

60 AND COUNTING!

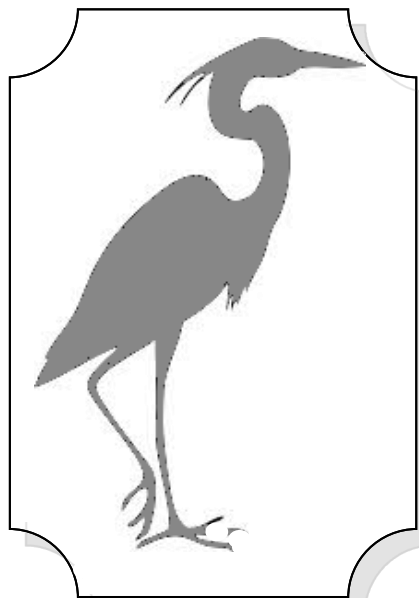
The Heron

Community Magazine

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

April 2019

No. 60



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Richard Smart 1942 - 2019 RIP

**Famous Son from a
Famous Fenland Family
(Full Story on page 27)**

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Lambretta Club of Great Britain - Ypres Rally 2018 Pt 2

After a good night's sleep under canvas, on a very comfortable air-bed, we set off for Hooze where there was a big crater from when the local mine was blown up. This has since been filled in and there is now a small museum with one hell of a lot of stuff, including a tri-plane hanging from the ceiling. There was also a



gift shop and restaurant. Yes! You guessed it! We stopped in the restaurant for lunch.

That afternoon we went off to "Hill 32" where there are preserved trenches. I had to lead the way having been there before. Graham and I were on our bikes but Christine and her friend Caroline were in the van. They went miles 'off-course' and I had to shoot-off and find them, to steer them in the right direction, having done almost a full circle. The same thing had happened near Amiere when we were all on our Italian trip. In Christine's case it was "Have sat-nav, don't look at it!"



It really brought it home to us how cramped and boggy the trenches were. It was very poignant with crosses and poppies placed everywhere.



By our roving reporter
Colin Steenson



Later we all went back to Ypres and partook of the national dish 'chips & mayonnaise'. We were at the "Captain Cook" surrounded by ships which seemed very odd with all the 'war-grave' sites round about. Next day was our last full day in Belgium before setting off home the next morning. So we took ourselves off to the famous site of the 3rd Battle of Ypres at Passchendaele. Possibly the most awful WWII site, "A Hell on Earth!", as Harry Patch wrote in his book "The Last Fighting Tommy". The last man to survive WWI. After he had written his autobiography he had been taken back to Ypres where he met with a German soldier, who he discovered, after comparing campaign notes, had actually fought each other. It was after that Harry Patch had the bench at TOC-H dedicated to him.

Next morning we packed up and set off home. It had been an emotional trip, even though it was my 7th visit.



Community Information

Mobile Library: First Tuesday each month - in the lay-by Upwell Road - 12:15 - 12:45pm. Forthcoming dates are: April 2nd, May 7th, and so on.

Mobile Post Office:

Visits Mon to Thu in the lay-by Upwell Road.
Monday and Thursday - 16.30 to 17:00pm
Tuesday and Wednesday - 16.10 to 17:00pm
Fridays - no service

Community Car Scheme: This scheme has two drivers living in the village. It can be used by anyone who either do not have their own transport or who would like someone to take them for medical, social journeys, or shopping. Transport is door to door and passengers make a contribution to the cost. For more info or to book a journey call Angie 01354 638721.

Defibrillators - We are fortunate to have two of these machines in Christchurch. One is located on the side of Townley School Dining Hall, facing the Car Park, in Crown Road; the other is on the front of the Community Centre in Upwell Road.

Police Community Catch-Up

On Monday 1st April from 10.00am till 11.00am at the Community Centre there will be an opportunity for any interested Christchurch residents to raise any questions or queries, or indeed impart information, to local PCSO's. Not only that but you can treat yourself to some breakfast at the same time as the Pop-Up Café will also be in full flow. **(NOT an April Fool's)**

TOOL FAIR - at Three Holes Village Hall on Saturday 6th April

If you would like information about booking a stand as an exhibitor please contact Geoff FoxNoble mob: 07969 336107 or email: king-of-clubs@sky.com or see www.threeholesvillagehall00.org.uk

Lunch Break Dates for April -

Wednesday 10th & Wednesday 24th Bring what you fancy. Tea, Coffee, and Soup provided. Always a very sociable occasion. Meet with your friends and make new ones too. ALL WELCOME!

Christian Aid Breakfast - Sunday 12th May at the Community Centre 10.30, followed by a Service at 11.00am which will also be held at the Community Centre. Any folks who are interested may just come for the breakfast if they so wish, or stay for the service. **ALL ARE WELCOME!**

EDITORIAL

Hi y'all!

Goodness! Don't the months fly by? Spring's here already and no garden prep done yet! How have you all been doing? All the mild weather has got us all confused... and the trees and plants too! Let's hope we don't get any shocks with sharp frosts before May!

We certainly want good weather for our annual "Village Plant Sale" early next month (see page 15) so that you can all enjoy those 'cream teas'!

Before that we have the "Christchurch Parish Lunch" for the over 65's and their partners, who can be any age at all! Toy boys and girls welcome! lol All the details are on page 7. But you'd better give Ruth a quick ring if you haven't already booked For Sunday 7th April. There is the beginning of a great two part article by Malcolm Hicks & Elaine Reed-Hughes on the history of this event for your interest on page 5. Some Townley history too on page 18. Anyone recognise themselves, or anyone else for that matter?

Part two of Colin's Ypres article on page 2 and you can see him bell ringing on the back page after his recent cancer scare. His scooter has had a recent rebore too!

Sad news of the passing of Rick Smart on page 27 whose funeral was at the village church last Thursday. A good old village stalwart who will be much missed for his personality, skills and knowledge.

We have St. George's Fayre in March Town Centre at the end of this month on Sunday 28th. A great day out! Then later next month on the 18th May we can look forward to a fantastic evenings entertainment with "The Alan Norris Big Band" plus special guests. Another Heron fundraiser. Please come along and support us!

A few new items in your Community Magazine this month. News of benefits from GP Referrals on page 7 along with a blog from Dr. Paul Williams on page 6. Also, Sue Norman shares her favourite book with us on page 17. Finally a new feature with "Critics Corner" appearing on the back page. Then, of course there's all the usual features.

Enjoy! 'Till next time!



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

Weekly events

Mondays Pop-Up Coffee Shop - 9.00-11.30am - CCC

Pilates - each Monday - 6.30-7.30pm - CCC

Wednesdays Forever Active-“Strength and Balance”- 9.30 to 10.30am - FIRST CLASS FREE- CCC

Wednesdays Rainbows & Brownies & Guides- 5-15pm onwards - CCC

Fridays “Coffee, Cake, and Chat” - 2.00 - 3.00pm - Parish Church - ALL WELCOME

Fish and Chip Van visits - outside Dun Cow - 5.00 - 8.00pm

General events

April 1st Police Community Catch-Up - 10.00am to 11.00am - CCC

April 2nd Mobile Library visits in lay-by on Upwell Road - 12.15pm till 12.45pm

April 2nd Craft Club - Felting with Kay Miller - 7.00pm CCC

April 6th TOOL FAIR - Three Holes Village Hall - from 10.00am

April 7th “Christchurch Parish Lunch” - See page 7 for booking details - CCC

April 8th Parish Council Meeting - ALL WELCOME - 7.30pm - CCC

April 9th Art Club - EASTER BREAK

April 9th W.I. - Paper Flowers with Sue Welfare - 7.00pm - CCC

April 14th Welle Cinema - “Mama Mia 2” - Doors open 1.30 for 2.00pm film, £3 per head - TH

April 16th Gardening Club - “Wisbech in Bloom” with Brian Massingham - 7.00pm - CCC

April 23rd Art Club - Recap on Composition - see page 13 - 1.30pm till 3.30pm - CCC

April 23rd Book Club - “Nine Perfect Strangers” by Liane Moriarty - 7.00pm - Kay’s, Brimstone Hall

April 28th Jazz Club - “The Great American Songbook” see p.9 - £6.50 - 12.30 to 2.45pm - CCC

May 4th-6th BANK HOL. “Village Plant Sale” at The Old School, Church Road - 10.00am - 4.00pm

May 12th Christian Aid Breakfast at the Community Centre followed by 11.00am Service

Parish Church Services

April 7th 11.00am A Day All Age Worship

April 14th 9.30am Rev’d S & SE Tooke Holy Communion

April 21st 11.00pm Rev’d L Brady Easter Communion

April 28th 11.00am Rev’d L Brady Morning Prayer

May 5th 11.00am A Day All Age Worship

Every Friday 2.00 - 3.00pm Coffee, Cake and Chat in the Church building Daphne and Andrew

PLEASE NOTE — The Heron April Deadline

*The deadline for all **copy** for **May’s** edition of The Heron is **25th April**. * However, due to the amount of copy we are getting, 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 Business advertisers can book series of 6 or 12 adverts, paid in advance. Adverts for village fundraising events, personal announcements, or small private ads 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.

NB as a matter of courtesy no content from the Heron should be used without prior permission

A Brief History of the Christchurch Over 65s Parish Lunch (Part 1)

By Malcolm Hicks & Elaine Reed-Hughes

"What is the Parish Lunch?" After trying to sell some tickets for the Parish Lunch Fund-raisers last year, I was surprised to learn that not everyone knows about this fine old tradition, and though most do know about it, I am betting that some of you will be very surprised at just how long it has been running.

Whilst I was able to explain what the lunch was for, I had to admit that I didn't know anything about how it began or its history until I got talking to Malcolm and Ann Hicks at last year's lunch. Various members of Malcolm and Ann's family have, in one way or another, been involved with helping run the Parish Lunch over the last 67 years! Malcolm and Ann joined the committee back in January 1979 - taking the place of Malcolm's parents when they reached 60 and could enjoy the lunch themselves. After doing a bit of research, it is clear that this is a long-standing tradition where various Christchurch families have passed on their committee places, to their descendants - if they are willing.

Malcolm was kind enough to spend an afternoon, at Wisbech Museum, trawling through the various Committee Notebooks, Minutes and WI Minutes which now reside in the museum archives and the notes, findings and photographs included in this article are as a result of his fun-filled afternoon - so "thank you" Malcolm!

To date we have found no evidence as to why this event started in the first place but one theory is that some of the more affluent residents joined together to form the committee (consisting of smallholders, shopkeepers, publicans, blacksmiths, carpenters, builders, etc.) to provide tea for the more poorly paid labourers, given that there was little in the way of benefits, the state pension wasn't very good and there were no private pensions at this time. It may simply have been a case of the better off performing a nice gesture to the less fortunate. We really don't know.

It seems that the gathering started out as an afternoon tea held on a Friday and the earliest recorded mention of the Parish Tea shows that a meeting was held to discuss it, in the Iron Room (a metal, shed-like structure which used to sit behind the church), on 14th January 1952 - with Mrs Pate presiding. Minutes from that first meeting read as follows:

"The main business of the meeting was to make some arrangements for the Old Folks Tea: 15th February 1952. Proposed by Mrs Evans, seconded by Mrs Scott that the tea commence at 5pm. Proposed by Mrs Scott, seconded



by Mrs Russell that it be held in the Old School. Proposed by Mrs Sparrow, seconded by Mrs Evans that the age be 65 and over.

As the committee of the Men's Institute had expressed a wish to co-operate with the W.I. it was agreed to invite them to send representatives to a special committee meeting to discuss arrangements. It was agreed to ask W.I. members to donate 6d each towards the tea." It seems that for the first couple of years the members of the Men's and Women's Institute provided food and provisions between them for the Old Folks Tea.

An extract from the records of 2nd April 1954 show "Mrs Osler and Mrs King to be convenors and to get one ham and one tongue. Mrs King offered to provide bread and Mrs Osler offered tea and sugar. Members offered milk and Mrs Day would bring cream. Each member to bring a dozen cakes, one small tin of fruit and to provide 4 fruit dishes, one large dish, 4 meat plates, 4 knives and forks and one table spoon. Mr Crouch and party to entertain and to invite Three Holes Village Hall to help with entertainment."

The first sign of any fundraising for the tea appears in 1956 when a social evening was held on 23rd November with games, competitions and prizes. The sum of £32 6s 2d was raised. In 1958 the eligibility age was lowered from 65 to 60 and notes from the 1959 record showed the cost to put on the Old Folks Tea that year was £16 11s 2d - which included packs of cigarettes put out on the tables!!!

1959 saw the formation of a new committee which consisted of members of the Women's Institute, Men's Institute and the Good Companions Club and this committee lasted until 1965 when the Christchurch Over 60s Tea Committee was formed.

The Christchurch Over 60s Tea Committee lasted until 1995 when the committee decided to serve a three-course hot meal and call it the 'Parish Dinner'. This was also the first event that saw wine being served at the table. In 2004 the day was changed from the traditional Friday afternoon to a Sunday Lunchtime.

PART TWO NEXT MONTH (See AD on page 7)

Prevention is better than cure!

Prevention is better than cure!

Blog by Dr Paul Williams

Chair, West Norfolk Clinical Commissioning Group



West Norfolk

Clinical Commissioning Group



Spring seems to have arrived and with it the end of one financial year and the start of the next. The good news is that it now looks likely the Clinical Commissioning Group will meet its financial target for this year, which is a significant achievement when one considers the scale of the deficit facing us at the end of last financial year.

The next year is a challenging one for us as we have been set a very tight financial target which will require us to save 4.2% of our total allocation, a difficult task. However, the year is also an exciting one.

Recently the NHS Long Term Plan was published; this plan comes with money attached to it and demands that the NHS transforms the way we deliver care. The main planks of the plan, as it affects you the patient, are that we are moving forward with plans to join up health and social care and that we will be altering the way we provide care so that we are more proactive rather than reactive.

I don't pretend I can summarise the huge document that is the NHS Long Term Plan in a few lines but I do want to single out two things to mention to you; Population Health Management and Primary Care Networks.

In the past patients would become unwell, consult their doctor and receive treatment or admission to hospital. Clearly we aren't going to stop treating you when you become unwell but what we are going to do is try to intervene to prevent you becoming unwell in the first place.

This isn't just an extension of health promotion advice, such as trying to stop people smoking or encouraging them to take more exercise but, through the use of improved technology, identifying individuals in the population who are at risk of becoming unwell and providing interventions for those individuals to prevent their condition from deteriorating. This is Population Health Management in a nutshell and we have high hopes for it. It is a way to keep you as well as possible at home rather than having an unnecessary admission to hospital.

Anyone who has read any of my previous articles will have heard about the plans for integration of health and social care. This is the fundamental idea behind the Sustainability and Transformation Partnership (STP) and the Integrated Care System (ICS). The ICS has three levels, the lower two being place (West Norfolk) and neighbourhood (groups of GP practices). These neighbourhood organisations are being called Primary Care Networks and are envisaged as the fundamental building blocks of the ICS. Each network will consist of a group of neighbouring GP practices, representatives of community nursing, mental health providers, voluntary organisations, social prescribers, secondary care representatives and Social Services.

By all these organisations sitting around the same virtual table it will allow care to be provided in a more seamless way, with barriers between the various organisations being broken down. With the data being provided by Population Health Management, as described above, these networks of key workers on the ground will be able to intervene to keep our vulnerable patients as well as possible and in their own homes as long as possible.

I have been hearing how we are going to transform the NHS for years and in reality very little has changed on the ground. I think things may be different this year and I really believe the way we provide care will be different this time next year. I don't expect to have reached our final destination by then but I hope we have made substantial strides on the journey. Paul



Some common medicines should
now be bought over the counter

Self care and help save the NHS £££s

GP Referrals for Weight Loss & Fitness

I have been diabetic for four years now, and was recently diagnosed with 'fatty liver disease', resulting in an enlarged liver. I had been promising myself since before last Christmas that I needed to get back to swimming, and possibly the gym, to try and lose some weight. My recent diagnosis was the 'kick up the proverbial' that I needed. I was assured by my GP that the latter diagnosis was reversible, and, if I lost enough weight, I might even be able to come off all my diabetic 'meds'. What a dream! - I thought.

Angela Mills of Upwell Health Centre is the Nurse Practitioner, and diabetic specialist, who I deal with. She informed me that there was a system whereby a GP Referral Scheme would entitle me to 12 weeks attendance at a Slimming World group for FREE! I also discovered that by having a GP Referral for a gym you could get a very special deal at £24.50 a month for three months. These two offers can be for a variety of problems and illnesses so I would encourage anyone to find out if you are eligible, even if you are simply over weight!

I have now taken the 'bull by the horns' so to speak and signed up to a Slimming World group held at Outwell Village Hall on Thursdays at 9.30am, and also March Gym (round the back of the library).

I have to say I was very impressed with the Slimming World presentation by Jo. They celebrate their 50th Anniversary this year. You are given an Induction Pack which is really detailed and helpful on how to achieve your goals; including healthy recipes! Discussions within the group provide lots of useful question and answer sessions based on personal experience. One chap, Mike, lost three stone in three months and has now completely come off his diabetic meds. Another lady, Sharon, Slimmer of the Month, has lost 'six stone' in thirty two weeks! Amazing! "There's hope for me yet!" I thought.

As far as the gym is concerned I planned to start with just two sessions a week to ease myself in gently. In point of fact I've done three sessions per week so far; Monday, Wednesday and Friday from around 10.30; each session lasting around an hour and a quarter. However, everyone is different and both at Slimming World, and the Gym methods will be put in place to suit your own personal needs. I can't believe how much better I started to feel after just my first week! Go on! Why not give it a go!
Richard



The 2019 Christchurch Parish Lunch

will take place on

Sunday 7th April 12.30 for 13.00

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

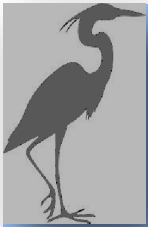
Personal invites are coming around but just in case we miss you, everyone who is over 65 (or whose partner is) and lives in Christchurch Parish is invited.

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

Ruth Ingram on 01354 638419

If you put your name down and then are unable to attend we would really appreciate it if you could PLEASE let us know. Thank You!





FUNDHERONRAISER



SATURDAY MAY 18th

THE ALAN NORRIS BIG BAND

*Glenn
Miller*

*American
Songbook*



Jazz Classics

Rock & Roll

7.30 till 10.00pm

DOORS OPEN 7.00pm

*Pop
Medleys*

Christchurch Community Centre

*Filled Jacket Potatoes & Refreshments
will be served in the Interval*

A GREAT NIGHTS
ENTERTAINMENT

Bar

£7.50

ENTRY





THREE HOLES VILLAGE HALL, Junction of Main Road & Squires Drove, Three Holes PE14 9JY



Sunday 14th APRIL 2019, 2pm:
MAMMA MIA 2

(Here we go again) (PG) 114 mins

The long-awaited sequel to the 2008 AB-BAthemed movie musical has arrived!
So dig out the bell bottoms and blue eye shadow and get ready to sing-a-long.

NO NEED TO BOOK - Admission £3 per person. Doors open 30 mins for 2.00pm screening. Refreshments & Licensed Bar

Tel: 01945 773710, or 01945 772824

Upwell Jazz Club 2019

Christchurch Community Centre (Sat Nav PE14 9LL)

Sunday 28th April

Guests*: Chris Kirk – *trumpet/flugel horn/vocals*
Derek Clenshaw – *trombone*
Nigel Portass – *keyboards*
David Hawthorn – *drums*

*A welcome return for all of today's performers.
A vibrant mix of foot-tapping music from the
era of the Great American Songbook.*

Time: 12.30pm - 2.45pm Admission: £6.50

Accompanied under-16s Free

Bar, fresh rolls, crisps and savouries available

More information from Nigel Smith on 01945 773121



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If you are in need of any of the above described, feel free to contact me for further information, or to book a session

Email: michelelowery24@gmail.com

or call 07739 378901

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FREE ESTIMATES

All Types - Houses - Flats - Shops - Offices

Peggy Warby opened the meeting and welcomed everyone including a guest member from Tipps End and our speaker, Mary Blackhurst-Hill. Apologies were received from Michele, Sylvia W, Beryl and Belinda.



Our speaker, Mary Blackhurst-Hill who is a **Colour Analysis, Image Consultant and Personal Style Advisor** then gave a talk and demonstration on *Colours and Styles*. A couple of members were chosen to have their colours read and two members had their body shapes analysed. It was a very interesting demonstration and everyone enjoyed it.

Lots of new events were posted on the board with quizzes, theatre and cinema trips being just a few things coming up later in the year. Some members showed an interest in forming a singing sub-group and this was agreed to take place on a Wednesday evening. One member offered her home as a venue for meetings. Peggy reported a successful Whist Drive evening and another is planned for later in the year.

Tonight's popular competition was *Something Blue*. Lots of really fun objects brought in included: scarf, baby dress, blue glass objects bottle and paperweight, hat, and novelty teapot. Our speaker awarded points as follows: 5 points – Sandra L, Sue N 4 points – Peggy, Elaine, Kay, 3 points – Janet, Ann, Margaret S, Susan Q, Sylvia W, Marion, 2 points – Val, Sylvia Mc, Wendy, 1 point – Tracy, Sandra K.

April's Meeting is *Paper flowers by Sue Welfare*.

Competition – Made from a sheet of newspaper
Raffle – Elaine, Belinda, Kay, Marion
Refreshments – Susan Q, Annie

Next meeting Tuesday 9th April 2019 at 7.00 pm.

We meet on the second Tuesday of every month, at the Community Centre, and are always looking for new members. We have some very exciting things already planned this year (a games evening, chocolate tasting and demonstrations on acupuncture, yoga, needle-felting and a cookery demonstration by Richard Hughes). Members have expressed an interest in doing some other fun things, which we also hope to achieve throughout the year, to include: Theatre Trip, Picnic in the Park with Games, Cheese & Wine Get Together, 3 mile walk with pub lunch, Cinema, 10-pin bowling, Indoor Skydiving, Go-Karting, Escape Room, One-Day Sailing Course, Rock Choir Sing-Along.

Why not pop along for a taster session, for £3, to see if you like it. We look forward to welcoming you.

OUCH!

I think I probably speak for all of us, when I say that we would all like to feel safer where ever we happen to be, but especially in our own homes. To that end Tuesday 19th March saw the members of the Gardening Club give a warm welcome to Dr Eric Somerville, who had come to talk about First Aid in the Garden. This was Dr Somerville's second visit having already given a talk two years ago about Opium in the Fens. Dr Somerville's first tactic was to frighten his audience with a host of statistics about the number of fatalities in and around the home "including the garden!" he intoned. It seems that more accidents, more deaths and more injuries occur where we all expect to be safest. Deaths from road accidents have been falling for decades. However, the figures for accidental deaths in the home have remained steady for the past fifty years, at around six thousand. The good doctors talk was not all doom and gloom but instead concentrated on how best to survive these incidents, that occur largely by our own lack of good common sense. The club members as usual had some salient comments to add to the discussion. In fact, the best advice of the evening came from a club stalwart who shall remain nameless (you know who you are) who suggested that the best way to stay safe while working round the home or indeed, gardening was; "don't do any." Sage advice indeed!

Next month on Tuesday 16th April 2019 the club will host a talk by Brian Massingham, who will be giving us the lowdown on Wisbech in Bloom. All the club's meetings and trips are open to non-members so come along and give us a try, one never knows you may want to join us on a permanent basis. This year is the clubs 20th Anniversary and it's the members past, present and future who are the lifeblood of a club dedicated to gardening. Twenty years, who knew.

For more information about any of our activities or to become a member Just call Marion or Steve on 01354 638 230.

Till next time, stay safe. **Steve**

Christchurch
Gardening
Club



Christchurch Art Group



We meet in the Community
Centre on the 2nd and 4th

Tuesday of the month 1.30 – 3.30pm

In March we used water-soluble coloured pencils and crayons along with our watercolour pictures. Then to finish our spring term we will have some fun with Abstract, using any media of choice.

Our group is friendly and relaxed. We are all enjoying the sessions and have recently welcomed some new members. We have a tutor to lead us, but we can gain ideas and inspiration from each other. All artists have their own special style and approach so we have a lot of variety and enjoy ourselves.

We have a break over Easter and the new term starts again on 23rd April.

To cover costs from September (2018) we have a joining fee of £20 per term then an attendance fee of £5. This is reviewed from time to time depending on numbers attending. We welcome any new members, no need for previous experience. We all work at our own level.

Do contact Sandra (638478) or Jan (638217) for more information, or pop along during the session to see what we are up to.

(As usual you may always bring along your own project to work on if you prefer and I will help if you wish)

Jan Clifford



For various reasons, we had quite a small Craft group in March. Jan Clifford was our demonstrator for the evening. We had thought we might be working with clay (my fault for advertising that in the

Heron!), but, as Jan pointed out, it really wouldn't be an ideal activity in the Community Centre. So, Jan demonstrated ways of working with watercolour paints, watercolour pencils and pens together to make cards for Mother's Day, Easter etc. She showed us techniques for drawing with the pens and wetting the drawn lines to soften them. Sadly, we keep forgetting to take photos of our finished results but we all produced unique pictures using the same techniques. Crafters please remind me to take some photos at our April meeting when Kay Miller will be demonstrating the art of Felting. We're hoping everyone will be well and back with us for that.

New members are always welcome. We meet at the Community Centre at 7.00pm on the first Tuesday of the month. Contact Sandra on 638956 for more info.



Christchurch Book Club

Book club met on 26th March. We had been reading "No Further Questions" by Gillian McAllister. The subject matter of this book was harrowing - the death of a baby - and subsequent events, the impact on the wider family and the court case kept all members involved right up to the last page. A truly gripping read.

Our next meeting will be on Tuesday 23rd April, 7.30pm at Kay's, Brimstone Manor. We shall be discussing "Nine Perfect Strangers" by Liane Moriarty.

New members are always welcome, we are a friendly bunch! We read one book a month and no one worries if we do not get to the end (either because we didn't like it or that we simply ran out of time!) Books are supplied by the library (although some prefer kindles or audio-books)

For more information please contact Sheila Day on 07946635908.



Cambridgeshire Fire & Rescue Service

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A Favourite Bible Verse -

My favourite Bible story is The Good Samaritan, Luke 10, 25-37. Aside from the final two verses, 36 and 37, which complete the story, my absolute favourite part is the second half of verse 35, as I believe it has further meaning which is not often noticed or referenced - 'Look after him,' he said, 'and when I return, I will reimburse you for any extra expense you may have.'

Graham Chappell



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Parish Council Snippets

Meeting held on March 11th 2019.

Lots of bits and pieces covered this month....all a bit exhausting, I found!!

1. Matters Outstanding:

Bus service to/fro Downham Market: update. All various permutations have been looked at and roughly costed. Discussion included the mention of the regular bus service to/from March/Wisbech/ Manea...but as the majority of the public who attended February's meeting preferred Downham Market as a destination, those options were dropped. Eventually, it was decided that the Parish Council will produce a Questionnaire asap (separate leaflet) to be inserted into The Heron. This is to determine how many people might/might not use it. The PC will then determine whether they consider it a viable project. Allotment Tenancy : ongoing. Local Highways Improvement update by the Clerk : Some things done, others in the pipeline - check the PC website for details.

Recreational Ground – report on Community Action Day. Several residents turned out – and a BIG thank you to those people. Disappointment that there weren't more folks, but hopefully, more will come next time there is a clear-up session. The tree work was not quite finished and needs completing. Plans were made for that. Footpath issue at properties near the CCC (Plot 1) Upwell Road: The Clerk is awaiting one more Legal Document to be sent to him. Then things can move along. He has secured an assurance that Mr Symonds will not be further troubled of talk of eviction, as the situation will be definitely be dealt with. The PC is on the case. War Memorial repairs: in hand, but there is a long waiting time for this kind of very specialist work. It will get done.

Community Speedwatch: The PC will take it further and consult with the Police. Rubbish and overgrown trees - Crown Road, property near the school: Trees – Highways say there is a safety issue. Watch this space.. and the trees. Litter problem is the responsibility of CLARION and the PC has informed them of their concerns. Heron funding: The cheque for March support was handed over. Regret was expressed about the situation as all the members of the PC consider it to be a great publication and wished the team well in their fundraising. The question was put as to how The Heron is going to fill the £80 per month gap. I pointed out that this is not a large proportion of the full monthly cost, and The Heron has managed to find funds for the

rest of the cost for years. LUNCH BREAK report: After two sessions, so far going well; 12 folks there. Good company. Thank you for the bookcase. All contributions of books, puzzles etc. welcome. Bowls club tree removal: in hand. Street lighting: Slowly getting done. ROADS -Winter gritting update: A number of villagers have complained that 16 Foot Bank was not gritted regularly, to the point of being dangerous. The authority said it had been, as had the main roads in Christchurch. Much scepticism about that assurance!!

2. Police Report:

There have been a number of burglaries of out buildings and garages in the area recently; fraudulent people offering to do driveways too. Police advice – **CHECK YOUR INSURANCE.**

****Remember to come to the POLICE COMMUNITY CATCH-UP In the CCC, April 1st 10am-11am****

3. County and District report:

a) Wimblington, Manea and Christchurch are making a joint bid for LHI for "The forgotten corner" barriers (last month's Heron). b) Cllr Will Sutton explained why he and three other District Counsellors will be standing as Independent Counsellors in the up-coming elections (see local press).

4. Clerk's Report:

Full details on the PC website...but the Clerk spoke about the PRIDE IN FENLAND Awards. How about finding some Christchurch candidates? We were reminded that the **PC will be up for election in May, as will FDC.** It has been noticed that some sections of our community are under-represented on our PC. For example, there is only one woman on the PC out of seven members. There are other groups not represented at all. People were asked to bear that in mind, and the Chair expressed the hope that the community would think about this, and maybe new faces could come forward for election. In any event, everyone should vote.

5. Christchurch Recreation Ground Charity:

is changing its name and focus: the team wish to be responsible for the Community Centre only, not the Recreation Ground. The PC will take back that area of responsibility. The Charity Commission has been consulted with regard to the change of focus and of name, and it appears that it will be easy enough to do this. The matter is in hand.

6. Planning and 7. Finance –

Details on the web site. NEXT MEETING : April 8th 2019.

The Newbie Blog

Signs and communication- Are they the same thing??

I am finding my way pretty well these days on the roads surrounding Christchurch. There are all kinds of signs we pass along the way. Most of them seem to be commands ... mixed with warnings...



I sort-of like that last one. However, it puts fear into my soul when I see it and I definitely pay attention!

There are some signs on the way to town, and in town (March) which could appear confusing. Do you remember the book about punctuation entitled "Eat's shoots and leaves"? That title could refer to a description of a Panda's dietary habits; but what if we put in some punctuation? "Eat's, shoots, and leaves" could now describe a gangster! It rather matters.

Some people think it is a bit "picky" to fuss about punctuation, but I disagree. Whilst you might know what a sign is supposed to be saying, it may not be clear. Did you know that there seems to be a new variety of potatoes locally? ...Ok .. it's a list (of two), but all the same, it makes me smile when I see that notice. In March, "Anne's Thai Kitchen" has got the apostrophe in the correct place, but are there some establishments which have not? I have found several. Look out for them. Give yourself a point for every one ((-:

I used to attend a Church called St Andrew's. But the sign writer for the Church ...left out the apostrophe! Aggh. "St Andrews" without the apostrophe (= plural) implies that the Church is named after a number of people called St Andrew. Well, there might be a number around, of course, but the Church in question is named after just one. Probably not such an important thing, but all the same, it seems to me worth trying to get things right.

And now here is your chance to pick me up on all my punctuation mistakes. No-one is perfect. Haha !

Annie



My Absolute Favourite Book of all Time! By Sue Norman

"THE WIND IN THE WILLOWS", by Kenneth Grahame

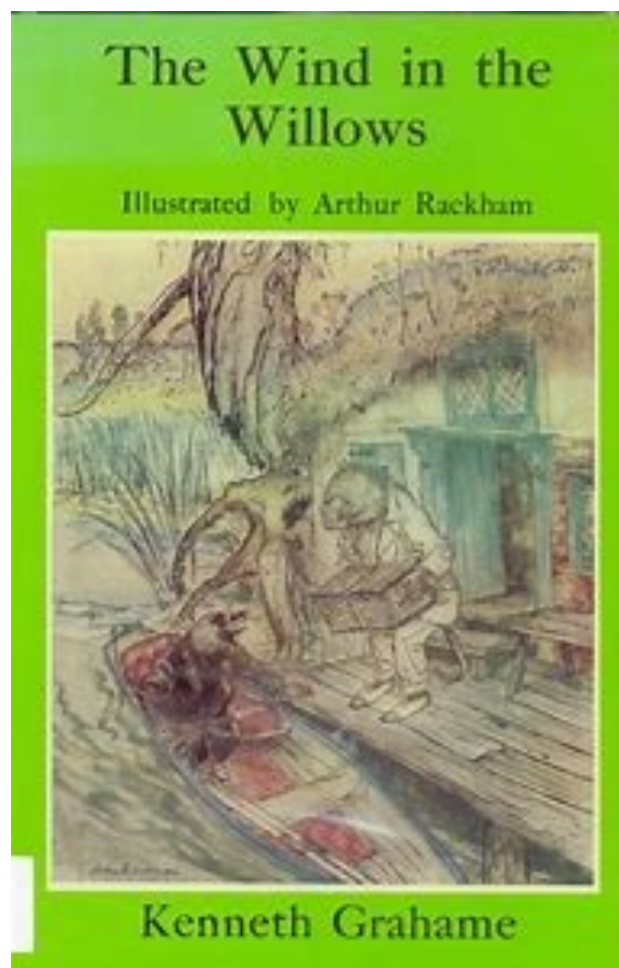
I first read this when I was nine, or thereabouts. Since then, I have read it periodically throughout my life. As the author himself wrote:

"It is a book for those who keep the spirit of youth alive in them; of life, sunshine, running water, woodlands, dusty roads, winter firesides".

The story of Mole, Ratty, Badger and Toad is one of friendship which pervades the book. The descriptions of the animals' homes are warm and cosy. Like many good books, there are episodes of excitement – the animals getting lost in The Wild Wood, when snow begins to fall; the assault on Toad Hall to rid it of the Stoats and Weasels; and of course the episodes involving Mr Toad, becoming besotted with the motor car and eventually ending up in jail. Even as an adult I can still become engrossed within the world of the animals and their adventures.

Forget about the film, stage or Pantomime versions! Go back to the book- you can't beat it!

("The Wind in the Willows" was first published in 1908)

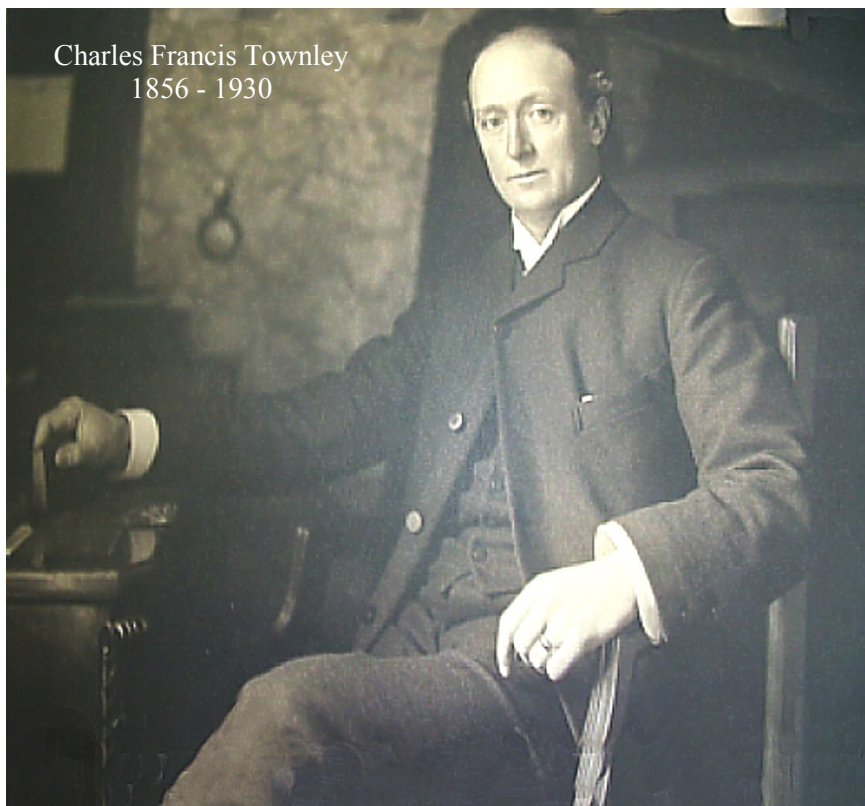


Townley History

Charles Francis Townley was Rector of Christchurch from 1888 - 1912. The Reverend Townley was widely respected and helped the villagers in many practical ways. In 1932, two years after his death, the new school in Christchurch was opened and called The Townley School. This was in honour not only of Charles, but of all the Townley's, as they had been an influential family in the area for more than a century.

Some of the Townley story is not quite correct. One member of the Townley family was indeed extremely wealthy and owned in excess to 5000 acres in the old Upwell Parish. His brother, William Gale Townley was Rector of Upwell St Peters. In fact there were at least two William Gale Townley's! Richard Greaves Townley, brother to William, possessed three manors including the Beaupre Manor. If you take a look at all the historical local benefactors list: William Marshall, Fox, Lee ETC you will not see the name Townley! Considering they were without doubt Lords of the Manor it is very strange there appears to be no

Charles Francis Townley
1856 - 1930



Townley legacy. I briefly met the present day Richard Townley at Fulbourn Manor near Cambridge. He left me in no doubt that his perception was that he is an extremely important person!



Do any of our Readers recognise themselves?

Or anyone else for that matter! If so please let us know! We think the pupils shown would now be about in their mid - 70's. Unless you know better of course!? Apparently one teacher of the time was called Willy Evans who later became Head of Upwell Secondary Modern School. We also believe that somewhere amongst the pupils is a Gary Johnson of Upwell? We would love to hear from anyone who can provide more info.



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April 2019

Townley is alive with the sound of music! Monday afternoons are filled with melodious sounds from whole class singing and glockenspiels to stringed instruments with Miss Caller. The children take part in a range of activities to develop their skills in, and understanding of, the elements of music and music notation. They enjoy a range of listening and appraising activities and sing songs from different times and cultures. One week it could be a 12th century Chinese folk song, the next, a modern pop song.

Early Years Camera

Thank you so much for your support, we have received three cameras for EYFS from the community. We are really grateful to you for your support.

ABC Dog

You may have read about Vets 1, Crimplesham working with us to provide ABC Dog, who visits regularly to read with selected children.

Just a little update to let you know that Ollie is really enjoying his reading sessions with the children and I think they are too!

Online Safety

The thinkuknow child safety online campaign has launched an exciting new online education resource for 4-7 year olds called "Jessie and Friends". Based on a series of 3 fun, age appropriate animations, Jessie, Mo and Tia share, view and game their way to safer future online.

To find out more please go online to www.thinkuknow.co.uk/parents.



Check us out on Facebook!

Townley School and Pre-School



World Book Day

We had a fantastic World Book Day, everyone looked absolutely amazing. Thank you to all parents and carers for all the hard work that went into dressing our children up. The cat walk, as always, was great fun for parents, staff and children.



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Church News

OUR TWO LENT LUNCHES were a great success. There were 10 people at the first, held on March 16th in Andy and Sheila's home. About 30 stayed behind after the Church service on March 24th for the second one. Numbers were up because it was the turn of Christchurch to host the six Fen Churches United Service, and people from other Parishes came to join us. We have six Churches in our group, aka our Benifice: Benwick, Christchurch, Doddington, Manea, Welney and Wimblington. When there is a fifth Sunday in a month, we all get together for a service in one or other of the Churches. Since it was our turn, we thought it would be nice to hold one of our Lent Lunches after that service. People brought non-perishable goods for the Food Bank, and filled two good sized boxes. In addition, £134 was raised for The Ferry Project (for the homeless), Wisbech. A BIG THANK YOU to our soup and home-made bread makers. Delicious! And another THANK YOU for the generous donations.



MAUNDY THURSDAY: April 18th, 6.30pm: Whilst we are on the subject of food, there will be a supper, with Holy Communion, in Wimblington Church. This kind of occasion is often called an AGAPE meal. All welcome. Please sign the list at the back of Church and take £4 pounds with you to the supper to cover costs.

Everyone is also welcome to our Eastertide Services:

GOOD FRIDAY: April 19th, 2.00pm in Doddington Church: "An hour at the Cross".

EATER SUNDAY: 11 am Holy Communion in Christchurch Parish Church.



LENT PRAYER PROJECT: We are praying for the Christchurch Village Community during Lent, using a prayer leaflet to help us focus. If you haven't had one and would like one, there are spares at the back of the Church.

UPDATE ON THE HEALTH OF OUR VICAR, REV IAN BRADY: Ian is home, recovering from having had a minor stroke when on holiday in Edinburgh. He has been signed off work by the doctor until the end of May. He is hoping to go into Papworth Hospital during this time for further tests and possible treatment. Ian and his wife, Lynda, and the family appreciate the good wishes and prayers of the community.

22 Get well soon, Ian !

Crumbs from The Good Book

By our very own Church Mouse....



"April showers bring May flowers". Aha! You guessed. No, that crumb is not from The Good Book; heard it somewhere else. Showers and rain bring trials for us small mammals - dangers everywhere. Think about it: the water doesn't have to be very deep for humans, to be dangerous for mice. We search for high ground to be safe. Then, when the rain has gone and the sun comes out from behind the clouds, there is often a rainbow in the sky. Such an amazing sight; and sometimes there is a double one. Beautiful!

Who remembers the story of Noah and his Ark? That *is* from The Good Book, from the Old Testament (the first part of The Book). "The animals went in two by two" Mice included, I am sure. It says it all happened long, long ago, so is it important these days? You will have to make up your own mind about that. But one thing that is mentioned, and which we often see in April, is a 'rainbow'. It appeared in the sky after all that rain had stopped and the floods had subsided. It reminded Noah and his family that God had kept His promise - one day the rain would stop. When I see a rainbow I remember that God keeps His promises.

We could play a game! Can you complete these promises from the Good Book? (Apparently there are over 3,000 in it!). And, yes! You are allowed to cheat and look up the answers in your copy of The Good Book (The Bible) if you have one. Why not?

- 1) "Do not fear,....." Isaiah 40.10
- 2)" do not be discouraged" Deuteronomy 31.8
- 3)"Even though I walk through the darkest valley, I will not fear ... " Psalm 23.4
- 4)"Come to me all you who are weary and burdened..." Matthew 11.28-30

(Answers on Back Page)



St. George's Fayre

March celebrates its 11th St George's Fayre on Sunday 28th April 10am – 4pm and the bill is full to the brim!

There are plenty of free activities in store. Have you ever fancied yourself as a medieval knight or how about a tight rope walker? Well now's your chance! There will be something around every corner, you might just spot a Viking warrior or a balloon wizard or maybe even a smoke breathing dragon or two.

The streets will be lined with over 130 stalls offering unique and speciality produce. Hand crafted jewellery, personalised gifts, artisan food and luxury beauty products are just some of the lines already confirmed. There will be an interactive Art Zone by the library where visitors can build a Dragon of the Future or stop by March Library for fun craft activities. Visitors will not be disappointed with the variety of street performances and live music on the Market Place and High Street throughout the day.

We encourage you to visit March Museum where you will find a children's St George's Fayre trail, a 'Bygones Treasure Trove' of items you did not know you wanted! and weather permitting, working pumps and re-enactments in the rear yard. There will be the finest collection of historic cycles in East Anglia including Vivien the vintage fire engine. Kick back and enjoy the view on Fox Narrowboats who will be running charity boat trips along the river. More information can be found at: www.fenland.gov.uk/events and www.facebook.com/fenlandevents

See Ad. on page 14.



Gin Club

Another successful meeting held at one of our members houses, with a celebration of a birthday, the evening was kicked off with a light refreshing lime gin and a touch of tonic. The start of the evening was greeted with a knock at the door, the arrival of a delivery driver dropping off two large paper bags, containing the eagerly awaited accompaniments of fine dining cuisine including: chicken tikka masalas; mixed spicy grills; Baltis and sufficient poppadums to feed the whole of Christchurch.

Apologies to our main guest tonight who's email was unfortunately added to the last article by the editor of the Heron inadvertently, please see our email below for membership.

As the meal was enjoyed, various gins were passed around and discussed.

A Bakewell gin, which Mr Kipling would have been proud of, was sampled, sadly this was not to everyone's taste, possibly not a great combination alongside the sumptuous aromatic Indian delicacies. However, more popular was the blood orange gin, which perfectly complimented the mango chutney, lime pickle and Game of Humanities.

One great gin on the night was Rhubarb and Ginger, the essence of rhubarb added a tart crisp edge to a smooth English gin base, whilst the ginger extract warmed the palate for a full-bodied finish with one member being consistently drawn back and therefore finishing the entire bottle.

After three hours the CGC moved to more comfortable surroundings in the form of sofas and floor, to enable further analysis of the gins sampled so far.

The chairperson would like to add that the overwhelming response received meant that the next meeting is now oversubscribed, but spaces will be available if cancellations are received for the meeting in May, date to be advised.

The next meeting will be held during early April and members will be notified by email. Email christchurchginclub@gmail.com for membership.



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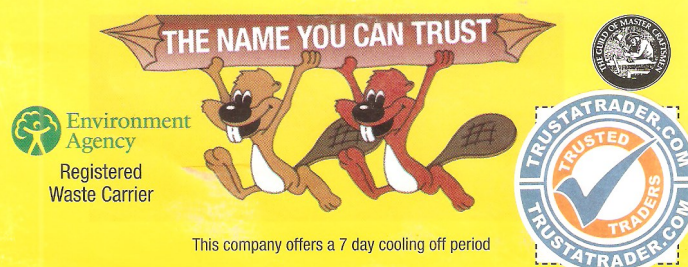
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National Debtline	0808 808 4000
Norfolk Dial-a-Ride	01553 770310
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Parish Councillor - Jill Bliss	01354 638343
Parish Councillor - Richard Lloyd	01354 638956
Parish Councillor - Roger Gladwin	01354 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
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Police - Emergency	999
Police - Non Emergency	101
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Train Information	08457 484950
Upwell Health Centre (and out of hours)	01945 773671
Upwell Health Centre - Pharmacy	01945 774934
Veterinary Centre - The Crossings (D'Mkt)	01366 382219
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 Keen	01945 772737
WI - Peggy Warby	01354 638339

Neighbourhood Watch

Colin Steenson - Church Rd (East)	638664
Sandra Kay - Crown Rd	638478
Shirley Knight - Church Rd (West)	638779
David Yates - Church Rd (West)	638448
Julian Swallow - Upwell Rd (North)	638679
Jackie Wood - Upwell Rd (North)	638679
Simon Freeland - Upwell Rd (South)	638802
Richard Guilford - Area Co-ordinator	638990
David Harrowing - District Co-ord.	01945 870963

And Finally!...



Amazingly this year's spaghetti harvest has come more than two months early!!! The mild weather caused the initial fronds to start shooting just after Christmas instead of late March as would normally be the case!

As a result there is likely to be a glut of spaghetti pasta this Spring and prices will fall! Good news for all spaghetti loving punters! Better start on that Bolognese Sauce in anticipation!

Several dates for the diary! Early May will see the return of our annual "Village Plant Sale" to raise funds in support of "The Heron", your very own Community Magazine. Then a fortnight later there will be a wonderful evenings entertainment with "The Alan Norris Big Band" along with several very special guests (see page 8). A variety of filled jacket potatoes will be served in the interval and the bar will be open! So why not come along and support us and enjoy a great night! I guarantee that you won't be disappointed!

Of course, don't forget that there's the eleventh "St. George's Fayre" in March Town Centre on Sunday 28th April. Another great day of entertainment for all the family. See page 23 and the ad. on page 14.

Hope to see you all at these events!
'Till next time - Ed'.

Web links in the Heron are active when viewed in our online version www.theheron.info

Richard Smart RIP

Richard Smart passed away on the evening of 7th March after struggling for a while with serious illness. In the end he passed away peacefully in his sleep. Richard was a well known village character. Always very helpful to people, and often seen riding through the village on his vintage motorbike with his old fashioned crash helmet on. He was born in Tipp's End in 1942 and later, after marriage, moved to Christchurch where he has lived for over forty years. He had been a market gardener, worked at the brick and cement works, and then became a self-taught engineer through his love of motorcycles and worked for the Metal Box Company.



I've known Rick almost since I first moved into the village in April 2008 when I needed my lawnmower repaired and asked if anyone knew someone who could do the job. Of course Rick's name came up and I was staggered by the number of people who not only knew him but had had various engineering machine repairs done by him. He was a lovely, helpful, and very knowledgeable man who told me a lot about village life and it's history. On a par with our old columnist Alan Russell.

It was only later that I discovered that the Smart's were a very famous Fenland family. Alvar, our old postman, who can still be seen riding around the village on his bike, tending the odd garden or two, is a cousin of his. But the family's real claim to fame was 'Turkey' Smart the World Champion Fenland Skater who we have done a piece on before. The now late Richard Smart was 'Turkey's' great-grandson. - Ed'.

The colour picture of Turkey Smart is unique and has never been published before. It is by far the most detailed image that is in existence today. The picture was done by me some time ago; it originates from the well known image that was published c1900. I produced a drawing from the original and painted it, there are no others released quite like it. I have however given a copy to the Wisbech Museum.

Richard with his son Harvey and grandchildren on the Wash. Keeping up the family tradition!



We were very fortunate to photograph Richard Smart when we did. I was given Turkey Smarts skates some time ago, it was always my intention to donate them to the Wisbech Museum as they are extremely important for the village of Welney and of course the history of Fenland skating. We were aware Richard was not well but were shocked to hear he died just a few days after I took photographs of him. - William Smith



'Turkey' Smart painted by WP Smith



'Turkey' Smart's ice skates



Joseph Smart
Son of 'Turkey' Smart

Solutions: From page 22

- 1)"...for I am with you";
- 2)" The Lord Himself goes before you,";
- 3)"...for you are with me";
- 4)"...and I will give you rest"

We are pleased to report that Colin Steenson, our roving reporter, got the 'all clear' after his recent cancer scare. He can be seen here ringing the bell in the McMillan Centre at Queen Elizabeth Hospital, King's Lynn.



ALL CLEAR!

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For Sale or
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Free to local residents and contributors



Sandstrom American Style
four door fridge freezer, 71"H
x30" W, x 26" D £250 o.n.o.
Please telephone
01354 638664 to view,



BEKO DSFN 15345 dishwasher, 10⁺
place settings, Eco, Prewash, Rapid,
Intensive, £50 o.n.o Tel: 01354 638779
to view.

Critics Corner -

We know that all too often it is easy to criticise. However, when you see decisions or restrictions being imposed that defy logic it is difficult not to raise the issue and make comment. When a Parish Councillor makes the comment "Well it will never happen whilst I'm on the Parish Council!" he is clearly not doing his job, which is to represent the needs or wants of our village community. This comment related to dogs not being allowed to walk on the playing field. Whilst we can understand that the few ignorant and selfish dog owners who don't pick up after their pooch are the reason behind such an attitude we as a community of dog owners, and the vast majority reliable ones at that, could surely, and I've heard frequently willingly, police such an issue. Perhaps some kind of petition to the PC is in order? When you also take into account the several successful Dog Shows held on Townley School field, and the forthcoming one proposed for this coming September, it makes the playing field ban even more ridiculous! There has never, ever been a dog poo problem at Townley, despite the density of animals at such an event as a Dog Show!

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.