



Christchurch Village Newsletter

April 2012

Due to my recent bouts of ill health and trips into the Queen Elizabeth Hospital I feel it is time to 'hang up my computer'. I feel that it is not fair to the village to continue as editor when I cannot guarantee getting the newsletter out on time. I have thoroughly enjoyed looking after The Heron for the years I have spent as editor and will still be in the background to offer help where needed.

On a very positive note I am pleased to tell you that Paul and Mandi Warren of Tipps End have very kindly offered to produce the April edition for me and have said that they will continue to produce The Heron for the foreseeable future until someone else can be found who would like the job! Many, many thanks to them for taking over so promptly and willingly.

Those of you that usually drop articles for the newsletter through my door or are not able to use email may continue to do so and I will forward them on to Paul.

No doubt when I am able to get out and about on my scooter I will see you all around the village and look forward to that.

Pat

Thank you Pat

Hello to you all,

First things first, and we are sure you would like to join us in thanking Pat for all her very hard work over the years whilst editor of The Heron. Despite a string of recent illnesses and stays in hospital, Pat has still managed to collate all the adverts, the meeting minutes and local news, then get the edition to the printers and arrange distribution to bring to you the village newsletter on time each month.

A fantastic achievement and once again a very big thank you to Pat.

Pat is not letting go of The Heron completely and will still be working with the team, her help over these coming months with the transition will be invaluable.

Can we ask that those of you who used to email Pat for matters regarding The Heron, now email the following address... **editor@theheron.info** As mentioned above, those of you without email access may still drop off articles to Pat just as you used to do.

We look forward to bringing you the future editions of The Heron.

Paul & Mandi



CHRISTCHURCH CRAFT CLUB

At our meeting on 6th March Susan Norman demonstrated and we all made a delightful Easter Basket from card and tissue paper in which we all put a Crème Egg. Many thanks to Susan for such a good evening.

On the 3rd April Margaret Sparrow will be demonstrating Encaustic Art and we will all be able to have a go.

A Committee Meeting was held at Ta Wit Ta Woo and it was agreed that more committee members are definitely needed, including a secretary. A volunteer is also needed to represent the Craft Club as a Trustee on the New Village Hall Committee when it is formed.

Why not come along and join us - everyone is welcome, no matter where your interest in craft lies. We try our hands at a variety of crafts and also hold 'bring and make' sessions whereby members bring their own projects in to share with us. Entrance is £1.00 plus 50p for raffle and 20p for refreshments. Please come and join us - you don't have to come to every meeting! Meetings are held on the first Tuesday in the month, starting at 7.30 pm in the Memorial Hall. For more information ring Wendy on 01354 638448.

Wendy Yates
Chairperson

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Parish Church Services

1st April	11.00 am	All Age Worship
6th April	10.00 am	Good Friday Meditation
8th April	9 30 am	Easter Day Holy Communion
15th April	6.30 pm	Evening Prayer
22nd April	11.00 am	Morning Prayer
29th April	10.00 am	United Service

We warmly welcome the election of Mr. Andrew Day as Church Warden at the A.P.C.M. to serve alongside Mrs. Daphne Symons during the coming year.

Date to remember:

Flower Festival to be held on the 14th, 15th and 16th June.

PLEASE NOTE:

Any matters concerning the Parish Church please contact Rev'd Kevin Fitzgibbon on 01354 680969.

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March 27th 2012



Our Club continues to be very popular and very friendly. It was a really good evening. Our speaker was Barry Gayton and everyone was enthralled with the Heucharas we were shown on screen, the details of leaves and different flora were exquisite. On your next visit to a Garden Centre or show have a good look at the many colours and patterns, they are really so different and make a good effect with many plants in your garden.

Our coach trip on 22nd April to Hyde Hall is filling quickly, only a few seats left, the contact for booking is 01354 638024 (Bubbles).

Members were reminded that during April we should start preparing for our Plant Sale day in early May, always a popular event in our village.

Come to our next Club evening on 24th April at 7.00 pm and we shall be finding out how the bees are coping. Despite our frosty nights they are busy on the blossoms just now.

Spring has arrived and the sun is up, colour is in our gardens at last, go out in the air, bend carefully as you see to your patch, such a lot to catch up on but don't do it all at once. Enjoy, enjoy, you can't tell nature what to do, she has a mind of her own.

See you all later, give a wave or toot as you pass by.

Bubbles, 01354 638024.

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All stock comes from our own cultivated sources.

CHRISTCHURCH WOMEN'S INSTITUTE NEWS

**Minutes of the meeting held in the Memorial Hall
On 13th March 2012 at 7 p.m.**



All were welcomed and the minutes signed. Apologies were received from C. Symons, W.D. Rolfe and Pat Mills.

Correspondence

Letter from Stephen Cowell requesting 2 representatives to become trustees for the new village hall committee when the existing one is disbanded.

Letter from G & S Society, Upwell.

Invitations from Marshland St. James WI, Welney WI and Whittlesey Lady Smith WI.

Transport Arrangements

Transport arrangements were given out for Resolution Meeting, Auctioneers Meeting, Federation Meeting, Group Meeting and Birthday Dinner.

Birthday Dinner

84th Dinner to be held at The Five Bells, Upwell. Menus were sent around during the evening. Coins for Friendship were collected during the evening.

Speaker

Our speaker was Marie Brown from Inheritance Legal Services who explained the importance of making a Will and Power of Attorney. She was very informative and answered many questions posed by members.

Charity Status

Our Treasurer informed members that we were entitled to claim some refunds of tax on the annual subscription for members that pay income tax, provided that we are registered as a charity. As this would give the Institute additional funds members agreed and completed gift aid forms.

Sick Visitor

Pat is in hospital and has been visited by Wendy, Susan Quail, and Peggy and is showing some improvement.

Competition Results

Sandra 1 pt.; Beryl 2 pts.; Margaret Beswick 3 pts; Susan 4 pts.; Ann Hicks 5 pts.

Next Meeting

Birthday Dinner. No competition or raffle. WI East of England Raffle tickets will be on sale.

S. Norman
Secretary

TOWNLEY SCHOOL

Christchurch, Wisbech, Cambs. PE14 9NA

Email: office@townley.cambs.sch.uk

Website: www.townleyschool.org.uk

Tel/Fax: 01354 638229

Local MP Steve Barclay visited our school. He was shown demonstrations from each class and awarded the weeks achievement certificates to pupils.



Class 2 'Time Detectives' have been finding out about the ancient Greeks. At the end of their investigation the children came to school dressed as ancient Greek children and took part in a variety of activities, including mini-Olympics, making a model trireme, clay toy and a plate to show our current interests.



Forthcoming Events

27 March - 8 a side Football Tournament
29 March - Easter Assembly + Easter egg hunt!
30 March - Last day of term
16 April - Teacher Training Day
17 April—Summer Term begins
26 May - Car Boot and Cream Teas - full details see our Website.

Earlier in March we held another Bedtime Read event. Children came back to school in the evening, enjoyed hearing stories followed by hot chocolate and biscuits!



IMPORTANT DATES

Year 6 SATs - 14th - 18th May
Year 2 SATs - During May

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CAR BOOT & CREAM TEAS**

**Saturday 26th May 2012
12 - 4 pm**

Limited pitches available.
Please contact Angela on 01354 638267
To book a pitch or enquiries.

Any donations for the 'Friends' stall can be delivered
To the School or 1 Wayside Estate.
Collection can be arranged.

MANY THANKS FOR YOUR SUPPORT!

Important information on contacting the Police

From Sunday (April 1), Cambridgeshire police can only be contacted on 101 for all non-emergency calls.

The old 0345 number will be switched off and a recorded message will tell people to call 101. The old number has remained in use alongside 101 for the past year to allow people time to get used to the new number.

For the first time, everyone calling the police for non-emergency matters will know exactly how much it will cost them and it will be the same no matter what time of day or the duration of the call. The number change is part of a national scheme to make 101 the single non-emergency number in England and Wales.

The change has been introduced so residents will have one, easy-to-remember way to contact local police, wherever they are. The system has been designed to recognise where the caller is dialling from and connect them with the local police service. If a caller does not want to speak to their local force they will be given the option to be connected to different one.

The number change does not affect the way that calls are handled and non-emergency calls will continue 24 hours a day, seven days a week.

People should continue to call 999 when an immediate response is needed, for example if a crime is happening, someone suspected of a crime is nearby, or someone is in danger.

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**MINUTES OF THE CHRISTCHURCH PARISH COUNCIL MEETING
MONDAY 13th FEBRUARY 2012 – MEMORIAL HALL CHRISTCHURCH AT 7:30pm**

Present: Councillors – Nigel Russell (Chair), Jill Bliss, Simon Freeland, Hannah Poole and William Beswick.

Stephen Cowell (Clerk) and Peter Vale, Cambs County Council Highways were also in attendance.

Welcome and Apologies

Cllr. Russell welcomed all to the meeting.

Apologies were received and accepted from Cllr. Wincote, Cllr Cotterell MBE (FDC) and PCSO Martin Bogunovic. The Chair informed the meeting that Cllr. Wes Poole and District Councillor Will Sutton were not at the meeting as they were attending the Joint Village Parish Council meeting at Welney on behalf of Christchurch.

Mr Vale was introduced to those councillors he had not met before.

Signing of Minutes

The minutes of the 9th January meeting were signed, by the Chair, as true record of the meeting.

Disclosure and Declarations of Interests

Cllr. Bliss declared an interest in payment 9.2.

Cllr. Freeland declared an interest in payment 9.4

Presentation by Peter Vale on Speed Limit reductions

Mr Vale provided two policies for the councillors. The first being the Cambs County Council policy on speed limits and the second being the Your Community – Your Speed Limit. Mr Vale provided a summary of the progress in the review of the A & B road speed limit review that was ordered by the Cambs County Council Cabinet but that has subsequently been stopped before considering the speed limits in Christchurch and he appraised the Council of the current budget issues.

It was stated by, Mr Vale, that Christchurch meets the requirements in the CCC policy for a reduction to 30 mph along Church Road and much of Upwell Road.

Mr Vale went on to explain the costs and work associated with the required consultation and subsequent reduction. The Council were informed that the costs, if it undertook the consultation itself, and the change was implemented would be circa £2.1k. This cost would depend on the ability of CCC to advertise the change with other changes. The Council were informed that the cost of signs might be reduced if the council shopped around for the best deal.

Mr Vale explained that if the speed limit was reduced cars would be able to park on the road without lights and that planning permission with reduced visibility splays would be easier to obtain.

The Council agreed to go ahead with conducting the consultation and the **Clerk was asked to liaise with Mr Vale regarding the people and organisations to liaise with and the wording of the letter.**

Following a question from Cllr. Bliss Mr Vale explained the issues with enforcing a HGV ban through the village and the issues with lack of budget, at CCC, for a further review and a subsequent application for a ban.

Mr Vale was thanked for his helpful presentation and offer of assistance in the consultation and left the meeting at this point.

Continued...

Update on action points from previous meeting

The Clerk reported that:

- The May meeting date will remain as 14th May as it has now been realised that this is not a Bank Holiday.
- The Parish Plan has been sent to Cambs ACRE so they can place it on the Shape Your Place web-site.
- The FDC Concurrent Functions return has been submitted to FDC.
- The pot hole in Halfpenny Road and the trees overgrowing the path have both been reported. Councillors reported that the pot hole has been repaired.
- Councillors have reviewed the proposed path widening near the Old Shop and agree that taking up part of the verge on the opposite side of the road may not be feasible due to a nearby telegraph pole. It was suggested that a dropping of the kerb for part of the path may make it easier for those with prams and wheelchairs to negotiate the bend. **The Clerk was asked to discuss this with Highways.**

Public Adjournment

No items were raised as no members of the public attended.

Police Update

The Clerk reported that PCSO Bogunovic has sent his apologies. The report he has sent the Council has just one reported issue a burglary at a property in The Hill.

Correspondence Received

The Clerk brought to the attention of Councillors:

Another quote for the renovation and extension of the Sports Pavilion
Further correspondence regarding the request by Upwell Parish Council for a donation towards gritting the Upwell Health Centre Car Park. Cllr. Russell updated the Council on the situation following a discussion he has had with the Chair of the Upwell PC. Cllr. Russell has informed Upwell PC that Christchurch PC are not prepared to make a donation while ever companies operating from that site whose customers also use the Car Park do not make a contribution and while ever surplus money collected might be used at other West Norfolk sites not used by Christchurch residents. Cllr. Russell has also discussed the situation with the Cllr. Pope who is a District Councillor for that area who agrees with the stance taken by Christchurch. The Council agreed with this stance as they have done when the subject has been discussed in Council before.

Finance

The following items were agreed for payment

1. Clerk's Salary £183.78
2. The Heron £60.00
3. E Mason and Son (Farmers) Ltd £1,080.00 – Grass cutting
4. Norfolk Parish Training Partnership £37.50

The Clerk informed the Council that currently the Grass Cutting contract is within budget.

Continued...

Planning Applications

The council noted planning application F/YR12/0052/F where the change submitted is for a slight reduction in the height of the Wind Turbine.

Formation of a new Charity to run the Recreation Ground and the Building on that site - Update

The Clerk reported that the current proposal is for the Council to be the Custodian Trustees, holding the land, and for the Management Committee to be the Charity Trustees. The Council would have two seats on the Management Committee. Currently it is envisaged that these seats will be taken by Cllr. Beswick and Cllr. Russell. These Councillors would then have no say in any decision the Council might subsequently make in any matter relating to the Recreation ground as they, in their capacity as members of the Management Committee, would have an interest.

It was agreed that Cllr. Bliss should provide the Clerk with contact details for all the Memorial Hall Clubs and Societies so he could write to them and ask them if they wished to take up the offer of seats on the Management Committee and roles as Trustees.

Diamond Jubilee celebration arrangements

Two main options were discussed. The first to give to all school children a commemorative mug the cost of which would not exceed half of the FDC grant of £1,000.00 and also to hold some form of celebration possibly based at the School

It was agreed that the Clerk should write to the School's Head to ask for his views on a celebration based around the School would be appropriate. *Subsequent to the meeting Cllr. Beswick has discussed the proposal with the School's Chair of Governors who agrees with the proposal and has offered to speak to the Head about it.*

House numbering in Upwell Road

A brief discussion was held regarding the difficulty of renumbering Upwell Road and The Hill but no firm solution was suggested.

Parish Council Web-Site

Cllr. Bliss suggested that the Clerk speak with the editor of The Heron as she has details of someone in the Parish who might be able to help set up a web-site. **Clerk to contact.**

Parish Plan – Update

No updates.

Raising of Village Concerns

The following items were reported:

- More pot holes in Euximoor Drove.
- The playing field hedge requires weeding and clearing up. It was agreed to leave this until the Spring. **The Clerk was asked to add the subject to the April agenda.**
- Cllr. Russell reported that he had cleared snow from many areas in the village this week with his farm equipment.

The Chair thanked all for attending and closed the meeting at 8:55pm

Christchurch Parish Council News

**Draft agenda for next Council meeting 7:30pm, Monday 2nd April 2012,
Memorial Hall, Church Road.**

**Public and Press are welcome and can speak to the Councillors during the
Public Adjournment and during the Annual Meeting.**

Open, welcome and apologies
Signing of previous meeting's minutes March 2012
Update on actions from previous meeting
Public Adjournment
Police Update
Correspondence
Finance
Review of Planning Applications
Update on the formation of a New Recreation Ground Charity
Update on Queen's Jubilee Celebrations
Parish Plan
Reporting of Village Concerns

Your Parish Council and how to contact us

Nigel Russell (Chair) – phone 638279	Jill Bliss – phone 638343
Wesley Poole – phone 638622	Jacky Wincote (Vice-Chair) – phone 638575
Simon Freeland – phone 638231	Hannah Poole – phone 638622
William Beswick – phone 638758	Stephen Cowell (Clerk) – phone 661374 e-mail christchurchcambspc@googlemail.com

Renovation and Extension of the Upwell Road, Sports Pavilion

After discussions with Cambridgeshire County Council agreement has been reached with them that the Parish Council can sell the land adjacent to the Bowls Green, currently agricultural land for building plots. Planning consent has been agreed but there are some issues relating to the architects drawings that need to be resolved with Fenland Planning. Once the plots are sold the Council should have the required funds to commence the renovation and extension of the building.

DIRECTORY

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Alzheimer's Society (Fenland)	01945 580480
Cambs Fire & Rescue	01480 444500
Churchwarden - Mrs. D. Symons	01354 638352
Citizens' Advice Bureau , Wisbech	01945 464367
Community Car Scheme (to book a journey)	07902 316360
County Councillor – Fred Yeulett	01354 653763
District Councillor – Mac Cotterell	01945 583744
District Councillor – Will Sutton	01354 638025
Dog Warden	01354 622547
Eastern Electricity	0800 783 8838
FACT (Fenland Association of Community Transport)	01354 661234
Fenland District Council	01354 654321
Highway Agency's Road Repair Line	0845 0455212
Library – March	0354 0455225
Memorial Hall Caretakers – Mr. & Mrs. A. Murray	01354 638272
Parish Clerk – Mr. Stephen Cowell	01354 661374
Rector - Rev'd Kevin Fitzgibbon	01354 680969
Stagecoach - Peterborough	01733 554571
Stagecoach - Cambridge	01223 423 578
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Water Emergencies	08457 145145
Welle Pharmacy, Upwell Health Centre	01945 774081
Wisbech Fire Station	01945 428600

*** New non-emergency Police phone number - 101***

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