tower, with expert advice from a specialist in "damp tower syndrome", carry out archaeological and environmental surveys, and then prepare tenders for the repair work. This support from National Lottery players will help progress our plans to apply for a full grant later this year. The initial work will start in a month or so, and the actual repairs probably in a year from now.

St Swithun's is the focal point of Great Chishill and an important example of an intact medieval parish church, whose history is strongly linked to that of the village. The church is grade II* listed, reflecting the significance of its architecture and heritage. The tower has suffered various mishaps over the years; it caught fire (affecting the roof and floor under the bells) in the disastrous fire of 1798, when eighty per cent of the village was destroyed. The tower began to crumble badly in 1884 and the top fell off in 1891. It was rebuilt in 1896-7 at a cost of £865, but without the original spire. Now it is suffering serious damage as a result of water penetration through the upper flint walls, especially the East face. This urgently needs repairing as the historic fabric is being damaged internally – you can see how the stone of the tower arch and nearby plaster are crumbling – as well as externally.

The project aims to make the tower watertight and repair the damage. We will also install basic facilities in the church, water, toilet, kitchenette, and open up the space at the back of the church. This wonderful and much loved building can then be used by the wider community for meetings and events.

This first-round pass means that HLF has endorsed our outline proposals and earmarked funding, as well as contributing towards the costs of the initial work. Once we know what restoration work is needed we will submit detailed proposals to HLF in a second-round application later this year. As long as our plans have progressed satisfactorily and according to the original proposal, an award for the full project is confirmed. In our case the full project costs are estimated at £352,000 with £249,100 coming from HLF. The rest will come from VAT recovery, our own fundraising efforts and by applying to other grant giving agencies.

I'd like to take the opportunity to say a huge "Thank you" to everyone who has given so generously of their time and money towards our restoration appeal. We still need to raise more money to meet our share of the total project costs, but with your help we are now about to take the first steps towards "saving our village icon for future generations". For further information contact Ro Gadian, (member of Great Chishill DCC) on 01763 837075 1drakeral@gmail.com

About the Heritage Lottery Fund: Thanks to National Lottery players, we invest money to help people across the UK explore, enjoy and protect the heritage they care about - from the archaeology under our feet to the historic parks and buildings we love, from precious memories and collections to rare wildlife. [@heritagelottery](http://www.hlf.org.uk)



**TWO VILLAGE ICONS JOIN FORCES
FOR A MUSIC NIGHT
ON SATURDAY 16 JULY 2016
IN THE VILLAGE HALL AT 7.30 PM
SAVE THE DATE! MORE IN NEXT ISSUE**



RECTOR ANNOUNCES HIS RETIREMENT

Andy Colebrooke has announced his resignation as Rector of this parish, and his retirement from stipendiary ministry.

Andy said: 'These last seven years have been amongst the happiest of my ministry and we have both loved being part of this church and area. We are deeply grateful to you all for making our time here such a joy. I'll be 66 in the summer and we



both feel that now is the right time to step

down and allow others to take the parish forward.' Andy and Hazel are not going far - only to Saffron Walden!

Andy's last Sunday will be 18th September.

PARISH COUNCIL NEWS

The Parish Council's Annual General Meeting and Annual Parish Meeting is on 20 May in the Village Hall. The AGM is at 6:30pm and will be followed by the Annual Parish Meeting at 7:30pm for 8.00pm. Refreshments will be served. Everyone is most welcome!

Women's Institute
 17 May, Village Hall 7.30pm
Resolutions Meeting

- 1] Avoid food waste, address food poverty
- 2] Appropriate care in hospitals for people with dementia



Photo: Gordon Brown

Audiences the world over have enjoyed Crispian Steele-Perkins' trumpet performances. He's played the Royal Albert Hall, Sydney Opera House, New York's Carnegie Hall and now, St Swithun's Church Great Chishill! An audience of 150 packed the church on 15 April to enjoy this concert generously sponsored by two local people in which Crispian was accompanied by talented local organist Richard Carr.

As well as winning new fans for trumpet music, around £2,500 was raised for the St Swithun's Appeal Fund, taking funds raised so far to over £41,000.

**Great Chishill
 Village Fun Day**
Sunday 17th July 2-5pm

Fun and games for all ages with teas, tombola, raffle, bouncy castle, dog show..... and lots more!

To get involved contact
 Emily 836257 or Islay 838194

HAPPY BIRTHDAY YOUR MAJI

The Pheasant is hosting a family day on 11 June to celebrate the 90th birthday of HRH The Queen. There will be a mini beer festival, food, games for children, tractor rides, music and the Parish Council Mementos for Children will be handed out. Do come along for a great family event. More next month.

BIN COLLECTIONS

	Black	Blue & Green
MAY	7(Sat)	13
	13	20
	27	Sat 4 June



Sunday 15th May, 2016
Great Chishill Village Hall
 SG8 8SH

Auctioneer David Palmer

(As seen on 'Flog it' & 'Bargain Hunt')

TIMES

Saturday 14th

7.00 - 8.30 ~ Open to bring items to be sold at the auction.

Sunday 15th

10.00 -12.00 ~ Open to bring items to be sold at the auction.

12.00 - 1.00 ~ Viewing for buyers.

1.00 ~ Auction starts.

£2 fee per lot bought or sold at the auction.

Plus 10% commission for all items bought and sold.

Donations to the auction are most welcome.

BBQ, cakes and refreshments.

Is there treasure in YOUR shed?

One man's rubbish is another man's treasure.

A GREAT afternoon out and feel the buzz of the auction.

Contact -- Angus 01763 838941 or angusgent@gmail.com

This is a fund raising event held in aid of the church restoration fund.

...it's our turn now to save our village icon for future generations.

Young People Debate the EU Referendum

Wednesday 1st June 7:30-9:00pm, Melbourn Community Hub (doors open at 7:00)

Free to all, and all ages welcome in the audience. Our panel and chair will be made up of young people aged 15-25, educated in Melbourn Village College catchment area schools.

Please submit your questions in advance, and include your contact details, to Susan van de Ven:

susanvanden5@gmail.com, or 95 North End, Meldreth, SG8 6NU.

Great Chishill Cricket Club

Forget the cricket, reputedly we have the best teas in the whole of the league! Last season, having won our league, we were promoted to South Cambs division 1. This season we are looking to consolidate our position in the league and continue to enjoy the best teas! We are a friendly club who always welcome new players, supporters and vice presidents. If you would like to fit in to any of those categories please contact Angus Gent 01763838941 or angusgent@gmail.com. We look forward to seeing you up at the Meadow on a Saturday afternoon.