



Christchurch Village Newsletter

April 2013

Welcome to your April edition of The Heron, bringing you all the local news and access to local business and community for our parish of Christchurch.

Many apologies for the delayed delivery in last months Heron due to an unforeseen error at the printers in the way of paper shortage when we went to print. Obviously this months heron may also not be delivered to you as early as normal due to the bank holiday falling directly at the end of the last month.

This month brings us a mystery woman to find, local news, and the continuing Christchurch Village mini drama, "1970's bus shelter, 'to be or not to be this is the question'", turn to our editorial page for this month's gripping episode. This month will hopefully also bring the start of Spring after another chilly month, seeing the coldest temperatures on record for March in some parts of the country.

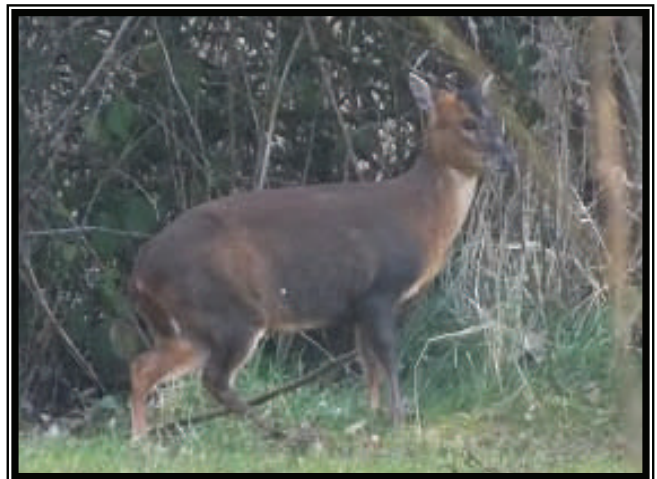
A welcome sight for me and Paul earlier in last month was a brief daytime visit from one of our more elusive residents of the parish, and one of our predecessors' favourite editorial topics, the Muntjac. Hopefully we will spot this young female later in the year with a mate or even young, watch this space.

The clocks have leapt forward for 'British Summer Time' and here's hoping the weather can match up to the promise of a summer, bringing everyone hot days, warm evenings and beautiful gardens, not to mention the local wildlife flourish, the reason the majority choose this wonderful country residence after all !

Wishing you all a warm and wonderful April, and remember to send in all your stories about the village and local news.

Paul and Mandi

Editors.



The signs they are a changing to help end flood roads misery for travellers through West Norfolk village

ROAD closure misery at Welney is set to be reduced dramatically when new electronic information signs are installed this Autumn.

Three signs will give real time flood status updates on the A1101 so that motorists know immediately if they can pass through safely.

The dot matrix signs, costing £20,000, were agreed during what was described as the "most positive meeting that has ever taken place" between multi agencies in an effort to solve Welney's flood lock problems.

Next on the list is an in-depth economic study into the impact of road closures so councillors can seek European funding for a solution such as building a causeway over the current road which in just three months this year has already been closed for 46 days.

Gathered for the meeting at Welney village hall today were SW Norfolk MP Elizabeth Truss, Conservative Euro MEP Vicky Ford, county council representatives from both Norfolk and Cambridgeshire because Welney sits on the border of two counties, district councillors and borough councillors.

Mrs Ford said:

"Welney is a unique part of East Anglia which takes the flooding so that everybody else doesn't have to."

"In short it takes it on the chin for everyone else upstream. It is time we did something to help local residents and businesses live with that."

Miss Truss said that closing the road meant longer journey times to work for local commuters and headaches for hauliers trying to get through with deliveries.

"We need to improve links between Norfolk and Cambridgeshire to help rural economic development" she said.

Parish council chairman Ken Goodger praised the linking up of so many interested parties and for the first time felt positive that a real solution could be found.

In the meantime the signs would make a huge impact, he said.

Currently, county council staff drive out to erect and take down road closure signs as the flood levels rise and fall but is an unreliable system, he said.

"Flood signs are up today and cars are wasting time making 20 mile detours yet there is only a couple of centimetres of water on one tiny area of the road."

"If the new signs were in drivers would know straight away they could get through."

One sign will be positioned at the Lotts Bridge Crossroads, one at the March road junction and one at the Welney Bridge. Existing electronic water level measurements gathered by the Environment Agency will be used to relay instant updates to the signs.

If successful it is hoped other signs can be rolled out further afield.



Norfolk MP and Eastern region MEP in joint talks to try and resolve flooding delays through Welney.

Left: Cllr David Pope, Cllr Fred Yeulett. MP Elizabeth Truss. Cllr Vivienne Spikings. Cllr Will Sutton and Vicky Ford MEP for East of

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Welney may well be in Norfolk county, but the decisions made there affect many of its surrounding Cambridgeshire villages.

The past month or so has seen many reports coming out of Welney regards the flooding of 'the wash' and its detrimental effect to local residents, businesses and a loss in revenue.

Sadly we do not see the same reports appearing throughout the year regards the detrimental effect it has to the surrounding villages whilst the wash is OPEN. For the vast majority of the year we endure lorries on roads, damaged by these very same vehicles on roads that were never intended to accommodate these and commuters speeding through the villages as short cuts.

We don't see reports of councillors campaigning to have speed limits reduced on our residential rural village roads, many of which are still designated national speed limits, nor do we see campaigns to have weight restrictions put on roads that are quite clearly not up to the job, ending up costing you, the local residents, for the repairs through local taxes and increasing water rates.

The Wash has been flooded each year for over 100 years, so because local businesses and residents have not factored these closures into their business plans and choice of residence we have to build a causeway?

Therefore it was refreshing to find the following readers letter in the Wisbech Standard. This letter highlighting an interesting fact of the Welney wash I'm sure many are not familiar with...

We said no to Welney Wash walkway so we could continue using property for reason it was purchased... Shooting

IN response to MP Steve Barclay's campaign to build a causeway over the A1101 Wash Road, Welney.

This would cause problems to people needing to access their properties off the existing wash road, which gives access to fields on the Ouse Washes either side.

Therefore it seems logical that the existing road needs to remain where it is and any new structure would need to bypass Welney altogether.

The Ouse Washes prevent our low lying Fenland from flooding. The A1101 at Welney floods less now than at any other time during its history thanks to the Environment Agency, Middle Level Commissioners and the internal drainage board working together to move the water off quickly during times of heavy rain.

Last year was an exceptional year and it is not only Fenland which has been flooded, albeit we have probably got off lightly in comparison to other counties hit by floods.

While I accept businesses do suffer when the causeway floods, it is not the closure of the road harming business but the way people now live their lives.

I do wonder, however, why people move into an area where they know flooding takes place if they are not willing to accept from time to time the road may not be passable?

The flooding of this Wash Road isn't new. It's been doing it since the washes were first constructed and floods at Earith, Sutton and Welney, with Sutton having a raised wooden walkway to allow foot passage to the village.

During the last government John Prescott wrote to landowners with land adjacent to the A1101 asking if we would give permission for a walkway to be constructed to allow foot access.

We declined that request because we purchased our property for shooting during the winter months. To allow foot access would prevent us from using the property for which it was purchased for - shooting.

Shooting makes the property hold its value. Out of perhaps a dozen properties all accessed off the A1101 causeway, five are shot over on a regular basis throughout the winter. Three belong to shooting clubs and two are in private hands.

The fact that they are shot over makes them very expensive properties worth well in excess of £10,000 per acre. Only recently nine acres of washland at an out-of-the-way location sold for in excess of £90,000.

A bridge over the existing causeway would be a bridge too far and wipe out the value of those properties in one go.

There is a lot at stake here, besides the revenue the local landlord lost in his trade.

DEREK ROBINSON

Ely & District Wildfowler's Association, Hereward Street, March

Most of us want to live independently in our own homes for as long as possible. As we get older, we may need support and assistance to enable us to do so.



The Home Help Service is provided with people in later life in mind and therefore offers people over 60 who have difficulty doing their housework the support of friendly and responsible individuals, passionate about providing a professional service that enables people to remain living within the comfort of their own home.

All of our Home Helps are CRB checked, carry photo ID cards and have undergone an extensive induction process. As well as carrying out housework tasks our home helps also provide regular company and keep a friendly eye out for clients. We can also signpost clients, carers and family members to other parts of Age UK Cambridgeshire.

Our team also consists of office based staff to ensure that a friendly helpful voice is always at the end of the telephone if you have any questions or comments regarding your Home Help service.

Home Help Tasks include:

- Vacuum cleaning
- Dusting and polishing furniture
- Cleaning baths, sinks and toilets
- Removing cobwebs from walls and ceilings and washing paintwork
- Cleaning fridge and checking for out of date food as necessary
- Washing floors
- Cleaning windows (inside only)
- Laundry
- Ironing
- Changing bed linen
- Emptying rubbish bins.

No personal tasks can be undertaken

You will be matched with a suitable Home Help and agree a mutually convenient day and time for the visit(s) to take place. You must be at home when the visits take place. Weekly or fortnightly visits can be offered from 1 hour upwards (depending upon availability). This is a very competitively priced service.

We want you to be pleased with the service we provide and we therefore monitor our quality standards to ensure we are satisfying the high expectations of our clients. We care what you think and your feedback will be used to improve and develop the service. We have many happy clients and families who feel that our support has been invaluable. 'I would like to take this opportunity to thank you for your help and understanding over the past 7 years. Mums Home Help has been the most amazing support over this time and has become like one of our family', 'You saw us through a very dark patch and we are eternally grateful to you'

Contacting us : For further information, about availability and charges please contact us on **01354 696650** or email Suzanne.scrimshaw@ageukcambridgeshire.org.uk

Job vacancies: As the service is growing we would also invite anyone interested in being a Home Help to contact us on the above telephone number.

A decorative border of green Christmas trees surrounds the text on the right side of the page.

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Social care is provided to people who have been assessed as having substantial or critical support needs with personal care, getting meals, managing medication and staying safe.

If you need social care the County Council will arrange your care for you, but they now have a duty to offer and provide Direct Payments. Direct Payments are an alternative way of getting the care and support you need. They are cash payments made directly into a Direct Payment bank account so that you can use the money to make your own social care arrangements.

With a Direct Payment you have more choice, control and independence about how your care is organised.

If you would like to find out more about Direct Payments visit the Your Life, Your Choice website at: www.yourlifeyourchoice.org.uk, pick up a leaflet from your library, phone adult social care enquiries on 0345 045 5202, or contact the Cambridgeshire Direct Payment Support Service on 0845 6000 684.

Neighbourhood Watch Needs You!

Wisbech Neighbourhood Watch is looking to increase the number of schemes in your area. Neighbourhood Watch is about local people working together to make their places safe. It's about looking out for your neighbours and them looking out for you. It's about making sure that no one needs to feel alone, scared or vulnerable in the place they live.

Each scheme is owned and run by its community and generally led by a volunteer co-ordinator from the local area. Schemes often join forces with the Police and other organisations to make their neighbourhoods secure and pleasant.

Would you be interested in having a scheme in your street? Do you want to know more?

If so, contact:

Dave Harrowing Tel: 01945 870963 Email theharrowingfamily@hotmail.co.uk

Julie Coales Tel: 01945 464509 Email coalesnhw@btinternet.com

Desparately Seeking Ivy

Christchurch resident Carrie Wheeler has contacted us after receiving mail and parcels for a Mrs **Ivy Allen** since December of last year.

Carrie has asked her postman about this mail and tried to find a return address with no luck, so we are appealing to you to solve the mystery!

Does anyone know of a lady of this name moving into or out of the village in recent months?

Contact us here at The Heron so we can pass on any details.

Save ££££s on your way to work!

If you could share your journey to work even only once a week you could save £200 a year! Car sharing saves you money, is sociable, reduces pollution and reduces wear and tear on your car.

There is probably someone living near you doing the same journey as you, day in, day out – you just don't know them yet.

Why not try to find them for FREE using www.CamShare.co.uk - you may have seen our ads as you filled your car up recently?

What is CamShare?

CamShare matches your journey to other people who live near you who are making the same journeys to the same destination or in the same direction.

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And you can...

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Enjoy the social element of getting to know someone else
Cut congestion and pollution
Reduce the stress of driving

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Sign up for FREE NOW at www.camshare.co.uk – you've got nothing to lose and £££s to gain!

(CamShare is run by the Travel for Work Partnership. To find out more visit www.tfw.org.uk or call 01223 715550)

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In response to last months letter from Paul Haresnape regarding the village bus shelter :

Dear Editors,

As you invite comment and opinion, I second Mr Paul Haresnape's article about the bus shelter.

I must first declare an interest; my house is one of the three old ones built round what was the village green long ago, hence the strange name.

It looks into the bus shelter. Christchurch cottage has a side view of the shelter. The third house, set amongst its trees, has no view of it at all. *(Photograph by Keith Hill)*



Upwell Road curves here, and a bus stopping to drop off or pick up passengers can impede traffic in both directions. If we ever have a bus service, a bus stop would be in a better place if sited where the road is straight.

The shelter itself is an eyesore, as well as currently serving little purpose, although if I might indelicately refer to the "unspeakable" in the article, the building has on occasion been put to uses for which it was neither plumbed nor adequately constructed - at least, view viewed from the east - when it was put up in the second half of the 20th century...

Yours

A.P.Hutchings.



Do you have something you would like to share with the community, or have any comments on articles published in The Heron ? If so please feel free to contact us by mail, e-email or telephone, we would love to hear from you.

*
* Jenny Farnsworth
* from
* Christchurch
* would like to express her sincere
* thanks for all the cards, flowers,
* gifts and
* kind thoughts received
* during her recent stay in hospital.
*

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DOES YOUR DOG BARK TOO MUCH????

All dogs bark, but if yours goes on all day or night, and the barking is upsetting your neighbours, it might be not only courteous, but also wise to take action.

Dogs bark to communicate with each other and us, and no one should expect to have a completely silent dog. It's unreasonable to expect dogs to be quiet if there is a knock at the door, for example - it's their duty to tell us someone's there! And living in the country as we do, most people not only own a dog for the company as a pet, they are a very good early warning system to alert us to possible changes around us.

However, problems can arise when a dog barks excessively. Some people can not tolerate persistent sounds and not only just find them a little annoying but can become something that causes them extreme stress and upset. Eventually causing an issue even when the dog isn't actually barking, just the not knowing of when it will start again and not stop can become an obsession.

If you think, or have been told that your dog barks more than is usual, the first step is to consider *why* he's barking. Also, make a note of *when* your dog barks and the type of sound it is, so you can address the underlying emotional cause better.

Is he uncomfortable, or in pain? Is he bored? Is he barking because he's been left alone and is trying to call you back? Or, if your dog is only left for short periods, has he or she become over-dependent on you?

If your dog barks at things outside your yard or garden, don't let it go outside on its own. Keep it away from windows, so it can't see people or other animals.

If your dog barks at the same time every day, like when people in the house are going to work or school, try to keep it busy at that time. For example, you could take it for a walk.

Try to keep your dog calm. If it barks when it's excited, don't play with it at anti-social times like very late at night, or times when you think others might be enjoying a snippet of limited peace and quiet.

If your dog's barking and you're in a flat or a semi, try to keep it away from any walls you share with your neighbours.

Don't leave your dog outside if it's barking to be let in, or if it is trying to alert you to something. Having a dog as an outside burglar alarm isn't much good if you don't pay attention to the alarm, let's face it when your car alarm goes off do you ignore it and carry on watching the TV??

See if you can get a friend or relative to look after your dog when you go out, or take it with you.

Make sure your dog gets some exercise before you go out. A tired dog barks less.

Something to bear in mind

If you don't take steps to solve the problem, and your local authority receives complaints about the noise your dog is making, the authority has a legal obligation to investigate the complaint. The local authority may seek to resolve the problem by mediating between you and the complainants, but where it does not do so, or where such mediation is unsuccessful, and the authority is satisfied that the noise amounts to a statutory nuisance, it will serve you with an abatement notice requiring the noise to be reduced to an acceptable level.

If you fail to comply with an abatement notice, you could face prosecution and, if convicted, a fine of up to £5,000 (and possibly further daily fines of up to £500 for each day on which the offence continues after conviction). You may even be forced to attend at your own expense dog training classes.

Is your dog barking too much?

<http://archive.defra.gov.uk/environment/quality/noise/neighbour/documents/barkingdog.pdf>

Ok I did promise spring was on its way, but there is a slight delay, so just be patient, enjoy Easter and put some warm clothes on, and wander past a few of your neighbours gardens and stop to look at the buds which are waiting to open and show off. Have you got a Daphne plant in your garden? They have a lovely perfume, put your nose to this bright green shrub! But there are other scented smells around just now, sniff them out. Our outdoor Hyacinths are very shy, we can just see some of the colours but others are just green tips. Tulips are very shy also, as too are the Narcissi. Our Snowdrops have just gone over, they went on and on really pretty.



We the club members enjoyed a good meeting with Mary and Alan from Manea School of Gardening, which they run very successfully together with a very interesting nursery, there are many areas to be explored. Mary and Alan always ready with knowledge of all plants in the many books available. For our club evening this month Mary and Alan used their time, (which is precious), to show us a very wide group of plants, showing us and explaining the whys and wherefores of our 5 important senses, which help us to see, feel, smell, taste and hear (yes hear), our trees / bushes / leaves. Many many folk cannot do this, so often life is too busy, and we rush about, but just for once stop, look and listen. Touch a leaf. Can you find a smell or scent as you look around your garden? If you didn't manage to get to club night, try and visit the Manea School of Gardening they have a wonderful variety of foliage and interesting plants. Also keep a look out for their special events which take place. Speaking of events here is a reminder for a coach trip to 'Kew Gardens' April 15th 2013 £25 to include admission to Kew Gardens. Depart Manea High Street 8 am - Depart Kew Gardens 5 pm This has been organised by Manea School of Gardening. Bookings Email on info@maneasog.com or Alan on 07738079804.

April 23rd we will continue the BEE informative talk, as we ran out of time last year if you recall. Also will ask for members who can help to man the 'plant sale' on May 18th, for an hour or so. As your garden wakes up and the plants or roots need thinning out don't throw them away pass these on to Garden Club, and we can put them on our stalls. This is an important fund raiser which is always enjoyed by so many smiley faces each year.

Summer is coming and we the committee look forward to another successful year
 "Always look on the bright side of life de dum dee dum dee dum dee dum"

Contact as usual 01354 638024

Bubbles



Short Mat Bowls

10 players from Christchurch attended and by the afternoon 4 players in their respective teams had reached the semi finals, an excellent result. With Janet Ruffel making the final and our Photograph shows her in the winning team with Margaret Dean and John Hillier.

Christchurch finished the Paget League in 3rd position which is very commendable having only 15 league players. well done to everyone.

John Sparrow - Chairman



Pat Freeman -Maggie Moyse- Janet Ruffell who played in the semi final teams

Delph House *news*

April 2013

Recent activities

In advance of Easter residents attended Easter Songs of Praise at St Andrews Methodist Church in Outwell. Many of the residents have also been busy making Easter cards and organising Easter eggs for their friends and relatives. Residents later made a trip to Hunstanton to visit the Sea-Life Centre. In spite of the cold weather residents, well wrapped up, enjoyed seeing the sea life and having lunch there. Before returning home we also drove through Sandringham. Residents made and enjoyed a similar trip last year.

We have enjoyed looking in the garden at the aconites and snowdrops from inside the building and can see the daffodils will be out soon but the weather has not yet been warm enough to do more than to have a short walk outside.

Any Volunteers?

In the last issue we appealed for volunteers to visit occasionally to spend a little time with some residents. We are still looking for volunteers and would welcome any enquiries.

Previous volunteers have contributed to our residents' day and have also enjoyed the time themselves. Volunteers can be of almost any age; previous volunteers have included teens to seventies.

If you think you might be interested please get in touch.

Day Opportunities

We welcome day visitors and recently received one at very short notice due to an emergency. Day visitors take part in activities organised in the home for residents, and may also have a bath or shower if that is difficult to arrange at home. Day visitors can also take part in any trip out arranged for residents that day. For further details please telephone: **01354 610 300** or email: **info@delph-house.co.uk**

www.delph-house.co.uk

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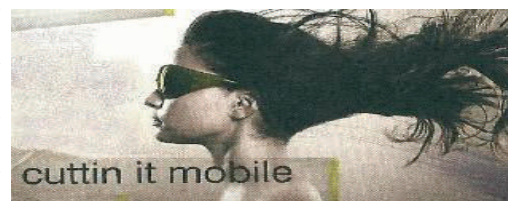
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CHRISTCHURCH WOMEN'S INSTITUTE NEWS

Minutes of the Monthly WI Meeting held in the Memorial Hall on March 12th 2013



The President welcomed guests, members and visitors from Coates W.I. Minutes were signed .

Apologies were received from S. Quail, T. Day, W. Yates, S. Kay, F. Piper, D.T. Rolfe, A. Hughes, and B. Gladwin . Cold weather or colds and sore throats seemed to be responsible for their absence.

Correspondence

Invitation to Manea meeting

Details were given out about the W.I. centenary fruit cake competition.

Attention was drawn to the public affairs meeting in June when the speaker will be the same one booked for our September meeting.

Transport for the birthday dinner was arranged and details given out to members.

A new bag has been obtained for the secretary to use. As no one wanted the old case it will be disposed of.

Due to a slight hitch we then had refreshments and enjoyed biscuits made by our President.

Our speaker for the evening was David Palmer, a freelance auctioneer. After putting on his trademark fancy waistcoat, he gave many amusing anecdotes about his life as an auctioneer and also some interesting details about the television programmes Flog It! and Bargain Hunt on which he has appeared. He was thanked by Peggy.

Birthdays

A.Hughes, S. Kay, P. Warby, S. Quail, M. Sparrow

Competition Results : A collectible

Beryl 5, Sue N. 5, Kath 4, Tracy 4, Val 4, Ann 4, Margaret 3, Sandra L. 3

Next Month:

Birthday Dinner

No competition or raffle prizes needed.

Peggy Warby
President

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CHRISTCHURCH CRAFT CLUB

Our March meeting was Easter Arrangements in a basket of your choice, an array of silk flowers and leaves were there for you to help yourselves and by the end of the evening many beautiful baskets filled the hall depicting Easter, 16 in all!

A big thank you to Wendy who donated the flowers and baskets, also Alison for flowers and accessories, both were much appreciated.

Next Month is a 'Bring and Make' evening (your credit card and bus pass holders will be made later in the year)

Why not come along and join us - everyone is welcome, no matter where your interest in craft lies.

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

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The Dun Cow

Tel: 01354 638323

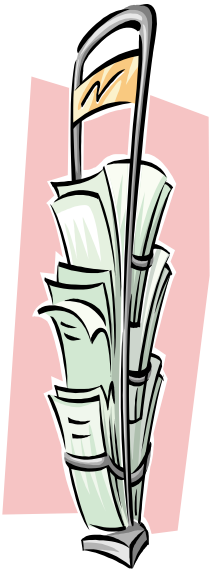
Debbie, Mark, Yazz and Jim would like to thank every one that
has supported us over the past year and given us great comments.
We wish Phil the new landlord all the best

New Opening Times

Monday 5pm to 11pm
Tuesday 5pm to 11pm.
Wednesday 12 noon to 2pm -5pm to 11pm
Friday 12 noon to 12 midnight
Saturday 12 noon to 12 midnight
Sunday 12 noon to 10 pm

Friday 5th April

Live music by the Baker St boys



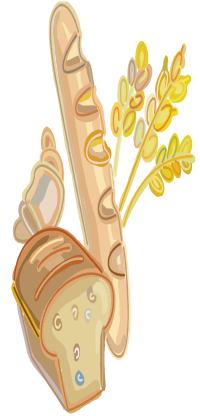
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TOWNLEY SCHOOL

Christchurch, Wisbech, Cambs. PE14 9NA

Email: office@townley.cambs.sch.uk

Website: www.townleyschool.org.uk

Tel/Fax: 01354 638229



Townley supports World Book Day

All the children dressed up in their favourite book character and showed off their costumes on the catwalk. We were also joined by the Pre-School. The day was full of book related activities.



Some of the children have also entered the Your Monster Read Competition and some entries can be found on the web-site along with more photos from our day.

Diary Dates

15th March - Red Nose Day

25th/26th March - Parents Evening

26th March—Year 6 Careers Convention—March

27th March - 8 a side Football
Tournament at Townley

28th March - Easter Assembly, Easter
Egg Hunt

28th March - Last day of term

15th April—Teacher Training Day

16th April—Summer Term Opens



For Red Nose Day we all dressed up in Red. Class 3 organised some fund raising stalls and we managed to raise £147.00

Year 6 SATs - 13th—17th May 2012

Year 2 SATs will take place during May

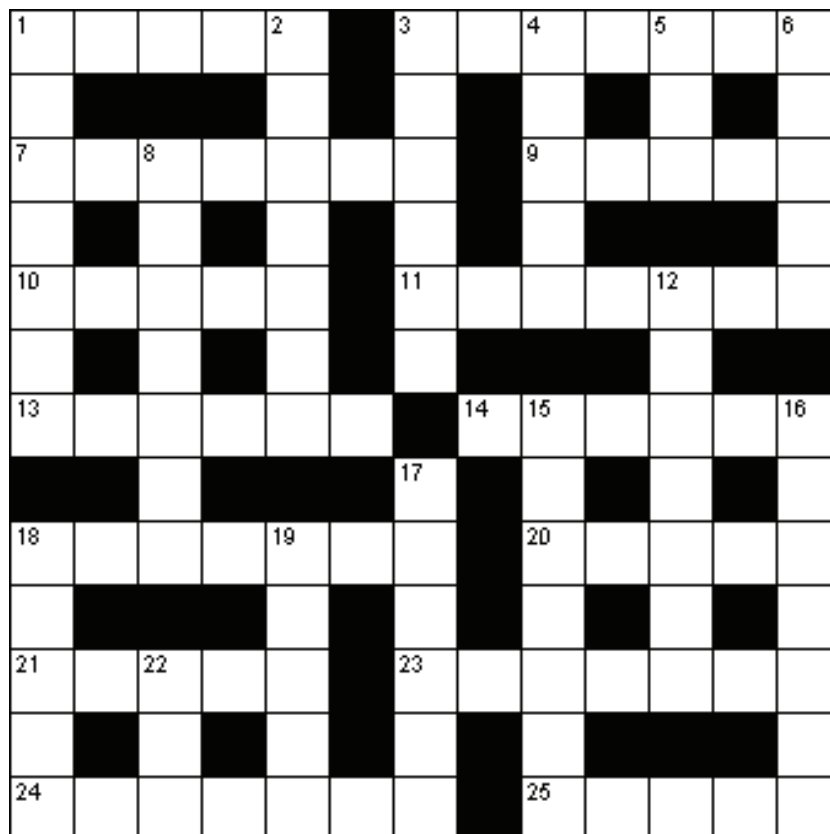
It is very important that children attend school during these dates.

Across

1. Goddess of love (5)
3. Revoke (7)
7. Floor show (7)
9. Oversight (5)
10. Last letter of the Greek alphabet (5)
11. Rising warm air current (7)
13. Symbol of disgrace or infamy (6)
14. Sour (6)
18. Inscrutable (7)
20. Type of snake (5)
21. Photo book (5)
23. Luxurious (7)
24. Commotion (7)
25. Restorative (5)

Down

1. Asinine (7)
2. Satire (7)
3. Turn on an axis (6)
4. Unguent (5)
5. Mischievous fairy (3)
6. Live (5)
8. Transience (7)
12. Gruesome (7)
15. Explanation (7)
16. Forceful and extreme (7)
17. Educational institution (6)
18. Intone (5)
19. Musical speed (5)
22. Saloon (3)



UKP012

Medium

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						8	2	

MP11

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5	3	9				7		
2				3				

HP11



Parish Church Services

7th April	11:00am	Revd K. Fitzgibbon	All-Age Worship
14th April	9:30am	Revd K. Fitzgibbon	Holy Communion
21st April	6:30pm	Revd K. Fitzgibbon	Evening Prayer
28th April	11:00am	Revd K. Fitzgibbon	Morning Prayer

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

Daphne and Andrew.

Christchurch Parish Council News

Draft agenda for next Council meeting 7:30pm, Monday 8th April 2013, Memorial Hall, Church Road. The meeting will be preceded by the Recreation Ground Charity AGM at 7pm.

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

1. Open, welcome and apologies
2. Signing of previous meeting's minutes March 2013
3. Disclosure or declaration of interests
4. Update on actions from previous meeting
5. Public Adjournment (time to raise issues affecting you with the Council)
6. Police Update
7. Correspondence
8. Finance
9. Review of Planning Applications
10. Parish Plan
11. Reporting of Village Concerns

Your Parish Council and how to contact us

Nigel Russell – phone 638279	Jill Bliss – phone 638343
Wesley Poole – phone 638622	Jacky Wincote (Chair) – phone 638575
Simon Freeland – phone 638802	Hannah Poole – phone 638622
William Beswick – phone 638758	
	Stephen Cowell (Clerk) – phone 661374 e-mail christchurchcambspc@googlemail.com

Dog Fouling

The Council would like to thank the vast majority of dog owners who act responsibly and pick up the mess and either put it in one of the bins or take it home. The Council is in the process of paying for another bin to be situated at the Church Road/Scott's Road crossroads.

Renovation and extension of the Sports Pavilion

At a recent meeting of the New Village Hall Committee members debated the two options available and on a majority vote decided reluctantly to opt for the renovate and extend option as they did not want to build in more delay. This will mean that once the building plots have been sold by the Council the renovation work should be able to begin. A solicitor is now involved in updating the Charity Objects to make it fit to run a Community Building.

Dogs on the Recreation Ground

Please can residents be aware that dog walking is **not** permitted on the recreation ground. This decision was not taken lightly by the Trustees of the Charity that runs the ground but in light of that fact that a small number of people allowed their dogs to foul the playing field causing children to get it all over their clothes.

Road Closure

The Council has been informed that there is a planned road closure on the Sixteen Foot Bank Road between Padgett's Road and Upwell Road from 8th -10th April between 9:30pm and 3:30pm.

**MINUTES OF THE CHRISTCHURCH PARISH COUNCIL MEETING
MONDAY 11th FEBRUARY 2013 – MEMORIAL HALL CHRISTCHURCH AT 7:30pm**

Present: Councillors – Jacky Wincote (Chair), Nigel Russell, Jill Bliss, William Beswick, Wes Poole, Mac Cotterell MBE (FDC) and Will Sutton (FDC) who arrived during item 11 as he had been attending another meeting.

Stephen Cowell (Clerk), PCSO Russ and 1 member of the public were also in attendance.

1. Welcome and Apologies

The Chair welcomed all to the meeting.

Apologies were received and accepted from Cllr. Simon Freeland, Cllr Hannah Poole and Cllr Fred Yeulett (CCC).

2. Signing of Minutes

The minutes of the 14th January meeting were signed, by the Chair, as true record of the meeting.

3. Disclosure and Declarations of Pecuniary Interests

No interests were declared.

4. Update on action points from previous meeting

It was reported that:

- Cllr. Russell had met with a Highways Department rep regarding the damaged verge at Cotton's Corner and the damage has now been repaired.
- The Clerk has provided Cllr. Russell with a copy of the conditions of consent for filing and piping the ditch near the building plots to be sold by the Council.
- That PCSO Russ has been made aware of the comments made at the last meeting regarding dog fouling.
- The Clerk has had a meeting to discuss the Jointly Funding Minor Highways bid, made two years ago, for an improvement to the narrow footpath near the Bus Shelter. They discussed alternatives such as widening the path and installing a priority system similar to that in place in Friday Bridge and also dropping the kerb closer to the bend so those having to take to the road do so for less distance. He has yet to receive any formal response following the meeting (see update provided by Cllr. Sutton in item 11).

5. Public Adjournment

No items were raised for discussion.

6. Police Update

PCSO Russ reported that there have been no crimes reported this month in Christchurch. He also reported that a Speedwatch was undertaken on 10th Jan with no vehicles exceeding the limit. The New Police and Crime Commissioner has stated that he would like communities to be responsible for Speedwatch and that the Police are currently setting up a new method of working. The aim is to have a Co-ordinator who will assist with Speedwatch in each area / village however the aim is eventually for each community to set up their own Speedwatch team with the co-ordinator assisting as required. Team members will be trained in the use of the equipment which can be borrowed from the Police Station and used as frequently as required by the teams. The advantages of this type of system is that the equipment can be used at key times and if required over a number of days, rather than once a month often during off-peak times.

There continues to be a number of oil thefts across the rural area, it is suggested that oil tanks are checked regularly and secured with padlocks. There are also alarms available that alert the owner if the oil level drops rapidly.

PCSO Russ also reported that the New Horizon Outreach Vehicle (previously CrimeBUSTer Bus) is due to be in operation shortly, we hope to have use of the vehicle for the Wisbech South Rural Forum that will take place on 28th March. The bus will hopefully be located in Maltmas Drove Friday Bridge between 11.30 and 18.00 hours with the meeting taking place between 18.00 and 19.00 hours.

Continued

The rural area will now be covered by 2 PCSOs, Andy Bush a seasoned PCSO has already started his duties. This will ensure we have sufficient resource to attend Council Meetings, visit schools and Neighbourhood Watch Members amongst many other duties.

PCSO Russ left the meeting at the conclusion of this item.

7. Correspondence Received

The Clerk reported that very little correspondence has been received this month and that all that has been received has been e-mailed to councillors.

Cllr. Cotterell provided a verbal update from the District Council reporting that the coming years will be difficult from a financial point of view as District and County Councils are requested by Central Government to make further cuts. He reported that the Council Tax figures will soon be available on the District Council's web-site and he expected an increase of around 2%.

8. Finance

The Clerk reported total bank balances of £55,215.66, with cheques written amounting to £2,201.96 to come from this, and brought to Councillor's attention the earmarked funds (funds that must be spent on specific purposes) that total a little over £33k.

The following items, listed on the agenda, were agreed for payment

8.1 Clerk's Salary £183.78

8.2 The Heron £65.00

8.3 Society of Local Council Clerks £75.00 (Annual Subscription Fee)

9. Planning Applications

None to consider

10. Parish Plan – Update

The Clerk reported that the solicitors for the purchaser of two of the plots of land to be sold to fund the new village hall have been requesting information on the covenants and agreements affecting the land. The Clerk and Cllr. Russell have provided details of the County Council's release of the covenant related to the use of the land and Cllr. Russell has agreed to waive his Right of Access over the land. Cllr. Russell has also completed a sale questionnaire that included details of the upkeep arrangements for the surrounding land owned by the Council.

11. Raising of Village Concerns

Cllr. Sutton joined the meeting at this point.

The following items were reported/discussed:

1. Continued concern over the number of pot holes in the road surface along Euximoor Drove was raised as was the poor quality of repairs made to the bridge over the Sixteen Foot Drain at the top of the Drove. Cllr. Russell reported that he has mentioned the latter to Highways.
2. The two street lights along Euximoor Drove are in need of replacement bulbs.
3. The water leak at the Sports Pavilion was discussed currently the water is switched off after use to prevent more leakage. Following a discussion the Clerk was asked to contact the Bowls Club to see if their monitoring suggested how much of a problem it is.
4. Cllr. Sutton reported that there is a broken manhole cover in the car park. He has covered it over with some board and offered to review the problem and discuss potential repairs with a local builder.
5. The cost of councillors receiving Electoral Role updates by registered post was discussed. The Clerk pointed out that this is a requirement of receiving updates as the District Council has to make sure the correct person receives the update.
6. Cllr. Sutton reported that the District Council Environment Officer is to meet with the resident who raised a number of environmental concerns recently. A date for the meeting has not been agreed yet but Cllr. Sutton hopes to attend and Parish Councillors will be also welcome to attend.
7. Cllr. Sutton reported that works have been approved to drop the kerb near the Bus Shelter as mentioned by the Clerk in item 4.

Chair closed the meeting at 8:25pm

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To contact the newsletter team :-

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Post / by appointment :

The Heron, The Hollies, March Road, Tipps End, Wisbech, Cambs. PE14 9SH

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Alzheimer's Society (Fenland)	01945 580480
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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
Eastern Electricity	0800 783 8838
FACT (Fenland Association of Community Transport)	01354 661234
Fenland District Council	01354 654321
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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Welle Pharmacy, Upwell Health Centre	01945 774081
Wisbech Fire Station	01945 428600

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