



The Chishills

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CHRIS MARTIN - 1934-2026

Chris Martin died at the end of July and his funeral took place in August. The church was packed with many family and friends who all wanted to pay their respects to this popular and highly regarded Chishill resident.

Chris had been happily married to Ann for 65 years, whom he met when at agricultural college in Writtle.

Most of his working life was spent with a Swiss agrochemical company called Ciba which was establishing itself in the UK. Chris played a key part in the growth of the business. He was greatly respected by his team, who described him as a gentleman, whose office door was always open.



Chris was always a keen sailor. When he retired he commissioned his son, Andrew, to build a yacht for him. The boat was built in Ukraine and towed across Europe to the UK.

She was called "Pipe Dream" and was a source of much fun. He spent a lot of time sailing her alone or with many friends, there being a few adventures along the way.

It was at this time that Chris moved from the family home in Melbourn to May St Farmhouse in Great Chishill. Here he and Ann became active village members and pursued a very busy retirement, full of travel, family holidays, sailing, skiing, working with the Church, bell ringing, bridge, and highly competitive golf.

This happy, fun-loving, gentleman will be greatly missed by very many.

WOMEN'S INSTITUTE

Heydon & Great Chishill WI will be meeting on Tuesday 15th September at 7:30pm in the Village Hall. This month we will be visited by Hawk Honey, who will be giving us a talk all about wasps. Most people are familiar with the striped, social wasps, but there are fewer than 10 species of those in



the UK, whereas there are well over 7,000 species of solitary wasp and they can look vastly different! It should be a very interesting talk. Visitors are very welcome to come and see if they would like to join.

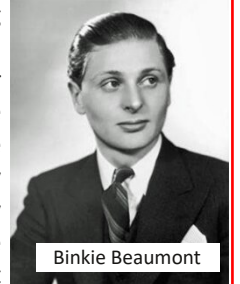
Additionally we are holding a coffee morning on Friday 18th September at 10am in Fitzbillies in Harston. Again, if anyone would like to join us please do.

CHURCH TALENT SHOW CANCELLED!

The talent show - planned for 19th September, has been cancelled! It will be reorganised sometime next year.

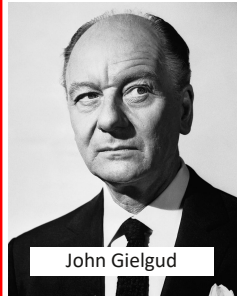
THE STONK

In the mid-twentieth century, West End theatre impresario, Binkie Beaumont, had many connections with Great Chishill. The link was his lifelong partner and business collaborator, John Perry, who was a director and play reader for HM Tennent Ltd, the massive production company run by Binkie Beaumont. Perry lived at The Old Bakery on Maltings Lane, and he subsequently bought "The Stonk", an old house at the historically significant moated site just north of the playing fields.



Binkie Beaumont

The Stonk effectively became a countryside retreat for the post-war West End elite. Beaumont frequently stayed there, and the house hosted many legendary British theatre figures. Villagers in the 1950s and 60s were well aware of the glamorous, eccentric visitors arriving at the moated property. It was not uncommon for iconic actors like Dame Maggie Smith or Peter Shaffer to be seen walking the village lanes while memorising lines or discussing upcoming Tennent West End productions!



John Gielgud

John Gielgud was the most frequent and complex visitor. After his partner John Perry left him for Beaumont, Gielgud defied convention by remaining deeply attached to both men. He treated The Stonk as a second home. He used the quiet gardens to memorise Shakespearean monologues and relax away from the intense public scrutiny he faced in London.

Following Binkie Beaumont's death in 1973 and John Perry's subsequent passing, the property changed hands out of the theatrical circle and returned to private residential use.

EXPLORE THE WINDMILL

The windmill is open to visitors from 10 am to 4 pm on Sunday 13th and Sunday 27th September, the last open day this year. All visitors will be shown around by a guide and there is no specific charge for a tour. However, we are very grateful for donations, which help to keep the mill in the condition you now see it.

BOB'S ART CLASSES

Bob Hatt's popular art classes will start again at the Village Hall on Wednesday 23rd September and run for 10 weeks with a one week break for half term. For further details, please contact Bob at bobhatt.bh@gmail.com

Great Chishill Windmill Cycling Event Sunday 6th September 2026



Choice of 3 routes with 2, 3 or 4 windmills and 30, 48 or 65 miles
Start and finish at Great Chishill Windmill with refreshments.

For details contact
info@greatchishillwindmill.com
or see <https://greatchishillwindmill.com>

2026 GREAT CHISHILL CHURCHYARD HAY CUTTING

You're warmly invited to join this year's autumn churchyard working party at St Swithun's on Saturday 26th September. We will be cutting back the long grass and clearing it away. Because of the dry weather this year, a lawnmower on a high setting may be enough, though last year we needed a trimmer and rake, so please bring whatever tools you can, if you have them. We'll get started at 10am and finish by 2pm, or sooner if the work is done. Tea, cake and lunch will be provided - and it's a lovely chance to catch up with neighbours while helping to care for the churchyard.

Please contact Fred Kuenzi (kuenzifred@gmail.com) so we can plan catering.



THANK YOU GREAT CHISHILL

Ann Martin and family would like to thank everyone for the many cards and letters of sympathy following the loss of Chris. The volume of cards has been staggering and is much appreciated. It was also very moving to see more than 170 people packing St Swithun's for Chris's funeral. Thanks also to all who helped prepare the church for the service and who catered for us and helped at the reception at the village hall afterwards.

THE PHEASANT - SEPTEMBER

Wednesday 2nd September

Monthly pub quiz with Mark and Gemma

Friday 4th September - Fishy Friday

Booking essential.

Thursday 17th September - Paint and Sip with Creative Canvas

£30 per person. 16+ event unless with an adult.

No experience needed! Sandra will guide you, step-by-step, through the process. All arty materials are provided.

Saturday 19th September - Live Lounge - The Munroes Band

7 - 9 pm. Free to attend but booking essential. The Munroes are a Cambridge based cover band playing classic hits from the 1960s to the present day.

01763 838535



The Icknield Way Parish band at St. Swithun's, Great Chishill

BEHIND-THE-SCENES OF BELL RINGING AT ELMDON

For one day only, Elmdon has a mini-ring!

Our special recruitment event is the perfect opportunity to watch demonstrations by your local band and learn to ring the **heaviest portable mini-ring currently in existence**. The ringing chamber will also be opened to the public.

You don't need to be musical, mathematically minded, or physically strong to learn. Bell ringing relies entirely on technique, timing and rhythm - though you do need to be 10+. Qualified teachers will be on hand.

Refreshments available!



St Nicholas' Church, Elmdon, CB11 4LT



Saturday 19th September 2-5 pm



Icknield Way Parish Bellringers iwpbells@gmail.com

GREAT CHISHILL 2024-25
ARTISAN EVENING CHARITY

FRIDAY 16th OCTOBER 4-9PM

Village Hall & Marquees Great Chishill
For more details: tescgent@gmail.com
£2/adult ★ children go free

LOCAL ARTISANS & CRAFTS PEOPLE ★ CURATED SELLERS
LICENSED BAR ★ PRE-CHRISTMAS ORDERS ★ HOT FOOD

IN AID OF
NHS GREAT CHISHILL UNITED REFORMED CHURCH RESTORATION FUND
Guy's and St Thomas' RECONSTRUCTION UNIT

United Reformed Church

Sunday 6th September
Evening service 6.00pm led by Rev'd Sue Fender

Sunday 20th September 9.30am

Linked Mission Partnership Service led by Rev'd Sue Fender, preceded by breakfast at 8.30 for all who would like it. Everyone from the village and the Linked Mission Partnership is warmly invited to join us.

Advance Notice

Sunday 4th October - Village Harvest Festival - 6pm
Followed by a Harvest supper in the schoolroom.

St Nicholas, Little Chishill

Sunday September 6th
BCP Communion 9.00am

St Swithun's

Sunday August 13th
Morning Service 11.00am

BIN DAYS - SEPTEMBER (Food Bins every Tuesday)

Tue 1	Black
Tue 8	Blue & Green
Tue 15	Black
Tue 22	Blue & Green
Tue 29	Black