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The Heron

Community Magazine

August 2018

Delivered to homes in Christchurch, Euximoor and Tipps End - £1 where sold No. 52



New Brownies & Rainbows Groups starting Wednesday 12th September!

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Support - Derek Randall-Hall, Elaine Reed-Hughes, Lewis Bennett, Hazel Crawford, Sandra Kay & Team

Brownies and Rainbows comes to Christchurch

In September this year the Christchurch Rainbow and Brownie unit will open its doors for the first time. Meetings will take place every Wednesday during term time at the Community Centre. Rainbows will be 5.15 to 6.15pm and Brownies 5.15 to 6.45pm. This will be a fun and engaging group for girls aged 5-10 with weekly sessions ranging from climbing to cooking, craft to karate. If your daughter is interested in joining the unit please contact Lou and Natalie on <u>christchurchrainbows.brownies@gmail.com</u> for more information or simply sign up at https://go.girlguiding.org.uk/join-us/join-as-member/



Our first meeting will take place on Wednesday 12th September. We look forward to seeing as many girls as possible there.



Discover everything you need to know about badges you can earn In the Brownie Badge Book.

This little book houses all the information Brownies need to earn their interest badges. It is a tool to help young girls keep track of their progress towards skills builders, theme awards, and their Brownie Gold Awards.

For several years us mum's with daughters had bemoaned the lack of activities in the village for our girls. Eventually, earlier this year, Lou Carver and myself approached the Parish Council for help. They agreed to fund us by paying our rent of the Community Centre for one year. This was wonderful and meant that we could make a proper start in

establishing a group. I have been a guider for over 18 years myself and Lou is about to take her Leadership Qualifications. Now we have established our website (above) and made a start on planning an activity programme we can apply for grants from FDC and Guiding, as well as undertaking fundraising activities ourselves. We made a start on this with a stall at the recent Dog Show. We hope that you will all support us in this new endeavour and help us make it a success for all concerned. Thank you!



Community Information

Mobile Library: First Tuesday each month - in the lav-by Upwell Road - 12:15 - 12:45pm, Forthcomina dates are Aug 7th, Sept 4th, 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 Fridavs - no service

Dun Cow Meal Deal: Sadly Phil will not be continuing with this option for the foreseeable future! Numbers have fallen off recently making it a nonviable scheme because it has become unprofitable.

Community Car Scheme: This scheme now 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 information or to book a journey please call Angie on 01354 638721,

School Defibrillator - location is on the outside wall of the dining hall in Townley School grounds. Access via carpark, Greenways off Crown Rd.

Pop-Up Coffee Shop - is now CLOSED for the Summer Break and will reopen on Monday 10th September. We would like to thank all our customers for their continued support and hope to see you all again in September. ALL WELCOME!

Bottle Bank - Just a reminder to all that if you take the trouble to put your empty glass bottles into the Bottle Bank at the Community Centre we get money back on the glass which benefits the village. If you just put them in your recycling this does not happen. So please make the effort!

Dry Brush - With the lack of rainfall and all the dry grass and brush effectively becoming a 'tinderbox' just waiting to ignite; please take care with glass, plastic bottles, and cigarettes to avoid fires!

Contact the Parish Council?

Email: christchurchcambspc@gmail.com Website: christchurchpc.btck.co.uk

See also phone numbers for individual councillors in Useful Telephone Numbers on page 26.

Delicious Fish and Chips are available

outside the Dun Cow from Michael and Michelle's van on Fridays 5.00pm to 8.00pm

Parish Council Minutes: One or two folks have mentioned their sorrow recently at not being able to read the minutes of Parish Council meetings in the pages of The Heron anymore. We would like to remind our readers that this was NOT our decision but one made by the Parish Council over a funding issue. However, minutes of all PC meetings are available to view, and promptly after meetings, on the Parish Council's own website www.christchurchpc.btck.co.uk

EDITORIAL

Dib, dib, dib! Dob, dob, dob! Or whatever it is that Brownies and Rainbows say? All you young girls will just have to come along to their first meeting on Wednesday 12th September if you want to find out! Please see page 2 for details.

How wonderful that we are now going to have our very own Rainbows and Brownies groups in the village. A very big thank you to Lou and Natalie. We wish them all the very best and hopefully we can all give them as much help and support as possible!

Lots of FREE Family Activity Days available across the county in March, Elm and Whittlesey, as shown on the Diary Dates page with more details on page 20. Don't forget activities on the Youth Page too thanks to Derek. Then of course there's "Paddington 2" on Sunday 12th August (see page 7) - a great movie for all the family! Seats are very comfy too! Were going to miss the Pop-Up Coffee Shop over the summer while Elaine and crew take a well earned summer break, but they'll be reopening on Monday 10th September. So not too long to wait.

Please be very careful if you are picnicking or out for country walks as despite last nights storm (Thur 26th July) with the hot sun beating down again and top temperatures everything is still like a 'tinderbox' all set to burst into flame at the slightest spark, carelessly discarded bottle, or cigarette. You only have to watch the news to see the dangers, not just in Greece but in this country too! One local farmer lost 25 acres of winter feed for his cattle which he will now have to buy! Please check out Cambridgeshire Fire & Rescue advice on p19.

Otherwise have a wonderful holiday season. Don't get too burnt, drink lots of water (and the falling down juice I expect!), and stay healthy! Hmmm! Looks like it's Pimm's o'clock. So I'm off for a long cold one!

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 - "REOPENS Monday 10th September!"			
	Pilates - each Monday - 6.30-7.30pm - CCC			
Fridays	"Coffee, Cake, and Chat" - 2.00-3.00pm - Parish Church - ALL WELCOME			
	Fish and Chip Van visits - outside Dun Cow - 5.00pm-8.00pm			

General events

July	31 st	"Fenland Explorers" - Elm - FREE Family Activities - See page 20	
Aug	1 st	"Fenland Explorers" - March - FREE Family Activities - See page 20	
Aug	2 nd	"Fenland Explorers" - Whittlesey - FREE Family Activities - See page 20	
Aug	5 th	Garden Club trip to Hyde Hall - Chelmsford	
Aug	7 th	Craft Club - Book Marks - 7.00pm - CCC	
Aug	12 th	Welle Cinema - "Paddington 2" - doors open 1.30pm for 2.00pm start - Entry £3 - TH	
Aug	13 th	Parish Council Meeting - ALL WELCOME - 7.30pm - CCC	
Aug	14 th	WI - Make your own Pottery Spoon with Helen Thomas - 7.00pm - CCC	
Aug	21 st	Garden Club - "Summer Buffet"- 7.00pm - CCC	
*Aug) 21^s	^t "Fenland Explorers" Elm / 22 nd March, 23 rd Whittlesey / FREE Family Activities - See p.20	
Aug	28 th	Christchurch Book Club - 7:30pm at Sue's, 5 Fen View - "Memoires of a Fen Tiger"	
Sept	2 nd	"Classic Car Show" - CCC Playing Field - See page 27	
Sept	4 th	Mobile Library visits - 12.15 to 12.45pm - Lay-by Upwell Road	

Parish Church Services

Aug 5 th	11.00am	Rev'd L Brady, A Day	All Age Worship	
Aug 12 th	9.30am	Rev I & L Brady	Holy Communion	
Aug 19 th	6.30pm	Rev'ds I & L Brady	Evening Prayer	
Aug 26 th	11.00am	R Holding, V Smith	Morning Prayer	
Sept 2 nd	11.00am	Rev'd L Brady, A Day	All Age Worship	

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

Daphne and Andrew.

PLEASE NOTE — The Heron Deadline

The deadline for all **copy** for September's edition of The Heron is **25th August.** 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 <u>www.theheron.info</u> 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

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Letters to the Editor



Dear Richard,

I have just read the minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on 11th June 2018 and was appalled at the comments made regarding The Heron.

"Members expressed their concerns regarding the reporting of the recent planning application for Fincham Lodge in The Heron and the way in which The Editor had failed to uphold the principal of neutrality in making derogatory statements regarding a named member of the public.

Members agreed that The Heron performs a useful function in the community and should operate without interference from the Parish Council. However, information published must be true and accurate. Furthermore, the publication should be encouraged to portray a positive image of life in the parish. The Clerk will write to the Editor to express the Parish Council's dissatisfaction with the recent content. Members agreed to continue with (their contribution towards) the funding of the publication for the time being and to review the matter as part of the budget-setting process for 2019/2020."

Firstly, it is not in their remit to censor the press and show dissatisfaction over a truthful story of bigotry and bullying, and, secondly, to try to silence the Editor on having an opinion on issues relating to the village in which he lives!

Do any of them actually read The Heron? if they feel the Editor needs reminding to show the village in a good light what about the report on The Car Show, The Dog Show, village clubs and the like etc? I am astounded at their comments and think they need reminding that they are parish councillors of a tiny village in Cambridgeshire and not members of the ruling party in North Korea! Regards Della Curtis, Church Road

Many thanks for your comments and support - Ed'.

Letter received from the Parish Council 29 / 6 / 2018: Dear Mr. Guilford,

At their meeting on 11th June the members of the Parish Council discussed the council's relationship with The Heron, and in particular the recent matter of the reporting of the planning application for Fincham Lodge. Members were extremely disappointed in the way the matter was reported, and in particular with the unnecessary barbed comments attributed to The Editor. Editorship of a parish magazine is a privilege and with that privilege comes responsibility. Your words are distributed to every household and posted on the Internet in perpetuity and it is reasonable to assume that at some point in the future, the character of the village may be judged from them. All information in The Heron should be true and correct to represent a fair view of life in the community.

Meetings of the Parish Council are open to the public, so if you wish to report on issues under discussion you are welcome to attend the meeting. This will ensure that you are able to present a factually accurate and unbiased account of the debate and the decisions made. When Letters are written to the Editor of any publication, it is customary for them to be published in full and

unedited. The Letters Page is a fundamental facet of our democratic society, allowing each person to have their say, without prejudice, on matters that affect them. Furthermore, if the writer requests anonymity, a responsible publication provides it.

The members of the Parish Council believe that The Heron fulfils an important role in the community and should retain its independence. They hope you will acknowledge their concerns and strive to retain its status as a publication of which we can all be proud. Yours sincerely,

Dave Gibbs, Clerk

I was filled with dismay when I received the above letter. Partly due to its implied lack of confidence in me as Editor, but, more importantly because so many of the supposed facts in it are entirely wrong! When I first made mention of issues relating to Fincham House in my Editorial in May 2018's issue of The Heron no names were mentioned, nor were my comments directed at any specific individual. Similarly I made no comments regarding any planning application, of which I had no knowledge, I only made comment about the evident 'rumourmongering' relating to it, to which the Parish Council was clearly not privy, but which was, sadly, true!

No requests for anonymity were received at any time relating to these matters. Mr. Hill put his own name in the frame with his letter published in June's issue. You are also wrong on two further points. Firstly, the ownness is on the writer to 'request' anonymity. In which case we will normally state—'Name and address supplied'. Secondly it is NOT customary for letters to be published in full and unedited. There may be many reasons for editing; e.g. where someone is 'slagging off' another person, text may be 'blanked out', or if a letter was extremely long or 'waffly'. Most contributors are aware of this and often comment - 'chop it about as you see fit'. This I rarely do! We always try and publish what we can retaining all the salient points. We rarely find the need for edits. Your letter was also extremely patronising. 'Grandmothers' and 'eggs' come to mind. I am well aware of my responsibilities as Editor and have considerable experience to back it up! We do not seek confrontation in The Heron but neither will we shy away from contentious issues which we feel need to be dealt with out in the open. That is what the Letters Page is for after all.

I do not respond to issues unnecessarily, lightly, with a knee-jerk-reaction or without giving them a great deal of thought. Where, as in this case, an issue may be contentious I take advice from a number of my peers asking their opinion on my comments. Amongst these are a professional Editor with the local press and an exheadmistress. In every case they entirely agreed with my responses to Keith Hill's letter, and, like myself, felt them entirely justified. I have also had a lot of support from our readership commending my actions. I have the right to defend myself when under personal attack, and similarly I will defend The Heron. I stand by the comments I have made, and hope this is an end to the matter. Perhaps the Parish Council might like to consider putting its own house in order! I have still had no reply from them regarding the dog walking letter published in last months Heron which I referred to them for a response! No Heron payments yet for June or July either ?? - Ed'.



The Birth of the Blues Part Six

With the dawn of the 1980's blues music had even more competition than ever before with the upsurge of semirelated black music such as Hip-Hop and Rap. This decade



saw the rock bands of earlier decades with the blues influence prominent in their DNA turn to a more "Metal approach" which was very technique based, using very high volume, tapping and enormous hair. Two such proponents of this genre were Eddie Van Halen and Joe Satriani who between them shifted shed loads of albums. Yet another threat to the survival of the blues was the arrival of the music video. This genre was unable to capture the spontaneity and improvisations of the blues performer. On a personal note, I can remember watching some of the first videos shown on British TV and saying, "you're watching the death of good music." Maybe I wasn't completely correct in that assumption, however there were huge numbers of worthy bands who lost their record deals so that the budget could be spent on the more photogenic artists on the company's books.

The final challenge was to be the rise in computer driven synthesised tracks, almost like a musical version of fast food. So as the eighties arrived, the question was, could the blues survive as a commercially viable art form?

The answer to that question was a resounding yes! The blues was obviously still popular with the hard-core blues aficionados, but it was the arrival on the scene of a guitar slinger from Austin Texas, who was credited with kick-starting yet another blues revival.



Stevie Ray Vaughan born in Dallas Texas in 1954, and was taught the guitar by his older brother Jimmy Vaughan of "The Fabulous Thunderbirds" fame, first came to our attention playing on Bowies "Let's Dance" however his solo career took off in 1983 with his album "Texas Flood" leading his band, Double Trouble. Stevie and the band played all the leading festivals such as Montreux where, was an instant hit and jammed with every major blues player of that era.



Other notable revivals came in the form of John Lee Hookers album "The Healer" which featured as many guest appearances as possible, including Bonnie Raitt with her gin soaked sounding voice and slide guitar playing. Carlos Santana also climbed aboard to upgrade John Lees' brand of one chord blues to another level selling, truck loads of CD's and vinyl in the process.

Eric Clapton played an "unplugged" set that was heavily reliant on the blues for MTV and that set off a chain reaction of well known artists playing a set of their hits in an acoustic format. Musically some were more successful than others.

Oh, and BB King kept touring!





THREE HOLES VILLAGE HALL Charity No. 304483 Junction of Main Road & Squires Drove, Three Holes, PE14 9JY



Sunday 12th August, 2pm: PADDINGTON 2 (PG)

T he sequel to the big-hearted film debut of the small bear from darkest Peru is a full-on charm offensive of a movie. And Paddington, with his ingrained decency, generosity of spirit and unshakable faith in the value of good manners, cements himself as a slightly sticky beacon of hope for these dark and unsettled times. One fine day, he spots a pop-up book in an antique shop -the perfect present for his beloved aunt's 100th birthday. When a thief steals the prized book, Paddington embarks on an epic quest to unmask the culprit before Aunt Lucy's big celebration.

NO NEED TO BOOK - Admission is £3 per person. Doors open 30 minutes before screening commences. Refreshments and licensed bar available. Tel. 01945 773710 or 772824



All About August! - QUIZ

1. Which Carribean island gained independence from Britain in August 1962?

2. Born in August 1901 this American became arguably the most famous jazz trumpeter, and also famous for his rendition of Hello Dolly. What was his nick name?

3. Glamorous American film star who died from an overdose of sleeping pills in August 1962

4. When Winston Churchill said, in August 1940, "Never in the field of human conflict was so much owed by so many to so few", to whom was he referring?

5. The eruption of which volcano, in 79 AD, destroyed the cities of Stabiae and Herculaneum?

6. In August 1945 the first atomic bomb was dropped on Hiroshima, what was the name of the plane that dropped it?

7. In August 1896, gold was discovered at Rabbit Creek, a tributery of which Alaskan river?

8. In 1572 thousands of Protestant Huguenots were murdered, by Catholics, in what became to be known as The St Bartholomews Day Massacre. In which country did it take place?

9. Born on 27th August 1910 as Agnes Gonxha Bojaxhiu, she founded a religious order known as the Missionaries of Charity and spent her life working in India.

10. Born on August 30th 1797, which author wrote the novel Frankenstein? ANSWERS PAGE 25



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Steven Horne

Christchurch, Cambridgeshire



Vice President Tracy Day welcomed all to our July meeting.



Apologies were received from Beryl Brooks, Ann Hicks, Sue Quail, Elaine Reed-Hughes, Kay Miller, Alma Hughes, Annie Nason, Sandra Lloyd, Doris Wolsey Rolfe, Sylvia Willcox and Sylvia McLean.

Louise Aldridge, Community Participation Officer and Children's Librarian, based at Wisbech Library, gave us a talk on the books she has enjoyed over the years from childhood to adulthood. Books that her parents gave her, school books and adult literature, reading short passages and poems from some of them. After working at the Central Library in Cambridge and Manuscript Department of the University Library she moved to the Central Library Cambridgeshire Collection where her boss was Mike Petty. She has now become a Children's Librarian. Peggy Warby gave a vote of thanks.

Refreshments were served by Margaret Hayes and Margaret Sparrow.

The theme for the WI Show in November is to be "Festive Season" with classes for photography, 4 mince pies, a pin cushion, a Christmas stocking and a co-operative entry from 3 or more members.

Competition Results - A Favourite Poem

- 5 pts Val Parker, Elaine Reed-Hughes
- 4 pts Janet Harper

3 pts Sue Norman,

2 pts Viv Haresnape, Marion Hawthorn, Margaret Sparrow

Raffle Winners - Sandra Kay, Viv Haresnape, Tracy Day, Janet Harper

August Meeting

Helen Thomas - A Pottery Spoon

- Competition A Pretty Spoon
- Refreshments Annie Nason and Sue Quail

Raffle Prizes - Sandra Lloyd, Peggy Warby, Beryl Brooks, Margaret Sparrow.



Unfortunately we double booked our demonstrators this month so Craft Club would like to say a big 'sorry' to Jane Rees for us cancelling at the last minute and thanks



for being so understanding. We hope that after all your hard work preparing a demonstration that you will be able to come to us soon.

Also thank you to Ruth Tindall who came from Ely to demonstrate marzipan roses for us. Ruth had coloured the marzipan red and green and she showed us a very simple and effective way of making an edible rose and leaf out of 13 tiny balls of marzipan. Please see photo bottom left of this page to see example.

We won't meet in August as so many of us are on holiday so we'll see you again on Tuesday 4th September (7pm in the Community Centre) to make cards (or bring your own crafts).

New members are always welcome.

Contact Wendy on 01354 638448.

Christchurch Book Club

Book club met on 24th July. We had been reading "Blue Monday" by Nikki French. All enjoyed this book, although some were bemused by the ending (No spoilers!)

Several members expressed a keenness to read other books in the series.

We will meet next on Tuesday 28th August, 7.30pm at Sue's, 5 Fen View. We shall be discussing "Memoires of a Fen Tiger; the Life of Ernie James of Welney, as told to Audrey James". New members are always welcome. For more information please contact Sheila Day on 07946 635908





Last Tuesday 17th July

the monthly meeting of the Gardening Club took place in the Community Centre. This time the visiting speaker was Bee Keeper Glynn Jones, who gave a talk on Bees.

Glynn has recently taken up photography as a serious hobby, so the photo array was breath taking in its clarity and detail. Glynn kept the members enthralled for well over an hour, fielding auestions from every direction. Especially fascinating, was the way that the bees interreact with each other to give directions to a newly discovered food source. Apparently, it's called a "waggle dance" - see it in a club near you soon! The newest threat to the bee population is the Asian Hornet. These are a nasty bunch of villains that have arrived in Europe from Japan, China or Korea by plane, usually hiding in fruit or other imports. They are currently trying to cross the channel and have been spotted near the coast in Dorset. I understand from secret sources that Boris Johnson will deal with the matter (LOL). This is of enormous importance, not just to the bees, whose colonies can be wiped out in a single sitting. but also the human inhabitants of this island, as the bees' pollination work gives us about one third of our food resources. Glynn showed a picture of the way Asian Bees deal with the Hornets, ganging together and forming a ball all around the body of the Hornet, flapping their wings to create heat, which kills the interloper, unfortunately, our bees have yet to learn this remedy. Judging from some of our members comments, this was one of the most interesting evenings the club has enjoyed in a long time, which is saying something considering the sheer quality of speakers that our club secretary Marion has booked in the past.

The Gardening Club has some well-worn traditions and next month on Tuesday 21st August, will see the return of our Summer Buffet. Once a year the members gather in the Centre for a social evening. Much of the menu is donated by the members with one or two larger offerings provided by the committee from club funds. A guiz or bingo usually provides the after-dinner entertainment. It's a good night which everyone looks forward to.

August 5th this year also sees a trip by coach to Hyde Hall near Chelmsford in Essex. As well as the beautiful old house, which is worth the trip on its own, this time it also includes entrance to the RHS flower show. An event not to be missed. We still have a few tickets left. Prices are, members £17.00 nonmembers £19.00. Just call 01354 638 230 to book your ticket or to join the club.

Christchurch 뛝 Art Group Club Update



During August we have a summer break but will restart the next term on the 11th September

Our aroup is friendly and relaxed. We are all enjoving the sessions and would love to welcome some more 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 some very good art.

We like to try various techniques and subjects.

To cover costs from September we have a joining fee of £20 per term then an attendance fee of £5. Contact Sandra (638478) or Jan (638217) for more information, or pop along to see what we are up to. We normally meet on the second and fourth Tuesday of the month at 1.30 - 3.30pm (term time).



<u>Autumn Programme 2018</u> **Experimentation in Textures & Techniques**

11th September Textures & Techniques Fun Preparation for this term's sessions

25th September Landscape with water/Seaside scene Please bring along cut-outs from magazines/photos etc.

9th October Autumn Flowers & foliage (any media) Please bring flowers and leaves

23rd October Shells and Stones Drawing with assortment of media on a variety of papers. I will bring along some shells etc, but if you have some please bring them

13th Nov Still Life or Animals (any media) Try using a coloured paper with crayons/pastels, or perhaps chalk on black paper? Water-soluble pencils? Various techniques we have tried

27th November Trees in All Seasons Drawing or Painting (any media) Please bring photos or pictures if you have any

Steve

Personnel Changes at The Heron

You will read on page 16 of the sad passing of our old columnist Joan Smith. This leaves a huge gulf for any budding columnist out there!? Please get in touch if you'd like to have a chat about this prospect.





Sheila Hoek and Alma Hughes have decided to hang up their canvas delivery bags after many years of service. We thank them for all their efforts and dedication in delivering The Heron to our readers. Two fine examples of 'community spirit' at work. Thank you both very much indeed!

However, we are pleased to report that, fortunately, we found ourselves another volunteer. Sue Gibson will be joining us as part of Sandra Kay's delivery team.

The Dog Rescuers or **Merlin Goes Bowling!**

Hi Richard! Hope you can find a small space in The Heron this month for a big - THANK YOU!



Yesterdav evening, 20thJuly a number of local residents came to the rescue of one of our dogs, Merlin, who, somehow, miraculously managed to move a large plant pot, slide a bolt across on the rear gate and, like any dog, took himself off on an adventure.

No doubt her daughter Penny will get 'roped-in' too from time to time. Thanks Sue! (and Penny - in anticipation!)



We are always looking for other volunteers to help with Heron deliveries, especially during the summer when other folks are taking time off for holidays. So if you feel that you could spare about an hour and a half once a month for a brief stroll around the village, perhaps



whist walking your dog, then please do get in touch with Sandra Kay on 01354 638478, even if you're only offering part-time holiday relief. Thank you!

This adventure included dropping in to spectate on the local bowls match that was taking place at the Community Centre at the time.

Well, thanks to the residents of Holme and Hole in the Wall farms looking after him, and the power of social media, he was reunited with us quite quickly - down the pub!

After a bit of pampering he smells a bit sweeter than he did in Malcolm's van!

(Was that a comment on Merlin or Malcolm's van? Lol -Ed'.)

Thank you very much once again to all concerned. Paul Simpson



GLIMPSES - A CHILDHOOD SPENT IN BURMA AND INDIA - 2

Fun, games and a lesson for life ...

My parents were Anglican Missionaries in Western Burma (Mvanmar) from the 1930s to the 1960s. I was born in India, in 1945, as in 1942 my parents had to flee the war in Burma. In 1948, my parents returned to Paletwa, their former home in Western Burma, and I was with them. I have lovely memories of playing with my village children friends. We used to play all the usual games of catch, hid-and-seek, and lots of "pretend". There were dogs, cats and chickens running about in the village. Our house was up a steep hill, away from the village, and my Dad would yell for me down the hill - at meal times, I imagine! My mother would accompany me when I was small, I remember. Here is a picture of me in 1948...aged 3...with my friends. I picked up the local Tribal language, Khumi-Chin (an oral tradition), and apparently spoke it like a native Khumi.



We played a game with large, flattish seeds which involved standing one on its end, and then taking turns to trv to knock it over, throwing other seeds at it. I also learned a good trick from my Khumi friends. How

far can you count using the fingers of both hands? To 10? Well, I can count to 30 on MY fingers ...using each joint as a number. Try it! Someone made some small cooking vessels for me and my best girlfriend Ramjo and I used to "cook" and serve up "meals" (stones, leaves, sticks) to our families, as children the world over do. I was given a small, replica cane basket for carrying water, like the ones the Khumi women, and dressed up in local dress to play with it.

Later, I attended a boarding school in Southern India, in Ooty. Here is a picture of our class in 1955. (The boys with skull caps had ringworm). Athletics, field hockey, netball, football were all part of the curriculum. I remember on an outing to a Tea



Plantation, we got up to mischief. The tea bushes were rounded and full, and grown on terraces. Someone thought it would be fun to roll down on top of them, landing on the path between the terraces. And fun it was, though we were covered in scratches, of course. That prank

came to a swift end when we were told that very poisonous snakes lived under tea bushes. We never knew whether that was true, or just a ruse to stop us doing it, but we didn't want to put that to the test!

We often messed about in class. Once (I was 12), an Indian teacher became very exasperated. "You white children think you can do anything!" she said. Wow! That taught me a lesson. I suddenly realised I was "white" and other friends were not. It had never occurred to me before. And from that moment on, I understood that I was in a small minority group in India. I felt vulnerable. If you are tempted to make racist remarks, I would urge you to think before speaking. Put yourself in their shoes first. We are all the same. We just come at life from a different perspective. As Shakespeare's Shylock said, "If you prick us, do we not bleed? If you tickle us, do we not laugh?"

I am still in touch with my childhood Khumi friend, Ramjo. Such a blessing!

Annie Nason







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What's New?

New chalenge and fun page, answers to quiz's and game will be in next months issue.

CHRISTCHÜRCH YOUTH PAGE

We have had a year of picking and choosing wonderful local places for you to visit and hope most of you have now tried them out.

Instead of repeating the places for another year we are going to keep it simple and make this in to a fun page from now on, unless the young Christchurchonian's still want to see places of interest to visit let us know.

We will share some jokes, quiz's and maybe sudoku games for the younger and teenager's to try. So, I hope you like your new page and if you have anything you would like to contribute and challenge the local's please send them in to Youth Page at the Heron.

How many words can you find?

Find as many three or more words as you can in the word:

Bread

Ten is good - Fifteen is excellent - Twenty plus is awesome.

Junior

Fill in the puzzle so that every row across, every column down and every 2 by 2 box contains the numbers 1 to 4. The numbers cannot be the same in each row or column.

		3
		2
3		
4		

Answers next issue

Teenager

Fill in the puzzle so that every row across, every column down and every 3 by 2 by box contains the numbers 1 to 6.



Q. Why can't you hear a

Just for laughs!

- pterodactyl in the bathroom?
- A. Because it has a silent pee.

Q. A guy walks into a bar!

- A. The second one ducks.
- Q. How do you drown a Hipster?
- A. In the mainstream.

I hate people who use big words just to make themselves look perspicacious

Q. What's the difference between ignorance and apathy?

A. I don't know, and I don't care.

Technological Science Facts For Kids

The first over home video game developed was in 1967. If was called brown box, because it looked like one.

The first computer of the world, the ENIAC, weighed around 27 tonnes and occupied an entire hall.

While robotics is one of the fields that scientists are focusing on now, Leonardo Da Vinci sketched the plans to build a robot way back in 1495.

The 'Camera Obscura' was a device similar to the camera and played an important role in the development of the device. It was used by the ancient Greeks and Chinese to project images on a screen.



Joan Smith - R.I.P.

Sadly I have to report that Joan passed away on the morning of Sunday 30th June. She had been suffering with numerous health problems for a month or so. Joan was born 24/08/1928 at March Riverside, Upwell. she was the oldest of a family of 6 - Joan: Ralph: Rosie: Allen: Brenda and Jeff. Jeff and Ralph presently survive her.

Dear readers of The Joan Smith Column.

Thank you for reading my Nan's column over the last couple of years. Sadly Joan passed away on Sunday 30th June, peacefully and gracefully. As you will probably have realised she had been declining in health over the last few months, and although we had all hoped and expected that the stoic lady we all loved dearly would

bounce back to celebrate her 90th birthday in August, sadly it was not meant to be. You will know from her column that she had a wonderful life. She was a very hard working lady who was full of adventure. Her wanderlust and desire to seek out new experiences developed a vast network of friends across the globe. Nan had been described as the original Facebook, utilising her fifty year Avon career, as well as various WI and crafting guilds to cement strong ties and friendships throughout her life. Last Christmas she received 104 Christmas cards, and still sent out her own home made ones at the magnificent age of 89!



Joan went to Upwell Primary School and told tales of walking to school along Welle Creek during the harsh winters. Joan made friends with Peggy when she was nine years old, their friendship endured until Joan's death. As the oldest of the family, Joan took on responsibility for her siblings and stood up for them all! At the time, all children had two pairs of shoes - one pair to wear every day and one pair for best (Sundays). Joan was proud of a new pair of shiny patent shoes - she put them in her school bag and on the way to school she stopped and changed into the new shoes She left her old ones in the long grass and enjoyed wearing her shiny shoes all day at school. Coming home the old shoes were not there! Joan caught a young boy with them and thrashed him for taking them. She got her old shoes back, changed and went home and all was well! It was

> later when the boy's parents knocked on the door that all was not well! Joan always said that this incident began her passion for shoes. One of her sayings was "Clean face and clean shoes" and she prompted the family to say "Yes!" and not "Yeah!" The young Joan lived with her arandmother for a time. She worked in an artillerv factory during the war and was housekeeper for a doctor. During her Avon years Joan took her granddaughters with her to practice their driving skills. Joan was always a busy and hard-working lady. She worked at Jermyn's of Kings Lynn for a time fitting loose covers in people's homes. One of the first to do so! Following her marriage break up in 1978 Joan moved to Millway in Friday

As a granddaughter I have been blessed to have been nurtured and loved by such a wonderful lady. Like you all I have listened to her fascinating stories, from her childhood to present day. Sharp as a pin she was able to recall the tiniest detail and remember conversations from decades ago.

In a world now driven by the Internet and social media I found it endearing that she remained loyal to pen and paper., corresponding to her friends and family abroad, writing daily diary entries, and of course composing pieces for her column in The Heron. If I could sum up her legacy it would be her love of people and social interaction. Nan was a 'time maker'! Ho many of us can say that? She was the ear, the shoulder, and the adviser when ever we needed her and words cannot express the void she will leave in so many lives. We take solace in musings in The Heron, beholding her memories that are now 'ours' and celebrate the wonderful woman that was Joan Smith. Sleep well Nan! You worked hard at keeping us a family! Samantha (Granddaughter)

Bridge where she has lived for the last 40 years. Recently, at the age of 87 she began writing a column for The Heron thanks to Alan Russell's encouragement. I was both surprised and delighted one Wednesday

evening when I got a phonecall from Joan offering her services. How wonderful to make that sort of commitment at her time of life. I count it a privilege to have known Joan, all be it a true but short friendship of just over two years. We will very much miss her and I know that her family were very proud of her writing for our Community Magazine. God Bless you Joan! xx



The Joan Smith Column

Whilst driving my car along Lowside, Upwell, I stopped in front of that relatively new development 'Scholars Way' and it brought back



memories of 56 years ago when I stood in the Assembly Hall of the school that used to be there singing:

Forty years on, when afar and asunder parted are those who are singing today, when you look back and forgetfully wonder what you were like in your work and your play. Then it may be there will often come o'er you, glimpses of notes like the catch of a song, vision of boyhood shall float then before you, echoes of dreamland shall bear them away. Follow up! (repeated 6 times with magnificent crescendo). Till the field rang again and again with the tramp of the 22 men. Follow up!' The rousing chorus brought me back to the meaning of our song, to wonder first, who the tramp was, and who were the 22 men to whom he so surprisingly belonged, then to surmise that we were perhaps singing about some long-forgotten battle. Had our History Master not told us of some dispute or other? I was never very good at History, I'm sure there were other verses but of these I can quote not a line. If, as we are told, our recollections of the past are sharpened as we approach senility maybe I have not long to wait now before they rise to the surface of my poor old memory.

I was born in Town Street, Upwell, in a little cottage near Marcus Russells - which incidentally used to be my Uncle's butchers shop and living premises. When I was nine months old my parents went to live down March Riverside; it was lovely down there, seeing the barges along the river to the lock gates, laden with coal and sugar beet, etc. In the early spring we used to be able to go in a punt and look for moorhens' nests. Mr Pope who lived next door to us, used to go to the boat hole as we'd call it, this was where the punts were kept for the rest of the Pope family to use to get across the river to Low Corner Farm, instead of going right up to the lock gates and going on the mud track to the farm house. In the winter the river used to freeze and we would skate on the ice holding lanterns. The skates, handmade by my Father, were tied on with thick string! We hadn't much money in those days - in fact we were very poor, and we had to be grateful for the things father made us. There were several times that my

brothers and sisters and myself went to school on the ice as the drifts of snow were too high on the roads. I used to still come to Upwell quite regularly to see friends, until I stopped driving last year. If there are any who might read this – I've not forgotten you!. I still look on Upwell as home. Like all villages, times and places have changed, not too many of the local people are left now that I once knew – the craftsmen like Mr Stittle, the harness maker, Percy Wayling, the cobbler and Bob Godfrey who had the cycle repair shop; he also charged the accumulators for the wireless. As children we were never allowed to talk when the news was on, especially if the accumulator was getting run down and needed recharging.

Those were the days when one hardly ever locked a door - there was no vandalism in my youth. If we scrumped an apple off a tree and the Bobby caught us, he'd give us a good talking to and that frightened the life out of us, especially if he said he would tell our father. In some ways it seems a long time ago and yet in another it doesn't appear to be that long. I get the 'Welle-in-Touch' passed on to me by Peter Barnard who was evacuated to Upwell from the Hackney Downs School in London (I think that's the correct name). He lived with my Uncle Jack and Aunt Blanche in Thurlands Drove and after the war he returned to London but he never missed coming back to visit my relatives. He must have liked village life as he is now spending his retirement at St Peter's Road. Although I live a few miles away at Friday Bridge, I still consider myself an Upwellian. 'Welle-in-Touch' and of course 'The Heron' are wonderful magazines. May you continue to keep them both going for many years to come.

Regards, Joan Woolner Smith, (late of) 21 Millway, Friday Bridge





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CAMBRIDGESHIRE FIRE AND RESCUE SERVICE

Public urged to stay fire safe in hot weather

Cambridgeshire residents have been urged to stay fire safe when outdoors this summer. With temperatures hitting significant highs, fires in open areas of land can easily spread and become out of control. Events north of the country, with significant moorland fires at Saddleworth Moor and Winter Hill, have shown how these fires quickly spread and take hold of open areas of land.

Group Commander Kevin Napier, head of community fire safety at Cambridgeshire Fire and Rescue Service, said: "We want to help ensure that people enjoy the sunny weather while it's here safely. High temperatures and dry areas of land can be perfect conditions for a fire to spread. Something as simple as not stubbing a cigarette out properly, or using a disposable barbecue on grass, can start a fire that can develop quickly."

There are seven simple steps we urge residents to take to help prevent an outdoor fire: Ensure cigarettes are completely out

Do not throw cigarettes out of car windows onto grass verges or vegetation Put disposable barbecues on bricks, do not place directly on grass

Do not leave glass bottles lying on the ground, the sun's rays reflect through the glass and can start a fire

When camping, do not leave campfires unattended and make sure it is completely out before you leave it

Use barbecues on a hard, flat surface, away from grass, shrubs or fencing Talk to your children about the dangers of starting a fire.

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PRESS RELEASE

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"Free Family Activities During the School Holidays!"

In March, Elm, and Whittlesey Community charity 'Groundwork' Cambridgeshire & Peterborough is running play sessions for you and your children in March over the school holidays'

Funded by Fenland District Council, 'Fenland Explorers' lets you explore natural habitats and discover 'wild play' as a family. These exciting sessions offer a variety of fun activities, including; pond dipping, bug hunting, natural art, and games.

March sessions run from 10.00am to 12.30pm on the 1st and 22nd August at Rings End Nature Reserve, March

EIM sessions run from 10.00am to 12.30pm on the 31st July & 21st August at Elm CofE Primary Academy, Elm

Whittlesey sessions run from 10.00am to 12.30pm on 2nd & 23rd August at Kings Dyke Nature Reserve, Whittlesey



For more info and to book your FREE place contact - Katie Dean 07736 132870 or katie.dean@aroundwork.org.uk

About 'Groundwork':

Changing places, changing lives, one green step at a time!

Big global issues like the economy, the environment, have a big local impact. We work across the UK helping communities find practical solutions to the challenges they face. We can provide training, create jobs, reduce energy usage and waste, re-connect people with nature and transform whole neighbourhoods. Step by step we'll go on changing places, and changing lives until everywhere is vibrant and green, every community is strong enough to shape its own destiny and everyone can reach their potential. For more information go to: www.groundwork.org.uk/east



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August 2018

Bags to School Thank you to everyone who filled the bags for Bags to School. A Fantastic £88 was raised.

Sports Day

On Wednesday 11th July, we held our Sports Day, luckily, the weather cooled a little just in time! Fun was had by all, especially in the parents race! All teams made a fantastic effort but Blue team were the overalls winners!









Cadbury World

The children in Emperor class have been learning all about Charlie and the chocolate factory. To finish off the topic, they went to Cadbury World and learnt all about the process of making chocolate.







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Vet's View with Nick Wojciechowski

Our pets can suffer from a range of conditions. Some of them happen spontaneously, some of them can be prevented by appropriate pet care. One frequently overlooked or trivialised problem is the occurrence of a dental disease. Many owners accept the fact that their pets suffer from



bad breath, assuming it is normal.

Dental disease has a significant impact on health. Build up of plaque can lead to calculus (clearly visible mineral deposits on teeth), leaving further to gingivitis (inflammation of the gums), halitosis (bad breath), periodontal disease (bacterial infection of the gums) and subsequently bone and tooth loss. The dental disease can have really debilitating effect on our pets. Painful gums and teeth can lead to food aversion and weight loss. Bacterial infection of the oral cavity and tooth root abscesses are also frequent complications. Pets with periodontal disease are also known to be more prone to suffer from heart disease. This is because bacteria from the mouth constantly enter the blood stream and adhere to the arteries surrounding the heart. Has your any of the following:

- smelly breath?
- red or swollen gums?
- yellow or brown teeth?
- loose or missing teeth?
- loss of appetite?
- avoidance chewing hard treats?

These signs could indicate dental disease and a visit to your veterinary practice would be recommended. If your pet is suffering from a dental disease they might need a dental procedure under general anaesthetic.

It is thus far easier, safer and cheaper to prevent dental disease from happening. Brush your pets teeth regularly to help reduce plaque - make sure to use toothpaste that is formulated for pets. Also make sure your vet is checking your pet's teeth during routine appointments. Any signs of calculus is an indication of the need for professional dental cleaning. You can also give your pets chew toys and use special enzymatic treats. Hope you find this helpful. Nick

Dear All,

Further to my letter in last months Heron, having done some research into local vets who provide a 24hr service I found a remarkable one in Downham Market-The Crossings, St John's Way, PE38 0QQ, Tel: 01366 382219. They not only run a 24hr service but will also come out for home euthanasia if need be. Having had my old whippet very poorly last week I went along and found it to be a very modern practice where he was treated with the utmost kindness and care, plus a very thorough examination. I hope this will be of help to other dog owners who, like me, are terrified of travelling miles with a very sick dog in the back of a car, especially at night!

Shirley Knight

(I attended with Shirley and can honestly say I was extremely impressed with their standard of care! - Ed'.)

Village Lunch - Fundraiser

Last Saturday night (21st) you could probably smell the delicious aroma of BBQ coupled with the dulcit tones of one rocking band - "Summerland" - at Christchurch Community Centre. The Parish Lunch Committee held one of their fundraisers in aid of the Christchurch Parish Lunch - held every year for everyone over the age of 65 in the village. For a bargain price of £10 per adult ticket, guest were invited to feast on burgers, sausages, chicken and pork loin with salads, coleslaw and new potatoes along with an array of wonderful desserts. It was such a balmy evening so most chose to take their tables and chairs outside or just sit under the marquee to enjoy the food and great music.



Everyone seemed to have a fantastic evening and special thanks go to all those who came along to support the event, the awesome "Summerland" and, of course, the Parish Lunch Committee for all their efforts and hard work. They raised a jaw-dropping £909.00!!!

The Committee's next fundraiser will be The Sausage Supper on Saturday 13th October 2018.



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Community Centre bookings	01354 638478
Community Fire Safety Officer	07717858166
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District Councillor - Michelle Tanfield	07908 707129
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Parish Councillor - James Hughes	01354 638310
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Police - Non Emergency	101
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Craft Club - Wendy Yates	01354 638448
	01354 638230
Short Mat Bowls Club - Wendy Keen	01945 772737
WI - Peggy Warby	01354 638339

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

Neighbourhood Watch

Colin Steenson - Church Rd (East)	01354 638664
Sandra Kay - Crown Rd	01354 638478
Shirley Knight - Church Rd (West)	01354 638779
David Yates - Church Rd (West)	01354 638448
Julian Swallow - Upwell Rd (North)	01354 638679
Jackie Wood - Upwell Rd (North)	01354 638679
Simon Freeland - Upwell Rd (South)	01354638802
Richard Guilford - Area Co-ordinator	01354 638990
David Harrowing - District Co-ord.	01945 870963

And Finally!...

Well! Are you all melted? Are you scorched? Perhaps Mr Trump will now, finally, be forced into accepting that Global Warming DOES exist! According to the Met Office this is likely the way things are set to be for our future summers. With wild storms like last night (Thur 27th July) becoming a regular feature too! Still just think of all the tropical plants we'll be able to start growing, like they do down in Cornwall!

Ah! But then there's those British winters! More extremes of temperatures. It's coz we're an island you know. Sea water temperatures plummet and that in turn affects the weather on land.



Won't be much grass cutting to be done this summer judging by the colour of the Playling Field. Still at least that should serve to prove that people DO pick up after their dogs as there's not a steaming pile in site! Hopefully we will eventually get a sensible reply from the Parish Council about the use of this facility by dog walkers?

If a successful Dog Show can be held on Townley's school field without any problems, then why can't dog walkers use the Playing Field? Responsible folks just need to be vigilant and keep an eye on the rest! Surely its got to be worth at least a trial period? So how about it Parish Council? 'Till next time! Ed'.



"Here are the minutes from our last meeting: Marty wasted 12 minutes, Janice wasted 7 minutes, Carl wasted 27 minutes, Eileen wasted 9 minutes..."



North Cambridge Classic Car, Commercial Vehicle & Motorbike Meet Family Fun Day at Christchurch Community Centre Cambridgeshire (FREE ENTRY FOR ALL)



Please Follow Facebook page:- Christchurch Community Centre to register attendance

Find us on: facebook。 Christchurch Community Centre, Upwell Road, Christchurch near Wisbech. Cambridgeshire PE14 9LL (On the Recreation Ground) Sunday 2nd Sept 2018 Starts at 10.30AM until late afternoon

Following the June Classic Vehicle Family Day, the Christchurch Receation Ground Charity will be holding a second event this autumn. We are anticipating a bigger show than ever and will be inviting a number of trade stalls, auto jumble and car boot sales. Should anybody be interested in a sales pitch please contact Geoffrey Harper by email geoffrey.harper1@ntlworld.com Auto Jumble and car boot pitches are £5.00 (on the recreation ground). Limited amount of trade stall pitches still available in the main hall at £10.00 per pitch.

Hope to see you there!





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For further information contact Kathleen tel: 07880 543821





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