



# The Heron

Community Magazine

December 2016

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

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# Make way for the Prince of Peace

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# Make Christmas His Story.



Revd I Brady.

Many years ago the Christian Publication and Outreach organisation (C.P.O.) launched a Christmas campaign slogan which is still very relevant today. '**Make Christmas His Story**'. You can still see the slogan on promotional wristbands, posters and leaflets. In one sense Christmas is History. It is an historical event, Jesus was born and Christmas is a good time to remind everyone that there was a baby born in Bethlehem who changed the world. Who was this historical person? How did he have such an impact upon the world? These are important and challenging questions.

Some people are uneasy about public Christmas celebrations. Discussions about politically correct nativity plays and 'winter' lights are becoming as seasonal as mistletoe and mince pies. Christians are right to speak out against these petty actions but it is reassuring that the oversensitive brigade are not winning the argument. Wise people of all religious beliefs, and none, increasingly appreciate that it is divisive and harmful to all within our society to down play religion. Just because we believe in the baby of Bethlehem does not mean it must be offensive to others. We are at risk from those trying to create a society which believes in nothing.

Of course the main purpose of **Make Christmas His Story** campaign is to remind people the reason for this season of celebration, presents and holidays, is the difference Jesus makes in our lives today. The former Archbishop of Canterbury, the Right Rev Rowan Williams once summed it up when he explained, "Christmas, for a Christian, tells us why people matter. They matter because God took us seriously, seriously enough to get involved with our lives, to suffer with us and change things. That's what I believe, that's what Christians believe and Christians exist because of that belief, that's our gift to the rest of the world."

Christmas is the greatest love story ever told, a story with the power to change lives for ever. Jesus is the Saviour of the world and, if we believe it and trust him, we can rejoice and live life differently.

Let's not ignore **His Story** this Christmas. The birth of the world's Saviour is the best possible reason for a massive celebration. Let's join the party!

Happy Christmas everyone.

Ian

## Church Services - for the Festive Season

Dec 4 <sup>th</sup>	11am	H Chappell, A Day	All Age Worship in <b>parish church</b>
Dec 11 <sup>th</sup>	9:30am	Revs I Brady & L Brady	Holy Communion
Dec 18 <sup>th</sup>	3:30pm	Revs I Brady & L Brady	Carol Service
Dec 24 <sup>th</sup>	8pm	Revs I Brady & L Brady	Christmas Eve Communion, Christchurch
Dec 25 <sup>th</sup>	10am	Revs I Brady & L Brady	Christmas Day Communion, <b>MANEA</b>
Jan 1 <sup>st</sup>	11am	Rev L Brady	United Service, <b>MANEA</b>

**Every Friday 2-3pm - Coffee, Cake and Chat in the Church building (not on 9th December)**

**Saturday 10th December, 10:00-12:00am, Coffee morning in Parish church - See Pg 4 for details**



# Community Information

**Mobile Library:** first Friday each month  
in the Lay-by Upwell Road 15:00 - 15:40

## Mobile Post Office:

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

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

This month's dates are 7th and 21st Dec

**Pilates Classes,** every Monday from 6.30 to 7.30 at Townley school, are beginning to take off, numbers wise. The Core Conditioning Class, which includes different exercise types to improve posture, balance, strength and flexibility, is not running at present, but it is hoped to start again after Christmas. There are places still available, so please call Marina on 01366 385987 if you are interested in coming, or for more information. It is suitable for all ages. It will run from 7.30 to 8pm after Pilates, and will cost £5 per session.

**A Christmas Gift idea** that you might like to consider - You now can arrange for your loved ones living outside the area to get the Heron delivered to their door for the whole year! An annual subscription would make a great Christmas present. £25 per year covers the magazine, postage and packing. Application form and details are on the website [www.theheron.info](http://www.theheron.info) or from "Glynan" Crown Road, Christchurch, PE14 9NF

**The WI December meeting** on 13th December is to be an open meeting - Lesley Beeton will be demonstrating on - "Arranging Flowers for Christmas". Cost £5 to include Tea/ Coffee and Cake  
Places must be booked in advanced, contact President Peggy Warby 01354 638339

**Brown Bin users** – you will have to sign up and pay an annual charge of £40, (or £36 for early, **ONLINE ONLY payment from 1st Dec to 9th Jan 2017**) if you want to have your garden rubbish collected after 3rd April 2017. From 10th Jan 2017 you can pay at Fenland Shops & Hubs or online [www.fenland.gov.uk/gardenwaste](http://www.fenland.gov.uk/gardenwaste)

**WANTED** books & bric-a-brac & cakes or any thing we can sell at the coffee morning in the church on the 10th December. Many thanks.  
Wendy Yates

## EDITORIAL

It is with a great sadness, and a heavy heart that I have to inform, those of you who don't already know, of the death of Alan Russell. He passed away on the morning of Friday 18th November. Alan was a staunch supporter, and contributor to The Heron. His column has been much loved over the last few years, and he has done much behind the scenes to encourage others too. Our thoughts are with his wife Annette and the rest of the family. I shall miss our friendly chats. Alan really was a mine of information. A really sad loss, especially with Christmas so near and all.

So, another year nearly gone, and a new one just around the corner! How did that all happen so fast? Nice to have a Christmas Message from our newly ensconced Vicar (page 2). Good news on some hare-coursing arrests on page 25. But, sadly, no Community Shop for the foreseeable future. Update and survey results on page 15.

However, lots of other Christmas cheer with stories, and histories of Christmas traditions, and a special Christmas Quiz from John Murray on page 9. Good news re future of Doddington Court and other MIU's on page 13. Your very own Christmas Messages are featured on page 14 along with some news re John Batt-Rawden who moved out of the village a year or so back. I miss our chats. Some more news regarding Walking Football on page 27 perhaps an idea for those New Year resolutions???

Then of course there's all the usual features and a sprinkling of festive spirit and fun...



Enjoy, 'til next month

*Reshield*



# DIARY DATES

Abbreviations for commonly used venues:

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

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

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

Dec 2 <sup>nd</sup>	"Cake, Coffee and Chat" Parish Church 2-3pm - All Welcome
Dec 2 <sup>nd</sup>	Dole Distribution - 2-3pm - see page 5
Dec 2 <sup>nd</sup>	Mobile Library visits - Upwell Rd Lay-by 3-3:40pm
<b>Dec 3<sup>rd</sup></b>	<b>60s/70s Disco - CCC - see opposite page</b>
Dec 5 <sup>th</sup>	Pilates - 6:30-7:30pm - £6 (monthly discount) Info - Jane Green 01354 638378 - TS
Dec 6 <sup>th</sup>	Christchurch Craft Club - Christmas Surprise - bring nibbles - CCC - 7pm
Dec 10 <sup>th</sup>	Coffee Morning - Parish Church - 10:00-12:00am
Dec 12 <sup>th</sup>	Pilates - 6:30-7:30pm - £6 (monthly discount) Info - Jane Green 01354 638378 - TS
<b>Dec 12<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>Christchurch Parish Council Meeting - 7:30pm - CCC</b>
Dec 13 <sup>th</sup>	WI - Open Meeting -Arranging Flowers for Christmas £5 inc refreshments -7pm CCC
<b>Dec 15<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>HERON DEADLINE FOR JANUARY ISSUE</b>
Dec 16 <sup>th</sup>	"Cake, Coffee and Chat" Parish Church 2-3pm - All Welcome
Dec 19 <sup>th</sup>	Pilates - 6:30-7:30pm - £6 (monthly discount) Info - Jane Green 01354 638378 - TS
Dec 21 <sup>st</sup>	Christchurch Book Club - 7:30pm - Glynan - contact Sheila Day 07946635908
Dec 23 <sup>rd</sup>	"Cake, Coffee and Chat" Parish Church 2-3pm - All Welcome

## Christmas Service times and locations - see page 2

**Please Note:**  
**January Heron's**  
**deadline for**  
**copy and ads 15th Dec**



Parish Church  
Coffee Morning

Saturday 10<sup>th</sup> December

Parish Church  
10am -12noon

Various stalls Cakes

Raffle Games



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

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



## Letters to the Editor



Dear Richard.

Over the last few months I have had the pleasure of working with the community shop project group in Christchurch investigating the possibility of opening a community shop for the village. The group, led by Paul Haresnape have left no stone unturned in their investigations and I have been extremely impressed with how detailed their work has been. I have visited the village on three occasions to discuss the project and how we could consult with the village to determine if the project was a viable proposal.

A great deal of effort was put in by the group to ensure the residents voices were heard before the project progressed. As you are probably aware the results of the survey have led the group to put this project on hold for the time being, but I wanted to congratulate the team for all their efforts. They have worked incredibly hard over the last few months and have investigated every avenue to determine if there was a viable community shop project possible for the village of Christchurch, sadly, at this time the project appears undeliverable - but well done to everyone in the team, I am sure your community are very grateful for all your efforts.

Lisa Chambers

Community facilities development officer  
Cambridgeshire ACRE

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proceeds are going towards our new  
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## IT'S THAT TIME OF YEAR AGAIN...

when we like to say a **BIG THANK YOU** to all our  
helpers and supporters; to all our writers,  
delivery personnel and organisers, our various  
benefactors, all our advertisers, and of course to  
all of

**YOU OUR READERS**

**May we take this opportunity during  
the Festive Season**

of thanking you all for your support throughout  
2016 and hope that it will continue throughout  
the forthcoming New Year

**Wishing you a  
very Merry Christmas and a  
Happy and prosperous New Year**

From The Heron Editorial Team  
Richard, Paul, and Vivien



## Suky Garlick

Thank you to everybody who sent me their good  
wishes following my recent stay in hospital.

Every day sees some improvement.

Thank you again.

Suky Garlick

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# Christmas Greetings

*Wishing you all a very Happy Christmas and a Happy New Year from  
Doris Wolsey Rolfe*

*Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year from Walter Chamberlain.*

*Wishing you all a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year from  
Peggy and Graham Warby*

*We would like to wish all our friends a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year  
David and Wendy Yates*

*Greetings to family and friends. Wishing you all a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year from  
Mary Rolfe*

*We would like to wish all our friends and neighbours a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year and thank you to all at the Heron for all your hard work.  
Sandra and Richard Lloyd*

*Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year from  
Doris (Ted) Rolfe*

*To all friends, neighbours, and people who supported & donated to the Macmillan Coffee morning - best wishes for the season, Sandra Kay*

*To all our friends and neighbours in the village - happy Christmas, and best wishes for 2017.  
Paul and Vivien Haresnape.*

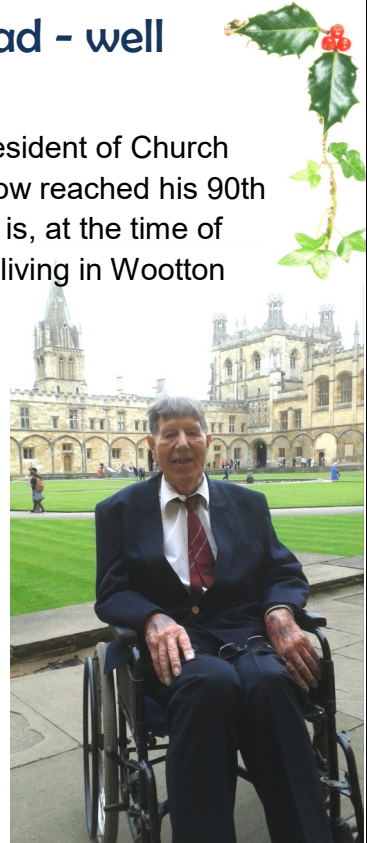
*Kitty Brett would like to wish you all a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.*

## News from Abroad - well Oxfordshire!

Mr John Batt-Rawden, resident of Church Road for 30 years has now reached his 90th birthday (May 2016) and is, at the time of writing, still going strong living in Wootton Village, Oxfordshire just outside of Oxford.

John is one month younger than the Queen and was invited to attend a special service for 90 year olds to celebrate her birthday at Christchurch Cathedral Oxford. Here he is pictured outside the cathedral - picture by his son David.

*We are very grateful for news of ex residents - Ed'.*



## Christmas Stockings

Most children receive their presents on Christmas Eve night or early Christmas morning, but in some countries they get their presents on St. Nicholas' Eve, December 5th.



St. Nicholas putting the bag of gold into a stocking is probably where the custom of having a tangerine or satsuma at the bottom of your Christmas stocking came from. If people couldn't afford gold, some golden fruit was a good replacement - and until the last 50 years these were quite unusual fruits and so still special!

The biggest Christmas stocking was 51m 35cm (168ft 5.65in) long and 21m 63cm (70ft 11.57in) wide (from the heel to the toe). It was made by the volunteer emergency services organisation Pubblica Assistenza Carrara e Sezioni (Italy) in Carrara, Tuscany, Italy, on 5th January 2011. Just think how many presents you could fit in that!

## My First Car - James Hughes

As often happens with a first car, mine came to me via a relative passing away. Not as a bequest, but I bought it from my Grandmother for £400, following my grandfather's untimely death after a short illness. I was 17, having recently passed my driving test, and that £400 emptied my bank account.

The car had been in the family from new, and was a rather horrible green DAF 66. The DAF 66 was the last 4 cylinder car to have the DAF name, and production was between 1972 and 1975 in Born, Holland. I bought mine in about 1983. It morphed into the Volvo 66 in later years as Volvo



*The only known picture of AEV416L, University of East Anglia carpark, 1986. I'm not sure what is going on inside the car.*

had purchased DAF in 1974.

I cannot remember whether mine was the 1.1 or 1.3 engine, either way, with a maximum horsepower of 60BHP, it wasn't the fastest car on the block, but it did have one amazing feature, the Variomatic drive system. Those of a certain vintage will remember the TV adverts - Forward to go Forward, Back to go Back. The DAF 66 had no gears, and was, I believe, the first car to have a Continuously Variable Transmission. Most cars, manual and automatic, have gears, but the variomatic dispensed with that, and used a belt drive which could vary the ratio of engine to final drive. This could surprise people at traffic lights - putting your foot down resulting in the engine hitting a particular RPM, then staying at that RPM as the car got faster and faster. With no gears to change the acceleration was uninterrupted! Fuel consumption however, did suffer!

Let us know what your first car was, and some of your memories of it - we'll help with writing and photos if needed!

I used the car to commute to and from school, with my brother and friends as passengers, on the drive from Sutton to Cambridge, and it got a lot of use transporting me and my windsurfer around. On one occasion, driving through Sutton, tiredness from windsurfing and being too eager to get home with my fish and chip supper, I turned Brook corner too fast, spun, corrected, then did a 180, slid across the road, hit the kerb, and the car ended up on its side! A few shoves from helpers pushed it back on its wheels, one badly dented, the windscreen had popped out and there were quite a

few crushed panels on the side where I had ended up on the pavement. The roof rack with the windsurf board on had stopped the car rolling right over! I still drove it home (it did have odd noises coming from the bent wheel), judicious use of a hydraulic jack bent the cabin roof back into shape, and the windscreen popped straight back in. A quick trip to the scrappy found a replacement wheel, and hey presto, back on the road!

Eventually, the car met its end whilst parked in the University car park a few years later. The window winder had packed in with the window down, someone found a old sailing knife in the glove box, and stabbed all the tyres - and it was just too expensive for a student to get it going again. A sad end for a car in which many adventures were had, including driving down a beach near Portmeirion, Wales, in reverse, at high speed - a peculiar feature of the variomatic drive where you could go just as fast in reverse as forwards; the exhaust manifold falling off and creating quite a din; the headlights failing whilst driving back from Ely one night (full beam still worked), and many other exploits that I'm sure the traffic police would be interested to hear about!

So, thanks for the memories, AEV416L, may your green automotive spirit rest in peace.





# The Alan Russell Column

Alan and Townley School pupils were on a school holiday at Colwyn Bay in 1949



We are sorry to announce that Alan passed away on the morning of 18th November. His column is much loved and his wife Annette is sure that he would wish us to continue from the notes he has left for us.

R.I.P.

Colwyn Bay was a lovely traditional seaside town and towering over it was the luxurious Colwyn Bay Hotel, which had 90 odd bedrooms with a window for each day of the year. It was taken over during the war by one of the Ministries of Food and was still being converted back to its original use, but this too was demolished due to lack of customers in the 1970s; people now wanting full time sunshine with cheap air travel packages available.

We were taken on various day trips. One memorable one was to climb up the Great Orme in Llandudno, giving us a wonderful view all round the bay and beyond. As many had done before us, white stones about a foot round were collected and under strict supervision by W.P.E. the words Townley County Primary School, Christchurch 1949 were laid out. It did look very effective but no doubt only lasted until the next group came along and made their own statement regarding their own outing.

Llandudno which lies between two headlands of the Little Orme and the Great Orme is a lovely town, developed in the 19th century by the Mostyn Family and laid out to their design that made sure it was both a pleasant and respectable town which it still is today. Most of the land still owned by the Mostyn Family with Mostyn Street being the main thoroughfare and shopping area. Paddle steamers to the pier and trains brought visitors from all over the country to ensure it thrived as it still does today.

One day we were take on a visit to Conwy with its medieval walls and its famous castle built by Edward 1st. This was the first real castle we had



Conwy Castle with Stephenson's tubular rail bridge in the foreground

ever seen and were very impressed and really enjoyed clambering around its walls and turrets. Interestingly, the road bridge and Stephenson's tubular rail bridge have to run though the castle grounds. An old fisherman's cottage only 11ft tall containing two rooms is built on the adjoining quayside. Many of us thought it reminded us of farm cottages at home!!

*To be continued*



1. What date is St. Stevens day?
2. Who was Scrooge's dead business partner?
3. In what 1942 film was White Christmas first sung?
4. What gift was given on 9th day of Christmas?
5. Donner and Blitzen are two of Santa's reindeer, name the others
6. What do Donner and Blitzen mean?
7. What film does the character Jack Skellington appear in?
8. What colour are mistletoe berries?
9. What is George Bailey's guardian angel called in the film "It's a Wonderful Life"?
10. According to tradition, what are the names of the three wise men?
11. What was the country of St. Nicholas's birth?
12. Where does London's Trafalgar Square Christmas Tree come from?
13. What cake is traditionally eaten in Italy at Christmas?
14. Where do Poinsettias come from?
15. What year did Band Aid's song "Do they know it's Christmas?" top the UK Charts?

Thanks to John Murray

Answers page 25



**Minutes of the meeting held in Christchurch Community Centre on November 8th 2016**

Members were welcomed by our President Peggy Warby.

**Apologies:** from Belinda Gladwin, Doris W Rolfe, Margaret Beswick & Susan Quail

**Minutes:** of the previous meeting were approved and signed as correct.

**Correspondence:** A thank you card from Susan Norman for her Garden Voucher in recognition for her work as secretary was read to members. Federation forthcoming events were given to members including the Carol Concert, Make a Lap Quilt and the 2017 Annual Meeting to be held at the Echo Arena, Liverpool. Bursaries are also available for courses at Denman College. An update was given on the meeting of the closure of the MIU, and members were encouraged to make sure the petition was signed and to keep the pressure on the powers that be. Beryl Brooks gave information on the resolution meeting on November 28th at Doddington Pavilion to discuss the resolutions that had been put forward.

**Finance:** Treasure gave report.

**Election for 2017 Committee:** was held during the meeting.

**Speaker:** John Lillyman from Oundle gave a light hearted talk titled "It should not happen to a Dame" John had acted the Dame for 43 years in pantomimes such as Jack and the Bean Stalk, Puss in Boots and played Widow Twanky 7 times in Aladdin to name just a few. There were many accidents in the early days as there was no Health & Safety. Makeshift stages, costume changes in toilets, all led to the excitement of performing. During John's amateur acting career he has met, Robert Hardy, Sandra Payne, Richard Todd and Geoffrey Hughes. John has now retired from acting the Dame, in his last performance he had 17 changes of costumes in a 2hr.30min show. John is now in straight acting and at the moment directing a play called Lord Arthur Savile's Crime. To bring this talk to a close John encouraged 4 members to participate in a very short pantomime, this caused much laughter, thank you to those members. A very enjoyable speaker thanked by our President.

**Competition results:** An Evening Bag  
Wendy Yates 5, Valerie Parker 5, Tracy Day 5, Margaret Sparrow 5, Beryl Brooks 3, Anne Atkinson 3, Sandra Kay 2, Susan Norman 2, Peggy Warby 2, Sandra Lloyd 2, Marion Hawthorn 2, Vivien Haresnape 2.

**Raffle Winners:** Tracy Day, Margaret Hayes, Marion Hawthorn, Sandra Kay & Valerie Parker.

**December 13th Meeting:** Christmas Flower Arrangements by Lesley Beeton  
This is an open meeting Cost 5.00 including refreshments. Time 7pm.

**Competition:** A Decorated Candle

**Members Only Our Annual Meeting will start at 6pm in the small hall**



## Art Club

Our group is friendly and relaxed. We are all enjoying the sessions and would love to



welcome some more members. We have a tutor to lead us, but we all can learn as much from each other and gain in confidence. All artists have their own special style and approach so we have a lot of variety and some very good art. Our November sessions are water-soluble pencils and Pen and Wash techniques. We all had the same set of materials Jan bought along for us to try out, as they are new to us. At this time of year the lovely variety of autumn leaves gave us inspiration. Everyone produced a great picture in our own unique styles. Do contact Sandra (638478) or Jan (638217) for more information, or pop along during the session to see what we are up to. We normally meet on the 2nd and 4th Tuesday of the month at 10am to 12 noon. (term time).

Our last meeting this year is on the

**1st Tuesday 6th December.** The topic is Limited Palette of Colours.





## Relax and Enjoy

Fenland Mobile Catering drew up in the carpark of the Community Centre and soon the smell of fresh fish and chips permeated the hall, where the club members sat chatting, awaiting the Gardening Club's traditional fish supper. The table settings were especially colourful this year and there was a real warmth to the evening. The raffle featured some spectacular pot plants and it wasn't long before the assembled and well fed crowd, settled down to some serious Bingo.

Can I take this opportunity to thank Michelle and Michael for a delicious meal, long may you fettle your fish.

It has long been a feature of the regular monthly meetings that the members are encouraged to bring one small cutting from their gardens. This is then usually judged and marked by our guest speaker. A record of the marks is kept and at the end of the year a prize is awarded to the best or most consistent. This year however because the standard was so high and the difference in marks so slight, the committee decided to award three prizes and to award cash for the first time. The winners were as follows: in third place Peggy Warby. Second prize Sandra Kay. First Place Sheila Smart. Congratulations to you all.

The club enjoys a brief hiatus for the next few months, so the next meeting at the Community Centre will be on Tuesday 21st February 2017 and will be the club's A.G.M. A very important meeting and can I encourage all our members to attend if possible. New members are always made welcome. Just call 01354 638 230 for details or just come along on the night.

Marion Hawthorn our club secretary is already lining up a full calendar of speakers for next year, so that's something to look forward to. On behalf of the club I should like to thank all the members of the committee, who work so hard and give their time so willingly, to make the club the success it is.

It just remains to wish all the happy Elves at the Heron a Very happy Christmas and thank them for their efforts on all our behalves. I'm sure I speak for all the members of the Gardening Club by Wishing the residents a Happy Christmas and a prosperous New Year.

Till next time

Steve

Enquiries - Call Marion on 01354 638 230.

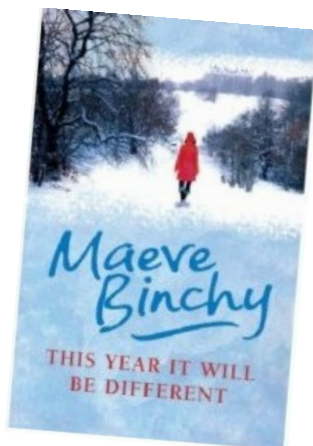


## Christchurch Book Club

Book club met on 23rd November. We had been reading 'Trick of the Dark' by Val McDermid. Although reactions were mixed, the book was generally well received.

We will be meeting at 7.30.pm on Wednesday 21st December at Glynan, Crown Rd. We will be discussing 'This year it will be Different' by Maeve Binchy. New members always welcome.

New members are always welcome. For more information, contact Sheila Day on 07946635908



We welcomed Margaret Sparrow to our November meeting. Margaret handed us a kit (that she had prepared earlier) to make a Christmas tree decoration to hang on our Christmas trees.

It showed who had nimble fingers with needle.

Thank you, Margaret. We look forward to seeing you next time.



OUR DECEMBER 6th meeting - please bring a few Christmas nibbles. What we make will be a surprise. (because I haven't made my mind up yet!!)

Look forward to seeing you at the hall, Wendy.

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## Whistleblower leads to Doddington Court reprieve - thanks to Cambs Times



Intermediate care beds that stood empty for six months will now be used for patients who are well enough to be discharged from hospital but not well enough to go home. An anonymous caller tipped off that two care staff were doing crossword puzzles and crafting in the unit at Doddington because they had no patients and nothing to do.

According to the Cambs Times, NE Cambs MP Steve Barclay stepped in and now a patient trial will take place from November 7.

He said: "Since I discovered from a whistleblower that Doddington Court was no longer treating patients despite the services still being paid for by the CCG, I have worked closely with them to see how we could get services reinstated.

"Patients will be returning to Doddington Court on a trial basis.

"It made no sense on behalf of taxpayers to pay for services we were not using. Over the last couple of months I have

worked closely behind the scenes with the CCG, hospital management at Peterborough and other local health leaders to see how we can get services restored.

"This compliments the continuation of outpatient services at these sites, and the on-going work on the Minor Injury Units."

Mr Barclay said: "I am grateful to Dr Gary Howsam and Tracy Dowling the chair and chief executive of the CCG, for listening to both my feedback and that of local residents at our public meetings and then acting on the concerns expressed." Last week Mr Barclay chaired a meeting at the House of Commons with Cambridgeshire health leaders and cross party MPs to look at how to meet a growth in demand from an older population with more complex health needs. He also met with Jeremy Hunt, the Secretary of State for Health, to brief him on the county's health issues including the Minor Injury Units.



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# Only 8 reindeer pull Santa's sleigh?



The names of Santa's reindeer seem to originate from two sources; the first of which is the poem *The Night Before Christmas*. However, another source *Rudolph's Big Book of Reindeer Names* lists as many as eleven forming the original team but two were later removed for insubordination and stirring up trouble amongst the others.

Conventionally the current team comprises; Dasher and Prancer, Comet and Dancer, Cupid and Vixen, Donner and Blitzen. Though since the Brexit vote Donner and Blitzen's continuance as part of the team is under review. But it is unlikely that the two expelled reindeer will ever be reinstated.

Joker, as the name suggests, was always stirring things up by poking jibes at the others. Prancer and Dancer he accused of underperforming and said that Craig Revel-Horwood would have marked them down for sticking their rear out, and losing their top-line due to lack of attention to their antlers. Dasher, as the name suggests, was always rushing about with no real finesse, Cupid was continually falling in love, Vixen was always

being a right bi\*ch!, and as for Comet, Joker thought he should have gone the same way as that particular white-goods chain. Donner and Blitzen he had never liked because of their desire to continually turn up for work in 'leiderhosen'. Olive, the other reindeer used to laugh and call them names. So she was just as bad as Joker and got

the push for similar reasons.

But what of Rudolph? I hear you ask! Well Olive never let him join in any reindeer games, and Joker was always making fun of his big red nose, accusing him of overdoing the Christmas spirit! Santa of course saw him as

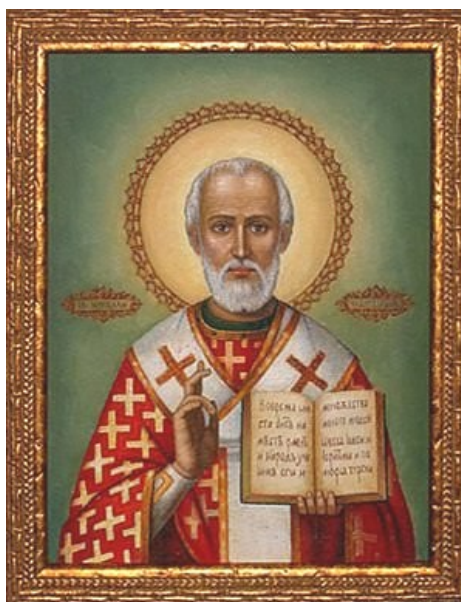


a shining light – literally!, attaching him to the main team as lead reindeer; the glow from his nose both guiding their way and acting as a warning light to other skybound craft.

So, there are in fact, currently, **nine** reindeer which pull Santa's sleigh across the skies on Christmas Eve. Reindeer injuries can be costly for Santa. So in training, for backup, are; Looper, Cruiser, Dynamo, Charger, Star, and Rudolphina! Visa and Mastercard are also being considered! RWBG

## Why we hang up stockings at Christmas

**There was a poor man** who had three daughters. He was so poor, he did not have enough money for a dowry, so his daughters couldn't get married. (A dowry is a sum of money paid to the bridegroom by the bride's parents on the wedding day. This still happens in some countries, even today.) One night, Nicholas secretly dropped a bag of gold down the chimney and into the house (This meant that the oldest daughter was then able to be married.). The bag fell into a stocking that had been hung by the fire to dry! This was



An image from the St Nicholas Centre

repeated later with the second daughter.

Finally, determined to discover the person who had given him the money, the father secretly hid by the fire every evening until he caught Nicholas dropping in a bag of gold. Nicholas begged the man to not tell anyone what he had done, because he did not want to bring attention to himself. But soon the news got out and when anyone received a secret gift, it was thought that maybe it was from Nicholas. Because of his kindness Nicholas was made a Saint.



# No appetite for the Community Owned Shop - Paul Haresnape

After a two month consultation period, ending on 31st October the survey forms, both paper and electronic, were analysed. From the outset, despite a chance of winning a £50 prize, the number of forms returned was disappointing.

Of 400 forms delivered in the September Heron, only 37 were returned. There were also some 19 electronic responses, but almost all of those only replaced a paper form, as the householder preferred to answer that way. The Working Group



Sue Clarke draws the lucky winner

are grateful for those who took the time to return a form. The name of the winner of the £50 prize was drawn by Sue Clarke, the village PCSO at the Parish Council meeting in November. In due course a brief presentation was made to John Garlick. Very generously, John passed on the prize to the Heron, a cause which he has long supported - for which we are truly grateful – Ed'

The conclusion was drawn, primarily from the low number of returns, that there was no appetite for the work required to institute a community shop. However, the results from many of the other questions, such



John Garlick receives the £50 from Elaine Reed-Hughes of the Working Group

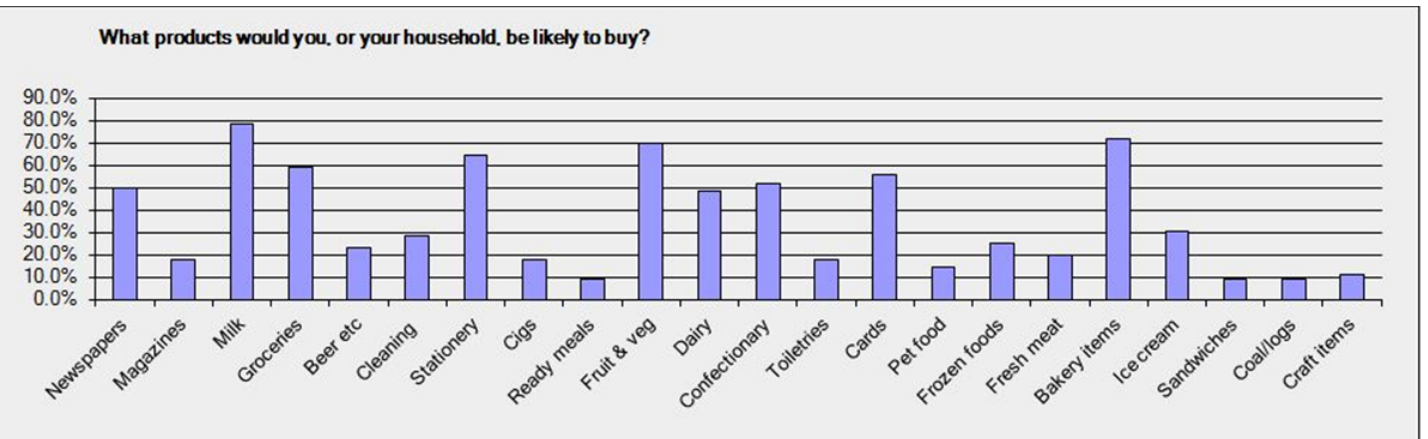
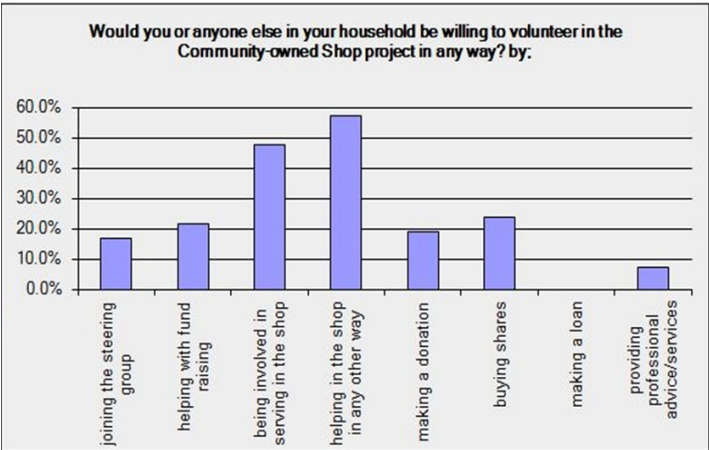
## Christchurch Community Owned Shop Survey

If a new Community Owned Shop was opened in Christchurch, would you or other members of your household use it?		
Answer Options	Response Percent	Response Count
daily	28.6%	16
2-3 times a week	41.1%	23
once a week	16.1%	9
once a fortnight	0.0%	0
occasionally	12.5%	7
never	1.8%	1
answered question		56
skipped question		0

as the "Products likely to be bought", really tended towards the perishable end, milk, fruit & veg and bakery. There is a lot of waste involved in these, other popular products had very low margins - this confirmed that the enterprise, with that type and level of support was neither viable, nor sustainable.

To allow you to draw some of your own conclusions based on the evidence we are reproducing some of the results – if you would like to see a full set of these, please email, write or ask personally and we will give you a set. This offer of course is open to anyone else who would wish to take up the mantle in the future.

Lastly in order to comply with our promise, we will be destroying the individual forms and only the summary graphs and tables results will remain.



## Parish Council snippets - Paul Haresnape

### Overhanging hedges

The position regarding hedges overhanging the footpaths, is much improved thanks to residents taking action. There are some overhanging trees which need attention, please check if yours are and deal with them.

### Dog Mess on the Recreation Ground

The council asked for ideas to help alleviate the dog mess problem on the recreation ground. It was noted that the problem was on the Recreation and Hall committee agenda for later in the week.

### Police Report

Sue Clarke, our PCSO, spoke personally of how she has been trained as a dementia friend. She thought it important that the council should engage with dementia organisations. It was suggested that the person who trained Sue be asked to talk to the meeting, and the village be invited.

She reported that there had been an outbreak of the "gardening work" scam. An old person had been quoted £20 for some work to be done. In the event they demanded £600 and were pretty aggressive about it. Thankfully the victim was strong enough to resist and gave a description of a pair of men driving an orange van, one of them wearing stubble and a woolly hat and one of them a teenager. The police are keen to hear of any sightings.

### Brown Bin changes

Councillor Tanfield (FDC) reported that the brown bin regime is due to change and anyone requiring a brown bin collection will need to pay £40 for the year. There will be a discount for early payment. If two or more neighbours get together they can share a brown bin and the cost. You could, if you wanted, have more than one brown bin at an annual cost for each. It was revealed that 55% of those surveyed were happy to pay the charge, and over 90% are happy with the bin collection services.

### Highways Bid

Tips End residents are keen, it was said, to have a 40 mph speed limit. It would likely cost the Parish

Council £400 to pay their contribution towards the £4000 cost of implementing the scheme. It was thought that Welney Parish Council would contribute too.

There was concern that if work on the 16 foot barriers could not be progressed this year then the scheme might be lost as the cost is likely to need two years Local Highways Initiative grant, and that doing it in parts would not be looked on favourably. The council was keen to work with Charlottes Way to put together a better bid that would succeed.

Also under Highways -The council is looking for volunteers to help grit vulnerable areas including footpaths, which will be missed under the new county council gritting policy.

### Bus Shelter—question for residents!

The Parish Council is minded to remove the redundant old bus shelter, which has been the subject of some criticism over past months. Residents have complained that it spoils the view of the most picturesque part of the village, particularly now the newly refurbished Christchurch Cottage and Syringa House are looking so splendid. The Council is asking for the views of residents – you can make them known through the letters column of the Heron or directly to your councillors, numbers on the Useful Numbers page.



Before and, hopefully after (artist's impression) views



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Tel/Fax: 01354 638229

Headteacher: Mrs Maria-Anne Higgins



We held our annual Harvest Service in the Church last month. We would like to thank the Church for allowing us to share in their harvest produce. Our next service in the Church will be



Christingle. You are all welcome to attend this service on the 19th December at 6pm.



The whole school took part in a service of remembrance on the 11/11/16 at 11am, led by Class 3. The children laid the Parish wreath and poppies they had made. More photographs can be found on our website.



### Defibrillator Update

Thanks to the support of the community the defibrillator is finally installed and ready for use! If you find yourself in the situation of needing it you must dial 999 first. During your call you need to tell them that there is a defibrillator in the village. They will then be able to give you the code to unlock the box and any instructions you need. We would like to thank Simon Freeland for installing this for us. All money raised for the defibrillator will be donated back to the East of England Ambulance Service as they have been able to provide everything we needed for free.

# Heron Delivery Team

**Your Heron is brought to you** every month by our excellent and well organised delivery team. Come rain or shine, as soon as each month's issue comes hot off the press, they are out to bring it to your door. It all works like a well oiled machine, and in fact is so efficient that for a long time the present editorial team did not even know who they all were (possibly we still don't) They just got on with the job! Sandra Kay, our delivery coordinator, sorts the magazines into batches, and the rest of the team swing into action. Sandra Lloyd deals with the postal subscriptions, and the others deliver door to door. I will not mention them all by name – but you are likely to know who brings yours – so don't forget to give them a big 'thank you' when you see them.


Without them, you would probably not be reading this! Some of them have fairly straightforward routes around the village streets, which can be done on foot, while others travel farther afield to Euximoor, Tipps End, and to houses along the Sixteen Foot Bank. It can be helpful to have two

## Help Needed


Is there anyone able to deliver the Heron into Euximoor as Tony Brown is moving away? Colin Steenson has kindly stepped in temporarily, but we are looking for one or two others who could take this on. Please call Sandra 638478











people working together on these longer rounds – one to drive, and one to pop the magazines into the letterboxes. Some of the houses are not easy to find if new deliverers are unfamiliar with the areas, and we are not always sure which ones come into our area, and which don't. However, at times like these, we have only to consult former local postman and long time resident of the village, Alvar Smart, who is a mine of information on where everyone lives!

Although we have such a great team, there is always a need for others who can step in if regulars are on holiday, or for some other reason unable to do their turn one month. It would be especially helpful to have a few people who know the more outlying routes. But if you are not sure where to go, training, as they say, can be provided!



Christmas jokes



<p>What did one snowman say to the other snowman?</p> <p><i>Can you smell carrot?</i></p> 	<p>What do you call an old snowman?</p> <p><i>Water!</i></p> 
 <p>What do you have in December that you don't have in any other month??</p> <p><i>The letter D!</i></p>	<p>What do you call Santa Claus when he doesn't move?</p> <p><i>Santa Pause!</i></p> 
<p>How does a snowman lose weight?</p> <p><i>He waits for the weather to get warmer!</i></p> 	<p>What often falls at the North Pole but never gets hurt?</p> <p><i>Snow!</i></p> 
<p>What do monkeys sing at Christmas?</p>  <p><i>Jungle bells, jungle bells!</i></p>	<p>What goes: now you see me, now you don't?</p> <p><i>A snowman on a zebra crossing!</i></p> 
<p>Which Christmas carol do parents like best?</p>  <p><i>Silent Night!</i></p>	<p>What's white and goes up?</p>  <p><i>A confused snowflake!</i></p>



I made myself a snowball,  
As perfect as could be,  
I thought I'd keep it as a pet,  
And let it sleep with me.  
I made it some pajamas,  
And a pillow for its head,  
Then last night it ran away  
But first-- it wet the bed.





# The Joan Smith Column

*I had given my notice to Jermyn's ...*



I felt rather sad in a way when I left my job at Jermyn's as I had made quite a few friends there. I had enjoyed going out to people's homes in parts of Norfolk that I had not visited before. Also, the new job was in the village where I lived and so I would not have to endure the journeys to King's Lynn and back anymore. The variety of work tasks in the new job sounded very interesting. Whether it was the right thing to do or not I was yet to find out, but I was going to give it a go as the children, indeed the whole family, seemed very nice.

The week arrived that I was starting my full-time employment. As I cycled the three-quarter-mile to the new job, butterflies in my stomach, wondering if I had made the right decision. I rang the doorbell and Mrs. Anderson greeted me. "Good morning Mrs Smith. Do come inside." "Please call me Joan", I said to her. Two little girls came into the entrance hall. I said hello to them and their mother said "This is Mrs Smith, but please do not get into mischief, as Mrs Smith is here to help us and will sometimes be looking after you if you are poorly, or if we need her to be with you if Daddy and I have to go out on business anytime". She then told me they were expecting a new printing machine to be delivered the next day, and I was shown over the building where it was to be installed.

Next I was shown around the house and where everything was kept. Mrs Anderson asked if I would make a start on the washing. I brought down all the linen from the upstairs beds and put it all in the washroom. From the airing cupboard on the upstairs landing I got the clean linen and made up the beds again. After that I emptied the linen baskets from the bedrooms and took all that down ready for the next wash.

It was strange to keep asking what to do but in the end Mrs A asked what jobs I did daily in my own home. I asked her why and she replied why didn't I just do the same routine in her home, as she didn't have much time after getting home from her teaching job in Wisbech. I did my best that day. We had coffee at about eleven, but I never saw Dr. A until about twelve thirty. I had taken sandwiches for lunch and after he got back we all sat in the kitchen and ate together. He began explaining all about the new machine that was arriving from the Midlands the next day. He was hoping that it would arrive before lunch!

*To be continued*

## Joan comments:

*I would like to take this opportunity to express my condolences to the family of Alan Russell. A very sad loss. I know that his musings were always very popular. It was through his encouragement that I came to write for The Heron myself. Let us hope that some equally knowledgeable person might come forward in the future. Alan really knew his local history. God bless him.*

## Where to meet Father Christmas?

*That was the question we asked on the Christchurch - Items for Sale and News Facebook page. We figured a lot of savvy parents would know where to go and where to avoid, and we figured that they'd like to share that with the people of the village, especially the Grandparents, Great Grandparents, and wider family who might be offering to take their kids!*

*In the event only two candidates were mentioned, both of which featured Santa's Reindeers as part of the offering.*

Firstly thanks to Garf Montgomery -

Bay Tree Nursery at Spalding:



Late night  
Thursdays are a great time to visit, the night time atmosphere seems to add to

the occasion and to date, these evenings have been crowd free!

Group bookings by appointment (school parties etc.) 01406 372828 No pre booking for the general public is available Winter Wonderland provides access for wheelchairs & pushchairs.

To see Santa, receive a present and a real tree is £9.50.

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To enjoy Winter Wonderland, but not see Santa just £1.50

A souvenir photograph of your visit to Santa is available to purchase when you exit the Grotto - prices start at £3.90



Also mentioned by Elaine Reed-Hughes - Twenty Pence Garden Centre at Wilburton:

Experience Disney's Frozen this year with real life Elsa, Anna & Olaf here on 3rd & 10th Dec. So come along for fun, games, competitions and sing - along with Elsa & friends from 10.00am. Details - [www.twentypence.co.uk](http://www.twentypence.co.uk)



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Mel (Health Centre Receptionist)—Crown Lodge  
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Mr Smyth—Fountain Foods voucher.

Mr & Mrs Bowers—J.D.Spikings (Butchers)  
voucher.

Mr Cole—Russells (Butchers) voucher.

Mr Halls—Brian Tweed (Butchers) voucher.

Mr Burgess—(Three Holes Auctions)=Tesco  
voucher.

Pauline Hawksley—M&B voucher.

Mr Myers—Goldings Garden Centre voucher.

Mr Spaxman—Stotts Fish & Chips (meal voucher)

Mrs J Ahearn—Red & White wine.

Mr & Mrs J. Farnsworth—Sparkling wine.

AS A RESULT OF THE ABOVE RAFFLE, THE  
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## Opportunities to get involved

Groups that make decisions about health and social care services need to talk to people about their needs and opinions before they spend public money. Here are the latest opportunities to have your say ring the number below to book.



On 14 November, Hinchingbrooke Hospital are holding a Dementia conference to raise awareness of the disease and support available.

Cambridgeshire Carer Support Service are starting a new peer support group for Carers, meeting in Huntingdon. It will give the opportunity to share experiences and make new friends.



**Get in touch**  
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## CAMBRIDGESHIRE FIRE AND RESCUE SERVICE



IT is the time of year when we're enjoying a tippie with friends, cooking heaps of delicious food and decking the halls.

The fire service has these messages to make sure your festive cheer doesn't go up in smoke:

- Kitchens are a fire hotspot, so take care while cooking festive fancies. Never leave cooking unattended and turn off appliances when not in use.
- Switch off fairy lights and unplug them before you go to bed or leave the house. Make sure they conform to the British Standard and never overload plug sockets.
- Be careful when drinking alcohol while smoking or cooking.
- Finally, make sure you have a working smoke alarm which is correctly fitted and works. And NEVER take the batteries out to power presents!

For the latest news, incidents and safety advice, or to contact us, log on to [www.cambsfire.gov.uk](http://www.cambsfire.gov.uk). Sign up to email alerts and find us on Twitter, Instagram, YouTube and Facebook.

## Friends of the Heron!

At the mid year meeting of the Christchurch Village Resource Centre, on November 17th, it was formally agreed to change the name of the organisation to Heron Publications, and to launch Friends of the Heron. (See page 5 of our October issue for the full explanation)

We intend to change the name of the bank account, but these things take time, so for now, please continue to make cheques out to Christchurch Village Resource Centre.

We are hoping that more people will come on board and join the group. It usually only involves two informal meetings a year, but is a valued source of support and feedback for the editorial tram.

Our AGM will be on May 18th, 2017, and you will all be welcome to come along.



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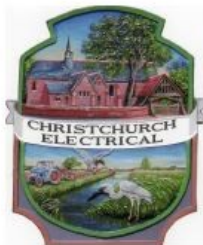
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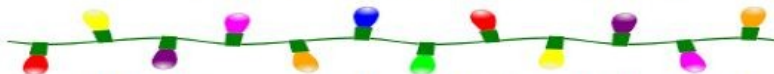


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Hare Coursing-men apprehended

Four dogs and a car have been seized from four men charged with hare coursing offences.

The charges relate to an incident which happened on Tuesday 8 November at around 9.30am on private land near to the A10 in Hilgay.

Norfolk Police said: "Police responded to reports of a group of men with dogs on a field without permission.

"A subsequent area search resulted in the arrest of four men in connection with the incident.



"Their vehicle and four dogs were seized in the process and remain under the care of the police." All four men were charged with 'knowingly permitting a dog to be used for hunting a wild mammal'.

The men charged are:

- Jimmy Lee Dennard, aged 23, from Kent
- Charles Nathan Lee, aged 33 from Kent
- William James Dennard, aged 30 from Kent
- Albert Eastwood, aged 21 from Surrey

They are to appear at King's Lynn Magistrates' Court on Thursday January 5 2017 for their first

hearing.

The dogs will remain under the police's care until the case is finalised at court.

An application will be made to confiscate the dogs from their owners if found guilty at court. If this happens the dogs will be rehomed.

(Hare coursing is now a Police priority in rural areas as reported to Parish Council - Ed'.)

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Christmas Quiz - The Answers

1.	26th December
2.	Jacob Marley
3.	Holiday Inn
4.	9 ladies Dancing
5.	Comet, Cupid, Dasher,
	Dancer, Prancer, Vixen,
6.	NOT Rudolph
7.	Thunder and Lightning
8.	The nightmare before
9.	Xmas
10.	White
11.	Clarence
12.	Balthazar, Melchior and
13.	Caspar
14.	Turkey but Greek parents
15.	Norway
16.	Panetomi
17.	Mexico
18.	1984



# Useful Telephone Numbers

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

## Club Contacts

☆Art Club - Jan Clifford	01354 638217
Book Club - Sheila Day	07946 635908
Craft Club - Wendy Yates	01354 638448
Garden Club - Marion Hawthorne	01354 638230
Short Mat Bowls Club - Wendy	01945 772732
WI - Peggy Warby	01354 638339

☆ = newly added numbers

## Neighbourhood Watch

Colin Steenson - Church Rd (East)	01354 638664
Sandra Kay - Crown Rd	01354 638478
Peter 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)	01354 638802
Richard Guilford - Area Co-ordinator	01354 638990
David Harrowing - District Co-ord.	01945 870963

## And Finally...



Well! Santa may have already visited you by now. If not you're reading this pre – Christmas Eve, or, possibly, you're on his naughty list this year! Whatever, it could be time for a serious New Year's Resolution, or should that be 'revolution', with perhaps a large lifestyle change!? What about taking up 'Walking Football'? It would help get off those extra Christmas pounds and make for a healthier lifestyle. No embarrassment, we'd all be beginners starting at the same level, learning as we go along. Should be fun! Hope to hear from you!

So a New Year approaches, how bad CAN it be? Well there is Mr Trump to consider of course. One prediction that I would be prepared to make for 2017 is that I believe that he is likely to be impeached by next September at the latest. Maybe even before that! We await with interest. Will it be Brexit or not? Which ever way you may have voted, I don't believe that it will ever happen; leastways not for a very long time – years! We were definitely misinformed. On some EU issues we were given no information at all! I feel the referendum was a complete shambles with no post-referendum plan in place either way.

Here's hoping for the New Year! – Ed'

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



# Walking football

Last month in HeronSport we mentioned the new sport of Walking Football. We had no idea how popular it had become. Following last month's article we have already had several enquiries about setting up a local group. The suggestion initially is for indoor 5-a-side until we build up the numbers. This would be open to anyone over the age of 50 or anyone with a mobility affecting disability or injury. The rules of walking football are much the same as its speedier cousin, however there are some differences. The squads are smaller (between five and seven-a-side), free kicks are indirect, kick-ins replace throws, there are no offsides, the ball must be kept below head height and, of course, anything so much as a jog is prohibited and results in a free-kick to the opposition. Now, with backing from the Football Association and an online hub for clubs (of which there are 434 and counting), there's a genuine buzz about the sport's future. Last year's National Tournament took in 18 teams from around the UK; this year it grew to 82. There's even talk of a walking football World Cup. Having browsed the Internet for more information I thought I would pass on what I found. Some big names are involved too!



*Alan Shearer and Harry Kane play a game of walking football*

Fabrice Muamba – a medical marvel who suffered a cardiac arrest during an FA Cup game in 2012 and "died" for 78-minutes before miraculously coming back to life – is back on a football pitch. The former Bolton midfielder, was forced into retirement at just 24 years old. But these aren't the heady climes of the Premier League, this is walking football: the new sporting phenomenon sweeping the nation. Conceived in 2011 by the Chesterfield FC Community Trust, walking football



*Fabrice Muamba and World Cup legend Geoff Hurst now play in the same era*

aimed, initially, to inspire the over 50s to get out of their armchairs and back into exercise. But it can benefit all ages recovering from injury, operation, or limited mobility. Strangely, it was a Barclays TV advert that brought it into the mainstream last year, the sport then seeing exponential growth after Steve Rich – an ex-Sunday League player who hung up his boots at 26 after a car accident – launched a website to help connect teams across Britain. It has since clocked 60,000 hits. "It's devastating to give up something you love," admits Rich, 54, "but after I was hit by a car any twisting, turning or impact was impossible; I heard about walking football and just kicked on from there".

At a recent Barclays all-star event to celebrate the sport, players included Muamba, World Cup winner Geoff Hurst, Alan Shearer and Harry Kane, with the resulting match a surprisingly competitive affair that ended 6-6. For Steve Rich, two years ago he thought he'd never kick a ball again. Now he's marking Geoff Hurst, teeing up Alan Shearer and hoping to, like them, one day represent his country. "I'd like to see a World Cup in my playing lifetime," he admits. "And the beauty is, even if it doesn't happen until I'm 70, I still might make the team."

So! Come one come all! Fit or unfit! The game will no doubt help to improve mobility. Get you back into a bit of sport. And even improve your social life. Walking Football is designed for people to maintain, or get started on, a more active lifestyle and is aimed at the over 50s, though this is not exclusive. Any age coming back from injury, operation, or just with a lack of mobility can benefit from this tailor made sport.

Anyone else interested? Initially, please contact your Editor Richard 01354 638990





# HeronSport

**The Football Club would love to hear from anyone able to help out refereeing. Would you consider it? Ring 01354 638307**



*AFC goalkeeper blasts in a spot kick to ensure they win the second half*

AFC vs Huntingdon Res. Due to family commitments AFC struggled to find a team for their home match against Huntingdon. They suffered a devastating defeat mainly down to an exceptionally skilful player on the Huntingdon side. He dominated the match with his pace. In the second half, when he was substituted it was a much more even match and AFC actually won that half. Keep an eye on this space for an update, there's a possibility of a different outcome on this match, as it's subject to appeal.

The next match against Benwick, AFC were nearly back to a normal squad. AFC netted 7 goals against Benwick. The stand in goalkeeper made some fantastic saves. Benwick missed 2 penalties but managed to pull a goal back. AFC player Lee Markilles had a tornado shot and managed to take the net off the posts. This led to a delay whilst the skilful John Montgomery repaired it with cable ties. A well deserved win for a back on form AFC. A fantastic effort by the whole team. Yvonne Chenery



*AFC launch the ball in another attack against Coldham Utd*

Now that AFC Christchurch is up and running and the Recreation Ground is being used again for sports, we wondered if there's anyone out there interested in getting a Village Cricket team together? Call 01354 638990 for an initial contact



## Football Results

### Reg Haigh & Arthur Peck Cup

Huntingdon Utd Res 2 3 AFC Christchurch

### Mead Plant & Grab 5B League

AFC Christchurch	5	1	Coldham United Res
AFC Christchurch	2	9	Huntingdon Utd Res
AFC Christchurch	7	1	Benwick Athletic Res
Fenstanton Res	3	1	AFC Christchurch

### Mead Plant & Grab 5B League Table at 27/11/16

POS		P	W	D	L	GD	PTS
1	Huntingdon United Reserves	7	6	0	1	21	18
2	Outwell Swifts Reserves	6	6	0	0	18	18
3	Needlingworth United Reserves	10	6	0	4	14	18
4	Houghton & Wyton Reserves	7	5	1	1	20	16
5	Coldham United Reserves	10	4	1	5	8	13
6	AFC Christchurch	9	4	1	4	-3	13
7	Marchester United	9	4	1	4	-6	13
8	Wicken	8	3	2	3	0	11
9	Fenstanton Reserves	9	3	1	5	-2	10
10	Cottenham United A	10	3	0	7	-10	9
11	Benwick Athletic Reserves	9	1	2	6	-33	5
12	Chatteris Town B	8	1	1	6	-27	4

### Football Fixtures (home team first)

#### Mead Plant & Grab 5B League

3 Dec 2pm Huntingdon United Reserves v AFC  
10 Dec 2pm AFC v Houghton & Wyton Reserves  
17 Dec 1:45pm Chatteris Town B v AFC  
7 Jan 2pm Houghton & Wyton Reserves v AFC

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.