

14 October was certainly a big day for anyone interested in local history. Our two current restoration projects - St Swithuns and the Windmill - both mounted initiatives which shone a light on our village's recent and ancient past.

Village History Revealed

On 14 October Professor Carena Lewis talked to an enthralled audience about the history and archaeology of Great Chishill. Carena Lewis has appeared on many TV programmes on history and archaeology, and she ably showed her talent for bringing the past to life. Taking a panorama from the top of St Swithun's tower as her starting point, she led us through a fascinating journey of discovery covering the Icknield Way and the prehistoric landscape – aerial photos showed evidence of Neolithic enclosures all around the village. She told us about the nearby Anglo-Saxon cemetery, where it seemed the victims had been decapitated!, a massive defensive system across Cambridgeshire, of which Bran Ditch (running from Heydon to Fowlmere) forms a part together with Devil's Dyke and Fleam Dyke. She painted a vivid picture of Great Chishill as a village on the borders, between the wooded hills in the south and the marshy lowlands, and of the nuclear villages to the north and the dispersed villages to the south. We learned about the development of the village, The Stonk, a medieval moated manor; holloways, strip lynchets and lost fields and much more. It was a wonderful evening, and following the talk there was a lively question and answer session, with everyone enjoying drinks and nibbles. This event celebrated the start of our Heritage Lottery Fund project, to repair the church tower and provide new facilities.

Ro Gadian



Unearthing the Past

Nine o'clock on 14 October, 51 keen metal 'detectorists' of the East Coast Searchers group gathered on Tom Duke's field on the Little Chishill Road to see what evidence they could find of our predecessors.

Klaine Feagan is currently working on the repair of our windmill and came up with the idea of bringing his colleagues to see what they could unearth that would add detail to Chishill's long and varied history. The group is based around Manningtree though one couple had travelled from Padstow, Cornwall to join in!

Tom kindly agreed to them using his 40-acre field, the sun shone and everyone had a grand time. At the end of the day, Sue Clark, Chair of the East Coast Searchers, said that it had been a very productive and enjoyable event. As well as ancient buckles, clasps, musket balls, spinning weights and buttons, a well-preserved wax seal stamp was found. Coins were also numerous, including a fine looking Roman piece thought to be from the reign of Constantius II – AD 337 to 361 (see picture).

The group kindly donated some of their finds to the Windmill Trust for display in the mill. They, and Tom Duke, generously waived all expenses and charges donating all proceeds to the windmill restoration – a magnificent £792.50! Our thanks go to all concerned for arranging a novel and interesting way to raise funds.

David McKeown

CRAFTS ON THE HILL

Saturday 2 December 

Great Chishill Village Hall

10.00 - 4.30

CRAFTS AND GIFTS MADE BY
LOCAL CRAFTSPEOPLE

Teas and Cakes, Hot Dogs

CHRISTMAS TREES FOR SALE

Donations for St Swithuns and Windmill
Restoration Funds

Enquiries and stalls: Lindsey 838897

CHISHILLS CRIME SURVEY

PC Clerk Sarah Scott tells us that there were 57 completed surveys. Asked how safe from crime we feel in Chishill, on a scale of 1 (safest) to 5 (least safe) most people indicated a 3. 36 respondents thought that the Chishills had a similar level of crime compared to other areas in South Cambs, and most thought that there had been between 5 - 10 crimes in the village in the past year. 51 people said they would report all crimes and burglaries, and interesting 56 said that they would only report a crime if they were to make an insurance claim. A total of 9 respondents said that they had been a victim of crime in the last year. 32 would like to see some sort of improved security and suggestions of what ranged far and wide. Finally 36 people would like to attend a talk on rural crime prevention.

Crime will be on the agenda at the next Parish Council meeting, and the PC's Facebook page (<https://www.facebook.com/GLCPC>) will flag up all crimes they know of.

It's thought by many that some of our local crime seems to go unreported on the Ecops service.

Gr Chishill & Heydon Children's Christmas Party
 with fun & games from Strikey Wipey,
 party food and a very special visitor!

 Sunday 10th December 3 - 5pm
 Gr Chishill Village Hall

 Free to all pre and primary school age children
 in Heydon, Gr & Lt Chishill. Book your place
 by 1st December with Emily 836257 or Islay 838194

St Swithun's Christmas Tree Festival
in the church, Great Chishill:

Saturday 9th December 2pm – 6pm
AND
Sunday 10th December 12 midday – 4pm

Christmas Music and Singing

Festive Tea on Saturday 9th
Christmassy Food on Sunday 10th

Royston and District Choral Society

Presents Bach's joyous and beautiful Christmas Oratorio (Parts 1-4) on Saturday 18th November 7.30 pm at Royston Parish Church by kind permission of the Church Wardens.
 We are familiar with the 'Twelve Days of Christmas' tradition, but within those 12 days, elements of the story - Jesus's birth, the Annunciation to the Shepherds, the Adoration of the Shepherds, the Wise Men's journey and the rest of the story were remembered in readings on specific days. Bach's Christmas Oratorio is in parts, each written for performance on one of those feast days.
 With soloists Nina Bennett, soprano, Oliver Gerrish, counter tenor, and making a welcome return, Laurence Williams, bass, with the orchestral talents of East Herts Sinfonia, this promises to be an uplifting and memorable concert.
 Tickets £15, Concessions £12, School Students £1, available from Choir members, online at <https://bit.ly/RCSNov2017> or from Caroline Franks Tel 01920 822723 – email caroline.franks@rf152.co.uk and on the door

United Reformed Church

Services
 5 Nov at 9.30am
 17 Nov at 9.30am
 Led by Rev Duncan Goldie
URC Cinema
 Tuesday 14 November.
 The Hundred -Foot Journey starring Helen Mirren.
 We were a sell-out last month and the sofas were occupied very early - so if you want a seat on the sofa, doors open at 7pm for a 7.30 start.
 Dates for November: Tuesday 7th and 21st @ 10am at the URC.
Silver Surfers
 Our bi-monthly internet café goes from strength to strength; regulars and also many new faces attend. It's very informal with plenty of computer chat accompanied by tea, coffee and cake. You don't have to bring your own laptop or iPad (but are welcome to do so if you prefer) as we have a bank of laptops for all to use. We cover lots of topics and many areas of computer use, including emailing, internet searching and social media. We're even creating our own Facebook page! Sessions end with a discussion of our 'be able to do wish list' and will include an App of the Week.
 Do feel free to join us, you don't have to stay for the whole 2 hours. Or email us at chishillsilversurfers@gmail.com.

Remembrance Service
Sunday 12 November at 10.50 am.
 United Service of Remembrance
 St Swithun's, Great Chishill

CHRISTMAS WREATHS
 In aid of St Swithun's Appeal. Order one of your choice in advance from Tess 838941 or take pot luck at Crafts on the Hill.

Scottish Dancing We are thrilled to welcome several new dancers into the clan. It is not a course so just come and enjoy a couple of hours of fun and laughter and a jolly good workout! A selection of drams and other beverages make for a relaxed, friendly and feel good factor evening. The men would welcome more men and the women would relish not having to be men!!

Cricket Club Dinner We hosted over 80 people for the annual awards evening. It is also an opportunity to thank all those that make the cricket club run and the season work. After each match, the opposition's captain assesses the wicket and pitch, and it has been rated very highly. So huge credit must go to Simon Coxall and his merry men! A delicious three course supper, dancing to The Elderlies and a room decorated in Club colours made for a very enjoyable evening.

Women's Institute
21 November 7.30pm
Victorian Magic
Lantern Show
 Visitors welcome- call Angela 837353

BIN COLLECTIONS

| | Black | Blue & Green |
|-----|-------|--------------|
| Nov | 7 | 14 |
| | 21 | 28 |