



Community Magazine

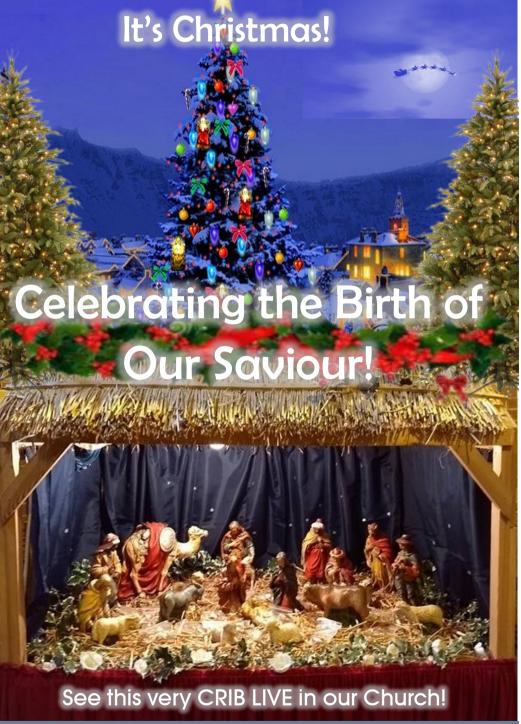
December 2018

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

No. 56

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"I am the light of the world.

Whoever follows me

Will not walk in darkness.

But will have the light of life."

Christ the

John 8:12

The Morld

Lighten Our Darkness

Well not long to go untill Christmas and already a council is banning Christmas carols. To site the case correctly, they are banning the playing of music through loudspeakers into the street and in a way I can agree with that at any time of the year. Never the less, it is the season to be jolly about Christmas and all things connected with it!

In the past we have had councils wanting to change the name of this time of the year to 'Wintervals' instead of Christmas so as not to offended people of other faiths, I have to say that in all my twenty eight years as a minister I have never come across any other faith being offended by Christmas or **Christians enjoying** Christmas. If Christmas is banned today for fear of offending, then those who celebrate the festival of their faith might also want to

watch out for tomorrow. Their festival might be banned tool

Recently Eld ul-Fitr and Diwall have been celebrated by the respective faith groups. There is an element of light in all these celebrations but one council is refusing to put lights on the publicly erected Christmas tree for reasons of - You've guessed Iti - Health and Safety. Whether we have

lights on the Christmas tree or not there is something of an inner light that shines out at this time of the year which we are all meant to bask in and get excited about! No council ordered decree can take that away! St John's Gospel (1:1-18) makes clear that Christmas is not just the memory of a heart warming story that mattered to a hand full of people in a troubled comer of the

world a long time ago. For in Christ the Word became flesh. He came to bring us one blessing after another and there will be no end to those blessings! He is the true light that cannot be extinguished by the darkness of this world in what ever form that darkness takes. Christmas is radical. revolutionary, irreversible and meant to be enjoyed.

All the major religions have an element of charity in their beliefs so if at Christmas time the lights burn that little bit brighter, or the fire is warmer, due to the Spirit of Christmas being felt by a greater majority of those around us, surely that is a good thing!

May the light of this Christmas bring you joy.

Revd I Brady.

Community Information

Mobile Library: First Tuesday each month - in the lay-by Upwell Road - 12:15 - 12:45pm. Forthcoming dates June 4th, July 3rd, Aug 7th etc.

Mobile Post Office:

Visits Mon to Thu in the lay-by Upwell Road. Monday and Thursday - 16:30 to 17:00pm Tuesday and Wednesday - 6:10 to 17:00pm Fridays - no service

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 info or to book a journey call Angie 01354 638721



Delicious Fish and Chips are available outside the Dun Cow from Michael and Michelle's van on Fridays 5.00pm to 8.00pm

School Defibrillator - location is on the wall of the dining hall in Townley School grounds.

Access via carpark, via Greenways off Crown Road.

Local Winners

Following the raffle organized by The Patient
Participation Group, in aid of The Hunter Rowe Trust,
which was held during the recent flu jab sessions at
Upwell Health Centre, there were three lucky winners
all of whom live in Chistchurch. Congratulations to
them. As a result of this raffle The Patient
Participation Group will be handing over a cheque
to The Hunter Rowe Trust for £1400! The Christchurch
winners were drawn from fifteen excellent prize
vouchers, all donated by local businesses.

A big thank you to all those who supported us!

EDITORIAL

A few pieces of good news to open this month. Our roving reporter Colin Steenson is out of hospital after a successful bowel cancer operation. He is currently convalescing at his sister-in-laws with Brian & Helen who are trying to fatten him up! He hopes to be home by the end of this week (30thNov). He came out to a very nice surprise as he is now a great-grandad to Isabella Helen Steenson born on the 20th November. A bouncing baby girl of 7lb 9oz. Congratulations Colin and we wish you all the very best with your recuperation after your op.

Also, following the Christmas Coffee Morning in the Church we are pleased to announce that they raised a total of £439.80. I was narrowly beaten by Terry Symons in the 'skittle-off!', and almost completely whitewashed at the 'frog-hopping!' Well done all!

Well! The festivities are almost upon us! Don't forget to book your places for the "Village Christmas Party" on the 8th December at the Community Centre! (See opposite!)

Some Seasonal Greetings from some of our villagers on page 10, and from The Heron Team on the back page together with thanks for your continued support throughout the year. It has been a difficult one for us in some ways but we seem to have managed to clamber over most of the obstacles presented to us. Apologies for the lack of a Hogroast and other fundraisers but I'm afraid too many other things got in the way. We earnestly hope to put on "HeronAid II" before the end of February. So watch this space! 'Till then have a great Christmas! See you all in the New Year!

Cheers for now! Enjoy!



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 e	Weekly events				
Mondays	Mondays Pop-Up Coffee Shop - 9.00-11.30am - CCC				
	Pilates - each Monday - 6.30-7.30pm - CCC				
Wednesda	ys Forever Active - "Strength and Balance" - 9.30 to 10.30am -FIRST CLASS FREE - CCC				
Wednesda	Wednesdays Rainbows & Brownies - 5-15pm onwards - CCC				
Fridays	"Coffee, Cake, and Chat" - 2.00-3.00pm - Parish Church - ALL WELCOME				
	Fish and Chip Van visits - outside Dun Cow - 5.00 - 8.00pm				

General	events
Dec 5 th	W.I. Committee Meeting
Dec 5 th	Craft Club - Drinks & Nibbles - 7.00pm - CCC
Dec 7 th	Annual Dole Distribution - 2.00pm till 3.00pm - See page 13 - CCC
Dec 8 th	"Village Christmas Party" - 7.30pm till Midnight - Adults £10, Children £5, See page 3
Dec 9 th	Welle Cinema - "Goodbye Christopher Robin" - 1.30pm for 2.00pm - Entry £3 - TH
Dec 10 th	Parish Council Meeting - 7.30pm - CCC
Dec 11 th	Art Club - Winter Themed Landscape - 1.30 till 3.30pm - CCC
Dec 11 th	W.I. 6.30pm - See page 10 - CCC
Dec 18 th	Christchurch Book Club - "Making History" by Stephen Fry - Kay's, Brimstone Manor - CCC
Jan 13 th	Welle Cinema - "The Guernsey Literary & Potato Peel Pie Society" - See page 7 - CCC
Jan 14 th	Parish Council Meeting - 7.30pm - ALL WELCOME - CCC
Feb 19 th	Gardening Club - AGM - 7.00pm - CCC

Paris	h Cl	hurc	h Ser	vices

Dec	2 nd	11.00am	V Smith, A Day	All Age Worshi	ip
Dec	9 th	9.30am	Rev I Brady, A Carlin	Holy Com	munion
Dec	: 16 th	3.30pm	Rev L Brady, A Day - 0	Christchurch Carol S	ervice+ Refreshments
Dec	: 23 rd	11.00am	Revs I & L Brady	Morning Praye	r
Dec	24 th	8.00pm	Revs I & L Brady	Christchurch Chris	stmas Eve Communion
Dec	: 25 th	10.00am	Revs I & L Brady	Doddington Christm	as Day Communion
Dec	30 th	10.00am	Revs I & L Brady	Wimblington Christn	nas Day Communion
Ever	Every Friday 2.00 - 3.00pm Coffee, Cake and Chat in the Church building Daphne and Andrew				

PLEASE NOTE — The Heron EARLY Xmas Deadline

*The deadline for all **copy** for **January's** edition of The Heron is **18th December. *** 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



Dear Richard.

I feel I must express my dismay and disappointment that the Parish Council are even considering stopping their contribution to The Heron. The Heron is delivered to every person in the village and is a mine of news and information.

When I first moved here I relied solely on our community magazine to find reliable local tradesmen and village information such as the Mobile Post Office, various clubs and other activities. So many villagers rely on and indeed benefit from our community magazine that for the Parish Council to consider removing their support is very short sighted, and detrimental to the village as a whole.

Should funding be withdrawn and we lose this valuable asset I trust the Parish Council will be ready to deal with the fallout. The Parish Council's record of keeping the village informed of their activities leaves a lot to be desired. Yet again minutes of the PC meeting held on the 8th October are not published within the time limit!

Della Curtis, 64, Church Road, Christchurch

Very many thanks for your support Della. Annie Nason is taking on the role of reporting on Parish Council meetings and we will be reintroducing the "Parish Council Snippets" feature. We will also be publishing "Editor's Interview with Parish Council Chairman - Peter Owen" in the New Year. - Ed'.

Dear Richard,

I was dismayed and disappointed to hear that the Parish Council were discussing whether to remove their funding of The Heron community magazine. I assume this is simply a money saving exercise and the council have decided in their wisdom to allocate the funds to some other village issue. In which case it would be useful to know what is a better community resource than The Heron. The magazine provides a much needed platform for all that is happening in the village. The articles are often thought provoking and interesting. The reports about the various clubs and associations keep everybody up to date with what is happening for both newcomers and established residents. My wife and I are avid readers of the magazine and regularly use it as a point of reference for vital village information, phone numbers, and services available etc.

I understand the amount of money involved is a very modest amount and I cannot imagine any other village amenity providing a better return for their investment. If the removal of funding forces the magazine to be exclusively on line that would undoubtedly mean that fewer people would have access to it (not everybody has the Internet) but more importantly it would lose that personal pleasure we experience from being able to hold in our hands a product of a village community, published and delivered by volunteers with contributions from parishioners all giving of their own time to make it a success. It is an example to many a small village of how to develop a community spirit.

I urge the Parish Council to consider retaining their support for The Heron, or at least they should provide reasons for their withdrawal and how the savings will be spent!

Yours sincerely
John & Suky Garlick

Thank you both so very much for your support and may I refer you to my response to the previous letter. I am reliably informed by Peter Owen - Parish Council Chairman, that Heron funding will carry on at least until the end of this financial year. But after then? - Ed'.

Hi Richard.

It would be a great shame if The Heron ceased to be published. I remember the old newsletter when we first moved into the village and it was nowhere near the quality it is today. Now it is a 'proper' community magazine which is always full of useful information and interesting articles. I hope that the lack of funding does not lead to a retrograde step. We really shouldn't be the kind of community that knows the price of everything and the value of nothing!

You can quote me!

Regards Steve Waye

Many thanks for your support Steve, and for all your many literary contributions over the years. - Ed'.



The Alan Norris Big Band was formed twenty-five years ago and is now the leading amateur Big Band in the area. The band has performed with many leading people in the 'big band' world such as Don Lusher (Trombonist with the Ted Heath Band) and Tommy White (Saxophonist from the Stan Kenton Band) to name just two! The band is known all over East Anglia and plays to sell out audiences wherever they go.



Alan served in the 1st Battalion The Royal Anglian Regiment from 1961 -1987, finishing his last two years as WO1 (instructor) in the Sultan of Oman's Land Forces Band. The Alan Norris Big Band was formed in1993 with local amateur and ex-professional musicians. The band comprises of seventeen musicians, plus male and female vocalists, and Alan as conductor. The band is supported by PA equipment and a sound engineer, and plays concerts featuring traditional 'big band' tunes plus many more for dances; such as **Quick Steps, Waltzes, Foxtrots, Sambas, Cha-Cha's, Rhumbas,** and **Sixties Rock & Roll** if required.

The Alan Norris Big Band consists of four trumpets, four trombones, five saxophones, piano, guitar, bass and drums; and is a traditional dance band playing standards from the 1940's made famous by bands such as Glenn Miller, Count Basie, Duke Ellington, Artie Shaw, and many more, including Buddy Rich and Ted Heath.

With a library of **over 600 tunes** the band can provide a programme for any occasion; from social dances to mayoral balls and themed concerts. With Alan out front with the baton a great concert, is always guaranteed.

The band now has several resident singers including the great Tom Melvin, Claire Colton, and the very talented young Cerys Pughsey.

Hire charges for the band will depend not only on the logistics of their travel to your proposed venue, but also on the date and length of playing time required. Alan or Scott would be pleased to discuss your requirements, not just financially but also any special music to ensure the success of your occasion.

Please contact:

Alan Norris: Musical Director on 01354 653827, or Scott Chapman: Secretary on 01533 765860

Following the bands 25th Anniversary 'one day tour' - New York, Paris, London, but mainly Christchurch, via Upwell Jazz Club, and held at Christchurch Community Centre on Sunday 28th October - I can highly recommend a night out with them, or even an afternoon. The above event was the second time I have seen them and I would not miss an opportunity to see them again! Musicians included: Gabriel Fitzsimmons - keyboards, Scott Chapman, Liley O'Sullivan, Anna Fleming, and Phil Bramman - trumpets, Jon Lyon - bass guitar, Michael Castelano, Liam O'Sullivan, Richard Ling, and George Brown (bass) - trombones, David Leaper, Sarah Garford, Sarah Barnsley, Emily Savage, and Ceri Griffin - saxes. **RWBG**



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



Sunday 9th December, 2pm: GOODBYE CHRISTOPHER ROBIN (PG)

This film gives a rare glimpse into the relationship between beloved children's author A. A. Milne and his son Christopher Robin, whose toys inspired the magical world of Winnie the Pooh. Along with his mother Daphne, and his nanny Olive (Kelly Macdonald), Christopher Robin and his family are swept up in the international success of the books; the enchanting tales bringing hope and comfort to England after the First World War. But with the eyes of the world on

NO NEED TO BOOK - Admission £3 per person. Doors open 30 mins before 2.00pm screening. Refreshments & Licensed Bar available. Tel: 01945 773710, or 01945 772824

COMING SOON

SUNDAY 13TH JANUARY 2019, **1.30 FOR 2.00**PM:

THE GUERNSEY LITERARY & POTATO PEEL PIE SOCIETY



London, 1946. Juliet (Lily James), a charismatic and free-spirited writer receives a letter from a member of a mysterious literary club started in Nazi-occupied Guernsey. Her curiosity piqued, Juliet decides to visit the island. There she meets the delightfully eccentric members of the Guernsey Literary and Potato Peel Pie Society, including Dawsey (Michiel Huisman), the rugged and intriguing farmer who wrote her the letter. As the secrets from their wartime past unfold, Juliet's growing attachment to the island, the book club and her affection for Dawsey will change the course of her life forever.

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Phone 01353 777788 07946 735691 President Beryl Brooks gave a warm welcome to members, visitor Margaret Beswick and our speaker Jonathan Taylor.



Apologies were received from Wendy Yates, Michele Nardecchia, Sylvia Wilcox, Janet Harper, Marion Hawthorn and Margaret Hayes.

Our speaker for the evening was Jonathan Taylor who has worked for the R.S.P.B for 24 years, having started on the Nene Washes at Peterborough and then moved to the Ouse Washes where he is still working. 4,000 Bewick swans have arrived this year together with 7,000 Hooper swans, a significant rise. Pochard male ducks are in abundance and help manage the grass. Hen Harriers and Marsh Harriers are making a come-back and also Snipe. The washes are flooded from December into Spring, cattle are grazed in the Summer and looked after by the R.S.P.B. staff. To navigate around the pasture an ATV is employed and if required a dog on the back to herd the cattle. All was illustrated with screened pictures. He was thanked by Beryl Brooks and given a donation.

Refreshments were then served.

The Isle of Ely Federation Produce & Craft Show was held on Friday 9th November and Christchurch WI was highly delighted to come 1st in the Co-operative Entry named 'A Winters Festival'. Five members were involved, Marion Hawthorn, Peggy Warby, Margaret Sparrow, Kay Miller and Wendy Yates.

Marion Hawthorn was presented with the Cup by Val Ware, Federation Chairman.



Competition Results - A Bird Ornament

5 pts Viv Haresnape, Sue Quail, Elaine Reed-Hughes

4 pts Tracy Day, Margaret Sparrow, Sandra Kay, Annie Nason

3 pts Peggy Warby, Beryl Brooks, Ann Hicks, Val Parker, Sandra Lloyd, Sylvia McLean.

N.B. DECEMBER MEETING BEGINS AT 6.30PM TUESDAY 11TH DECEMBER

A.G.M.

Flower Arranging & Christmas Party (bring greenery that has been cut the day before and put in water) Margaret will bring the rest that is needed.

Competition - A Christmas Item

Refreshments - All members to 'Bring & Share'

<u>Raffle Prizes</u> – Elaine Reed-Hughes, Michele Nardecchia, Janet Harper & Sylvia McLean

Next Committee meeting Wednesday 5th December 7.30pm at the home of Ann Hicks

"Seasonal Greetings"

Wishing you all a Merry Christmas and a Healthy and Happy New Year Graham & Peggy Warby

David and Wendy Yates would like to wish our many friends a Happy Christmas and a Healthy and Happy New Year. Kitty Brett would also like to wish you Seasonal Greetings

Doris Wolsey Rolfe would like to wish all her friends and neighbours in the village Best Wishes for this Festive Season

Doris Ted Rolfe would like to wish all her friends in Christchurch Best Wishes for the coming Festive Season

Sandra and Brian Kay would like to wish you all a Very Merry Christmas and Health and Happiness for the New Year.

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"YEARS END, A NEW CHAPTER"

Christchurch Gardening

In it's almost twenty-

year history, The Gardening Club has developed several traditions which we still carry forward in 2018. Tuesday 20th November saw the members arrive at the community centre for the annual Fish and Chip Supper. This is really a social evening that brings the clubs year to an end, as we don't re-convene until February, when the first meeting of the year takes the form of an AGM, an important evening, when the committee is voted in for the following twelve months. This year the food was very ably provided by RAV's fish and chip shop in Upwell. Everybody thoroughly enjoyed their supper and Rav's can be recommended for their quality and service. After the delicious desert provided by Peggy and Marion, the members pitted their wits against each other in a quiz to find this year's "clever clogs" as well as presenting the prizes for the plant competition. This year's winners were; 3rd Sheila Smart, 2nd Pauline Murfitt, and 1st Maureen Green. Well done ladies.

This past year has seen the club welcome many guest speakers who entertained the members with their knowledge on many and varied subjects. Tony Winchester from W.W.T gave us an insight into Welney throughout the year, while Glynn Jones talking on Bees and Bee Keeping was riveting, as well as Helen Ackroyd from Anglesey Abbey, these were some of the highlights. Another event that stands out was our coach trip to Hyde Hall for the Flower Show, a memorable day in a very hot summer.

As the club enters it's twentieth year it maybe a time for reflection and remembering members past and present all of whom contributed and continue to contribute to the club's longevity. May it long continue.

The clubs next meeting is on Tuesday February 19th, 2019 and is the AGM. As with all our meetings this is open to members and non-members who would like to join. This is a very welcoming and friendly club, so if you are thinking of joining but haven't yet committed, please come along and see what we are all about.

In the meantime on behalf of the clubs committee and members I should like to wish all Heron Readers "A Very Happy Christmas and a Happy New Year!" Steve



Our November meeting was a busy one. We spent the evening making Christmas wreaths from fresh and fake foliage. Thanks to Sharon Pomeroy who provided the rings and wire and gave us guidance. As



usual, we all produced something unique. Hopefully they'll all still be fresh and brightening up our doors by the time you read this.

Our December meeting will be a chance to have drinks and nibbles and a catch up before Christmas. We hope to be making a small tree decoration while we natter. Please bring a small plate of nibbles or something to drink and any buttons or small beads you have (we will provide some if you don't have any).

We won't be meeting in January (New Year's Day is not an ideal time for a Craft meeting!). Meanwhile Merry Christmas to all our Craft Club members. See you all on February 5th when Jane Rees will be giving us plenty of ideas for making bookmarks.

Christchurch Book Club

Book club is scheduled to meet on Tuesday 27th November. However, due to deadlines, this report needed to be written before the meeting. We have been reading "The Girl on the Train" by Paula Hawkins. Although we have not, at time of writing had the meeting to receive "official feedback" - informal chats around the village have been very positive about this book.

Our December meeting will be on Tuesday 18th December, 7.30pm at Kay's, Brimstone Manor. You will need to go across the river - if the security gate is closed, there is a phone number to ring for access. If this is a bit confusing - give Sheila a ring (number below) We shall be discussing "Making History" by Stephen Fry.

New members are always welcome, and it has been great to see our numbers growing recently (so much so that at the last meeting Sheila was worried that she would not have enough unchipped coffee mugs to go round!!!) Do come along and give us a try - its a great time of coffee and chat - and there really is no shame for anyone who has not managed to finish the book of the month. The library supplies copies of the book so there is no expense at all (although some prefer kindles or audio-books).

For more info please ring Sheila Day on 07946635908.



This is my 3rd and final charity event for 2018, so I decided on something a little different.

I am walking 100,000 steps in 24 hours and loved the idea of this being much more about mental toughness and dealing with your mind, than anything more than aching feet and the odd blister. It is a long time to talk yourself out of walking and a long time to learn about yourself in the process.

Like many families, mine has been hit with cancer several times and I am giving back so that this important work can continue and positively impact lives. Please check webpage www.justgiving.com/fundraising/stephen-aish

Hashtag #100kstep4cancer Thank you for any support you can provide. Event is DEC 2nd from midnight to midnight at EHF Gym Downham Mkt.





The Upwell (Cambridge) Consolidated Charities DOLE DISTRIBUTION

Will take place at
Christchurch Community Centre
Friday December 7th
2.00pm till 3.00pm

Only those who have been resident in the Parish for at least 5years will be eligible to be considered. No able bodied person under 65 need apply. The aged and infirm will receive primary consideration.



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Email: michelelowery24@gmail.com or call 07739 378901

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We are now offering a

Full English Breakfast - only £4

plus sausage, bacon, and/or egg rolls,

using homemade produce,

and locally sourced, free range

meat and eggs where possible.

EVERY MONDAY MORNING Dec 3rd, 10th, 17th, CLOSED Monday 24thDec REOPEN Monday 7th January

9.00am - till - 11.30am

Christchurch Community Centre Hot Drinks, Biscuits, Cakes, and Cookies

All Welcome!

We look forward to seeing you!

We would like to wish all our customers
a very Merry Christmas & a Happy New Year,
& thanks for your loyal custom during 2018.

PLEASE NOTE: With reluctance we will need to increase our prices from 7th January

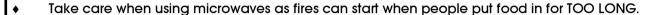


Cambridgeshire Fire & Rescue Service



With Christmas nearly here it's the time of year when we might be enjoying a tipple with our friends, cooking up festival feasts for the family and entertaining loved ones. With all the fun to be had it is easy to get distracted whilst cooking in the kitchen. 50% of all fires in the home start in the kitchen, and more than half of those are caused as a result of distraction whilst cooking! We want to help ensure your festive celebrations don't go up in smoke this Christmas by sharing our tips below for safe cooking this Christmastide.

- Never leave cooking unattended.
- Do not cook when tired or under the influence of alcohol, drugs, or medications that make you drowsy.
- Regularly clean the grill pan and oven as a build up of fat can catch fire.
- NEVER leave anything cooking if you leave the house.
- Do not leave anything flammable on or near the hob; tea towels, oven gloves and even washing baskets can catch fire.



- Oven chips or temperature control deep fat fryers are safer than using a chip pan, do not fill a chip pan
 more than on third full with fat or oil and turn the heat down if it starts smoking.
- Fire can break out in household appliances too so you should regularly maintain dishwashers, washing machines, and driers. Never leave them on if you go to bed, and register your appliances online to ensure you get regular updates re faults or recalls.
- Have a working skoke alarm on each floor of your home. If it keeps going off when you are cooking it is probably in the wrong location, or you have the wrong type of smoke alarm.

If you do have a fire in the house, GET OUT, STAY OUT, AND DIAL 999. For more information or to get in touch contact us at firefire@cambsfire.gov.uk or on 0800 9179994, follow us on social media or call 01480 444500.

Save the date! The Linton Village Father Christmas walk will be taking place on Saturday December 22nd and Sunday December 23rd, with a disco and raffle in aid of The Fire Fighters Charity taking place on the Saturday evening.

Response from Parish Council Chairman - Peter Owen - to last months 'Class Wars in Christchurch' article.....

I feel that I must reply to the article in the November edition of The Heron entitled as above. A few facts should be noted. When I took over as Parish Council Chairman one of the first things I did was to attend an open day at Cambs Highways where I expressed my disappointment with the state of the roads, drains, and pavements in our village. As a result of this Les Middleton, on of the head honchos of Cambs Highways came to meet me.

We had a tour of the village where my concerns were duly noted, Crown Avenue being at the top of the list. The answer was to tarmac over the concrete road, which not only cost a small fortune, but would also be impractical as tarmac does not adhere well to concrete. Also, as Crown Avenue is considered a service road (i.e. not a through road) the best we could hope for would be patching up any potholes that appeared. We are all aware of how efficient Cambs Highways are as regards that!

Christchurch appears to me a classless village where the community works together for the greater good. In fact I believe we all have a village to be grateful for, and proud of!

I do feel that some of the comments in the above article were rather tasteless.

Peter Owen - Chairman, Christchurch Parish Council

It just goes to show how misleading, or misunderstood, the printed word can be. I do not believe that the aforementioned article was referring to the residents of Christchurch but rather to the policies (and reasons for them) adopted by Cambs Highways. However, many thanks Peter for the explanation. - Ed'.

County Council plans to spend £1 million to replace Boots Bridge, Manea, have been welcomed by MP Steve Barclay but he has raised questions about the impact on villagers of a proposed 22 week closure.

Boot's Bridge, the old concrete bridge between Wimblington and Manea is due to be replaced next year at the cost of £1 million. Local MP Steve Barclay has some concerns. "I am concerned about the impact that this 22 week closure will have with the need for diversions towards Chatteris," said Mr Barclay.

He said he has written to the council questioning how residents will be kept informed "particularly if UK Power Networks are unable to move a copper cable by the end of the year".

Pressure has been building in recent years for improvements at the bridge after a spate of accidents – at one stage last year there were six collisions in a matter of months.

"Given the number of accidents we've seen there, and also the opportunity this will give to install barriers similar to those at Bedlam Bridge, improvement to the road surface and signage will be welcome." said the MP.

One local resident told Steve Barclay she was concerned about the bus service to Manea whilst the road is closed.

"The last time they closed it recently for a number of days," she said, "They stopped the bus service meaning vulnerable old people in the village couldn't get to the shops. One frail lady in particular who lives on Wimblington road who is unable to walk into the village was stranded in her house for three days."

"We were able to get her some things but she enjoys going herself and her independence. Please can we make sure they simply change the route rather than cancel it?"



Another re-iterated their concern about the bus service. She told the MP: "This could mean the end of some people's independence or just people simply needing to get to places for shopping/appointments etc. What plans have been put in place please?"

Manea Parish Council are

now discussing options for commuters and travel arrangements for when the bridge closes.

Earlier this year local resident Christine Baxter revealed she had been keeping a log to advise and help councillors campaigning for safety improvements.

"Every time we hear a bang I think 'oh my God'. It's scary because you never know what you're going to find," she said.

"I make so many calls about crashes at the junction that the woman who answers the police phone line knows me by name."

Recent Power Out Blips!

Steve Barclay reports, "Having recently spoken to UK Power Networks they could see all the recent 'blips' that have been occurring. They are checking out possible offending poles that have been reported. Here is the latest message I have received".:

"This is UK Power Networks. We are sorry for the recent disruptions to your power Ref: CALL - 45530 - Z. We are currently investigating the problem and hopefully will resolve it within 24hrs, If you have any questions, or need any further information please call Tegan on extension 8208. For any other matters please do not hesitate to call us on 0800 31 63 105."





What's New?

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

CHRISTCHURCH YOUTH PAGE

Welcome to your Christmas Fun Pages brought to you by the Christchurch younger generation.

The usual just for laughs section, How many Word? and Sudoku puzzles, we are challenging you with a Quiz, a Crossword and some nostalgia.

Have fun, let us know how you get on, answers printed in January's issue.



Just for laughs!

- Q. What says 'Oh Oh Oh'?
- A. Santa walking backwards!
- Q. What do zombies eat with their Christmas dinner?
- A. Grave-y.!

- Q. What kind of music do elves listen to?
- A. Wrap!
- Q. What happens to elves when they behave naughty?
- A. Santa gives them the sack!

How many words can you find?

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

Angels

Twenty is good - Thirty is excellent - Forty plus is awesome.

1	2	4	3	
4	3	1	2	
2	4	3	1	
3	1	2	4	

5	4	2	3	6	1
1	3	6	4	5	2
6	5	4	1	2	3
2	1	3	5	4	6
3	2	5	6	1	4
4	6	1	2	3	5

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.

			1
	1	3	
4			2

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.

3			5		
	6				
	2	4			
			1	2	
3				5	
		2			3

Christmas Music Quiz

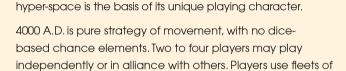
- 1. "Look to the future now it's only just begun" is a line from which Christmas song?
- 2. In "*The Twelve Days Of Christmas"*, how many ladies dancing were there?
- Which of the following songs is the only one of the three to mention the word "Christmas" in the lyrics? "Frosty The Snowman", "Rudolph The Red Nosed Reindeer" or "Winter Wonderland"?
- 4. Who had a minor hit in 1986 with the song "Santa Claus Is On The Dole"?
- 5. Behind Band Aid's "Do They Know It's Christmas" which 1978 single is the second biggest selling Christmas single of all time in the UK?
- 6. In which film was the song "White Christmas" first sung?
- 7. Which one of the following singles was not a Christmas number one? "Lonely This Christmas" by Mud, "Last Christmas" by Wham or "Merry Christmas Everyone" by Shakin Stevens?
- 8. Who famously sang "Have Yourself A Merry Little Christmas" in the film "Meet Me In St Louis"?
- 9. "When you first took my hand on a cold Christmas Eve you promised me Broadway was waiting for me" is a lyric from which Christmas song?
- 10. Which three artists sing the opening line on the "Band Aid", "Band Aid II" and "Band Aid 20" singles?

70's Board Games

Do some of the older generation remember these games... and do you still play them with younger generation?

Have fun going through these chosen games, it'll be great to know you still have a one of these games around your house.

4000 A.D. (1972) is a unique game of strategy set two thousand years in the future, when men have spread to the planets of other stars hundreds of lightyears from the earth. An interstellar conflict between worlds is its subject. The concept of star travel by



space ships to battle opposing fleets and to claim stars.

Fleets move using a hidden hyper-space movement system based on the distance between stars. No logging of hidden movement is required, all tracking is done openly which adds an element of guesswork and tension to the question of where opposing fleets in hyperspace are headed. Captured stars generate more ships.

Victory is determined by the last player to be eliminated.

Microdot (1975)

Espionage game where players must steal the diplomatic bag of any one

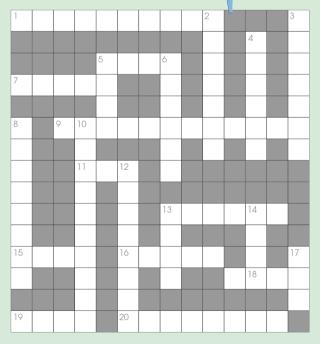


opponent and return it to their own headquarters to win; a 'capture the bag' game you might say. Players start on the outer track of the board where they move around gathering pieces of equipment (ladder, revolver, dagger, earphones, passport, wire-cutters) needed for the bag-capture 'mission'. As each piece is obtained, it is placed near the player's HQ on the inner part of the board. Once five pieces of equipment have been so placed, the mission can begin.

The mission takes place on the inner part of the board. Here, each player has a home territory of 5x5 squares and these areas are separated from one another by a wall or fence. On his turn, the player rolls a special die and uses it to move his equipment pieces toward an enemy HQ. The barriers can be breached by moving a ladder or wire-cutter onto them, or alternatively the passport piece can be moved onto the central checkpoint square to allow other pieces to pass through here. Each type of equipment has a point value (gun = 6, dagger = 5, etc). When two opposing pieces occupy the same square, the one with the lower value is removed (both are removed if they are of equal value). Players cannot continue missions with fewer than five pieces of equipment and are forced to return to the outer board to acquire replacements before continuing. If a player manages to land a piece onto an opposing diplomatic bag, it is captured and he can start to move both pieces back towards his own HQ as a single unit.

While moving on both the inner and outer board, the player may have to draw a chance card of some sort, and this is where the game's chief gimmick comes into play and from where it takes its name. These cards all have the word 'Microdot' on them, written in dots. One of these dots contains a very small number or letter and the included plastic magnifying glass is supposed to be used to read it (but this is not really necessary). The letter/number is then referenced on the relevant 'decode' chart and the instructions followed.

Christmas Crossword



Across

- He's old and fat. He likes to wear red clothes. He brings children their presents on Christmas Dav.
- It's cold and white.7.This is the name of a Christmas carol. Silent what?
- What is the name of the day before Christmas Day?
- 11. What is Santa Claus' favourite colour?
- 13. Many people go there on Christmas Day. They go there to pray, and to sing carols.
- 15. It's areen and brown, People put presents under it and open 13. This is something the mailman them on Christmas Day.
- 16. On Christmas Day, we say Happy Christmas! What's another word for Happy?
- 18. You can see this in a church. People ring it.
- 19. On January first, we say Happy New
- 20. What kind of animal is Rudolph? Rudolph the red-nosed what?

Down

- This is something you make with 2. snow. It looks like a man.
- How does Santa Claus enter a house? Through what?
- Many people eat this bird on
- You can see this at night in 5. the sky.
- 6. In what season is Christmas?
- Children receive these on Christmas Day.
- 10. How often does Santa Claus work?
- 12. In what month is Christmas?
- brings at Christmas. He puts it through the letter box.
- 14. It's sweet. We eat it on Christmas Day.
- 17. Santa Claus isn't young. He's what?







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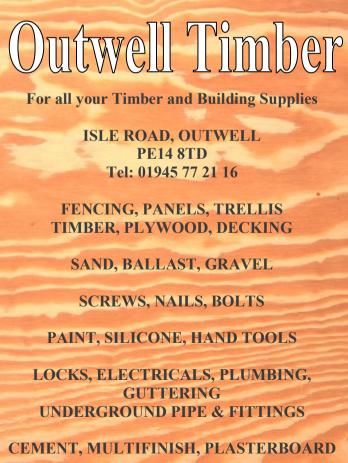
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MARCH, CAMBS







Church News Church Mems

Christchurch Parish Church holds weekly services, and is a member of the Six Fen Churches Benefice.

Remembrance Sunday 11/09/2018: Christchurch

More than fifty people attended this year's event, which began with a very moving service in the Church, led by Rev Lynda Brady. All generations were represented. It was a delight to welcome some Rainbows and Brownies, along with their leaders Brown Owl and Snowy Owl. A Brownie read a poem during the service. Everyone move out into the Churchyard and stood round the War Memorial for the Act of Remembrance, which featured the 2 minutes silence. As we stood in silence, a slight gust of wind brought leaves fluttering down to the ground. A poingnant

moment; as was the sound of the bugle. A wreath of poppies was laid at the foot of the War Memorial, and the Rainbows and Brownies planted their memorial crosses in the grass there. Some folks were moved to tears.

Coffee Morning in Church on Nov 24th. Thank you to everyone who supported this annual event. It went very well. Also - a very big "Thank You" to all participants for their wonderful contributions.



New each month: A "Favourite Verse". This month's comes from Wendy: "*He leads me beside quiet waters*". *Psalm 23 vs 2*. Don't forget to ask her why she loves this verse!

Advent and Christmas at Christchurch Parish Church:
Advent starts Sunday, Dec 2nd, and ends on Christmas
Eve. Everyone is welcome to join us at the various
services and events. Also, remember to check the
Monthly Diary List in The Heron.

Annie



Crumbs from The Good Book

by our very own Church Mouse....

So – what's the big deal? Mice are always being born in stables. This has been the case since stables were first invented. Dark, warm, and, I'll grant you, smelly places, and pretty safe apart for the You-Know-Who felines. I have never heard of Angels and visitors being involved in any mouse births. To be born in a stable is normal for stable mice.

The Good Book devotes a lot of copy to the birth of one human baby, though. Bethlehem was the town. OK. I will concede that, for people, it really wouldn't be a first choice location. And speaking of 'smelly' the first visitors to the baby were shepherds, living out in the fields nearby; no shower blocks in those days. Down-to-earth, gravelly and no-nonsense shepherds: which is why their story stands out a bit; not the sort of people to invent this kind of stuff, you would think.

Here is the quote from the Good Book, which say it as well as I can:- "One night, an angel of the Lord appeared to them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified. But the angel said to them:

"Do not be afraid. I bring you good news that will cause great joy for all the people. You will find a baby wrapped in cloths and lying in a manger". Suddenly a great company of the heavenly host appeared with the angel, praising God ... "Glory to God in the highest heaven, and on earth peace ...".

When the angels had left them, the shepherds said to one another, "Come! Let us go to Bethlehem and see this thing that has happened".

Which is what they did! They went to see! And they saw! See-saw, see-saw... it reminds me of another crumb... "**Taste and see** that the LORD is good!"

Worth thinking about!

Merry Christmas to you all!

Please don't eat all the cheese!





TOWNLEY SCHOOL AND PRE-SCHOOL

Christchurch, Wisbech, Cambs. PE14 9NA



Email: office@townley.cambs.sch.uk

December 2018



5-a-side Football Tournament

We would like to say a massive congratulations to our Townley Football Team who won their whole 5-a-side tournament for the first time ever on Wednesday night! They won all matches without conceding any goals. They played with a high level of skill, displayed fantastic team work and their behaviour and attitude were exemplary and a credit to the school. Well done to Olly, Fraser, Kieran, Mitchell and Ruby we are all very proud of you.

A note from the Governing Body

It was a delight to talk to the School Council last week, to gather their thoughts about school and their learning. They started by saying what a good 'principal' Mrs Higgins is. They explained 'she's reliable '...she's good at sorting problems out' and 'you can always go and talk to her if you don't want to tell somebody else'. They clearly enjoy coming to school as attendance last week was 99% and they went on to tell me what's good about Townley. The Key Stage 2 School Council representatives were very enthusiastic about their topic work on the Egyptians, The Shang dynasty, and the quantity and quality of their writing in books speaks for itself!

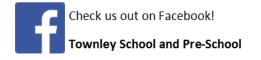
All of them chatted confidently and were keen to tell me about the Growth Mindset sessions they've started this term. (Ask your child about them too, I'm sure they'll be able to tell you if they haven't already). They all felt that this was helping them to develop a more positive approach when they meet with a tricky learning task. One child told me that she used to give up last year and got upset but now she takes a deep breath and has another go. We can't ask for more, can we? The new reading challenge bookmarks introduced by Mrs Ford are going down well, they're all keen on having hot chocolate with Mrs Higgins. All of the School Councillors were happy to chat with me and I enjoyed listening to them. Well done School Council, you're a credit to Townley!





New School Library

Townley School would like to extend a massive thank you to Friends of Townley School and the Batt-Rawden family for their generous donations, which enabled us to re fit our school library.







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The Newbie Blog.

DIFFERENCES

We all have our own ways of "doing" Christmas. Families have traditions. The same old ornaments are brought out to decorate the Christmas Tree, or the Christmas meal HAS to have our usual favourite tastes included ... sprouts!! Not for me by choice, though I do eat them. They're OK. I just don't like them enough to buy them ((-: As for me, I still have a small cardboard Christmas tree (4" high) which one of my children made at his playgroup when he was 3 years old. Now in his 40s, he wouldn't appreciate it, were I to name him! This village seems to have a wonderful mix of cultures. I am really looking forward to meeting people who have a different heritage from mine. Maybe next year we could have a village event to celebrate them all.



It's great to assimilate some bits from other cultures at Christmas time. I have lived in Spain, and the Spanish have a lovely tradition of building a Belen - a Bethlehem. They don't just have the crib, shepherds and wise men; oh no! They build the village of Bethlehem. There are streets, houses, traders, children, animals, streams ... as well as the main characters in the Christmas story. Google "Belenes Malaga 2017 Images". You will see what I mean. Wonderful! I have three or four little shops, and a few market people which I put up each year during Advent. A bít líke a 3-D Advent Calendar, I suppose. Feliz Navidad.

Annie Nason.

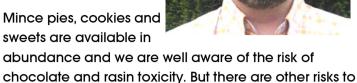
Vet's View

by Nick Wojciechowski

There are many risks to our animals around Christmas time.

Mince pies, cookies and sweets are available in

animals related to Christmas food.



Each year vets tend to many animals who become sick after being fed food leftovers. Many of us feed fat

trimmings, skins and gravy to our dogs and cats. This habit can result in a stomach upset. Our pets are



not used to eating such heavy to digest food, full of salt and seasoning. Sudden dietary change to otherwise bland, stable diet might result in acute dietary indiscretion. As a result many animals suffer from acute bouts of vomiting and diarrhoea, leading to weakness, dehydration and potentially more serious sequelae. If your animal is having diarrhoea that is not settling down, is passing watery diarrhoea or is vomiting repeatedly you should seek veterinary advice.

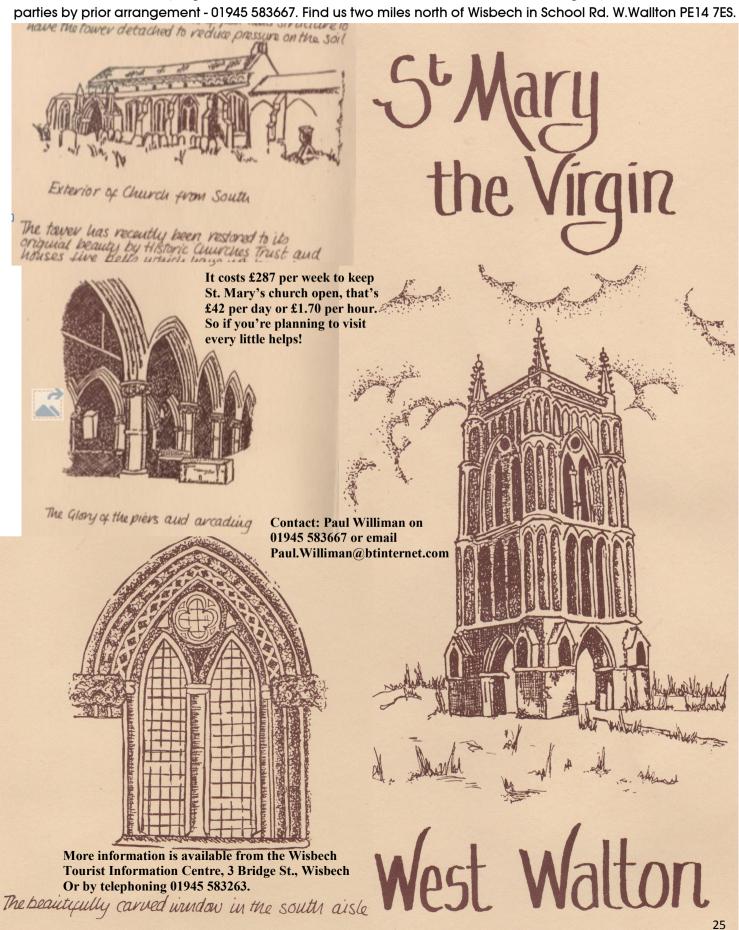
Another consequence of feeding the leftovers to our pets is fat overload. Trimmings, skins and gravy are very rich in fat and our pets are not designed to digest such large amount of fat. Sudden excess of fat in diet might result in an upset to the pancreas, one of the digestive organs. This might lead to inflammation of the organ, called pancreatitis. This is a very serious, potentially life threatening disease. Digestive enzymes start leaking from the pancreas and the organ starts digesting itself, causing severe abdominal pain, vomiting and depression.

Please consider your choice of Christmas treats for your animals carefully and perhaps choose a carrot or animal treat instead.

Have a great Christmas and a Happy New Year!

"NEW" Feature - Local Places of Interest to Visit.....

St. Mary's is included as part of the Ely Diocese 'Church Trail' entitled 'Marshland Majesty' This is a splendid coloured information pack of six magnificent North Norfolk churches, which includes coloured cards illustrating some major features of interest in the various churches. Local facilities in West Walton include a village shop, post office, King of Hearts public house (01945 584785) for good food, next to the church, with B&B accommodation nearby. Light refreshments can be made available in the church for groups and coach parties by prior arrangement - 01945 583667. Find us two miles north of Wisbech in School Rd. W.Wallton PE14 7ES.



Useful Telephone Numbers

Age UK Cambridgeshire	0300 6669860
Alzheimer's Society (Fenland)	01945 580480
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
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 - David Gibbs	07932 191050
Parish Councillor - Jill Bliss	01354 638343
Parish Councillor - Richard Lloyd	01354 638956
Parish Councillor - Roger Gladwin	01354 638538
Parish Councillor - Geoff Harper	01354 638681
Parish Councillor - James Hughes	01354 638310
Parish Councillor - Peter Owen (Chair)	01354 638847
Parish Councillor - Nigel Russell	01354 638279
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
Veterinary Centre - The Crossings (D'Mkt)	
Vicars - Ian & Lynda Brady	
Water Emergencies	08457 145145
Club Contacts	
Art Club - Jan Clifford	01354 638217
Book Club - Sheila Day	07946 635908
Craft Club - Wendy Yates	01354 638448
Gardening Club - Marion Hawthorne	01354 638230
Short Mat Bowls Club - Wendy Keen	01945 772737
MI Doggy Marby	01254 629220

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Neighbourhood Watch

Colin Steenson - Church Rd (East)

Sandra Kay - Crown Rd

Shirley Knight - Church Rd (West)

David Yates - Church Rd (West)

Julian Swallow - Upwell Rd (North)

Jackie Wood - Upwell Rd (North)

Simon Freeland - Upwell Rd (South)

Richard Guilford - Area Co-ordinator

David Harrowing - District Co-ord.

And Finally!...

So! Has it happened yet? Or are you reading this before the entire lounge floor is covered with torn Christmas wrapping paper!? Shredded into ever finer pieces until its like a layer of paper snow! - Well! That's what happens at our house with our three dogs let loose! Like young children they seem to prefer playing with the wrappings rather than the presents! Unless it's food of course! Still it is only once a year!

So! What to do with all those unwanted presents? Even the ones that you said, "Ooh! Just what I always wanted!" to great-aunt Betty! And what about the unwanted ones from last year? Did you save them up and mistakenly send them back this year to the very person who sent them to you in the first place!!!? Santa has his own problems too!



Well! It'll soon all be over until next year. Then we'll just have the vaguearies of BREXIT to look forward to! As far as the European tribe is concerned will we be X-TRIBE? See what I did there!? Great anagram that – eh!? Or maybe not if this weekends talks (24/25thNov) don't go according to plan! We're a bl***y island for God's sake! They should never have built that damn tunnel! Look at all the problems it's caused! With little or no benefit to the populace at large! What of 2019? Do't forget your chance to claim back any PPI will end in August 2019! Still at least that should mean an end to all those damn pestering phonecalls!!!

'Till next year! - Ed'.

WI - Peggy Warby





Having arrived the night before and booked into the lbis Hotel on the seafront, we booked our Official Beatles Tour the next morning from the shop on the corner of Graham Street - Sgt. Pepper's Souvenir Shop. From there, about fourty minutes later, after much browsing in Sgt. Pepper's a black minibus taxi picked us up. Our first call on the tour was The Ship pub where the 'Fab Four' used to play. Ringo went to



school opposite
the pub with Billy
Fury, who
originally lived at
the other end of
the street. The
pink house
behind the pub
was Ringo Starr's
home.

Because the original metal Penny Lane signs were continually being 'nicked' by souvenir hunters the name is now just painted onto the brickwork.

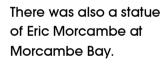


Paul's house is an unassuming brown brick terrace with a notice in the





The 'Fab Four'
sculpture is near
Albert Dock but we
had to wait ages for
the crowds to clear as
they had all wanted
their photos taken
with 'the lads!'



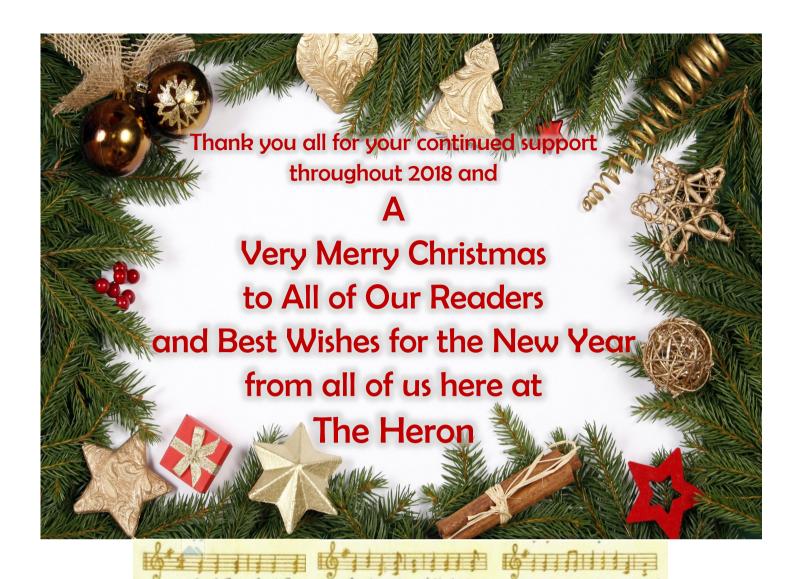


Strawberry Fields original gates are still there where the children's home used to be. John Lennon was furious when he heard it had been pulled down as he would have loved to have bought it, refurbished, and preserved it!

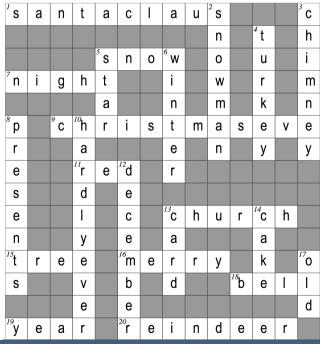
Later, in the churchyard we saw Eleanor Rigby's grave. The inspiration for the well known song! More Beatlemania soon. "In the town where I was Born."

PART TWO NEXT MONTH





Youth Page Answers



Youth Page Christmas Music Quiz

- 1. "Merry Christmas Everybody" by Slade
- 2. 9
- 3. "Rudolph The Red Nosed Reindeer" ("Then one foggy Christmas Eve...")
- 4. Spitting Image
- 5. "Mary's Boy Child" by Boney M
- 6. "Holiday Inn"
- 7. "Last Christmas" by Wham
- 8. Judy Garland
- "Fairytale Of New York" (by The Pogues featuring Kirsty McColl)
- 10. Paul Young, Kylie Minogue and Chris Martin





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