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The Chishills

Ploughing Match 26 Oct

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PHEASANT CLOSES: PC TO APPLY FOR COMMUNITY ASSET STATUS

The Pheasant has ceased trading. 2½ years after taking over Chishill's only pub, Mark and Debbie Wickens have regretfully taken the decision to close because, says their accountant Jeff Gill, the business was 'haemorrhaging money'. In a Facebook post it was announced that as soon as Debbie's imminently due baby arrives, the couple will put The Pheasant up for sale. Meanwhile, Jeff asks that any questions about the pub should be referred to him. He also said on Mark's behalf that it was never his intention, and it still isn't, to convert the pub into a house.

CONCERN

The news has been greeted with concern. "The knock on from this closure is pretty big" commented a concerned parishioner on Facebook. "Clubs and societies that once had a friendly home have to go elsewhere.

Businesses such as the campsite and B&Bs face a knock on effect as there is no place to drink or eat in the village..... I am deeply saddened that a once thriving entity should fail so spectacularly. It's beyond a shame."

PC ACTION

Before the closure was announced, the Parish Council had resolved at its September meeting to apply to register The Pheasant as a Community Asset, as well as the lock-up and the phone box. It is also looking into other community assets. Registration is intended to help protect assets with community value, such as pubs or playing fields, from change of use or inappropriate development. The owner of a registered asset must inform the local authority of an intention to sell, and if a group wishes to buy the asset, they can trigger a moratorium for six months, to give them a chance to raise the purchase funds.

COMMUNITY

Asked about the possibility of a community purchase, PC Chair Cllr Simon Dring told the Newsletter that "it would be great to see the community taking a lead in getting the pub back in business – but it would require huge community involvement to establish it as a village owned asset." Richard Brunt summed up the general view on Facebook: "The last two years and subsequent closure is clearly a setback, but knowing the energy and collective intelligence of the local community we will find a way through this and the Pheasant will open its doors again."



REMEMBRANCE

Sunday 10 November
*United Service of
Remembrance*

Great Chishill War Memorial
and St Swithun's Church
10.50am

Seniors' Tea

on 19 December!

At the Village Hall 3 – 5 pm
Enquiries to Lindsay Crawley
838897

CHRISTMAS WISHES

Rather than sending Christmas cards individually to all your friends in the village, why not save shoe-leather and reduce your carbon footprint? Instead, you can send them a seasonal and colourful message in our Christmas supplement - each 8cm x 8cm square will only cost you £5, and all proceeds will go to the church refurbishment fund. Your Christmas wishes will be circulated to every Chishills home with the December newsletter. Please contact Angus (angusgent@gmail.com) with your Christmas message by 23 November.

WINDMILL 'SAVED' – OFFICIAL

Heritage England has removed Chishill Windmill from its latest 'Heritage at Risk' register. The news excited local media – the mill was featured on Anglia TV, Royston's Crow and Radio Cambridgeshire, which interviewed David McKeown live on air. David said: "There is still work to be done on the mill, of course. We are awaiting connection of the tailfan to the wheels and then a continuous campaign to keep our mill in fine fettle for the next 120 years begins. There is also that dream of restoring the internal machinery so that we can grind grain once more. But the publicly announced recognition by Historic England of a job well done is a very good reason for us all to feel proud!"

United Reformed Church Services for November

Harvest service and supper We were thrilled to have been joined by 30 wonderful people for this year's Harvest service and supper lead by The Reverend John Bradbury. Thanks to the fantastic generosity of many very kind people we were able to give a wonderful donation of £150 and a couple of large boxes of dry food goods to Jimmy's in Cambridge, for which they were incredibly grateful.

URC service dates for November

3rd - 18.00

17th - 09.30

Scottish Dancing Continues every Monday evening in the Schoolroom at 19.30. No previous experience is needed, just a sense of humour!

Film night

Tuesday November 12th - 19.30 : 'Green Book' If you would like to book a place on the sofa please do contact Tess tessgent@gmail.com

Tessa's Christmas Wreaths

Tessa Gent is making her lovely Christmas wreaths again in aid of the Church Appeal. Find them at Crafts on the Hill, or call her with your order:

tessgent@gmail.com / 01763 838941 / 07721 398642

Great Chishill Cricket Club Dinner and Dance Saturday November 23rd - 19.00

There are a few tickets available for the dinner. For a top night out and to support the cricket club as we move into our 150th season, please contact Angus at angusgent@gmail.com

Junior Section: We will be launching the new Great Chishill Junior section on Saturday mornings in the spring. ages between 3 - 11, . We are so grateful to Al Cockerton for leading this venture. More news to follow.

CRAFTS ON THE HILL

For St Swithun's and Windmill Funds

Saturday 7 December

at the Village Hall

9.30 - 4.30pm

Crafts and Gifts made by local
Craftspeople - plus Teas and Cakes,
Hot Dogs, Christmas Wreaths

We have space for more crafts!

Enquiries to Lindsey Crawley
01763 838897 / 07775727541



**Gr Chishill & Heydon
Children's Christmas Party**

Fun & games with Stripey Wipey,
party tea and a special visitor!

Sunday 8th December 3 - 5pm
Gr Chishill Village Hall

Free to all children ages 0 - Yr 6
in Heydon, Gr & Lt Chishill
Please book your place by 18th Nov
Contact Emily 836257 or Islay 838194

Village History: Chishill's POW Comes Home

In late 1945 the village was discussing ways to mark the end of the war. One issue was how to welcome home Private C. Housden, Chishill's only Japanese prisoner of war. A public meeting was held in October, with Mr E. J. Wiseman in the chair. A combined VE and VJ day treat for the children was agreed - there would be a tea and entertainment in the Village Hall, and Charlie Housden would be the guest of honour. The event took place on 16 November. Mr Drage presented Charlie, still only 25, with a gold watch in recognition of his ordeal, following which there was a display of fireworks and a bonfire on the Plaistow, and a dance in the Village Hall which lasted until midnight. After six years of blackouts and privation, those rockets and sparklers must have been a wonderful sight. As for Charlie, he stayed on in his native village. He died aged 73 in 1993 and is buried in St Swithun's churchyard.

Next Whist Drive

Friday 15 November
7.30 sharp in the
Schoolroom
In aid of the Bell Fund

WATCH OUT - THIEVES ABOUT!

There have been two serious thefts from sheds in the last month - one in Heydon Road when a lawnmower and hedge trimmer were stolen, and one in New Road when again garden equipment was taken. So - make sure your sheds and garages are secured - alarmed if possible. Simple very loud alarms can cost less than £10, and security lights are a good idea too. *(Thanks to Webmaster Phil Maynard for this item)*

**Women's Institute,
19 November, 7.30**

Card Making

with Lizzie

Visitors welcome, call Angela
837353

GORDON & WENDY MOVING IN!

Hello to all our friends in Great Chishill. Some of you know already that Wendy and I have decided to move from Bilden End, Chrishall to your lovely village, hopefully during the second week of November. We are buying one of the new houses at Hall Farm Barns with that magnificent view across the rolling countryside towards Shaftenhoe End. We look forward to joining you and being part of the village community.

Gordon V. Brown

MUSIC TUITION BY BECKY HOPE JONES

Becky's lived in Chishill most of her life and has just graduated from Arts Ed London with a degree in Musical Theatre. She's got loads of other music qualifications too, and she's able to give lessons in music theory, piano, and singing. Becky tells us she's specialising in teaching young / pre-school children, adults looking for a new hobby, and those who simply want to have fun! Flexible, relaxed, and in whatever style or genre you wish Contact Becky for more details!
bjones996@hotmail.com, or 07850 859419

BIN DAYS - NOV

Black Blue/Green

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19 26