

## Christchurch Village Newsletter January 2013

#### **Happy New Year to all our readers.**

We hope you enjoyed a wonderful Christmas time, and are looking forward to starting 2013.

December saw the opening of the Village shop, and we have been reliably informed that from January they will be the stocking Newspapers and Magazines as well as fresh bakery products.

A shop will be a welcome addition to village life, and we here at the Heron strongly urge you to support them as much as you can, as this local resource has been sorely missed by many, not only who actually live in Christchurch, but the more isolated properties round and about, who although have to travel to be anywhere at all, would benefit from a shorter distance and bring new and welcome faces into the heart of the village.

Another wonderful piece of news to start the year is that the speed limit has finally been reduced to 30 m.p.h and although the appropriate road signs have not been put into place the new lower and safer speed limit now applies to Church Road through to Upwell/ Toll Road, hopefully this will make the village a slower, safer and calmer place for residents.

We are looking forward to bringing you The Heron for another year and hope it continues to grow and become an asset to the Parish. Hopefully this year will bring increased success for everyone locally and finally we can all feel that life, the economy, and standard of living for all is on the rise once again.

Pa	aul	and	Mandi

Editors.

#### **Dun Cow Serves Up a Successful Christmas**

Our sincere congratulations go to the staff at the Dun Cow Pub for what seems to have been a truly successful Christmas Day Lunch. We were contacted by happy patrons praising the wonderful spread they had witnessed there this festive holiday. Well done may you continue with your success in the New Year.

'We would like to say how special our Christmas was thanks to the superb Christmas Dinner we enjoyed at the pub. The quality of the food was like home cooking at its best; the portions were very generous; the service was excellent, as was the atmosphere. We hope you will be doing the same again next year!'

## Huge Surprise For Hamper Winner

Mrs Doris Pawlik of Fenview, Christchurch, was the lucky winner drawn at the December meeting of the Parish council winning our Christmas Hamper last month.

Not only was the win a surprise, but a double shock as she didn't even remember entering our draw.

`I thought at first my daughter Sue might have filled in my entry for me after you rung and told me I had won, but then I remembered it was my

hairdresser Tracey, when she came she told me about the hamper draw and I quickly Mrs Pawlik, who has lived in Christchurch for over 25 years presented with her hamper by Paul Warren of HCI Solutions Ltd (co editor of The Heron)

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filled in the ticket and gave it to her to hand in for me, and then completely forgot all about it, it really is a lovely hamper'.

Congratulations Doris and hope you enjoyed the treats and a thank you to all that took the time to send in your entry slips.



Birthday celebrations were held to mark Christchurch resident Walter Chamberlain's 90th birthday last month.

Walter celebrated his 90th birthday on the 9th December 2012 surrounded by family and friends at the Memorial Hall.

The hall, which looked fantastic, had been decorated for the occasion by Tracey Day, and refreshments were laid on by Wendy Yates and her crew of excellent friends, too many to mention, who all had chipped in with a mouth watering array of culinary delights.

Music performed on the evening by Gail Partridge, and a beautiful cake by Adele Hill representing Walter's time as a farmer, even complete with a mini tractor, was a huge surprise.



Money raised at the evening, over £1000, is being divided and donated to some of Walter's favourite charities, The Church Fabric Fund, East Anglia Air Ambulance, Milton Children's Hospice, and Friends of Wisbech Hospital.

Walter wishes to send his heart felt thanks to all who were involved in his birthday celebrations, it was certainly an evening to remember.

## Giant sandbags help re-assure villagers at Welney as water levels rise and A1101 closure enters seventh week

ENVIRONMENT Agency engineers have deployed a barrage held in place with giant sandbags to bolster flood defences at Welney.

The A1101 has long disappeared under six feet of flood water, leaving the main route across this part of the Fens impassable.

Engineers fear the road which cuts through the flood bank, as it enters Welney, could leave the low-lying village vulnerable if levels continue to rise.

"The level is 3m above sea level," said Graham Verrier, the EA's area flood risk manager for the Great Ouse catchment. "The road runs over the Middle Level Barrier Bank, which keeps the water in the washes, where we want it."

"This is precautionary; we just want to make sure it's in place so if the levels start to rise it's here ready."



Welney Washes fill each winter as the man-made River Delph rises and bursts its banks. Hundreds of acres between the drain and Hundred Foot River flood, becoming a haven for wildfowl and during colder winters, a giant open air ice rink. With the water in the swollen Delph a good six feet higher than Welney's sprawl of homes, the risks are obvious.

"Everyone's worried," said engineer Mike Smith, as he surveyed the choppy scene. "I'm from Tipps End, if this floods, Tipps End's going to flood."



The waters briefly rose this high in 2007. Since then, the pumping station at Welmore Sluice, near Salter's Lode, has been beefed up. But there's a limit how much water the pumps can unload into the silted Ouse between tides.

Cambridgeshire and Norfolk county councils plus both counties police asked the Environment Agency to tackle possible flooding issues at Welney.

Alan Daniels, operations team leader for the Environment Agency said, "The Welney Road goes over the Middle Level Barrier Bank on the west of the Ouse Washes and creates a low spot along this defence.

"We have put approximately 30 one ton sandbags across the road to build a temporary continuous defence along the barrier bank.

"This is a planned activity which is triggered by water levels hitting a specific point. We haven't needed to do this for some time."

The Welney Causeway was closed by Norfolk County Council Highways department on November 23 and will remain closed until flood waters have receded.

Courtesy of CambsTimes, reporter Daniel Mansfield and pictures by Steve Williams

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#### Christchurch once again has a shop thanks to a young mum

A YOUNG mum of two has set up shop in a Fenland village so residents no longer have to travel FOUR MILES for their food.

Lucy Craddock has never managed a shop but has taken the bold step of founding The Little Local, a convenience store in the hub of Christchurch, which opens today.

Mrs Craddock, 24, her husband Stephen and their two children, live in the property so she only has a few paces to travel from her living room to the shop floor.

And she is thrilled by the response to the venture. She said: "Everybody really wants a shop here and have been asking when it is going to open.

"Townley Primary School is nearby so we could get children coming to and from the school."

Locals have to make the trek to Upwell for basic goods and travel even further to March or Wisbech if they wish to do a larger shop. The shop used to be a post office but had become rundown before parish councillor Nigel Russell took over the property in August. Renovating it has been a major investment since it needed to be altered, gutted, rewired and re-plastered.



A book-share has been set up so villagers can bring their spare books into the shop and swap them with other readers. Mrs Craddock hopes to sell fresh bread and cakes in the shop.

She is excited about the prospect of getting My Little Local off the ground but admits the first few months will be challenging.

She said: "To begin with it will be trial and error since this is all new to us. It will just be about getting enough customers to make it worthwhile for us to be open."

courtesy of CambsTimes

Speaking to us here at the Heron Lucy told us;

`The little local has now been open for a few weeks. We will be stocking newspapers and magazines from 4<sup>th</sup> January 2013. We stock fresh bread and cakes, (a range of fresh cream and celebration cakes can also be ordered) also fresh fruit and vegetables. I would like to thank all the people that have supported us. We hope they all enjoyed a wonderful Christmas and equally have a Happy New Year.'

#### **Christchurch Short Mat Bowls Club**



Wolsey Rolfe receiving his life time membership certificate

The club recently held their Christmas Dinner at The Golden Lion Stonea. Members supported a raffle organized by Tom & Wendy raising £50.00 for The Air Ambulance.

A presentation was made during the evening to Wolsey Rolfe for his loyal and continued service to the club. The framed certificate giving Wolsey lifetime membership was presented by club chairman John Sparrow.

#### CHRISTCHURCH WOMEN'S INSTITUTE NEWS

### Minutes of the Monthly WI Meeting held in the Memorial Hall on Tuesday 11th December 2012.



The President welcomed members and we began the meeting with Silent Night. Apologies were received from Connie who is slowly getting better.

Margaret Sparrow took the chair for the election of President and Peggy was duly elected for the year. The Treasurer, Susan Quail , then gave the financial report for the year. Margaret thanked her for preparing the accounts so clearly and also thanked the committee. She set members a challenge to find six new members by the next AGM.

The annual report was given and members voted on the resolution short list. The Resolution resolving to keep young people suicide-safe online was carried unanimously.

Jane Green was the speaker and demonstrator for the evening. She talked about how she had always been interested in make-up and skin care from an early age. She then set up her own business providing a variety of facial treatments. Using Tracy as a willing model she demonstrated one of her treatments and answered member's questions.

Wendy and Peggy were given vouchers for points they had gained during competitions.

Competition Winners: a potpourri bag. Sandra Kay (5), Susan Quail (4),

Val and Peggy served mince pies during refreshments and the evening finished with Away in a Manager.

Next Month will be members night. The competition: How many words can be made from

"Fish and Chips" ( 3 letters or more ). Subscriptions for 2013 will be collected in January. (£33)

Raffle Prize Rota: Kath, Ann, Alma and Sandra Kay

Peggy Warby President



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#### **CHRISTCHURCH CRAFT CLUB**

The year's last meeting of the Craft Club held on 4<sup>th</sup> Dec once again saw Beryl demonstrating Ribbon Fairies to trim your tree and cards to send to friends, using different kinds of materials.

A finger buffet was enjoyed by all, prepared by members and the evening ended with a raffle with many lucky winners.

Peggy wished everyone a Merry Christmas and Happy New Year, and hoped to see them all at the first meeting in 2013 on 5<sup>th</sup> February start 7.30 pm, the theme being 'Bring and Make'. Everyone welcome feel free to join us then.

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

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With Pilates you can achieve a flat stomach, slender thighs and buttocks, and toned arms without adding bulk. It also helps to reduce back and joint pain and to relieve stress and tension.



Every Tuesday night @ 6.30pm

Bring your own exercise mat and/or a towel

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Cost £5.00

#### **AGE UK ANNOUNCEMENT**

Age UK Cambridgeshire has been awarded funds through the Department of Health as part of the Warm Homes Healthy People joint initiative. The projects aim to support people aged 60 or over to stay warm and safe over the winter months.

#### **Keeping warm this winter 2012/13 - Free Energy Efficiency Assessments**

Age UK Cambridgeshire has received funds from the Department of Health to enable us to carry out assessments at the homes of residents aged 60 years or over within Cambridgeshire to determine if measures can be put in place to make homes warmer and reduce energy costs.

Our assessors may recommend certain measures such as draught excluders, radiator panels, nightlights, manual socket timers and hot water cylinder jackets to name but a few.

The service is completely free and for more information, please call 01354 696650 or 01480 700205.

#### **Electric Blanket Testing**

Also as part of the Department of Health's grant to support older people to remain safely warm at home, we will be offering free electric blanket testing at the following venues:

14<sup>th</sup> January: Papworth Fire Station
15<sup>th</sup> January: Littleport Fire Station
21<sup>st</sup> January: Ramsey Fire Station
22<sup>nd</sup> January: March Fire Station

Over 70% of blankets fail tests and for this reason any blanket which fails will be replaced **free of charge**.

To book an appointment to have a blanket tested, please call 01354 696650

#### **Shopping Service**

Funding has been received from Wilkinson's and the Department of Health to enable us to continue running our online shopping service.

The service is for Cambridgeshire residents, aged 60 and over who are unable to, or may have difficulty in doing their grocery shopping. Many supermarkets now offer online shopping but unless you have a computer you cannot take advantage of this convenient service.

Orders can be placed over the phone to our shopping service and we will make all the arrangements, and arrange delivery to your home. There is no commitment to shop every week.

Age UK Cambridgeshire makes no charge for this service but supermarket charges for delivery may vary.

Enquires and orders can be taken from Monday-Friday between 9-12 noon on 01354 696650

Enquiries for all three projects can also be made by email to melanie.murdoch@ageukcambridgeshire.org.uk

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#### **Opening Hours:**

#### **Monday to Thursday**

6 pm to 10 pm

#### Friday

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#### Saturday

6 pm to 12 am

#### Sunday

12 pm to 10 pm

#### **Bank Holiday**

5 pm to 10 pm

### The Dun Cow

Tel: 01354 638323

#### **Grill night - Tuesdays**

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#### **Upcoming events**

#### Food being served:

#### **Monday**

Closed

**Tuesday** grill night 7pm to 9pm

#### Wednesday/Thursday

Closed

#### Saturday

6 pm to 8 pm

#### Sunday

1 pm & 3 pm sittings booking advisable

Thanks to all to all of you that have supported us, it is very much appreciated .

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#### 200+ club Draw (59) Sept—Dec 2012 Draw 4th 200+ Draw (59)

Prize	Picking Order	Number Drawn	Name of Winner
£100	1	148	G WARBY
£20	2	62	V MURRAY
£20	3	63	J SMART
£20	4	118	G MATTHEWSON
£20	5	3	D YATES
£20	6	17	W SUTTON
£10	7	137	A MURRAY
£10	8	132	M SINGLETERRY
£10	9	141	D SYMONS
£10	10	156	R SYMONS
£10	11	113	A CLABON
£10	12	206	W CHAMBERLAIN
£10	13	67	M NEWTON
£10	14	117	E CHAMBERLAIN
£10	15	19	E SUTTON
£10	16	131	G GREEN

Draws will normally be just before the start of the Memorial Hall Committee

Meetings in the months APR/ AUG/DEC

See The Heron for details





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#### **Across**

- 1. Danger (5)
- 4. Percussion instrument (7)
- 8. Deliberated (7)
- 9. Molten rock (5)
- 10. Marine mollusks (7)
- 12. Similar (5)
- 13. Martial art (4,2)
- 15. Rigorous (6)
- 18. Assumed name (5)
- 19. Accumulated (7)
- 21. Similar to a giraffe (5)
- 22. Dizziness (7)
- 24. Perpetual (7)
- 25. Book of maps (5)

#### **Down**

- 1. Security device (7)
- 2. Bone (3)
- 3. Supple (5)
- 4. Plain (6)
- 5. Fortification (7)
- 6. Enlarges (9)
- 7. Astound (5)
- 11. Consortium (9)
- 14. Mode (7)
- 16. Irksome (7)
- 17. Wonder (6)

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- 18. Repent (5)
- 20. Artery (5)
- 23. Unwell (3)

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#### **Parish Church Services**

6th January 11:00am Revd K. Fitzgibbon All-Age Worship

13th January 9:30am Revd S. Tooke **Holy Communion** 

20th January 3:30pm Revd K. Fitzgibbon Evening Prayer

27th January 11:00am S.E. Tooke Morning Prayer

3rd February 11:00am Revd S. Tooke All-Age Worship

THANK YOU to those who so generously donated their Dole Charity money to the Parish Church Funds. It is much appreciated.

Congratulations to our choir boy Walter, on celebrating his 90th birthday, and "Thank You" Walter, for the donation to the Church Fabric Fund, which was raised at your birthday celebrations.

Daphne and Andrew.

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



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#### **Christchurch Parish Council News**

## Draft agenda for next Council meeting 7:30pm, Monday 14<sup>th</sup> Jan 2013, Memorial Hall, Church Road.

## 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 Dec 2012
- 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. To include the agreement of the 2013/14 Budget
- 10. Review of Planning Applications
- 11.Parish Plan
- 12. 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

#### **Christchurch Memorial Hall Committee**

The Christchurch Memorial Hall Committee meeting will be held in January during an afternoon meeting which will take place on Tuesday 8th January 2013 at 1.30 pm.

### MINUTES OF THE CHRISTCHURCH PARISH COUNCIL MEETING MONDAY 12th NOVEMBER 2012 — MEMORIAL HALL CHRISTCHURCH AT 7:30pm

Present: Councillors – Jacky Wincote (Chair), Nigel Russell, Jill Bliss, Simon Freeland, William Beswick, Hannah Poole, Wes Poole, Will Sutton (FDC) and Fred Yeulett (CCC).

Stephen Cowell (Clerk) 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. Cotterell MBE (FDC) and PCSO Russ.

#### 2. Signing of Minutes

The minutes of the 8th October meeting were signed, by the Chair, as true record of the meeting.

#### 3. Disclosure and Declarations of Pecuniary Interests

No interests where declared.

#### 4. Update on action points from previous meeting

It was reported that:

- Costs for a new 400mm x 300mm 'No Dogs' sign for the Recreation Ground would be approx £22.00 plus VAT. Members authorised the purchase of one new sign.
- A notice was placed in The Heron asking for people using the Recreation Ground to place rubbish in the bins provided.
- The Clerk will contact Roddons again regarding help with overgrown hedges at properties belonging to them.
- Cllr. Sutton has done some research into the timing of the Public Adjournment item and in other Council meetings it is either at the start or finish of the meeting's business. Members agreed to leave the item where it is on the agenda as to move it would mean decisions could be made by the Council prior to members of the public being given the opportunity to make their views known at the meeting.

#### **5. Public Adjournment**

Only one item was raised:

• What is happening to the upturned trailer on the land adjacent to Upwell Road? It was reported that it will be moved once insurance assessors have inspected it.

#### 6. Police Update

PCSO Russ sent his apologies for not being able to attend the meeting as he is attending the Newton Parish Council meeting. In the report he sent to the Council he reported that during a recent Speed Check in a 15 minutes period 24 vehicles were observed and none were breaking the speed limit.

He also reported that he there has been a spate of break-ins to garden sheds in the Wisbech area but none in Christchurch.

#### 7. Correspondence Received

The Clerk brought to the attention of Councillors:

- Winter Gritting Volunteer Training.
- A request MAGPAS for a donation. The letter was taken by the Chair.
- A proposed road closure in Three Holes where the diversion will be along Padgett's Road and Upwell Road.
- Details of an authorised change in the public right of way near Well End Farm. Details were discussed at a previous meeting and circulated for Members to see.
- Details of a request by the Drainage Board for an Environmental Impact statement to be produced in relation to the proposed piping an filling of a small stretch if ditch in front of the land to be sold along Upwell Road. The Clerk reported that the statement has been produced and sent to the Drainage Board. Cllr. Russell reported that he has approached Lincs Drainage for a donation of the piping required and they have agreed to provide it.

#### 8. County Council Street Lighting Project

The Clerk summarised the project and reminded Members that only lights owned by the County Council are affected i.e. those in Fenview and 5 lights in Upwell Road (4 near it's junction with the Sixteen Foot Bank Road and one near its junction with Church Road)

Continued...

Following a discussion it was agreed that the Council would offer to keep all the lights rather than take a 20% reduction. This would mean a cost of a little under £50 per annum per light retained that would otherwise be removed. Total cost per annum would not exceed £100 per annum. The Clerk was asked to confirm that there were no additional costs regarding new lamps for the retained columns.

It was reported that the new columns would produce more light and therefore the Upwell Road/Church Road junction lighting would improve as the column between that junction and Fenview would be replaced with a better quality lamp.

#### 9. Church Road House numbering

Cllr. Freeland reported that the FDC numbering project has been completed but due to the usage by some companies of the data base provided by the Council there could be issues as some of the data is held in a way that could result in incomplete addresses being held on company files.

The Clerk was asked to put a notice in The Heron to remind house owners that it is in their best interests if house numbers and/or names are clearly visible especially to ensure that emergency services attend in a timely way.

#### 10. Local Highways Improvements Scheme 2013/14

The Clerk reported that the 2013/14 Scheme is now open for suggested minor highways improvements. He suggested that all the Council's previous proposed Schemes had either been implemented during the last 3 years or assessed and shelved as being too costly and as the final cost of the Church Road/The Croft improvement has not been received that Councillors consider carefully the financial impact of proposing another Scheme in the coming financial year.

It was agreed to review the Scheme at the December meeting when Councillors have had time to consider potential improvements and the cost of the recent work has been ascertained.

#### 11. Finance

The Clerk reported total bank balances of £57,555.72, with cheques written amounting to £2,963.39 to come from this, and brought to Councillor's attention the earmarked funds (funds that must be spent on specific purposed) that total a little over £33k.

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

10.1 Clerk's Salary £183.58

**10.2** The Heron £65.00

**10.3** Hall Hire (July-Oct) £56.00

**10.4** IRS Ltd £209.28 (New 30mph Speed Limit signs)

10.5 Remembrance Day Wreath £22.00

#### 12. Planning Applications

No applications to consider.

#### 12. Parish Plan – Update

Nothing to report. Up to date copies of the action plan have been e-mailed to all councillors apart from Cllr. Bliss. The Clerk to e-mail a copy to Cllr. Bliss.

#### 13. Raising of Village Concerns

The following items were reported/discussed:

- Rubbish Bins and Dog Bins are full and require empting.
- Rubbish dropped on the floor after football matches and by other users of the Recreation Ground has been cut up by the grass cutters.
- The cross roads sign near Padgett's Farm is obscuring the sight of drivers leaving the farm.
- Rubbish has been dumped in one corner of the playing field and there is a broken pallet near the Skateboard Park. Cllr. W Poole agreed to remove the pallet.
- Two Street lights are out of order in Euximoor.
- Road surfacing on the bridge over the Sixteen Foot drain from Euximoor is breaking up and there are some large pot holes on Euximoor Drove.
- Willow trees at the Recreation Ground require trimming. Cllr. Bliss to discuss with the contractor who trimmed them two years ago.



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The information in this newsletter is intended to be useful and informative for readers, opinions expressed in news articles or third party comments do not express the opinions of the publishing team, who strive to maintain impartiality on behalf of The Heron at all times.

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Number and you will be through to those on duty)	01945 773671
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<sup>\*</sup> New non-emergency Police phone number - 101\*