

The Chishills

TOWER CLOCK CHIMES AGAIN

The clock in the tower of Great Chishill church has just had an overhaul. This was prompted by the failure of the chiming mechanism, which not only stopped the clock from chiming but also caused potential damage to the tenor bell.

The clock is a large piece of Victorian engineering, the size of a small chest of drawers, which resides on the 2nd floor of the tower. It is not known when it was put into the church but it must have been after the tower collapsed in 1892 and it is known to have been present in 1904. It is manually wound once a week, 2 very large weights being wound up to the top of the 2nd floor, and descending during one week to ground level. One weight is for the time and the other for the striking. Striking is initiated by the 'big hand' reaching 12 but there is no



physical connection between the hour hand and the number of chimes, which is why sometimes it may strike the wrong number of chimes! When the clock reaches the hour, a lever is activated which pulls on a series

of metal wire links eventually causing a very heavy metal hammer to hit the bell. This hammer rocks on a pivot and the whole assembly was bolted onto a series of old, wooden blocks, crudely nailed together and gradually deteriorating, so that the hammer assembly was getting nearer and nearer to the bell, until it finally failed altogether. It is this assembly that has been replaced with an adjustable metal arrangement, which has enabled the horologist to make the hammer hit in just right place to get the optimal sound from the bell. He also increased the striking weights, which means that it rings slightly louder, and has replaced all the old wire linkages to make the whole system more robust. All this of course came at a cost – £1200. Phil Maynard put out an email to residents explaining the problem and what needed to be done and he would like to say a big thank you to all the people who, without being asked, donated enough money in a week to pay the bill.

Beginners Pilates Class at Great Chishill

If you have ever considered Pilates this is a great opportunity to join a class of beginners with an experienced instructor. Starting in the Autumn, it will be at the village hall for an hour each week on a weekday. It is open to men and women of any age. The aim is to keep the class small so this means places are limited so to find out more, please contact Andrea on 838465 / email andrea@littlewissett.co.uk

100 Years Ago: The Sad Death of Frederick Phillips

Rural life in the past was no peaceful idyll. There were manifest dangers for the unwary, especially in those pre-health and safety days, as the tragic story of little Frederick Phillips illustrates. The toddler died at Chishill windmill in 1919, exactly a century ago this month. The Royston Crow reported the incident:

**GREAT CHISHILL
LITTLE BOY KILLED BY WINDMILL
SAILS.**

'The little boy, a son of Mr and Mrs Phillips of Mill House, Great Chishill, who was struck on the head by the revolving sails of the windmill, has, we regret, died in Addenbrooke's Hospital as the result of the incident. The little boy was named Frederick and was just under two years of age. The inquest was held.... at Addenbrooke's Hospital by the Borough Coroner Mr G A Wootten.

The father, Edward Willis Frederick Phillips, of Mill House, Chishill, said he had seen and identified the body of his son. The accident occurred on Monday October 13th, when the boy was playing close to the windmill with two little girls, his sister and cousin, aged five and six years. When the sails of the mill were revolving, they came within about a foot from the ground. The accident occurred while witness was out, but on his return he saw that the boy had been hit on the head. The doctor who first attended the case, advised that a second opinion should be obtained, and a Cambridge doctor was called in. As a result of joint advice, witness took his son to Addenbrooke's Hospital. Allen Frank Chaplin of High Street, Barley, stated that at about 1pm he was in the mill yard at Chishill, talking to the miller's son, when Mrs Phillips ran out and said "Oh, where's my son?" They ran to the mill, which was working, and found the boy under the sails. He was sitting up crying between the sails and the mill and there was a mark where he had been struck on the forehead. The miller's son went in and stopped the mill, and witness picked the boy up and handed him to his mother. He had no doubt that the sail struck the boy. William Pegram, miller, of Great Chishill, gave similar evidence, and said children frequently went into the mill'.

After the surgeon from Addenbrooke's reported that the child died from a cerebral depression, a verdict of Accidental Death was returned. There's a sad postscript to this already sad tale: the 'Crow' reported a year later the sudden death of Frederick's mother: 'Mrs Phillips was of a bright and kindly disposition' the story said. 'Mrs and Mrs Phillips lost their little son just 12 months ago. He was struck by the sail of a windmill and this shock Mrs Phillips had never really got over.'

Chishill Memories

Andrew Drury kindly supplied the sad tale of Frederick Phillips. We'd like to run more features about our village history. If you have any memories or stories from Chishill's past you would like to share, please get in touch with the editor, Neil Heywood

United Reformed Church Services for October

Sunday 6 October: Evensong at 6 pm led by Rev'd John Bradbury of Emmanuel Cambridge. The service will be followed by Harvest Supper in the Schoolroom. Everyone from the village is very welcome. There is no obligation to attend the service first. A collection and a gathering of dried food will be made for Jimmy's Night Shelter.

Sunday 20 October: Morning Service 9.30 am.

Cinema Night: Tuesday 8 October: 'Red Joan' starring Judy Dench. Doors open 7.00. Film starts at 7.30pm. If you want to book your favourite seat please contact Tess on tessgent@gmail.com or 07721398642. We will happily run the film a second night again if there is the demand, but we do NEED to know.

'Fisherman's Friends' was the first film of our new cinema. With fish and chips, mini Cornish pasties, Cornish Tribute beer and ice cream, a very jolly evening was had by all. So much so, that we had to repeat the whole thing the following evening! People were heard singing sea shanties on their way home!

Scottish Dancing starts Monday 7 October. Excellent tuition, great fun and fantastic exercise, all rewarded with a wee dram (or anything else you prefer) at half time. We would love to see new faces, men and women, boys and girls, to join us regulars.

Great Chishill Youth Club

Tuesdays 6.30 - 8.30pm

Gt Chishill Village Hall

For all local young people Aged 10 - 16

£2 admission

Tuck shop, games, Crafts and lots more!

Club dates for Autumn Term 2019

Sept Tues 10th, 24th

Oct Tues 1st, 8th, 22nd **Half Term**

Nov Tues 5th, 12th, 26th

Dec Tues 3rd, 10th **Christmas Holidays**

Youth Workers: Dan Horne 07958 342821

Steph Hicks 07514 664076

Other queries: Emily Brown 01763 836257

BREXIT ALERT!

Yes, the dreaded B-word has even got into the Chishills Newsletter. There's a good reason, though, suggested by Bob Hatt. If the UK crashes out of the EU on 31 October, and if the gloomier predictions about shortages do come true, please keep an eye open for your neighbours, especially any who might be less able and in need of some hard-to-get commodity or medication. You may be able to help. Let's revive the spirit of the Blitz and look out for one another!

A MOBILE HAIRDRESSER.

Sian Treadwell lives in the village and will come to your house to do adults' and children's hair. Very good value. Highly recommended.

07949818436

(Not an ad - a testimonial from a happy customer - Ed.)

Women's Institute,

15 October, 7.30

The History of Saffron Walden

with Sarah Kirkpatrick
Visitors welcome, call Angela
837353

CHRISTMAS TREE FESTIVAL DATE SET

Tess Gent and Jill Kuenzi, organisers of 2017's successful Christmas Tree Festival, plan to do it again this year. They've booked the



church for the weekend of 14

and 15 December, and hope

that once more St Swithun's will

be filled with themed trees

prepared by community groups.

The Wren Choir, Cambridge

have kindly agreed to come and

sing again, and Tess tells us

she's hoping to have a wide variety of music to listen to throughout

the weekend, including Chishill School Choir. There will be the

usual teas, coffees and delicious cakes and festive food on sale.

Tess and Jill told local groups: "We thought we'd do it a bit

differently this year - each tree will be the title of a Christmas Carol

and your organisation can interpret this in the way you most want."

Save the date!

Ian McCombie

For those who remember Joyce Mc-Crombie who lived on Hall Lane, it is with sadness that we report of the death of her youngest son Ian, at the end of August from asbestosis aged 70. His elder brother Robin and wife Joy came to lay his flowers on Joyce's bench in the URC churchyard.



BIN DAYS - OCT

Black Blue/Green

1

8 15

22 29

Great Chishill Cricket Club Annual Dinner

Save the date

Saturday 23 November

Info/tickets from Angus