

CHISHILL MOURNS TWO WELL KNOWN PERSONALITIES

January saw the loss of two prominent and well loved citizens with the deaths of Andrew Gardiner and Jim Brearley. Parish Council Clerk Sarah Scott, who worked with and knew them both well, has written these tributes.

James 'Jimbo' Brearley was one of those characters who once met, is never forgotten. He had a warmth and generosity which knew no bounds and a heart as big as his beloved native Yorkshire.

You see, when Jimbo decided to do something he throw everything at it. The 'Red Book' being a prime example - produced by Jimbo to celebrate the Millennium, picturing every house in the village and most current residents with some 'blurb' about then. Jim painstakingly put this together and had it printed - it is a fabulous book.

The mischievous side of Jim was evident when he 'blagged' his way back stage at a Van Morrison Gig (not sure I would mess with 'Van the Man') and got to meet him - all because his daughter Sarah and he shared a great love of Van's song 'Brown Eyed Girl'.

Jimbo was immensely proud of his family. His wife Pauline meant the world to him. He had two children, Simon and Sarah and four grandchildren who he adored - Jim had a natural empathy with children. Jim was so proud of what Simon and Sarah had achieved in their family and professional lives. He owned a successful toy company, Tolo Toys (which Pauline helped to run) and his products were simple, but brilliant. He enjoyed fishing and would often disappear with his rods for many hours. Music was a passion he shared with his son Simon. They regularly jammed together and who can forget the fantastic concert they both played in only last summer in the Village Hall? An entertaining and moving evening.

When Jimbo was diagnosed with Stage 4 cancer in June 2016, there was an air of total disbelief, but Pauline was so strong during his illness, and this very close knit family managed to support one another through an ugly time. Maybe that is the wrong word, as Jim set himself many positive and joyful goals throughout his illness: celebrating his 70th and his Mothers 100th birthdays, getting back out to Spain, visiting fine restaurants and having a great big happy family Christmas.

Jimbo did so many good things. He served on the Parish Council, set up the Windmill Trust, created the tennis club, organised the Millennium Ball, the list goes on.....

There is just one more thing I want to say to Jimbo: "Jim love, make mine a Becks in a tart's glass!"



Andrew Gardiner was a tremendous asset to the village in his role of Chairman of the Parish Council. A Parish Councillor since 2004, he was a real 'doer', getting things done in his own, unique style. At meetings, he was thoughtful, witty and to the point, and I for one, always looked forward to meetings under his chairmanship. What people might not realise is that he did so much and liked nothing more than a good project or problem to painstakingly research and get stuck into.



Outside of the Parish Council, Andrew was a keen sportsman, regularly playing real tennis, squash and tennis. He, Kate and friends also liked to explore the UK and Europe on walking holidays. He was an exceptionally pro-active Chairman of the Cambridgeshire Care Network, a challenging role which saw him tackle issues such as funding cuts head-on and he never shied away from the responsibility of the job in hand.

Andrew was hugely respected by his Parish Councillors, District Councillors and our County Councillor; meetings will never be the same and his personality has left a huge void.

To Kate, Oliver, Alex and Melissa, the Parish Council sends our love and deepest sympathy - Andrew was a true star and a one-off character; we will miss his wry smile, his unique quips, sound judgement and luminosity.

RINGERS GET WHISTFUL

The Bellringers will be holding a 'Whist Drive' in the URC schoolroom on Saturday 18 Feb, 7.30pm (sharp). tickets are £5 per head. Nibbles provided and a donation bar. This is to be a fun evening suitable for all, even people who have no idea what whist is or how to play it. All will be explained on the night. There has been a lot of interest in this event so people are encouraged to contact me, Phil Maynard, on 01763 838311 or webmaster@greatchishill.org.uk or Jean Wiseman on 01763 295002.



News from the URC *Angus Gent writes*

The week before Christmas we had our first Internet cafe designed to help and support the less confident in IT skills to set up a Tesco online account, order food and presents online and to discover all the various deals that are available. We had a super keen gathering led kindly by an expert in this field; Jo Wood. The café opened again in January between 10.00 and 12.00, with some laptops to practise on whilst under the instruction of Jo, using a large screen to help the assembled. Frothy coffee, a selection of teas and warm mince pies were equally enjoyed. Please do come and join us if you feel you might benefit and enjoy this facility. We were thrilled to welcome 50 into the Chapel on Christmas morning, a lovely family service followed by a glass of bubbles was enjoyed by all. We have introduced a film night, turning the Schoolroom into a cinema, showing *Salmon Fishing in the Yemen*. 27 villagers enjoyed this lovely film, a glass of wine, popcorn, sweets and even an ice cream. A perfect atmosphere and fun evening was had by all. Our next showing is *What We Did Last Summer*, on Tuesday 8 February at 7.30. Our next event in the Schoolroom Dance Studio, is a light-hearted course of six Scottish Dancing lessons, starting on Monday 23 January at 7.30. Partners are actively encouraged, but not essential! Please do come and join us. We continue to hold Mike and Rosemary in our hearts, thoughts and prayers. We are enjoying using our schoolroom as a reminder to them both that we appreciated all their hard work over the years. We hold all members of the community in our thoughts and prayers, whatever their needs.

Britain's Oldest Sloe Gin competition? Be a part of History!

Ruth and Robin are hosting Great Chishill's Sloe Gin Competition, with Awards Party starting at 8.00pm at Crosshill House on 25th February (all invited). Categories are: Sloe Nouveau, Sloe Vintage and Bellringers' Delight (spirit/fruit tincture), samples of 200ml minimum to be submitted to Crosshill House by Wednesday 22nd - with a fiver entry fee per sample. Entry forms from robin.dibblee@btinternet.com or you can fill in when you bring your sample.

Competitors attend the Awards Party free; non-combatants are asked for £4.00 a head. All proceeds to the St Swithuns Bell Fund. Hot food will be provided but Ruth would welcome contributions – notifications on 838276 or via email.

This is Chishill's 20th Sloe Gin Competition, making it we think, the country's oldest Sloe Gin Competition. There are NO barriers to entry, so get friends & relatives to search out their cupboards. We hope to have entries across the Parish and beyond.

We would like to thank everyone most sincerely for all their thoughts, prayers, support and kindness over Guy's operation. He is now home and starting his rehabilitation.
Angus Tess Milly and Guy.

Women's Institute

21 February 7.30pm

Village Hall

Back by popular request

Dessert Island Disks

Visitors welcome! Call Angela 837353

What's going on at Little Chishill Church?

Little Chishill's St Nicholas Church has been in need of urgent roof repairs for some time, and raising the cost of repairs would have been more than a challenge. But last year the church was fortunate to be one of just three churches in Chelmsford Diocese to receive a Dept. of Culture, Media and Sport grant from its special fund for church roof repairs.

After months of preparatory work by architects, structural engineers, builders and the bat inspector, scaffolding went up in early October and work is now well under way. Removal of the tiles revealed more rot than expected in the overboarding. Putting this right is understandably delaying completion of the work. Whilst the December service could go ahead as the roofing was still pretty much in place, and well protected, regrettably there will be no Little Chishill service in February. Repairs should be completed by March/April.

PRECEPT HELD FOR THIRD YEAR

The Parish Council met during January and one of the agenda items was to set the Precept. It was unanimously agreed to keep the Precept at its current rate of £22,500, for the third year running.

Homestart Snowflake Appeal Coffee Morning

Very many thanks to those who contributed to the coffee morning at 6 New Road on 11 January. Their generosity enabled me to take £273 down to the Homestart office at Meldreth.
Ann Lane

BIN COLLECTIONS

	Black	Blue & Green
FEB	3	10
	17	24
MAR	3	10