



CHRISTMAS TREE FESTIVAL SUCCESS

St Swithun's Church was the setting for the village's latest Christmas Tree Festival. The two-day event featured 25 trees, each one decorated on the theme of a Christmas carol and sponsored by



virtually every village club and organisation. It's amazing to think we have 25 of them! Plenty of diverse music was offered to visitors – Chrishall School Choir (our parish charity) opened proceedings on the Saturday, and Cambridge's Wren singers (featuring our own Lisa Mackenzie, bravely

arriving on crutches) closed the festival with carols as evening drew in on the Sunday. In between, Jonah Palmer and clarinettist (~~~~~~), organist (~~~~~~), Lucy Cochrane Brown, a saxophone trio, Royston Town Band and the parish's Handbell Ringers all performed. Solo artistes included Fred Kuenzie (flute), Lindsey Crawley (sax), and pianists Stephen Armstrong and Eamonn Quigley, . The church's bell-ringers rang to herald the beginning and end of the Festival. Tess and



Angus Gent, splendid in elf costume, organised the whole event and with Jill Kuenzi provided refreshments throughout. The Festival raised £600 for the church and £200 for Chrishall School, and an estimated 300-plus villages came to look and listen. The Festival raised £600 for the church and £200 for Chrishall School, and an estimated 300-plus villages came to admire the trees and hear the musical talent our village has to offer.



www.greatchishill.org.uk
for lots more pictures



GREAT CHISHILL CRICKET CLUB

Peter Wiseman, President of Great Chishill Cricket Club, has congratulated members of the Club, Angus and Tess Gent, Guy Musson, Al Cockerton, Jason Coombs and the Committee for their brilliant organisation and work decorating the Village Hall for their annual Diner and Dance. Over 90 people sat down to enjoy a splendid meal by Dawn Jaffrey and her staff, followed by dancing to the Elderly Brothers. £1,700 was raised, thanks to the donated auction and raffle prizes. The awards for the season were: Young Player, Ian Kuenzi, and Most Improved, Lucas Ling. Gary Wright won the Achievement Award, and the Player's Player was Guy Musson. A big thank you to all who attended! We celebrate 100 years of cricket this year, so look out for events throughout the season.

Andrew Drury, Chairman



PARKRUN - KEEP FIT AND HAVE FUN, SAYS DAVID

The Newsletter doesn't do lifestyle advice, but as we regret the holiday season's excesses, David Gadian's experience might be useful!

In 2002, a couple of years after I turned 50, I completed the London marathon. However, recently I'd done very little running. So, to coax me back, in January Rosemary took me to a specialist shop in Cambridge and bought me a new pair of running shoes. Coincidentally the shop was just about to start an 8-week running course for beginners, so I enrolled and by the first week of March I had completed my first 5 kilometre parkrun event.

Parkrun (<https://www.parkrun.org.uk/>) is a wonderful institution that was founded 15 years ago. It organises weekly 5 kilometre runs in numerous countries around the world. The one I go to is on the Wimpole Estate. It's a delightful spot, ideally suited for running, apart from a rather demanding hill just after the 2k marker! There are typically about 400 runners, of all ages (around 8-80) and fitness levels, some with dogs and some with infants in buggies. On one occasion, it was announced that a gentleman there was doing his first parkrun to celebrate his 80th birthday! The

whole event is brilliantly organised, thanks to numerous volunteers who fulfil many different roles, one of which is to record the time taken to complete the run. This involves matching your personal barcode to a token that you are given after crossing the finishing line.

The events are held at 9am on Saturday mornings, and it's a great way to start the weekend. The fastest runners may take about 17-18 minutes, and the slowest finish around 10am. Around midday you receive an email giving your time and various other statistics, and the full results are posted on the Wimpole parkrun website. For anyone who is curious to know, I am desperately trying to break 30 minutes – my fastest run so far is 30:08, which I think is not too bad at my age. But in the end, it's all about participating, keeping fit, and having fun.

For anyone who might be interested in 'couch-to-5k', have a look at <https://www.nhs.uk/live-well/exercise/couch-to-5k-week-by-week/> Parkruns are free, but Wimpole has a £2 parking charge if you are not a member of the National Trust. **David Gadian**

GP PRACTICE RATED 'OUTSTANDING'

The Care Quality Commission has rated Barley's GP practice as 'outstanding', a rating given to only 5 out of the 88 practices in our NHS Foundation Trust. Granta Medical Practices was formed from four nearby GP practices including Barley, The 165 employee group is, they say, "is big enough to survive but small enough to care for our communities and retain the team spirit that is critical for general practice." There's work still to do. The merger has affected the provision of local services and challenged local identity, and the members of Granta's Patient Participation Group act as 'critical friends' in addressing these concerns.

SENIORS ENJOY TEA *Pictures from the Seniors' Tea, held in the Village Hall on 19 December.*



Women's Institute,
21 January, 7.30
Ian Cummings,
2015 Bake-Off finalist
Visitors welcome, call Angela
837353

BIN DAYS - JAN
Black Blue/Green
2 (Thurs) 8 (Weds)
14 21 blue only
28

URC News

Services in January

January 5th - Evening Service - 6.00

January 19th - Morning service - 9.30

Scottish Dancing

Dancing resumes at 7.30 on Monday 13th in the Schoolroom. No previous experience is needed, only a sense of humour is required!

Film night

Tuesday 14th - Yesterday - 7.30

No booking required, but if you would like to reserve a place on the sofa or a comfy chair, please contact Tess (tessgent@gmail.com). Book early to avoid disappointment!

CTF

We would like to thank everyone who contributed to the fantastic Christmas Tree Festive weekend, a lovely village event enjoyed by all the 300 people who visited St Swithun's. Thanks to the wonderful generosity of spirit we raised about £600 for the church and £200 for Chrishall School.