

# The Chishills

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## 50 Years in Great Chishill

By John Crawley

Next month I will have lived in Chishill in the same (somewhat modified) bungalow for 50 years. The Building Society was reluctant to offer a mortgage, as it saw the village as lifeless and declining. Their judgment was poor. There was a local shop, the school was still open and we were served by mobile grocers and butchers. Early memories include a visit to the Plough (a basic name for a basic Pub), now the much grander Pheasant. Darts were neigh impossible due to the low ceiling, but what really impressed were Sid Manning's skills at dominoes. We were visited by Rev. Croft, who charmingly gave us an insight into the village, while emptying our one bottle of whiskey. Our bungalow was built by Father Herr, who was Chaplin to the post war Polish community, mainly ex pilots from Fowlmere. There were already some other incomers, including the Watsons, Windsors, Goodbys and Stirlings, but dominated by original village families.

The first "Threat" to the village was the proposed science park to be built between New Road and Barley Road. This was rejected on the basis of the outstanding beauty of the landscape. Another was the proposed third London Airport at Nuthampsted, extending to the boundaries of the village. The campaign against this was vigorous and included memorable dances in Ben Palmers fruit storage sheds, (in the absence of a suitable village Hall). The campaign was successful and possibly led the way to the expansion of Stansted, by stealth. The football and cricket clubs were at the center of things, operating from a rickety shed at the far end

of the playing field. Dr. Windsor persuaded the Sport's Council that sport would be played for ever on the field and they reluctantly provided a grant for the new pavilion on land held in Trust. The old village Hall (near the vicarage) was in a sad state but there was understandable opposition by the established villagers to its demolition, as it had been built in memory of the fallen in the Great War. Finally, it was agreed that the old hall could not be saved, which led to the development of Colts Croft, and a major village effort to raise funds for the existing Hall, a joint project by the emerging new comers and the original villagers.

Clubs and societies were established, including the Wine circle, probably 45 years ago. There were Whist drives at the pavilion, the Bowls Club was formed 26 years ago, the youth club has had a checkered history over at least 45 years, and others have evolved since, adding to the social structure of the village - one of its strengths. Times move on, and there remain worthwhile projects today that require our attention. The Church at the center of the village has been maintained for about 1000 years and now it is our responsibility to enable future generations to use it, if that is their wish. The Windmill is very special to the village, and also needs preservation. Both buildings are under threat. Only we villagers are able to save them, by physically getting involved, by donation or by using our skills in wider fund-raising activities.

I have loved living here,

*John Crawley*



Locals welcome the Tour de France in early July. Thanks to P. Brand for the photo

## FLAGGING UP LOCAL CONSULTATIONS

The Parish Council is frequently asked for its opinions after consultation with its Parishioners. For example, the recent Survey on Household Waste Recycling Plants, or the Superfast Broadband Consultation. We post these consultations on the Parish Council website but you need to take the initiative to access them. They will still be posted but we would like put together a database of Parishioners email addresses so you can be alerted to consultations individually. This data would be used for matters relating to the Parish Council only (we have a data protection policy) and would not be passed on. To be included on this database, send an email to Sarah Scott -

[sascott42@gmail.com](mailto:sascott42@gmail.com) .



## ROYSTON ARTS SOCIETY

**Annual Art Exhibition**

Royston Town Hall,

Melbourn Street, Royston

**27th - 28th September 2014**

**Saturday 10am - 5pm & Sunday**

**10am - 4.30pm**

[www.roystonartsociety.org.uk](http://www.roystonartsociety.org.uk)

## Great Chishill Cricket Club DINNER DANCE

Saturday 13 September  
Great Chishill Village Hall  
19:00  
Tickets £20 including food  
Dancing to **Simon Crow** Disco  
Contact:  
Angus Gent [07885 307301](tel:07885307301)  
Richard Brunt [07518 365570](tel:07518365570)  
Andrew Drury [01763 837364](tel:01763837364)

## MOBILE LIBRARY TIMETABLE

2<sup>nd</sup> Friday in the month

**12 Sept, 10 Oct.**

The Church 13.25 - 14.05



## MELBOURN LIBRARY TIMETABLE

Mon, Tues, Wed, Fri:

14.30-16.30

Thurs: 14:30 - 18:30

Saturday: 10.00-12.00

## WOMEN'S INSTITUTE MEETING

Great Chishill Village Hall  
3<sup>rd</sup> Tuesday in month at 19:30  
16 September  
"A 1500 mile coach  
journey around Britain"  
by Barry Kaufman Wright

## NEWS FROM OUR LOCAL COUNCILLORS

Normally the councils slow down a bit over the summer but this year has been busy, on account of the continuing momentum of cuts (or savings, according to preferred institutional language). The county's new cross-party system means that all councillors are kept regularly involved and can find common sense consensus on key points early on in the process. However, virtually every service faces further reduction and looking to protect one thing means compensating from elsewhere. For the Chishills, undoubtedly one of the most contentious areas will be winter gritting. Closure or drastic reduction in opening hours at recycling centres is another. The

county's library service faces big cuts though it is now clear that Library Access Points like the one that has been protected via the Melbourn Community Hub will provide a model for continuation, not closure. Through the success of community hubs we are able to take stock of other services hubs can provide, like Citizens' Advice drop-in sessions - and argue where necessary for essential support. The CAB is at Melbourn on the first Monday and third Tuesday of the month, from 9:30-12:30. These advice sessions are free and don't require any advance booking. A great deal of comparative, very localized, demographic information has been made publicly available at [www.localhealth.org.uk](http://www.localhealth.org.uk) - for example, income deprivation and child poverty indexes for Cambridgeshire villages. These provide a window on quality of life - and geographic disparities - around the county.

If you are interested in train services from Foxton, Shepreth or Meldreth, please come along to the Rail User Group meeting on September 24, 7:30, at Foxton Village Hall. The new train company, Govia, will be there, as will Network Rail, to answer any questions.

Our drop-in surgery continues on the first Monday of the month, 2:30-3:30, at the Melbourn Community Hub - across from the Melbourn High Street Car Park. Meanwhile, please don't hesitate to get in touch with either of us should you have any queries or concerns.

Jose Hales, [jose@josehales.me.uk](mailto:jose@josehales.me.uk),  
Tel 221058

Susan van de Ven,  
[susanvandeven@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:susanvandeven@yahoo.co.uk), Tel  
261833

## Royston Choral Society

Free taster sessions with Royston Choral Society from 9 Sept

See our website

<http://www.roystonchoralsoc.org.uk>

/ for more information or

telephone Heather Howard 01763

249058 email

[heather@lemonyellow.org](mailto:heather@lemonyellow.org)

## CARE NETWORK CAMBRIDGESHIRE

is helping people at risk of isolation and loneliness to feel supported in their local community and stay healthy, happy and independent for longer. Could you volunteer to support someone by finding information, or helping with small jobs around the home?

We'd love to hear from you if you need support

or would like to volunteer!

01954 212100

[admin@care-network.org.uk](mailto:admin@care-network.org.uk)

[www.care-network.org.uk](http://www.care-network.org.uk)

Charity No. 1120693

## BLOOMING GREAT OPEN GARDENS!

Great Chishill DCC is thrilled to announce that the Open Gardens on 15<sup>th</sup> June raised over £1000. Thank you to everyone who came to visit. Thank you so much to all the gardeners who took such trouble to make their gardens look so beautiful. All the visitors received a wonderful welcome and had a thoroughly enjoyable time!

## BIN COLLECTIONS

	Black	Green & Blue
Sept		
	12	05
	27	19
Oct		
	10	03
		17

