

# The Heron

Community Magazine

April 2017

Delivered to homes in Christchurch, Euximoor and Tipps End - £1 where sold

## Florence Sophia Piper - RIP

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Alf was due to arrive two days before the wedding, but only just made it back on the morning of the ceremony on leave from the Army.

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# Tribute to Florrie Piper - 4th Aug 1923 to 26th Feb 2017

In 1923, George V was King and Stanley Baldwin was Prime Minister, the original Wembley Stadium was built and Howard Carter unsealed Tutankhamun's burial chamber, but the most significant event of the year for Charles and Flo Hales was the birth of their daughter Florence Sophia on 4th August. She was born in Pimlico, in the City of Westminster and was the second youngest of nine brothers and sisters.

They were a working class family, her Father, 'Pop' worked as a furniture mover and dustman. Pop had served in the Grenadier Guards in World War I and was awarded the Military Medal, which was given to recognise bravery in battle on land, and her mother would have been a very busy housewife.

In her early years she was always told she wasn't strong enough and needed building up, yet Florrie did well at school, winning a number of prizes and going on to be head girl. Her teachers had wanted her to go on to University, but girls from working class families didn't do that in those days. Florrie decided to learn a trade instead and went into ladies tailoring.

World War II broke out when Florrie was 16. Living in Westminster during World War II meant she witnessed the Battle of Britain and the Blitz at first hand and she went on to become a volunteer fire watcher, helping protect against incendiary bombs which were dropped on London. As part of the war effort Florrie worked in a factory winding armatures.

Florrie met her future husband, Alf, at a party, he lived in the next street. Florrie still retained the army issue postcard that Alf sent on D-Day to say he was well and not



wounded. Love blossomed and they married in August 1945, with Alf due to arrive two days before the wedding, but only just making it back on the morning of the ceremony on leave from the Army. Her wedding dress went on to be used by four other brides.

They went on to have four sons, tragically Barry did not survive birth but Alan, Colin and Ian all arrived safely, much to their parents joy. She supported her sons by active membership of their schools Parent Teacher Associations, as well as fundraising for their Scout Group. Among other things Florrie organised the catering and made the cake for Colin and Diane's wedding.

This lady, who was told she 'needed to be built up', as a child, had saved the family home from being burnt down by rioters during the Brixton riots.

***Many people in Christchurch will remember her as The Cake Lady.***

Florrie enjoyed learning new skills and in the 1970s she learnt flower arranging at evening classes. She'd always liked gardens and became a member of the Christchurch gardening club. She went back to evening classes and learnt about cake decorating, and

until she grew too frail would bake everything from jam tarts to wedding cakes! Many people in Christchurch will remember her as "The Cake Lady". Florrie and Alf had moved to Christchurch in 1981 and Florrie quickly became involved in all aspects of village life. She was a strong supporter of the local WI and of the Over 60s club. They were very happy living in the village and had a wide circle of friends.

Florrie was widowed when Alf died in 1988, but with the help of her family and many friends she took up her life again, and then in 2015 she endured the loss of her son, Colin. It was not in her nature to complain; despite failing eyesight, a stroke, a couple of falls, mobility problems, and failing short term



*Florrie, with friends looking longingly at that cake!*

*Continued on Page 7*



# Community Information

**Defibrillator** - the village has a life saving Defibrillator located outside at Townley School - details on the machine

## Mobile Library:

First Tuesday each month - In the Lay-by Upwell Road - 12:15 to 12:45pm

## Mobile Post Office:

visits Mon - Thu in the Lay-by Upwell Road  
Monday and Thursday 16:30 to 17:00  
Tuesday and Wednesday 16:10 to 17:00  
Fridays - no service

**Dun Cow Meal Deal** on alternate Wednesday lunchtimes - 2 courses for £5.50 - Pre-Booked places ONLY.

This month's dates are 5th and 19th April

**Delicious Fish and Chips** are available outside the Dun Cow from Michael and Michelle's van on Fridays 5pm to 8pm

**The Parish Lunch** will be on Sunday 23rd April. Everyone who lives in the Parish and who is, or whose partner is, 65 or over - is welcome! Details on Page 14

**Heron Publishing** - is the new name for Christchurch Village Resource Centre, and our reference group is now called Friends of the Heron. The bank account number has not changed, but cheques should now be made out to Heron Publishing. Friends of The Heron AGM is on May 18th. Everyone is invited.

**One of our** wonderful delivery team, Pauline Hutchens, is currently covering the Euximoor area, as well as doing her own rounds, but we would still like someone else to learn the route and help out.

**At the Friends of the Heron AGM** on May 18th, we will need to appoint a new Treasurer and Advert Coordinator, as Vivien Haresnape is stepping down. Both these roles could be covered by one person, or they could be split between two people. Please call Vivien on 638381 to find out more.

**Good News for Tipps End.** The parish Council has been successful in its bid to reduce the speed limit through the hamlet. There are no details yet - we will publish them when we know.

## Contact the Parish Council?

phone numbers: in Useful Numbers p26,  
email: christchurchcambspc@gmail.com  
website: christchurchpc.btck.co.uk

**Our County Councillor** will be chosen by election on the same day as the Mayor for Cambridgeshire and Peterborough - 4th May. Fred Youlett our current councillor is standing down, our thanks to him for his work over quite a few years. You have until 4th April if you wish to stand. To vote, get registered if you haven't already by 18th April [www.fenland.gov.uk/electionnotices](http://www.fenland.gov.uk/electionnotices)  
Page 17 has details of our Mayoral Candidates

## EDITORIAL

Hi all!

We begin with the sad loss of another Christchurch icon Florrie Piper. A truly lovely lady who I count myself privileged to have known. Florrie was always happy and smiling despite her mobility problems in recent years. She made you feel happy when she entered the room and with her enthusiasm for all she did. Especially CAKE! She would always take a plateful home with her after sharing coffee and a chat with her friends on a Friday. She will be much missed as a real village character.

There are some really lovely letters on our letters page this month, including a response and ID on the photo we featured from Alan Russell's rescued photo album. Talking of whom, sadly, we see the end of Alan's cheery missives this month. But have no fear we will be dipping into his rich archive from time to time As you may recall it's thanks to Alan's encouragement that we recruited Joan Smith onto our team. We know that Alan, and ourselves, would be only too pleased to discover another budding columnist who could contribute to our pages. Are there any offers out there?

Due to the huge success of Richard Hughes' cookery demonstration last month, and by popular demand, we will be featuring some of Richard's recipes over the coming months, beginning with those he demonstrated. How jammy you got the bakewell tart Nigel!!!

You may like to review your candidates for the Mayor of the new combined authority of Cambridgeshire and Peterborough, an historic new post. (page 17) Lets hope for a good result and that the newly ensconced incumbent applies his/her overarching new powers well.

If anyone would like to help us out with The Heron we are looking for a new Treasurer. Please ring Viv on 01354 638381 for details if you might be interested.

Then there's all the regular features plus a skin cream warning on page 25..

Enjoy! 'Till next month!



# DIARY DATES

Abbreviations for commonly used venues:

TS = Townley School, CCC = Christchurch Community Centre, (new Hall)

TH = Three Holes Village Hall, UH = Upwell Village Hall, WH = Welney Village Hall

**If you have any important up and coming events let us know for inclusion here:**

## Weekly events

|         |  |
|---------|--|
| Mondays | Pop-Up Coffee Shop - 9am to 11:30am - CCC                                |
|         | Pilates - 6:30-7:30pm - £6/ session Info - Jane Green 01354 638378 - CCC |
| Fridays | "Cake, Coffee and Chat" Parish Church 2-3pm - All Welcome                |

## General events

|                      |  |
|----------------------|--|
| Apr 4 <sup>th</sup>  | Mobile Library visits - Upwell Rd Lay-by 12:15-12:45pm                     |
| Apr 4 <sup>th</sup>  | Christchurch Craft Club - Glass Painting - CCC - 7pm                       |
| Apr 9 <sup>th</sup>  | Welle Cinema - A United Kingdom - Cert 12 - 1:30pm - TH                    |
| Apr 10 <sup>th</sup> | Christchurch Parish Council Meeting - 7:30pm - CCC                         |
| Apr 11 <sup>th</sup> | WI - OPEN MEETING - Mike Petty - '1947 floods in the Fens' - 7pm - CCC     |
| Apr 18 <sup>th</sup> | Gardening Club - OPEN MEETING - 'Opium on the Fens' - 7pm CCC              |
| Apr 23 <sup>rd</sup> | Parish Lunch for 65yrs and older - 12:30 for 1pm - CCC - details page 14   |
| Apr 25 <sup>th</sup> | Art Club - subject to be confirmed - 10am to 12 noon - CCC                 |
| Apr 26 <sup>th</sup> | tbc Christchurch Book Club - 7:30pm - info: Sheila Day 07946635908         |
| Apr 26 <sup>th</sup> | Christchurch Residents Association - The Old School - 7:30pm               |
| Apr 30 <sup>th</sup> | Jazz Club - only £5 entrance - 12 noon - CCC - Bar and Refreshments        |
| May 8 <sup>th</sup>  | Village meeting 6.30pm followed by Parish Council meeting 7.30pm CCC       |
| May 18 <sup>th</sup> | Friends of the Heron AGM 7pm at Glynan, Crown Rd (opposite Townley school) |

## Parish Church Services

|                      |        |                      |                                 |
|----------------------|--------|----------------------|---------------------------------|
| Apr 2 <sup>nd</sup>  | 11am   | Rev I Brady, V Smith | All Age Worship                 |
| Apr 9 <sup>th</sup>  | 9:30am | Rev I Brady, L Brady | Holy Communion                  |
| Apr 16 <sup>th</sup> | 3:30pm | Rev I Brady, L Brady | Easter Day Communion            |
| Apr 23 <sup>th</sup> | 11am   | V Smith              | Morning Prayer                  |
| Apr 30 <sup>th</sup> | 11am   | Rev S and SE Tooke   | United communion Service, MANEA |
| May 7 <sup>th</sup>  | 11am   | Rev L Brady, A Day   | All Age Worship                 |

**Every Friday 2-3pm Coffee, Cake and Chat in the Church building except Good Friday 14th Apr**

## The Heron Deadline

The 25th of the previous month is the deadline for all copy. However, due to the amount of copy we are getting, if you leave it till then, we may not have space. So - AS EARLY AS YOU CAN PLEASE

**Advertisers** - all our advert rates and conditions can be found on our website [www.theheron.info](http://www.theheron.info)  
Business advertisers can book series of six or 12 adverts, paid in advance. Small private ads are charged by the word. Village fundraising events or personal announcements are usually free.

**At the time of going to press, all information is as accurate and up to date as we can make it. Changes and updates may be published subsequently. All information contributed by outside agencies, including dates etc., will be assumed to be correct.**



## Letters to the Editor



Hello Richard

I've just been sent a copy of The Heron by an old school friend - I'd never heard of it before. I left Christchurch in 1976 so was astounded to still recognise several names in the magazine.

Ref Alan Russell's page (his was one of the names I recognised) and the photo thereon: yes I remember that. The event would have been the departure from the school of Headmaster David Jones and his wife Elaine - their daughter Katharine being in the photo with them.

More significantly for me is that the top left chap is my dad, teacher Les Puzey. He subsequently applied for the headship but didn't get it. It's curious that he should pop up in print right now, as I've only this week started transcribing his journals onto my laptop.

Thank you for the trip down memory lane. Looks like you're doing a good job there! Kind regards  
Gill Puzey



Dear Richard

This may seem a strange email to receive but I wondered if you could help me.

My father was born in Christchurch in 1922 - Charles Robert Wolsey Gilbert, sadly he died 10 years ago after a battle with pancreatic cancer. My husband and I drove through Upwell recently as I thought that was where my father lived but on looking at his birth certificate it says Christchurch Upwell. His mother was Edith Amy Gilbert and we know she wasn't married and apparently never divulged the name of the father.

I did some googling about Christchurch and it came up with The Heron and a story about a lovely gentleman called Wolsey who had recently died. I guess he would have been about my father's age and with the name Wolsey I wondered if perhaps there was any connection, or was that a common name in that area at that time? It is such an unusual name and I know my father's mother, Edith, called my father Wolsey.

Would you know anyone I could perhaps write to who may know people who lived in the village during that time? I know my father

lived next door to the school and left at fourteen to become an apprentice to the village carpenter. He joined the Navy at 17yrs old and then studied theology and became a Chaplain in the Army where he remained until he retired.

I also know his mother Edith eventually married and had another son, Gordon Cox, my father's half brother.

I am one of four children and we never knew my father's family - I think his mother died from asthma before any of us were born. I don't know if she still lived with or near her parents or whether she had any family at all.

I understand this is a long shot but if you were able to offer any help at all or put me in touch with someone that might help I would be eternally grateful.

With many thanks  
Mary Robb

Dear Heron,

Thank you for the support of your readers in relation to the proposed National Funding Formula, we have been carbon copied in to a number of the letters sent off in support of us.

We are delighted to find ourselves in a slightly juxtaposed position as the local authority has approved funding this week for a new dining hall for the school. However, I have been reassured that the money for the dining hall comes from a different pot! This does give us hope that the local authority is in support of keeping our school at the heart of this community.

If you have visited our dining hall recently you will have noticed how it has aged and is in need of repair. It is one of last buildings of this type in the area and we will not be sorry to see it gone! The new building will inevitably bring with it some disruption, which we will try hard to minimise. The contractors have promised me that there will not be any deliveries during school drop off and pick up times. I have met with the contractors, who are a local company and they seem sensitive to the needs of our community. The new dining hall is being built alongside the current one, which will be demolished over the summer holiday.

I am looking forward to the completion, which is due to be September 2017, when we will be able to hold a grand opening! If you have any questions in the meantime, please don't hesitate to contact the school 01354 638229.

Kind regards,  
Maria Higgins

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## Florence Sophia Piper - continued

memory, she remained cheerful which meant that many people have made a point of saying how nice she was and how she will genuinely be missed. Florrie has been wonderfully supported by her carers from Mihomecare, which meant that she had been able to live in her own home up to the end. She also spent many happy days at the Day Centre in Downham Market, where she went every Wednesday and the family hope you know how grateful they are to you all for your care and support. Florrie's family also wish to thank her friends in the village who leant her their support; and they know Florrie would wish to pass on special thanks to her close friend Shirley Johnson who assisted her in so many things.

Florrie's sunny and loving personality drew people to her and she was blessed with many friends. Florrie was dearly loved for so many reasons, and will be greatly missed by all those who knew and loved her.

### Ian Piper (Florrie's son) writes:

On behalf of the Piper family, I would like to pass on our heartfelt thanks to friends throughout Christchurch for their cards and messages following Mum's death, and for the splendid turnout at her funeral on 22 March. Mum - you knew her as Florrie - would have been humbled by your lovely words and would have said something like 'Was all this for me?'.

When she and my Dad (Alf) moved to the village in 1981 it was the best thing they ever did, swapping Brixton (which had just seen riots) for a place in the country. It enabled them to enjoy retirement and make new friends, and I'm quite sure that Mum would not have made it to the grand old age of 93 without the comradeship and warmth of village life.

So once again many thanks to the friends, neighbours, clubs and societies who made a London girl feel at home and enjoy her twilight years - you will always have the deep appreciation of the Piper family.

---

## Richard Hughes' Perfect Risotto Recipe - serves two

As demonstrated to WI Open Meeting last month

half an onion, finely chopped  
25g butter or 1 tablespoon vegetable oil  
1.25l good stock, chicken or vegetable  
200g carnaroli rice  
small glass white wine  
50g unsalted butter, diced  
50g Parmesan or Grana Padano (for a vegetarian option) cheese, grated

- ◆ Bring the stock to the boil (cubes will often be too salty, so taste and water it down if necessary).
- ◆ Melt the 25g of butter (or use the vegetable oil) and soften the onion in a heavy-bottomed, straight-sided pan, then add the carnaroli rice. Turn up the heat, and stir to coat the grains with butter.
- ◆ When they are hot, add a small glass of white wine, and keep stirring until this has evaporated.
- ◆ Then you're ready to start adding the stock, a ladleful at a time. Stir until it has nearly all been absorbed – the rice should always be sloppy, rather than dry – and then add another, and so on.
- ◆ Add any extra ingredients at some point during this time, depending on how robust they are – usually about 10 minutes in.

- ◆ When the rice begins to soften (after about 13 minutes, but the only way to know is to keep checking), add the stock in smaller amounts, and test it regularly, until it is cooked to your liking.
- ◆ Then add 50g of diced butter, and 50g of grated cheese, and beat in with gusto, until the risotto is rich and creamy.
- ◆ Check the seasoning, then serve immediately.





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## New use for tired old eyesore

A Peterborough business man has saved the redundant village bus shelter from possible demolition in a effort to provide a sustainable service.

It is hoped that the dilapidated shelter, described by Parish Councillors as an eyesore, can be the centre of a new "Mini Market".

Mr AP Rilf-O'Olman, a market trader, had a trial run last Tuesday to "test the market" and hopes to encourage other traders he knows to use the shelter on other days, pet food and pet requisites, novelties, cards and even a hardware stall could be involved.

Following the disappointing response from the village when a Community Shop was proposed, Mr Rilf-O'Olman said, "I was quite pleased with the response, but as with all things, it will take some time. I hope when people come and see what can be done, they will choose to shop at the shelter rather than go to the supermarkets"

It is thought the stalls could be sustainable as there would be no rent to pay - the land is apparently common land and is owned by everyone in the village.



It might be that other organisations like the Garden Club, and Craft Club could use the site on other days, to publicise their clubs and to raise money for their on going needs.

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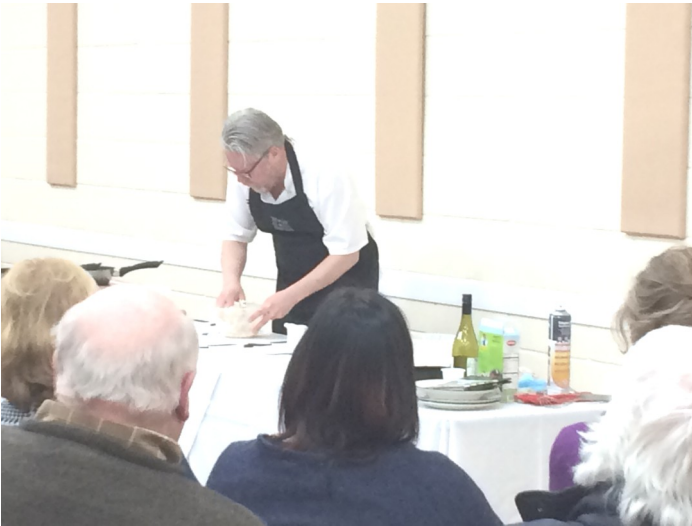


About 100 people were welcomed to our March meeting.

Our President, Beryl Brooks, introduced our guest, celebrity chef Richard Hughes, who entertained us with three mouth watering dishes. These included a cheese and saffron Risotto cooked slowly, not forgetting the wine, cream, butter and tomato for colour, and a salmon dish served on a bed of crushed new potatoes, cooked little gem lettuce (new from America) finished with a lovely orange sauce, also a very short crust frangipani tart topped with young rhubarb. While he cooked these wonderful dishes he told us lots of funny things that had happened during his 40 year career. If that wasn't enough, everyone was given a 'School Dinners' cookbook donated by Richard to take home.

Margaret Sparrow thanked him for an excellent demonstration and presented him with a basket of Norfolk produce.

A grand raffle was held during the evening with many lucky winners.



**April's meeting** - another OPEN MEETING with Mike Petty talking about '1947 floods in the Fens'. £3 entrance for non-members.

**Competition** - A Yellow Item

**Refreshments** Val and Margaret Sparrow

**Raffle** Beryl, Margaret Hayes, Belinda and Doris Ted

Do feel free to join us, any enquiries to Peggy, Sec. 01354 638339



## Art Club

During our March sessions we have had fun with charcoal drawing. Our painters have also achieved a finished landscape painting, see attached pictures. In our last session this term, (before you read this) we had a 'free choice' week. Then we will be planning our summer term programme beginning 25th April.

Our group is friendly and relaxed. We are all enjoying the sessions and would love to welcome some more members. We have a tutor to lead us, but we all can learn as much from each other and gain in confidence. All artists have their own special style and approach so we have a lot of variety and some very good art. - (See below)

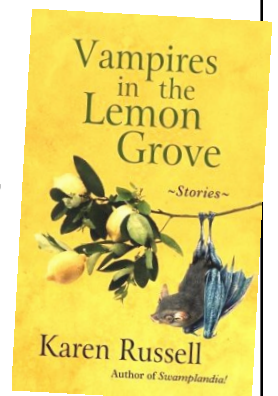
Do contact Sandra (638478) or Jan (638217) for more information, or pop along during the session to see what we are up to. We normally meet on the 2nd and 4th Tuesday of the month at 10am to 12 noon. (term time).



## Christchurch Book Club

The Book Club meeting for March will be on the 29th, so after the Heron deadline date. We have been reading 'Vampires in the Lemon Grove', a book of short stories by Karen Russell.

The date and venue for our April meeting have yet to be confirmed, but it is likely to be on April 26th. Please contact Sheila Day for more information.





## "A VERY FRAGRANT EVENING"

Tuesday 21st March saw the club members take their seats for the regular monthly meeting and a talk on scented flowers and plant by Stuart Limpus. Stuart last visited the club at the old hall, safe to say he was very impressed by the new Community Centre and the facilities on offer. The hall's PA system ensuring that the members could hear every word. Stuart talked for over an hour with helpful tips and suggestions on the best smelling plants, the season best planted, propagation and pruning. Any topics not covered were addressed in a question and answer session before the talk was completed. I'm sure Stuart will return for another visit in the very near future.

I'm happy to report that the Club's membership has increased again with more new members joining, but saddened to hear of the death of Florrie Piper, aged 93. Florrie had been a member since the Club's inception and we send our sympathy to her family.

The speaker next month will be Dr Eric Somerville whose talk entitled 'Opium on the Fens' is one not to be missed. An intriguing talk that delves back into the darker history of the Fens in relation to the use of Opiates and the local population, I've heard it once before, yet I will be first in line for a repeat. It really is fascinating stuff! The meeting starts at 7.00 pm and is open to non-members as well as members and should be an absorbing and entertaining evening.

Tickets for the Club's next trip by coach on Sunday 21st May to the National Flower Show at Highland House Chelmsford are selling well but we do still have some spaces left. The price of the ticket includes travel by coach, entrance to the gardens and flower show, as well as to Hyland House. Members £17.00 and Non-Members £20.00

Members who will donate prizes for next month's raffle are Anne Atkinson, Maureen Green, Maxine Craske, Jennifer James.

For further information on any of the Club's trips and events please contact: 01354 638230

To join the Club call for information or just come along on the night.

## CHRISTCHURCH GARDENING CLUB

PRESENT TUESDAY 18<sup>TH</sup> APRIL 2017

DR ERIC SOMERVILLE

"OPIUM ON THE FENS"

A TALK ON THE HISTORIC USE OF OPIATES IN THE FENS

Open to non-members

CHRISTCHURCH COMMUNITY CENTRE

UPWELL ROAD

PE14 9LL



Last month I think everyone enjoyed doing their own thing. The girls enjoyed having another go at Encaustic Art.

We had a nice tea break, with a good raffle. Thank you to those who brought the prizes. At our next meeting in April we will be doing Glass Painting - very popular.

I look forward to seeing you!

Wendy 638448



Everyone enjoying themselves!

## Pidley Mountain Rescue

It being April, as you might have guessed, we were likely to do a spoof of some kind. I did think of talking about an organisation called Fenland Mountain Rescue but Paul pointed out that this sort of thing had been done before. So we shelved that idea.

Imagine my surprise, when doing a good turn for Colin Steenson, one of our delivery personel, and picking up his newly refurbished lambretta (the one with the Union Jack paint job), when on passing through the village of Pidley we saw the following sign.....



Yes! Pidley Mountain Rescue actually exists! They run climbing courses, and courses for instructors. Presumably to enable Fenland residents to cope with and be safe on even the slightest of hills; them used to be living permanently on the flat! RWBG

## WI Minor Injuries Petition

Minor Injury Units have been exercising the minds of The Isle of Ely Federation WI members.

Following a series of public meetings the concern expressed over the likely future of the Wisbech, Doddington and Ely units resulted in a Petition being raised. 645 names were collected, many of which from Christchurch. The petition was handed over to the Chair of the Cambridgeshire Clinical Commissioning Group, Dr Gary Howsan.



Seen here are Rosemary Green, Muriel Johns and Beryl Brooks with Gary Howsan receiving the petition





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## **Brown Bin take-up promising**

### **Householders sign up early for cheaper bins**

Over 12 thousand householders have signed up for the new brown bin service in Fenland set to start on the 3rd of this month and took advantage of the 10 per cent discount on the £40 charge.

Last month a full meeting of Fenland District Council heard that many customers who did not have access to a computer were helped over the phone so they did not miss out on the deal, which ended on January 10.

### **If you no longer want a brown bin**

Fenland District Council are removing brown bins from properties that no longer want them. You do not need to contact them - simply leave your empty bin on the usual collection boundary of your property on your scheduled removal date, which in this area is 12th June 2017. They will not remove bins that have items in them or are labelled with a subscription sticker.

Please note that if you choose to have your brown bin removed and later wish to subscribe to

the service, you will be subject to a delivery charge of £30 per bin.

### **How to subscribe if you have not yet**

Each brown bin subscription costs £40 and runs until March 2018. You can sign up and pay by:

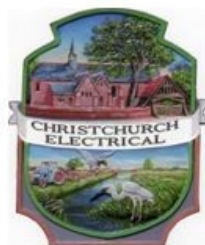
- ♦ an annual direct debit
- ♦ a one off debit card payment
- ♦ cash or cheque at our Fenland @ your service shops or Community Hubs

Once they have received your payment, you will get a confirmation letter and unique addressed sticker within 10 working days.

If you have subscribed to the scheme and are moving house within Fenland, you can transfer your subscription to your new property.

Go to the website :

[fenland.gov.uk/changesubscription](http://fenland.gov.uk/changesubscription)



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## Pop-up Café and Coffee Shop



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We are now offering bacon and egg rolls using  
our own free-range eggs,  
home-baked rolls and locally sourced bacon.

Every Monday Morning  
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Homemade Cakes and Cookies.  
Pop along for a cuppa and a chat.

All welcome.

We look forward to seeing you.



Name that Film from these iconic lines

1. We are putting the band back together
2. Never open the package
3. An offer you won't refuse
4. You call that a knife!
5. I will find you and I will kill you
6. I was very angry with him
7. You're a Wizard, Harry
8. I carried a Watermelon
9. I wish I could quit you
10. I see dead people
11. Work it baby work it
12. Nobody puts baby in the corner
13. My biological clock is ticking
14. Life is like a box of chocolates you never know what you're getting
15. There is no place like home
16. Here's Johnny
17. I have a certain set of skills
18. Freedom

*Thanks for the questions -  
compiled by Jennie Szpak - Ed'.*

Answers page 25

## *The 2017 Christchurch Parish Lunch*

*will take place on*

*Sunday 23<sup>rd</sup> April 2017*

*12.30 for 13.00 at*

*Christchurch Community Centre, Upwell Road, Christchurch, Cambs PE14 9LL*

*The Parish Lunch is open to everyone that lives in the Parish who  
is 65 and over or whose partner is.*

*If you need help with transport or have any queries, please*

*contact Ruth Ingram on 01354 638419*

# The Alan Russell Column



*Alan concludes this series, and sadly it will be the last we hear directly from him. As many will know, he died recently. His legacy remains! And we have the photo album referred to below...*

In my younger days I was the village 'Steptoe' going round buying scrap and clearing peoples unwanted furniture, tools and contents of sheds etc. One day the school cook who had bought a bungalow in March asked me to come and clear stuff up she did not want and among the "treasures" was a photo album with many photos of the first school holiday in 1949 to Colwyn Bay.

As I never had a camera I had not seen any photos of the holiday. I was overjoyed with my find and I put it out at various schools, village 'dos' for all to see. I still have it along now with others Marjorie has given me. Perhaps the school would like it for their records?

How wonderful Colwyn Bay and the Wireless College was to me an eleven year old in 1949.

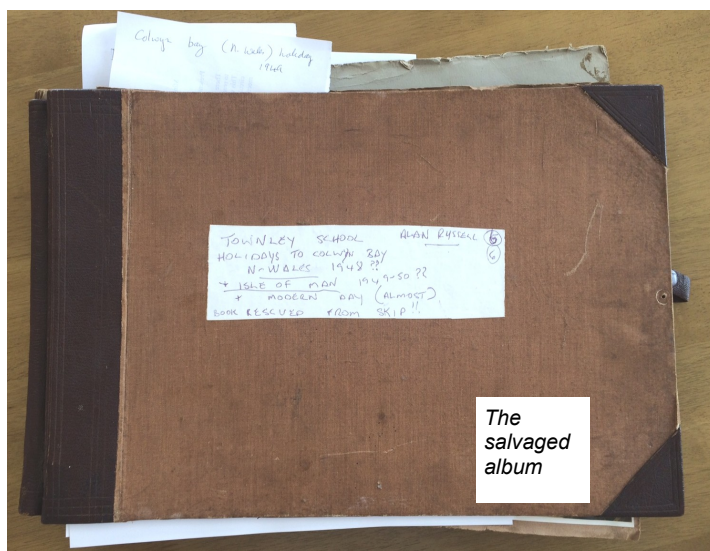
Annette and I went on a camping holiday in 1960 to North Wales. What a contrast, and two years ago we visited again. Wireless College in 1960 was derelict and boarded up. Piers demolished

and at that time the lovely prom and beach was bounded by thousands of tons of huge boulders, to hold back the tides no doubt, and Colwyn Bay looked very tired and dying on its feet!

They say first impressions last longest and that is very true because the memories I held of that holiday in 1949 are dashed by today's view of the same place.

Thank you to all who lent me their memories for this article. Those of you who know me will no doubt tell you how much I look forward and back on my holidays, may there be many more of them, I just love my caravan!

Alan R



## SAVE THE DATE

Saturday 3 June 2017

Community Gathering for Dinner and Dancing

To raise money for Townley School following the recent threats of budget cuts.

Ploughman's Meal followed by dancing to live band:

### "Summerland"

At Christchurch Community Centre

Tickets - Adults £10 – Children £5

More details to follow in next month's The Heron.



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Steven Horne

Christchurch, Cambridgeshire



# Welle Film Club

At the time of writing we are excited to be planning our first event working in partnership with Into Film



- see [www.intofilm.org](http://www.intofilm.org) This organisation is funded by the British Film Institute (BFI) and the National Lottery and works to put film at the heart of the educational and personal development of children and young people across the UK by supporting teachers and educators to achieve a wide range of effective learning outcomes in their use of film. Three Holes Village Hall & Playing Fields (THVH&PF) is donating the use of its hall and equipment and three of its trustee volunteers (Brian & Hilary Ranger and Geoff Fox-Noble) are giving their time to help make this happen. So, on Tuesday 28th March pupils and staff from Upwell Community Primary and Highfields Ely Academy will be coming to see a screening of Moana. This is a Disney animated film, set around 2000 years ago and across a series of islands in the South Pacific, the film follows the journey of a spirited teenager named Moana as she embarks on a quest across the Pacific Ocean to save her people.

WELLE CINEMA is now supported by Creative Arts East and The British Film Institute

Our usual screenings will also be going ahead as usual on Sundays at 2pm.

This month the true story of the forbidden love of King Seretse Khama of Botswana (well known to readers of the Number One Ladies Detective Agency) and Ruth Williams, a white woman from London. There was an international uproar in the late 1940s when they decided to marry against the wishes of both families and the Foreign Office, just as apartheid was being introduced into South Africa. This decision altered the course of African history. Starring David Oelowo and Rosamund Pike



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# Vote for our first Mayor - what do they stand for?

On May 4, people across the county will vote for the first mayor of the new Combined Authority for Cambridgeshire and Peterborough.

A historic vote, the mayor will have overarching powers that will help shape the future of the region and will work closely with local authorities while representing the area in discussion with the Government.

The candidates for all the major parties in the mayoral election are now confirmed. Each were asked, "Why should we vote for you?"

**James Palmer** - As a local man who has lived and worked in the area all my life, I am fully aware of the problems facing Cambridgeshire and Peterborough and how to solve them. My record as the leader of East Cambridgeshire District Council is one of low tax and high-quality service. Under my leadership, ECDC has a balanced budget until 2019 and council tax has been frozen. We are delivering a new Ely bypass, a £13.5m leisure centre and a cinema complex. I know what it takes to deliver infrastructure and how to keep control of a budget, and I will use the knowledge I have gained to implement schemes across Cambridgeshire and Peterborough.

**Julie Howell** - I have dedicated my life to the public service of others. In particular I've been a devoted champion of disabled and older people's rights as well providing support to younger people via my former university and in my community as a parish councillor. The personal qualities of kindness, compassion and empathy may be considered 'soft', but it takes great strength, courage and determination to stand up for communities in the face of the relentless pursuit of profit and growth at whatever the cost. I will be a high-visibility mayor who will listen more than I speak and I will work hard for the benefit of all Cambridgeshire and Peterborough residents.

**Rod Cantrill** - As mayor, I will be a strong voice for residents and businesses, fighting hard for additional funding and power to address our area's challenges.

Like many people living locally, I am fed up of politicians not listening. I want to use my knowledge, skills and experience to listen to and work with local communities to improve people's lives.

As an entrepreneur and business owner, I know what it is like to start a new venture, to be motivated to succeed, to be determined to overcome challenges. As a city councillor I've managed to deliver real change for residents. I achieved it by rolling up my sleeves and working hands-on with the community, and ultimately doing what was right.



*Conservatives,  
James Palmer*

*Green Party,  
Julie Howell*

*Liberal Dems,  
Rod Cantrill*

*Labour, Kevin  
Price*

*UKIP, Paul  
Bullen*

*Independent,  
Peter Dawe*

**Kevin Price** - Whether you live in Fenland, Peterborough, Huntingdon or Cambridge, residents need a mayor who is able to stand up to the Tory Government at Westminster and ensure that our area gets the housing and transport infrastructure it needs. Labour led the way in negotiating the Devolution Deal to secure a landmark £170m for social housing across the area and we will lead the way in tackling poverty and deprivation, whether that is in our rural or urban communities. Our area sends billions every year to the Treasury in taxes but gets back only a fraction of the wealth it generates whilst homelessness rises and hundreds of thousands struggle on low wages. If you don't want the Tories to dictate our future, then the only choice in May is to elect a Labour mayor.

**Paul Bullen** - Because, as a UKIP politician, I am not under a party whip like the old parties' politicians are. UKIP politicians are truly independent and are free to represent the people that they serve, not the party that they belong to. I will offer the people of Cambridgeshire what they deserve, more power for local people and local communities, and more say over what happens in their street, village, town and city. I'll offer an alternative of direct democracy and empower our residents to influence everything that I do by putting democracy back into local government.

**Peter Dawe** - Local government needs rescuing! Government ministers, business leaders, electors and even some councillors see councils as the enemy, rather than the provider of community benefit. In my youth I worked at both Cambridge councils and for three years was a board member of East of England Development Agency. I have an understanding of the broken processes that stop councils working. There is no need for blaming anyone, but there is a need for someone to provide the leadership to radically change how local government operates. I am that leader! Over the last 30 years I have been a champion for a better Cambridgeshire, from successfully promoting Cambridge New Town, setting up homelessness and health projects to providing community radio and TV services. These are all done in partnership with 'champions' who own the project and can continue to deliver their benefits, even when my input is no longer needed.

## Upwell Jazz Club - by Steve Waye

### A SUNDAY LUCHTIME TO SAVOUR

After the very recent move to Christchurch Community Centre, Upwell Jazz club has presented some very fine gigs with some excellent musicians. Usually the last Sunday in every month,

This was an extra date presented with relish by Nigel Smith the clubs founder, featuring internationally known Jazz Musicians, Pete Neighbour (Clarinet), Roger Nobes (Vibes),

Len Skeat (Bass), Brian Dee (Piano), Clark Tracy (Drums).

After extensive rehearsals, well a thirty second chat amongst themselves the Band kicked off with a stunning fast paced 7 come 11 composed by Charlie Christian, each member introducing themselves to the audience via a compelling improvised solo. The sound was first class and the appreciative crowd lapped up the apparent ease with which the on the fly arrangement was executed. As the set took shape most bases were covered with tunes by Gershwin and standards such as Teach Me Tonight and Paper Moon. Remembering You, a song composed by a Mr U.B Blake who while being honoured by the Songwriters Guild at the age of one hundred is reported to have quipped "If I'd known I was gonna' live this long, I would've taken better care of myself!"

During the second set Pete Neighbour was up-staged several times by vibes player Roger Nobes who got the assembled crowd chuckling with a series of well- timed and very funny gags. All in all,



a good humoured and well attended gig with five impeccable musicians playing impeccably.

The next show is on Sunday 30th April and features Melody Brooks on vocals, Heinz Hunt Sax, Steve Waye Guitar and Vocals with Nigel Portass Keyboards and Will Sivier on Drums.

This should be another stand out gig all for a Fiver and a couple of hours of your time.

Be there or be.....you know the rest!

Steve Waye

---

### A View of February's Jazz

At the end of February I was privileged to see a fantastic group of musicians playing in the style of the Hot Club of Paris; the original of which starred amongst others, Django Rheinhardt and Stéphane Grappeli.



The modern line up featured at our Community Centre was – Melody Booker on vocals, Jozef Galyas on violin, a real talent, Colin Borrill – guitar, Mike Massey – guitar (and band leader), Richard Sullivan – guitar, and Lorenzo Burresi on Bass. Jozef was a star on the violin. Grappeli reborn?

All were exceptional musicians but I must single out Richard Sullivan for the exceptional speed of his arpeggios, and to Mike Massey for gathering such a group of talent together. The very best group of jazz musicians I have seen gathered together in years. A most enjoyable Sunday afternoon. With much improved acoustics in our Community Centre thanks to Steve Waye. RWBG







## TOWNLEY SCHOOL AND PRE-SCHOOL

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Website: [www.townleyschool.org.uk](http://www.townleyschool.org.uk)



On 2nd March Townley celebrated World Book Day, not only did pupils and staff dress up in their favourite characters, they had a lovely day full of special activities.

*Lots more photos of this activity and others can be found on our website.*

### Can you help us Please!



**Still collecting! Thanks for your support so far!**

### Provisional Diary Dates

- 31st March - Townley's Got Talent
- 31st March - Last day of Term, Easter Assembly at Church - 9.15
- 19th April - Back to school
- 21st April - FOTS cake sale 3.05pm
- 25th April - NSPCC assembly
- 26th April - 8-a-side football
- 3rd May - NSPCC E-safety talk for parents
- 30th June - Sports Day



# Parish Council snippets

## Public Time

All the Parish Council meetings now have the item in which members of the public can speak to the council, early in the proceedings. This allows anyone to comment on any item, on the agenda or not, before the council considers it in the meeting.

One such occasion occurred when an email asking to purchase or lease the land behind the playing field was raised. The request was that the land be retained for the future use of the village. (this was later agreed by the council).

Other issues included:

The dumping of commercial waste in the drains outside the AWA facility in Green Lane

The amount of plastic bags and sheets blown into the drains by Storm Doris, near the building site at the village end of Green Lane

The fact that Fenland District Council Dog Warden never seems to visit the village, yet we should have “a share” of his/her time.

An item marked as “nothing to report at present” was raised by a member of the public, this being a sign required to show when the village had been entered on Padgetts Road from Tipps End direction

## Outstanding Matters

The landscape firm Masons had been contacted to ask for an itemised invoice for work done. There was more work to be done and the Chair would meet with them to discuss.

On the redundant bus shelter there was concern that it is still valued by some members of the public, and despite many councillors wishing it was not there, because of that concern it is to be retained for the moment. The village bench (*mentioned in the Heron last month—Ed*) has been in store in Cllr Russell's barn for some 17 years and will be fitted to the bus shelter. There was a groundswell that costs and suitability of a new modern, light and airy, bus shelter, possibly to be sited on the grassed area at the end of Fen View, should be sought as a more suitable site.

Sign for the Community Centre - there is a temporary Hall sign indicating the location on the village name sign at Upwell Rd but Cllr Sutton suggested that he could discuss with the County powers to move the village sign opposite the entrance and have a proper direction sign fitted.

## Police Report

Sue Clarke, our PCSO, has been sick and is phasing in a return to work. She was not in attendance, however a statement was read out that there had been a stolen and recovered vehicle locally, an aggravated burglary in Murrow and an attempted burglary—cold callers seem to have been implicated. Residents are asked to watch out for suspicious activity and an older silver estate car. If anything suspected call PCSO Clark on her number on page 26

## County and District Councillors' Reports

Only Cllr Sutton was in attendance. He reported that he and Cllr Tanfield, as well as PCSO Clarke, would be visiting the village meeting points to hear about the needs of villagers. They will visit the Pop-up Coffee Shop in the Community Centre and Cake coffee and Chat in the Parish Church.

He had reported the signs on Padgetts Lane which had been blown down by Storm Doris.

Brown bin collection subscriptions are going well. Villagers will be able to sign up after the start of the scheme, online or at the One Stop shops

## Recreation Ground Charity

This seems to be going well, costing the Parish Council nothing so breaking even.

Playing equipment - has been inspected to see what is salvageable - most is but should it all be? The urgent item was the swing set. The equipment removed for Hall construction was to be taken to Fenland Leisure to assess, Cllr Russell will have done this by the time you read this.

## Traffic Calming in the Village

The scheme in Somersham was cited as one worthy of inspection, but it had not happened yet.

## Parish Meeting - 8th May at 6:30pm

Will include a talk on making the village dementia friendly - ALL ARE ADVISED TO ATTEND

Groups in the village will be invited to give a brief report.

## Councillor's Time

Clarification on Community Highways  
Volunteering scheme - cleaning signs, ditches and litter would be involved

Defibrillator training was to be offered by Paul Russell - it was suggested there could be one for the Community Centre as well as at the school.



# The Joan Smith Column

Joan continues her story about  
compiling Journals for Dr Anderson



During the afternoon, after we had all had coffee, Mrs. A came out to help with the collating. We finally finished about twenty to five. "Well done!" said Mrs. A, "Tomorrow they will all have to be stapled and a cover put on. 'I hope I don't have to do that!' I thought to myself, but I didn't say anything. It was nice working with Mrs. A as we could chat, while we were working, about what was going on in the world, and putting it all to rights. It also helped the time pass. I didn't say anything at the time, but in my mind I was thinking I had a portable radio at home. It would help the time pass more quickly if I was working on my own. I knew I'd have to ask permission. Next day I put the radio in my car and waited to see what work I would be doing.



This job was certainly different. Next morning I got the job I was dreading, STAPLING! Dr. A sat beside me again and said "Now watch me!" The staples had to be two and a half inches up from the bottom, and two and a half down from the top. I was confident that I'd manage this alright and was pleased when later he made no comment. He was so particular about these things. When the stapling was finished a nice stiffened linen cover had to be applied. These had an adhesive strip down the spine with an inch wide strip of paper which you peeled off before applying it. This had to be carefully aligned before wrapping it around each journal. Hey presto! First one finished. I said to Dr. A "That magazine looks good! Eh!" "It's a JOURNAL Joan!" he retorted. 'It's a damn book of medical nonsense to me', I thought. But despite all my reticence I was getting a great deal of satisfaction from producing them!

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Email: [buildingdeconstruction@yahoo.com](mailto:buildingdeconstruction@yahoo.com)

## New Rules for Dog Fouling

One rule fits all for dog fouling laws in the Fens. Nuisance dogs and fouling laws in the Fens are to be scooped together under one ruling instead of four, to fall in line with national guidelines.

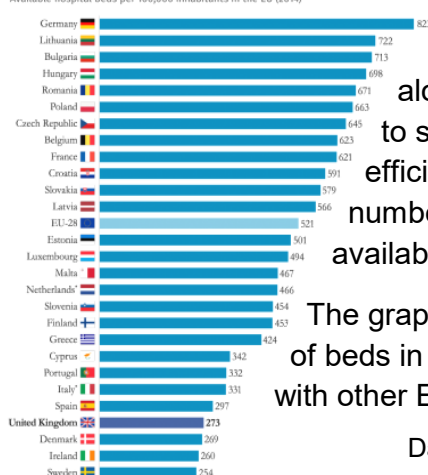
The change will not make much difference for dog walkers, however, the switch to one law - known as the Policing Act Public Space Protection Order PSPO has opened the debate on responsible dog ownership across Fenland. Chatteris Town Council want dog walkers to carry a bag at all times and be fined if they don't, Whittlesey Town Council asked for dogs to be excluded from the fenced play area at Manor Playing Field but allowed off the lead in other areas, Manea and Christchurch parish councils asked for specific PSPOs on their land and Parson Drove parish councillors said dogs should be on leads in all areas. Under the new rulings penalty notices will be £75 reduced to £65 if paid within 14 days. This brings the penalty in line with other environmental offences like littering. The report was due to be considered in a meeting of cabinet at Fenland Hall on March 23rd. *We hope to know soon - Ed'.*

## NHS beds fall over decade

NHS hospital bed numbers have plunged by 20% over the past decade, a report warns. Analysis also found almost three-quarters of trusts had a bed occupancy rate of 95% on at least one day in the first week of January.

Mark Porter, chair of the British Medical Association—the organisation behind the figures for between 2006/7 and 2015/16 - said: "The UK already has the second lowest number of hospital beds per head in Europe. These figures paint an even bleaker picture of an NHS at breaking point."

**The UK trails Europe in hospital bed capacity**  
Available hospital beds per 100,000 inhabitants in the EU (2014)



NHS Improvement said:

"We are working tirelessly alongside providers... to support more efficient use of the number of beds available."

The graph shows the number of beds in the UK compared with other European Countries.

Data from Independent

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**Appointments with CCVS and Heritage Lottery Fund**

Wednesday 19 April Town Hall, Market Sq. March PE15 9JF  
09:30-15:30

**Appointments with CCVS**

Thursday 25 May Town Hall, Market Sq. March PE15 9JF  
13:30-15:30

**Appointments with CCVS**

Thursday 13 July Town Chambers, N Brink, Wisbech PE13 1JR  
09:30-15:30

**Appointments with CCVS and Heritage Lottery Fund**

Wednesday 27 Sept Town Hall, Market Sq. March PE15 9JF  
09:30-15:30.

**Appointments with CCVS and Heritage Lottery Fund**

**To book a CCVS session:**

01223 464696

[Enquiries@cambridgecvs.org.uk](mailto:Enquiries@cambridgecvs.org.uk)

[www.cambridgecvs.org.uk](http://www.cambridgecvs.org.uk)

**Heritage Lottery Fund**

Please book directly with

Dawn Bainbridge

01223 224880

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**Emergency First Aid at work**

Wednesday 22 March 9:30—16:30  
Wisbech



**Developing a business plan**

Thursday 11 May 10:00—13:00  
Wisbech



**Duties of Trustees**

Thursday 25 May 9:30—1230  
Town Hall, Market Sq. March PE15 9JF



**Running a community group**

Wednesday 5 July 10:00—12:30  
Oasis Centre



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## Skin Cream Warning!

Skin creams have been linked to dozens of fire deaths, leading to new warnings by manufacturers.



Products used to treat conditions like eczema and psoriasis put users at risk because the paraffin in them can soak into their bedding or clothes, making them flammable. The medicines regulator has updated its guidance and it says all creams containing paraffin should carry a warning.

There have been 37 deaths in England since 2010 linked to the creams, despite warnings going back more than 10 years,

Carol Hoe's husband Philip died at Doncaster Royal Infirmary in 2006 when sparks from a cigarette ignited his moisturising cream.

She told BBC Radio 5: "Philip sneaked off on to a landing for a sneaky cigarette. A gust of wind must have caught the



lighter and it set fire to him." Psoriasis sufferer Mr Hoe died shortly after. At his inquest, the coroner drew attention to the dangers. The Medicines and Health Care Products Regulatory Agency issued two more warnings, but deaths have gone on. PAGB, the trade body, said it was exploring with member companies if a safety warning on labelling should become standard practice.



1. Blues Brothers
2. The Transporter
3. The Godfather
4. Crocodile Dundee
5. Taken
6. Pretty Woman
7. Harry Potter
8. Dirty Dancing
9. Brokeback Mountain
10. Sixth sense
11. Pretty woman
12. Dirty Dancing
13. My cousin Vinny
14. Forest Gump
15. Wizard of Oz
16. The Shining
17. Taken
18. Braveheart

Name that Film - The Answers

# Useful Telephone Numbers

|  |                   |
|--|-------------------|
| Age UK Cambridgeshire                    | 0300 6669860      |
| Alzheimer's Society (Fenland)            | 01945 580480      |
| Anglian Water – Susan Bull               | 08457 145 145 101 |
| Christchurch Resident's Association      | 01354 638990      |
| Churchwarden - Mrs. D. Symons            | 01354 638352      |
| Citizens' Advice Bureau, Wisbech         | 01945 464367      |
| Community Car Scheme (to book a journey) | 07902 316360      |
| Community Centre bookings                | 01354 638478      |
| Community Fire Safety Officer            | 07717858166       |
| County Councillor - Fred Yeulett         | 01354 653763      |
| District Councillor - Will Sutton        | 01354 638025      |
| District Councillor - Michelle Tanfield  | 07908 707129      |
| Electricity Faults - UK Power Networks   | 105               |
| FACT                                     | 01354 661234      |
| Fenland District Council                 | 01354 654321      |
| Floodline                                | 0845 988 1188     |
| Library - March                          | 0354 0455225      |
| National Debtline                        | 0808 808 4000     |
| Norfolk Dial-a-Ride                      | 01553 770310      |
| Parish Clerk - Jane Rees                 | 01354 638131      |
| Parish Councillor - Jill Bliss           | 01354 638343      |
| Parish Councillor - William Beswick      | 01354 638758      |
| Parish Councillor - Roger Gladwin        | 01354 638538      |
| Parish Councillor - Geoff Harper         | 01354 638681      |
| Parish Councillor - James Hughes         | 01354 638310      |
| Parish Councillor - Peter Owen (Chair)   | 01354 638847      |
| Parish Councillor - Nigel Russell        | 01354 638279      |
| Police - PCSO Sue Clarke                 | 07738025220       |
| Police - Emergency                       | 999               |
| Police - Non Emergency                   | 101               |
| Telephone Complaints                     | 0345 145000       |
| Townley School                           | 01354 638229      |
| Trading Standards                        | 845040506         |
| Train Information                        | 08457 484950      |
| Upwell Health Centre (and out of hours)  | 01945 773671      |
| Upwell Health Centre - Pharmacy          | 01945 774934      |
| Vicars - Ian & Lynda Brady               | 01354 740627      |
| Water Emergencies                        | 08457 145145      |

| Club Contacts                     |              |
|-----------------------------------|--------------|
| Art Club - Jan Clifford           | 01354 638217 |
| Book Club - Sheila Day            | 07946 635908 |
| Craft Club - Wendy Yates          | 01354 638448 |
| Gardening Club - Marion Hawthorne | 01354 638230 |
| Short Mat Bowls Club - Wendy      | 01945 772737 |
| WI - Peggy Warby                  | 01354 638339 |

Web links in the Heron are active when viewed in our online version [www.theheron.info](http://www.theheron.info)

## WHAT IS IT? Polyphagia

This is the medical word for eating large amounts of food. It's one of the symptoms of diabetes and binge eating. If suffering from diabetes, you may feel extremely hungry because sugar is being lost from the body in urine instead of being used for energy. You then eat a lot to make up for the lost calories.

## And Finally...

Those of you who missed Richard Hughes' cookery demonstration last month missed a real treat, and a free book of recipes. However, we will be featuring some of his recipes over the coming months. So all is not lost. Florrie would have loved his cakes!



Great to see the Jazz Club is blossoming at its new venue in our very own Community Centre. I can highly recommend it as a great way to spend a Sunday afternoon with a convivial atmosphere and a glass or two. Really relaxed and fun atmosphere. Welle Film Club seems to be going from strength to strength too! (See page 16)

Vote! Vote! Vote! For your local Mayor in an historic election for the new combined authority of Cambridgeshire & Peterborough. Let's hope for a rosy future, but if you don't vote you can't mope!

Following Alan Russell's column coming to a close this month we could do with someone 'taking up the baton', so to speak, as a new columnist. You can write about anything you think might be of interest to our readers. Perhaps someone from our local farming community? 'till next month – Ed'.



- Steve Drawbridge

Part 3 of 3

A breathtaking start to the second half with again first blood to Oxford from a long range penalty, but such was the organised physicality of the Cambridge defence Oxford were being forced into mistakes and back came Cambridge with two successful kicks. Oxford were not giving up their proud record easily, and after sustained pressure and more try saving heroics the score came, Oxford back in front.

This was a real end to end battle and truth be told any outcome was possible and it was hard to contain the excitement on the media gantry that was flooding up from the pitch. Hope this is coming over in my comments? So much to say, no time to say it! Then a pivotal moment, arguably Oxfords key player makes a mistake, penalty Cambridge and we are 3 points up with 10 minutes to play. With the same Oxford player missing a chance moments later suddenly the belief was flooding through the light blues and they are going in for the kill! As in all good scripts, the best comes last, and our full backs have arrived at the party with minutes to go. A brilliant kick from our fly half, great retrieve from the wing, feed to the centre and score in the corner. Stunning move, surely that's it, game over, but no - back came Oxford with a score out wide and we are clinging on for the last moments.....Deserved win for Cambridge by 5 points!

A breathless summary and live link to the studio for a report and suddenly its done and my "punditry" is over. All that remains is a rush to the "mixed media area" to record interviews with a winning coach, captain and Man of the Match. These will go out with the news summary and in depth reporting on tomorrow's breakfast show.

A big sigh of relief and unexpectedly I'm exhausted and full of doubts, was it ok? Well we



won a stunning game and Cambridge move further ahead in the series and whatever my mates say, and whatever banter, that is sure to come my way and if it never happens again I'll always have this moment.

"I was there and I got the T shirt!"

The gear is packed up and we are wending our weary way through a deserted stadium to the BBC car for the trip home, hang on not quite deserted, a couple of winning light blues float by clutching their winners tankards on the way to the bar to celebrate with some of their many student pals that have been watching from the stands. Couple of quiet ones then before heading off to official banquet, I love amateur

rugby and playing for sheer pleasure and honour.

It was a tough journey home as expected, through the West London car park traffic, and back to Cambridge for our own banquet; the Christmas curry for the sports team, and a few quiet beers with time to reflect on an amazing day with some amazing colleagues. It had been a tough day, hugely rewarding but, was it a success? An email hits my

inbox from the sports editor the next morning expressing a job well done and appreciation for my work and expertise. That's ok then! Would I do it again given the chance, you bet I would, loved it!

How is it that a local rugby nut gets to fulfil this lifetime ambition? No it's not a dream, as the many blue pinch marks on my arms testify. Well I am lucky enough to be the Cambridgeshire County Senior Coach and past County Chairman. Coaching local teams led to some interviews with the local BBC Rugby correspondent and he invited me, infrequently, onto the regular sports hour for some input into local rugby. Much to my amazement this has developed into every Wednesday on "Drive Time" the "Sports Hour" with Chris Mann and becoming a resident panellist.

If you love sport have a listen Wednesdays 6 – 7 on BBC radio Cambridgeshire or better still come watch some great local rugby.





# HeronSport

## It's been a satisfying season

for AFC Christchurch according to Player Manager Peter Chenery, speaking to our sports writer Paul Haresnape.

After Christchurch have played all their games, (others still have a few to play) it seems likely that they'll nestle in about 6th or 7th in the league. "And that's got to be a something we can be pleased with!" Peter says.

The team came through a couple of tricky matches, during the month of March, all of them played away, and two against teams higher in the league than Christchurch. The points gained were 5 out of a possible 9. In fact says Peter, "We've done really well against opposition higher in the table, all through the season, the lads are really happy about the position we've got to, and are hoping to push on next year to higher rankings."

Asked about what has pleased him most this season Peter eulogises over their cup run. "For a team in our first season to get to the quarter finals has to be the highlight."



Peter Chenery - Manager

The team will be celebrating the achievements of the season at their "presentation evening" to be held at the Dun Cow on Saturday 6th May at 7-30. Villagers are welcome to come and meet the team and see the various awards made. One that we already know will be for the scorer of the most goals, otherwise known as the Golden Boot award. This will go to a March boy who wanted to play for Christchurch - James Boxall. James netted 15 times in all competitions. Other awards are being kept secret until the Presentation evening but will likely include most improved player.

I asked Peter how our new facilities at the Community Centre matched up with those he had come across on his visits to away grounds. "I think ours are the best anywhere, perhaps with the exception of Cottenham, which were superb", he said, "and when we get our new goals, which have arrived, but are not in use yet, we'll be up there with the best!"

PVH

## Football Results

### Mead Plant & Grab 5B League

|                      |   |   |                  |
|----------------------|---|---|------------------|
| Outwell Swifts Res   | 2 | 2 | AFC Christchurch |
| Benwick Athletic Res | 0 | 2 | AFC Christchurch |
| Houghton & Wyton Res | 2 | 2 | AFC Christchurch |

### Mead Plant & Grab 5B League Table at 27/03/2017

| League Table |                               |    |    |   |    |      |     |
|--------------|-------------------------------|----|----|---|----|------|-----|
| POS          |                               | P  | W  | D | L  | GD   | PTS |
| 1            | Huntingdon United Reserves    | 19 | 15 | 0 | 4  | 63   | 45  |
| 2            | Needlingworth United Reserves | 20 | 15 | 0 | 5  | 57   | 45  |
| 3            | Houghton & Wyton Reserves     | 18 | 14 | 2 | 2  | 51   | 44  |
| 4            | Outwell Swifts Reserves       | 19 | 13 | 4 | 2  | 38   | 43  |
| 5            | Wicken                        | 21 | 10 | 3 | 8  | 0    | 33  |
| 6            | AFC Christchurch              | 22 | 9  | 4 | 9  | -2   | 31  |
| 7            | Coldham United Reserves       | 20 | 9  | 3 | 8  | 10   | 30  |
| 8            | Marchester United             | 21 | 9  | 1 | 11 | -17  | 28  |
| 9            | Fenstanton Reserves           | 22 | 8  | 2 | 12 | -4   | 26  |
| 10           | Benwick Athletic Reserves     | 21 | 4  | 2 | 15 | -55  | 14  |
| 11           | Cottenham United A            | 21 | 4  | 0 | 17 | -35  | 9 * |
| 12           | Chatteris Town B              | 20 | 1  | 1 | 18 | -106 | 4   |



Any views expressed in The Heron do not necessarily reflect the views of The Heron Editorial Team.

The team aim to provide a balanced view of village opinions where such views are expressed.

We reserve the right to edit any submissions where we feel this is appropriate.