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The Chishills

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A Walk on the Wild Side

Are you interested in: Industrial Archaeology, Geomorphology, Dendrology, Badger Science - or just helping remove a load of rusty corrugated iron, currently an eyesore in a Chishill beauty spot, to a more suitable resting place?

The Chishill Chalk Pit is a secret oasis along the New Road footpath which since Victorian times has been a dump for scrap iron in the village. It is even rumoured to contain a Model T Ford! We would like to remove the most unsightly scrap but otherwise keep the wildness of the place, beloved of those that know it.

The Pit is part of Lynchets Farm and owned by the County Council. Nick Kiddy the new tenant has very kindly given permission for a clear-up and we now have to sort out insurance for the operation, which has the blessing of the Parish Council. A member of the Hertfordshire Badger Group has offered to identify setts so these can be avoided and work will probably start in the autumn, once the foliage has died down.

If you are interested in giving a couple of hours to help, please contact Ruth or Robin Dibblee on robin.dibblee@btinternet.com. In return you will receive a copy 1910 photograph of (unfortunately) badger-baiters in the Old Chalk (or Clunch) Pit and a 1907 post-card view of the unmade Barley Road, surfaced with Clunch.

And, if you want to have a look, please don't stray from the footpath.



ANNUAL PARISH MEETING

The Annual Meeting of the Parish will take place on Friday 17th May at 7:30pm in the Village Hall. Do come along and hear what village organisations have been up to in the past year. Light refreshments and a glass of wine will be served. The Parish Council look forward to seeing you then.

Your Youth Club Needs You... but only a little bit!

The village Youth Club remains a popular hub for local young people from the surrounding schools to socialise; a precious resource to keep up friendships and community. There is a lot of free play and fun, plus sports, games, cookery and craft themed evenings. As summer looms, attendance is increasing to the high 20's which is wonderful.

Our two youth workers remain a constant in the planning and structure of the club but as attendance numbers go up it is vital that we have extra adult volunteers to support them. Currently we have only one volunteer which is far from ideal.

The youth club runs on Tuesdays from 6.30-8.30 pm, in term time only. If you are keen to keep the club running, and can offer 2 hours of your time a month we would be thrilled to hear from you. Older teenagers seeking work experience for DofE awards are always welcome too. To find out more please contact Emily on 01763 836257. *Thank you!*

Heydon Grange Celebrates

Our nearest golf and country club, Heydon Grange, is celebrating its 25th birthday with a Mixed Open Tournament on Thursday 4 July. It's a 4 ball AM-AM and the £120 team entry fee will help to support East Anglian Air Ambulance. You'll get coffee and a bacon roll on arrival, a half-way house and rolling buffet, and there will be on-course prizes and an auction. It should be a great day. For more information, visit www.heydongrangepgolf.co.uk, or call Malcolm Knobel-Forbes on 838781.



Andrew Drury (on right) was this year's Bowls Club champion, defeating David Bannister.

St Swithun's Weekend

Fri – Sun, 5 – 7 July

There will be a variety of activities. bike rides, walks, treasure hunt and orienteering, music, flower festival, BBQ and cream teas over the course of the weekend. There will be Pimms o'clock with music at The Manse to kickstart the weekend on Friday evening. The weekend will come to a close with a village 'Songs of Praise' on Sunday evening.

More details in the next newsletter. All in aid of Church funds.



Great Chishill Windmill Trust invites you to the GRAND RE-OPENING of GREAT CHISHILL WINDMILL on SATURDAY 8TH JUNE 2019

Parking at Great Chishill Village Hall Car Park (no parking at Mill)

1.15 PM – 2.00 PM Richmonds Coach - shuttle begins to Windmill

Have a celebratory drink at the Windmill

2.30 PM GRAND RE-OPENING CEREMONY WITH SPECIAL GUESTS

Inside tours of the windmill

3.30 PM Richmonds Coach – shuttle back to the Village Hall

4.00 PM Afternoon Tea and other attractions in the Village Hall

URC Services

Sunday 5th May: Evensong with Communion led by Rev John Bradbury. Evening Drinks afterwards.

Sunday 19th May: Morning Service 9.30am, preceded by Christian Aid Big Breakfast at from 8.15 am. PLEASE could you let Tess know if you would like to join us for breakfast.

St Swithun's Appeal charity dinner
The URC Schoolroom hosted the Charity Dinner that raised £800 at the St Swithun's Ball last year. 16 very jolly guests of the Pines enjoyed a superb evening. The Schoolroom was transformed into a French restaurant and the Appeal Committee cooked an amazing 7 course dinner. Huge thanks goes to them for their extreme generosity last summer and enormous thanks to the committee for their hard work to make it all possible.

Women's Institute
21 May, 7.30

Resolutions Meeting - plus wine and cheese

Visitors welcome, call Angela 837353

BIN DAYS - MAY

Black	Blue/Green
	1(Wed)
8 (Wed)	14
21	29 (Wed)

Church update

You may have noticed that the church has had further repair work to the exterior – the area between the tower and porch on the South side. These walls were suffering from damage similar to the tower, with significant cracks in the walls and buttresses, and missing or damaged flints which let in water, potentially leading to long term damage. We're pleased that this has all now been repaired to the same high standard as the tower. The channels which run round the base of the church and take the rainwater from the downpipes were cracked and leaking. These have also been fixed, so that will help reduce sources of damp in the church.

We were able to pay for the work from our remaining HLF grant. We had some money left over (once all the bills were paid and VAT reclaimed), but it could only be spent on tower repairs and damp reduction.

We hope to start on the next phase in the summer. We want to create an open space right across the back of the church, for the use of the whole community for meeting and events. The floor and pews will be taken out, a new kitchenette / servery area installed and a new limestone floor laid, plus associated electrical and heating work. We have most of the funding needed, but we will take up the offer of an interest-free loan from Cambridgeshire Historic Churches Trust so we can complete the project without too much further delay.



The Windmill Reaches its Turning Point

The big day is almost upon us! Our millwrights are full steam ahead for finishing the tail assembly and re-fitting the sails; the track is ready; volunteers have painted everything they could find; and we have a new gardener bringing the site into trim order. June 8th will be a day to remember and we do hope that everyone will enjoy the celebration of our Grand Re-opening. Even at this late stage the mill had an unpleasant surprise for us. We needed one of the sail stocks to be lowered from the windmill, as we knew it would require repair. This was no mean feat for two men with a bunch of ropes and ratchet straps, the thing weighed around 800kg. Once down, it was all too obvious that it was extensively rotted and a replacement was required. An 11m length of wood of that cross-section is not cheap but we found one and

squeezed the funds to buy it, so the sails will be ready for the Re-opening.

We are also fitting handrails to the stairway to make it much safer on the strange two-stage ladder at the entrance to the mill. It will be well worth looking inside as there will be an exhibition of milling artefacts and some of the items found when metal detecting in the adjacent fields. The 'Turning Point' will be the completion of the fantail and the mechanism that drives the carriage to turn the mill into wind. We intend for this to be ready for June 8th but will need careful assessment of its capabilities and potential hazards before we let it run by itself. None of this would have been possible without fantastic support from the village and our growing number of Friends of the Windmill. From all of us on the Committee, a heart-felt thank you to one and all!