



The Heron

Community Maga-

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

December 2019

No. 68



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Our Saviour is born!
Peace and Goodwill to All Men!



See this very CRIB LIVE in our Church!



**Thank you all for your continued support
throughout 2019 and**

A

**Very Merry Christmas
to All of Our Readers
and Best Wishes for the New Year
from all of us here at
The Heron**

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Designs for the UK's first ever Christmas stamps

by children came about as a result of a competition held by children's TV show - Blue Peter - in 1966.

After the competition was announced by then Postmaster General - Tony Benn, eight professional stamp designers judged more than 5,000 entries, and awarded the winning prize to Tasveer Shemza and James Berry, two 6 year olds.

Seen opposite is Shemza's design which is a brightly coloured drawing of Good King Wenceslas, from the popular Christmas carol, and James Berry's Snowman. Children's designs have only been used on Christmas stamps twice since then; once in 1981, and more recently in 2013.

Fifteen years later, in 1981, viewers of the popular children's TV programme, were inspired to enter a second Christmas stamp design competition. The theme was 'Christmas Through the Eyes of a Child', and produced five very different Christmas stamps. Then in 2013.....



Franking Sense!

In the build up to Christmas, millions of people around the world will have been wrapping gifts, and sending both parcels and seasonal greetings to loved ones far and wide. To cope with all the bulging post bags the Royal Mail will be carrying out deliveries up to and including Christmas Eve.

The tradition of sending Christmas Cards started in 1843, when Sir Henry Cole, who had helped to create the worlds first uniform postal service, Britain's Penny Post, commissioned John Callcott - Horsley to come up with a design. The first Christmas Card showed three generations of a Victorian family sat around a table at Christmas. One thousand cards were printed. Last year, according to The Greeting Card Association, over nine million Christmas Cards were bought and sent by festive wellwishers! That takes some licking! Royal Mail first published its own special Christmas stamps in 1966, with childrens paintings of a king and a snowman. For years Christmas stamps had a biblical theme. Nowadays secular and biblical imagery alternate, year on year. However, even in the years dominated by robins, snowmen, and Father Christmases, the Royal Mail still make stamps with biblical themes available. Which is first class news! For whether we post cards or not the message of peace and goodwill is not only one that the world needs to hear, but also the reason for the delivery of Jesus into the world!

At Christmas God sent his flesh and blood Son into a dark, sinful, lost and selfish world as a fragile, venerable baby. As a man Jesus' mission was to bring light, forgiveness and peace. Jesus reached out to those on the edges; those marginalized through race, illness, age or poverty. Jesus welcomes those burdened with guilt because of bad things they had done, or shame because of what had been done to them! Ultimately, Jesus gave His life so that we can live!

The shepherds, angels, and crib scenes of festive philately are more than heart warming images; reaching not only across our own country but across the world! They are a reminder of God's plan to save the world! Jesus is God's down to earth gift to us all; from Benwick, to Christchurch, to Doddington, to Manea, to Wimblington, and all over our local communities, and the world! **Ian**

Have a Great Christmas and May God Bless Us Each and Every One!

Community Information

Mobile Library: First Tuesday of each month - in the lay-by Upwell Road - 12:15 - 12:45pm. Forthcoming dates are: Nov^{3rd}, Dec^{1st}, and so on.

Mobile Post Office:

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

Use it or lose it!

Community Car Scheme:

This scheme is still running for Christchurch and surrounding villages but is now being run by Cathy Pook. To book a ride or to become a volunteer driver please contact Cathy on 07902 316360. An additional driver is still required for the scheme. For more information please contact Cathy as above.

West Norfolk Transport Project ~ Marshland Dial-A-Bus

Following our recent update on these bus services where it was shown that on **Wednesdays** a service runs to King's Lynn, with pick-ups in **Christchurch** and **Tipps End**, amongst other places; it has been pointed out to me that if enough Christchurch and/or Tipps End residents availed themselves of this service, other services to different venues on different days might be considered. Other services to King's Lynn and Downham Market currently run on other days of the week but without local pick-ups.

Leaflets containing full details of available trips and pick-up points can be obtained from Upwell Health Centre in reception. Bookings can be made Monday to Friday (except Bank Holidays) from 9.00am to 4.00pm starting on the Monday prior to the week of the journey. When you book your journey please let them know if you have to travel in a wheelchair, take a trolley, walker, or any other aids.

For fares, times and Bookings please call

01553 770310

I am pleased to report that following the last two months **Community Info** on the **Dial-A-Bus Project** that some villagers have already joined the scheme and have benefited from several trips to Kings Lynn! We hope that this bodes well for the future of the scheme with other routes and pick-up points being added in the not too distant future. Why not give them a ring!? Contact details as above.

**MACMILLAN
CANCER SUPPORT**

Sandra Kay & Team We are pleased to report that Sandra Kay and her team managed to raise a fantastic £484.52 at the recent coffee morning held at the end of September. Sandra and her team would very much like to thank all those who attended and contributed. Well done all! A VERY BIG THANK YOU! from McMillan and us all!

The Dun Cow managed to raise £210 at their Mc Millan Coffee Morning and would like to say a BIG THANK YOU to all their customers who came along and supported the event.

Also the pub will be contributing an additional £45 from funds raised at the Halloween Party held on the 31st of October, making a grand total of £255! The latter will be donated to a charity supporting armed forces children - "Scotties Little Soldiers".

That's a Grand Total of £739.52 for both events!

EDITORIAL

So! Another year is drawing to a close! Time to take stock and plan for the New Year! Some big changes ahead! If BREXIT finally happens that is? Don't forget to cast your vote on the 12th December! That will be your last chance to try and make a difference on that contentious issue! Who knows what it will bring?

Why not start a New Year's REVOLUTION?

A wonderful early Christmas present for my next door neighbours who have just produced an 8lb bouncing baby boy named Alex. Congratulations to Paul and Sarah Ivory. I look forward to seeing him grow and learn as I am seeing his sister, that chatterbox Isabelle, become a little person in her own right! Have a great Christmas with your growing family Paul and Sarah!!

I'm quite jealous really! But guess I'm too old for all that kinda stuff now. Still I will be getting a new car!

Have a great Christmas one and all! Just got to get January's Heron completed, then I'm done too!



'Till next month!

DIARY DATES

Abbreviations for commonly used venues:

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

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

Weekly events

Mondays Pilates - each Monday - 6.30-7.30pm - CCC

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

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

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

General events

Dec 1st The Dun Cow - “QUIZ NIGHT” - 5.00 till 7.00pm

Dec 10th Art Club - Completing work - 1.30 to 3.30pm - CCC

Dec 10th Craft Club - 7.00pm - CCC

Dec 10th WI - Christmas Customs & Folklore with Maureen James - 7.00pm - CCC

Jan 14th Art Club - New Start - 1.30 to 3.30 - CCC

Jan 21st Book Club - “Dead Heat by Dick Francis - 7.30pm Sheila’s - Pear Tree Farm, Padgett’s Rd

Feb 18th Gardening Club - AGM - 7.00pm - CCC



Parish Church Services

Dec 1 st	9.30am	V Smith, A Day	All Age Worship
Dec 8 th	9.30am	Rev'd L Brady	Holy Communion
Dec 15 th	3.30pm*	Rev'd L Brady, A Day	Carol Service
Dec 22 nd	11.00am	Rev'd L Brady V Smith	Morning Prayer
Dec 24th	8.00pm	Rev'd L Brady, R Holding	Christmas Eve Communion
Dec 25 th	10.00am	Rev'd L Brady	At WIMBLINGTON Holy Communion
Dec 29 th	10.00am	Rev'd L Brady	At DODDINGTON Holy Communion
Jan 5 th	11.00am	A Day	All Age Worship

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

PLEASE NOTE — The Heron January Deadline

*The deadline for all **copy** for **January's** edition of The Heron is **20th 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 www.theheron.info Business advertisers can book series of 6 or 12 adverts, paid in advance. Adverts for village fundraising events, personal announcements, or small private ads are usually free.

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

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

Letters to the Editor



Dear Editor,

You quoted the writer Frederick Forsythe's summing up of the Tony Martin case, in which he said that the contract between the people and the state had been broken. It was Mr. Forsythe who warned that, the founder of The Common Market-that-never-was, Jean Monnet, had said that "The people must be made to believe that this is about trade!" - It isn't! He had added that he would create a 'political structure' that it would be difficult to get out of! Hence the EU and our current problems!

Later, our then Prime Minister, Mr. Heath said that such a union would not affect our sovereignty. When asked subsequently if he had really not known that it WOULD, he answered, "OF COURSE I DID!" The second lie! The EU is built on lies!

These facts and the Tony Martin case have revealed that we can no longer depend on the probity of paid functionaries of the state (both houses at Westminster, the second no longer being a House of Lords!)

Has not the leader of the Lib.Dems recently described 'Brexit', our expressed preference, as nonsense!? The rectitude of those representing 'the law' is equally to be questioned, and, as for the churches - Brian Peard's book - "Blueprint for Abuse" - is reduced to a mere 'drop in the ocean', compared to that dreadful unfolding story!

Thanks to writers like Peard and Forsythe not so many of us now still cling to those past illusions!

A.P.Hutchins

Very many thanks Pauline for your support in this regard, and I have to say, I totally agree with you!

What do other readers think? - Ed'.

Dear Richard,

I feel that the article about Tony Martin had no place in The Heron. It could have been left to local newspapers to report on rather than waste two full pages (and several more to follow) on an unbalanced article.

Sandra Lloyd

Firstly, you clearly have more faith in the local press than most people! Secondly, the article concerned was only a page and a half. As stated in the letter above, I don't think a 'blinkered' view is a healthy one, and I think Emneth/Elm may be considered local! - Ed'.

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Christchurch Craft Club **Curry & Quiz Night**

Christchurch Community Centre

Friday 31 January 2020

6.45 pm for a 7.00 pm start

£7.50 per person

(to include Quiz Entry, Curry, Rice & Naan)

Teams of no more than 6 people

Bar will be open and Raffle at half time

For further information and to book your team in, please contact:

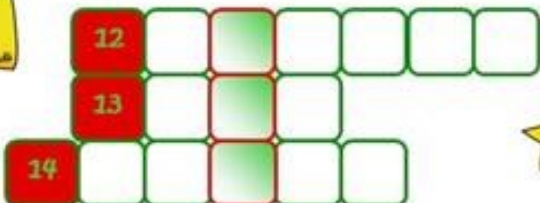
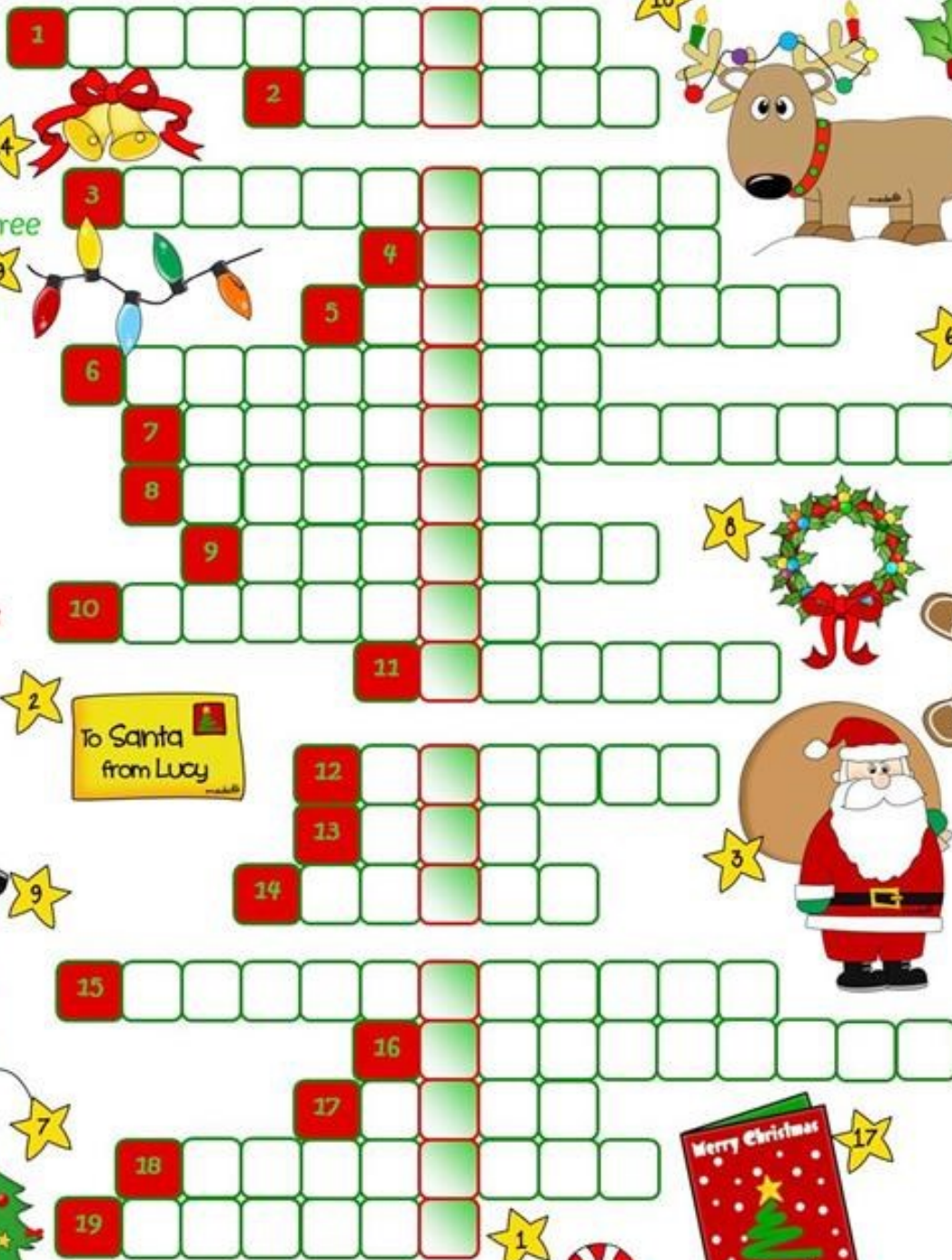
Sandra Lloyd on 01354 638956

All funds raised to go towards keeping the Christchurch Craft Club open.

Christmas fun

Match the words to the correct pictures to complete the Crossword. Then find a secret message.

bells
candle
candy cane
card
chimney
Christmas tree
elf
gingerbread
holly
letter
lights
ornaments
presents
reindeer
Santa Claus
sleigh
snowman
stocking
wreath





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Yesterday, everyone knew
The Beatles.

Today, only Jack
remembers their songs.

He's about to become
a very big deal.

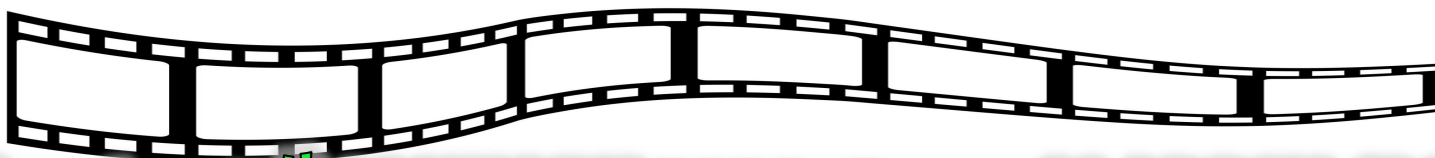


Sunday 8th DECEMBER 2pm

"YESTERDAY" (12a)

Jack Malik is a struggling singer/songwriter in an English seaside town whose dreams of fame are rapidly fading, despite the fierce devotion and support of his childhood best-friend, Ellie. After a freak bus accident during a mysterious global blackout, Jack wakes up to discover that The Beatles have never existed. Performing songs by the greatest band in history, to a world that has never heard them, Jack becomes an overnight sensation, with a little help from his agent.

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



Sunday 12th JANUARY 2020, 2pm: ALADDIN (PG)

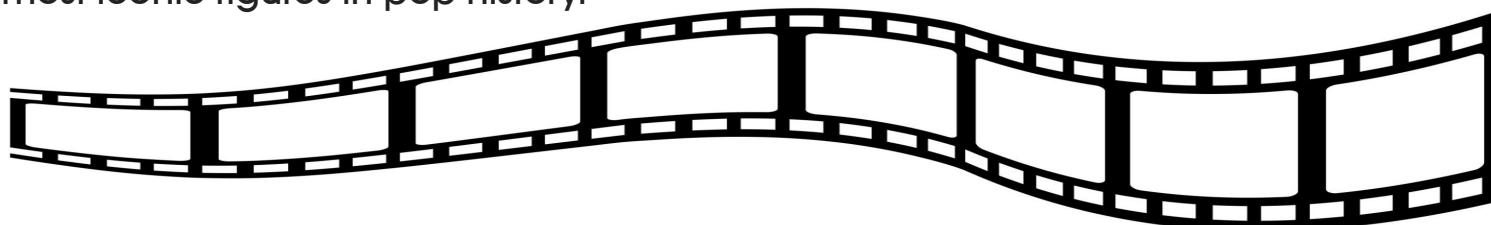
ALADDIN is a live action version of the Disney animation in which a young thief encounters a genie who grants him three wishes.

Sunday 9th FEBRUARY 2020, 2pm: BALLOON (12)

One of the most spectacular escapes from communist East Germany, a true story, of 1979, where two families sail over the heavily fortified border in a homemade balloon.

Sunday 8th MARCH 2020, 2pm: ROCKETMAN (15)

Elton John collaborates with singer-songwriter Bernie Taupin to become one of the most iconic figures in pop history.



"A Lithuanian Christmas!"

Our village is blessed by having people living here who come from cultures different from our own. Sandra Kriauciunaite and her partner Justas Zidonis are originally from Lithuania, though they have lived in our country for many years. They have lived in Christchurch for over 4 years now. They have two young daughters, Luka Zidonyte (5), and Ariele Zidonyte (3). You may have met Sandra. She works in our pub.



"A traditional Lithuanian Christmas actually begins on the Friday before Christmas. Fish is the main dish of that day. We don't eat meat, and don't use eggs or mayonnaise in the preparation of that meal. Our main Christmas Celebrations begin on **Christmas Eve**. Traditionally, we exchange gifts that evening, although many younger people these days do that on Christmas Day.

Our Christmas Tree doesn't go up until Christmas Eve. The family dresses the tree together. We love this tradition, which our parents and grandparents kept when we were living in Lithuania. We adults have happy memories of decorating the tree when we were children.

Our main Christmas meal is also on Christmas Eve. Family and friends come together to celebrate with us at our house, at about 7 or 8pm. We don't put any flowers on the Christmas table. Instead, we just place a white table cloth on it. We put candles on the table, and lay a place for each guest; but there is always one extra plate on the table. This represents any family and friends who cannot be with us, or have passed away. This plate is always kept empty. We put a special



candle beside the plate as a sign of respect and remembrance.

Some people also add straw, to represent the crib in the stable where Jesus was born. At the end of the meal, they play a little game. Each person draws out a piece of straw. The length of the straw, they say, relates to how long you may live – a long straw means a long life. We don't keep that particular tradition in our family.

*Before we begin our meal, we all stand in silence. We sign ourselves with the sign of the Cross. Then we pass a large wafer round from one person to the next, adults and children, each one breaking some off, all sharing together. (We buy the wafer in Eastern European food shops here in Britain). Someone then says the prayer that comes with the wafer, and everyone joins in with 'Amen' at the end. Traditionally, a Lithuanian Christmas Meal consists of **12 different dishes**, representing the 12 months of the year that has passed. Again, no meat, eggs or mayonnaise. The main dish is always fish; usually white fish, such as Cod, but sometimes other fish. Pike is sometimes used. It is considered to be a symbol of fertility. We don't use Pike. The other 11 dishes (often more!) can be potatoes, vegetables, salads, and all kinds of finger foods such as small mushroom pies. Everyone brings a contribution. My favourite main dish is Salmon, and I make another dish which is very colourful and tasty; filleted herrings, with stir fried carrots, onions, garlic and ketchup. It is served cold. Traditionally, only RED wine is served.*

Everyone has to try everything!



Continued on page 17

"Christmas Greetings"



Paul and Vivien Haresnape would like to wish all their friends in Christchurch A very Happy Christmas. We miss you, but we have settled in well to our new home on Merseyside, near to Paul's Mum.

We would like to wish all our many friends a Happy Christmas and a healthy and Happy New Year. Best Regards Wendy & David Yates.

Geoff and Janet Harper would like to wish all their friends and neighbours a very Merry Christmas and best wishes for a healthy and happy New Year!

We would like to wish all our friends a very Merry Christmas and a happy and healthy New Year. Peggy & Graham Warby

Doris (Wolsey) Rolfe would like to wish all her friends and neighbours in the village - Best Wishes for the festive season.

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

Best Wishes to all my old friends in Christchurch. Wishing you all a Very Merry Christmas and a Peaceful New Year. Kind regards Frank Cawthorn.



The Community Centre Committee would like to thank all our local clubs and private hire for their continued support. Since opening we are now in a healthy financial position and continue to improve and invest in our Community asset. More news next month on the latest improvements.

Till then may we take the opportunity of wishing you all a very Merry Christmas and all our Best Wishes for the coming New Year!





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or to book a session

**Email: michelelowery24@gmail.com
or call 07739 378901**

Our demonstrator scheduled for this evening cancelled, so we were delighted that Sheila Day, one of our members, kindly stepped in to give us a fascinating talk on her recent trip to Cambodia and Vietnam. Sheila gave us a potted history of both countries – warts and all. Whilst it was an extremely interesting talk, members also felt that hearing about the history of these two countries was incredibly tragic. Sheila went on the trip by herself and said that she would do it again. She met some lovely people along the way and took some brilliant photographs which she shared with us. Peggy thanked Sheila for her talk and presented her with a box of chocolates. Those WI members wishing to join in with the Carol Singing, around the village, should meet at the Community Centre, at 6pm on Wednesday 11 December.



[Next month's meeting:](#)

Speaker – Dr Maureen James - Christmas Customs and Folklore

Refreshments – Beryl, Sandra K

Raffle – Annie, Sylvia W, Sandra L, Margaret H

The next meeting will be held on Tuesday 10 December 2019 **at 6.30 pm.**

Jan – Resolutions Meeting, catch-up and chat

Feb – Fish & Chip Supper with Sing-Along

Mar – *Making something beautiful out of recycled fabric* – Demonstration by Mellymade Designs, Littleport

Apr – *Wicken Fen – Past, Present and Future* – Talk by Peter Green, National Trust

May – Resolutions & Games Evening

We meet on the second Tuesday of every month, at the Community Centre, and are always looking for new members. Recently, some of our members got together to enjoy a 3.5 mile walk around the country trails and lanes of Upwell. This was followed by a lovely lunch at The Five Bells in Upwell. After the July meeting some members stayed behind to enjoy a half an hour singing session which was enjoyed by all.

Some of our members have recently taken advantage of the 'Live Screenings' at the local cinema (The Light, Wisbech) enjoying *The King & I*, *Midsummer Night's Dream*, *One Man Two Guvnors*, *Andre Rieu Concert* to name but a few. There have also been a couple of trips to The Arts Theatre in Cambridge. Our members have also expressed an interest in doing some other fun things, which we also hope to achieve in 2020, to include: Picnic in the Park with Games, Cheese & Wine Get Together, 10-pin bowling, Indoor Skydiving, Go-Karting, Escape Room, One-Day Sailing Course, Rock Choir Sing-Along. Why not pop along for a taster session, for £3, to see if you like it. We look forward to welcoming you.

Christchurch "Years End" Gardening Club



This time of the year as Autumn gives way to Winter and the view from our windows change from blue to grey, our gardens lose a little of their appeal as the trees shed their leaves, exposing the skeletons beneath the usual inviting canopy they provide. Most of us turn out attention to the upcoming festive season and the fast-approaching new year, trying to avoid as best we can the all-pervading gloom of shortened evenings.

As the gardening club winds down for another year, it's time to relax and enjoy a good meal with friends and a social evening to end the ongoing monthly meetings which this year has provided the members with excellent speaker after excellent speaker.

The calendar kicked off in March with Dr Somerville reminding us to take care in the garden with a talk on first aid, in April the club played host to the Wisbech in Bloom crew while May saw the clubs 20th anniversary lunch at the Crown Hotel. Nigel Davies entertained and enlightened us on the black art of Game Keeping and two long-time friends of the club, Stuart Limpus and Tim Jellis rounded off the year in fine style.

The food for our Fish and Chip supper was provided by Rav's fish restaurant in Upwell and very good it was too. The after-dinner entertainment was taken care of by our Chairman Steve's Bingo session which proved profitable to some but not all our members, while the sweets were homemade by Peggy Warby and Marion Hawthorn and if that's not enough, the final of the clubs Plant Competition followed.

At each meeting the members can bring a flower or plant from their garden and enter it into the competition which is usually judged by our guest speaker. The points are added together and at the end of the year cash prizes are awarded. This year there were four people vying for third place and so Lady Luck was given the responsibility for choosing the leader of that particular pack.

"Roll on the Drums please! In first place with 34 points Maureen Green, second place went to Pauline Murfitt and the third to Jenny Farnsworth.

The gardening club is in good health and now in it's twenty first year shows no signs of slowing down, however we always welcome new members so if you would like to join us, just pop along to our next meeting which is the AGM on Tuesday 18th February 2020 we would love to see you. It's a really good way to meet up with old mates and make new friends. Till then Happy Christmas and a Brilliant New Year.

Christchurch Art Group



We meet in the Community Centre on the 2nd & 4th Tuesday of the month 1.30 – 3.30pm

Our group is friendly and relaxed. We are all enjoying the sessions and trying out new ideas and techniques. We now have places available to welcome some more members. Even if you have never picked up a pencil or brush before plenty of help is available. We look forward to new members giving art a try. All materials will be available to use until you have your own.

We have a tutor to lead and teach us, but we can also gain ideas and inspiration from each other. All artists have their own special style and approach so we have a lot of variety and enjoy ourselves

Our new term started on the 10th September with a new and varied programme

We start each term with a re-cap. This time it was using a limited colour pallet. We progressed to tonal paintings.

Our attendance fee is £30 for the term of six weeks. Once again this will be reviewed from time to time depending on numbers attending. The more members we have the less the fee is per person.

We welcome any new members, no need for previous experience. We all work at our own level, and plenty of tuition is offered.

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

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

Jan Clifford



Several members made Christmas decorations from salt dough. These will now be dried in the oven, painted and varnished and used to decorate the Craft Club Christmas Tree as part of the Christmas Tree Festival at the Church



(looking forward to seeing the results!) Others worked on their own craft projects and all had a chance to chat and catch up with friends. Good to have a therapeutic but



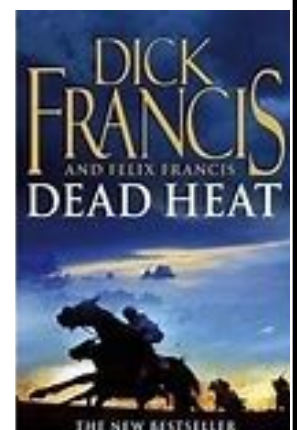
inexpensive crafting evening. It was lovely to welcome another young member (newly arrived in Christchurch) to our Club. Looking forwards to welcoming more new members in the near future. We meet in the Community Centre on the first Tuesday of every month (except Jan) at 7.00pm. For enquiries ring Sandra on 01354 638956.

Christchurch Book Club

We met on 26th November and had been reading "The Kite Runner" by Khaled Hosseini. Although not a 'fun read', members felt that this was a good choice. We had previously read - "A Thousand Deadly Suns" by the same author and agreed that "The Kite Runner" was less grim, although it had its fair share of harrowing events. Most members, in spite of finding this book emotionally challenging, were glad that they had read it.

We will not be having a meeting in December, so our next meeting will be on Tuesday 21st January, 7.30pm at Shiela's, Pear Tree Farm, Padgetts Road. We shall be discussing "Dead Heat" by Dick Francis. We have had a run of fairly 'heavy' books over the last few months so we are hoping for a bit of literary entertainment over the festive season!

New members are always welcome. We are a friendly bunch and read one book a month. There are no worries if we do not get to the end (either because we didn't like it, or simply ran out of time!). Books are supplied by the library, although some prefer Kindle's or audio-books. For more information please contact Sheila Day on 07946 635908.



The Fenland railway underpass by the Golden Lion pub on the Sixteen Foot Bank could be closed for up to a year after 13 vehicle strikes so far in 2019 alone, Network Rail revealed.

It was the final straw in October when a piece of farming machinery made the last fatal blow, causing significant damage to a protection beam.



vehicles can strike the bridge until a new impact protection beam has been installed.

"This is crucial in enabling us to safely run train services between Ely and Peterborough."

He recognised the repair work will cause inconvenience to residents and motorists.

"But once complete we hope the upgraded beam will protect the bridge for years to come."

Meanwhile all drivers will have to make use of the level-crossing.

The underpass at Stonea, which is on the Ely to Peterborough line between March and Manea will remain closed for "safety reasons" until late 2020.

It has see-sawed between the first and second most hit railway bridge in the country, the other of course being at Ely.

Network Rail route director Mark Budden said: "We need to ensure no other



More Local News!



Otters in the 16 Foot Bank

Local farmer, Nigel Russell, recently spotted a family of otters crossing the road from the sixteen foot bank and heading up Poulter's Drove. Nice to know they are about and, as you see, thriving and healthy. Just have to hope those idiot speedsters slow down and give them a chance! Talking of which...

Christchurch Driver Caught at 124mph on A47 had bought the BMW just 15 minutes earlier -



Ryan Walter, of Euximoor Drove, Christchurch was caught driving at more than 120mph in a BMW at Walpole Highway on the A47 (pictured), that he had bought from a garage less than 15 minutes earlier. The 24-year-old was banned from driving for 56 days, ordered to pay a £381 fine, £100 costs and a £38 victim surcharge. Watch out Speedwatch!

Strange Whistling Noises coming from the Churchyard at Halloween!

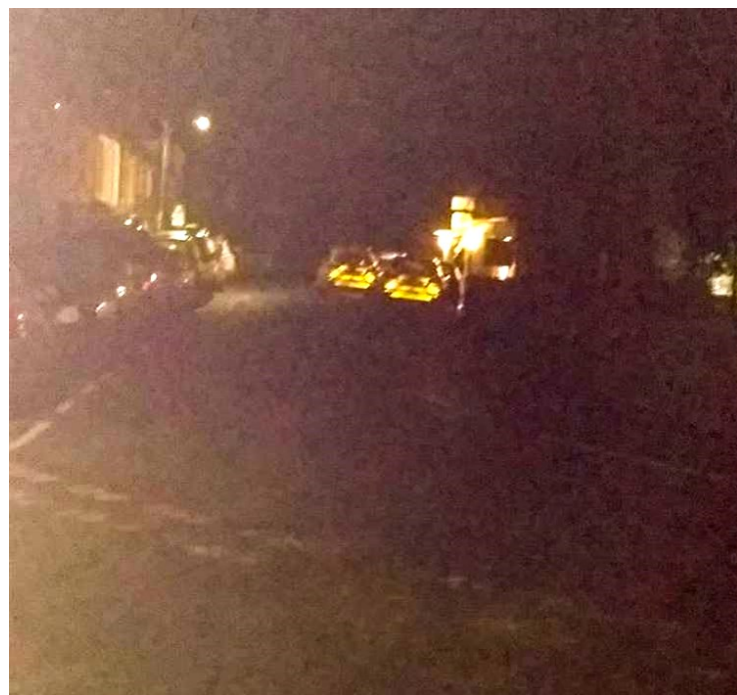
Several late night dogwalkers had reported hearing strange whistles coming from the graveyard in Church Road over the Halloween period. I have to own up and tell you that it was just me calling the dogs in! At least I think that's what it was! Unless you know better? - Ed'.

Village Store Robbery in Outwell!

Norfolk Police are investigating a robbery after they were called at 10.09pm on the night of Monday November 18th following reports that two armed men entered the Budget shop in Church Terrace in Outwell.

Around £280 of cash was stolen in the incident and detectives are currently still carrying out enquiries.

Anyone with information should call DC Victoria Homer on 101, quoting crime reference 36/80915/19.





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Sunday 1st December - "QUIZ NIGHT" - 5.00 till 7.00PM



Cambridgeshire Fire & Rescue Service

Christmas is approaching! The time of year when we're enjoying a tipple with friends, cooking up festive feasts for the family and entertaining loved ones. With all the fun to be had, it is easy to be distracted when cooking in the kitchen.

50% of all fires in the home start in the kitchen, and more than half of those are as a distraction whilst cooking! We want to help ensure your festive cheer doesn't go up in smoke this Christmas by sharing our tips below for safe cooking over the festive season:

1. Never leave cooking unattended.
2. Do not cook when tired or under the influence of alcohol or drugs or that can make you drowsy.
3. Regularly clean the grill pan and oven as a build up of fat and oil can catch fire.
4. Never leave anything cooking if you have to leave the house.
5. Do not leave anything flammable on or near the hob - tea towels, oven gloves, or even washing baskets can catch fire!
6. Take care when using microwaves. Fires can start when instructions are not followed accurately, such as using inappropriate packaging, or cooking for too long.
7. Oven chips, or temperature controlled deep fat fryers are safer than using a chip pan. If you do use a chip pan, do not fill it more than one third with oil or fat, and turn it down if it starts smoking.
8. Fire can break out in household appliances, so you should regularly maintain dishwashers, washing machines, and driers. Never leave them on if you go out or go to bed, and register your appliances online to make ensure that you are made aware of any faults or recalls.
9. Have a working smoke 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 may have the wrong type of fire alarm.
10. Never leave the batteries out of your fire alarm.

IF YOU DO HAVE A FIRE, GET OUT, STAY OUT, AND DIAL 999!



"A Lithuanian Christmas!"

(Continued from page 8)



There are also sweet dishes and drinks which are especially for Christmas time. We make the traditional "Poppy Milk". Poppy seeds are boiled with water, sugar or honey, and then liquidised. This is served cold, in bowls, with small baked dough balls made from flour, water, poppy seeds and salt. Then there is Cranberry Juice. The cranberries are boiled in water, with lemon juice and honey added. A small amount of potato starch is added to thicken the juice a little. This is served cold, and is a beautiful colour. Someone will bake a traditional Poppy Seed Pastry Roll, and others will bring different sweet dishes.



Any food that has not been eaten is always left on the table until Christmas morning. Many Lithuanians will attend Midnight Mass on Christmas Eve".

Sandra



We wish Sandra and her family and friends a

VERY HAPPY LITHUANIAN CHRISTMAS!

Vet's View



The Christmas is almost on our doorsteps. With plenty of food and decorations plus festive carelessness and willingness to share owners can create a multitude of risk to their pets. This month I would like to list most dangerous things, even if some of them have been mentioned before.

1. Chocolate – contains theobromine which is toxic, causing vomiting, diarrhoea, arrhythmia, seizures and death.
2. Mince pies, Christmas pudding and variety of other festive cakes – these contain rasins, again very toxic, resulting in kidney damage
3. Onions, garlic and chieve – all cause damage to red blood cells
4. Blue cheese – although tasty and known to give people weird dreams blue cheese is toxic to pets. Conaining mycotoxins like roquefortine and penitrem blue mould can cause tremors, seizures and death.
5. Macadamia nuts – this delicacy is also toxic to pets although the actual mechanism remains unclear. Eating macadamia nuts can make our pets suffer signs of vomiting, ataxia or weakness, fever, muscle tremors and depression.
6. Tinsel – cannot stress how much I hate the thing. Each year we see animals, especially cats, who love eating tinsel. Long thin strands of tinsel can get anchored in the throat or stomach and then, being fed into intestines, can cause massive damage to the gut, leading to necrosis of the intestine. This often results in lengthy and complicated surgery, sometimes we have even to resect part of the bowel. Seeing some animals perish over the years after eating tinsel I would recommend steering away from this decoration, especially if you have a cat!
7. Candles and scent candles – these can lead to burns and quite often curious cats can overturn them, causing fire risk
8. Snow globes – might contain antifreeze, highly toxic to our pets. Its sweet smell and taste attracts both dogs and cats. Ingestion will cause acute severe kidney failure with very little chance of survival.

Please employ the common sense and make sure we don't have to meet over Christmas in an emergency clinic!

HAVE A GOOD ONE!

Nick



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Facebook—Townley School
and Pre-School



November 2019



We held a special reading assembly, where the children all read with each other.



Remembrance Service

We held a special service in school and observed the two minute silence at 11am.

Children in Need

We raised an excellent £134 for Children in Need, by wearing our pjs to school!



We need you!



Could you be our mystery reader for the spring term? We are trying to encourage everyone to read for pleasure, so everyday the whole school has a class story read to them. Mrs Greening, our reading lead, thought it would be great if on a Thursday afternoon members of our community came and read the class reader (or a suitable alternative) to the children. We would need four different adults each week (one for each class), at 2.45pm in January and February. Please contact Mrs Greening if you could read with the class, it would be amazing if we could make this happen! Or maybe you have some regular free time and could come and listen to readers in class? Do get in touch, we would love to hear from you.



Thank you!

Following on from my comments last time, we are so very fortunate to part of this community—I was in the office last week when a lovely lady popped in with £50 she had made selling what I thought was old junk! This has gone towards buying a new screen to support the teaching of maths! Thank you Jane for taking the trouble to support us!

Race for Life

Thank you to all who donated to Race For Life last term, we raised £351! Such a fantastic amount for such a small school.

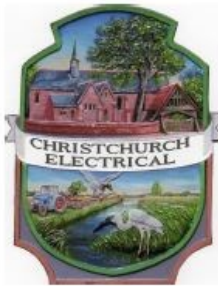
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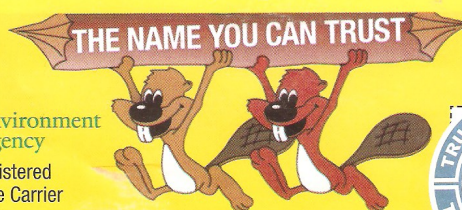


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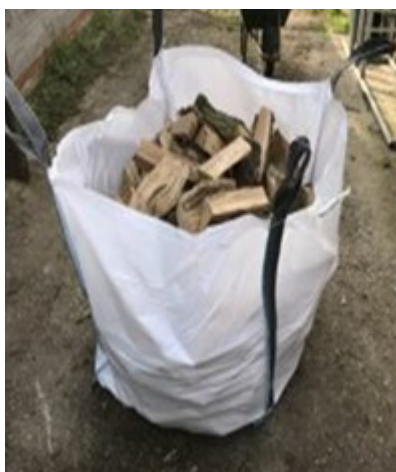
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“Christmas Trivia Quiz”

1. Who was the star of the Christmas movie *Jingle All the Way*?
2. Who tries to stop Christmas from coming by stealing all things of Christmas from “the Who’s”?
3. Who were the stars of the film *White Christmas*?
4. What is Scrooge’s first name in the Charles Dickens novel *A Christmas Carol*?
5. How many ghosts are in *A Christmas Carol*?
6. What is the name of the animated Christmas movie starring Tom Hanks?
7. Which milk based beverage is available around Christmas in both alcoholic and non-alcoholic versions?
8. Stollen is the traditional fruitcake of which country?
9. What name is given to small sausages wrapped in bacon which usually accompany the turkey?
10. The red and white costume of Father Christmas was allegedly first introduced by which drinks manufacturer?
11. What would you stick into an onion when following a traditional bread sauce recipe?
12. A swede is a cross between which two vegetables?
13. What is a female turkey called?
14. What is the name of the skin that hangs from a turkey’s neck?

15. Which spirit is traditionally added to butter and served with mince pies at Christmas?
16. True or False: Before turkey the traditional English Christmas dinner was a pig’s head covered in mustard?
17. Which Christmas food is considered good luck to eat ‘one each day’ of on each of the twelve days of Christmas?

The Rambling Rectors

It isn’t in their sermons
Those clerics ramble so,
But throughout their Benefice,
To six churches do they go!

From Christchurch, through to Manea,
Then Welney’s on their list;
Weddings, baptisms, funerals,
No services can be missed!

Then across the water,
Benwick, Doddington, are next.
Then back home to Wimblington,
And then a little rest?

All through our bible studies,
With Christian minds enquiring,
We find their other ramblings,
Really quite inspiring!

With six villages in their spiritual care,
Such Christian jugglers are really rather rare!
Their workload stretches, out way beyond infinity!
But all of us are thankful,
Within their double Holy Trinity!

RWBG

18. What type of sweet loaf, which originated in Milan, is traditionally eaten at Christmas in Italy, and many other European countries?

19. What is a ‘Buche de Noel’ commonly eaten in France at Christmas?

20. What would you be drinking if you had ‘Gluwein’ at Christmas?

21. What type of tree was the partridge sitting in, according to a well known Christmas song?

22. When was the first Christmas card sent, and who designed it?

23. How do you say “Merry Christmas!” in Spanish?

24. What are two other names for Santa Claus or Father Christmas?

25. What country has the tradition of filling children’s clogs with candy and treats on December the 5th?

26. On Christmas Eve how many reindeer help Santa

deliver all those presents in his sleigh including Rudolph?

27. Which country has a tradition of a witch dropping gifts for children down the chimney at Christmas?

28. At twelve midnight New Year in Spain eat 12 what?

Church News

Christmas Tree Festival is in full swing throughout **December in the Church!** Please come and visit **Fridays 2.00 till 3.00pm**, or at service times, when refreshments will be available.

Advent begins on December 1st. During Advent we will be following a Spanish tradition called "Las Posadas"- somewhere to stay. We have small figures of a pregnant Mary on a donkey, with Joseph leading them. The Holy Family had nowhere to stay. So - during Advent, folks here will take it in turns to give The Holy Family a place to stay. If you would like to join in with this lovely tradition, please let Annie Nason know as early as you can, and she will fit you into the rota. The idea is that one household has the figures for a night, and then passes them on to the next household. As we have them in our homes, we remember people seeking a home in our troubled world; refugees from conflict, the homeless in our own country and world-wide, and pray for them, thanking God that we have a "place to stay". Tea, Coffee and Cakes from 10.00am till 4.00pm

OUR CAROL SERVICE in Church is on December 15th at 3.30pm. It will be dark so remember to bring a torch. Come early for a seat!

OUR CHRISTMAS EVE COMMUNION SERVICE is at 8pm *on the 24th.* *If you would rather to go to a Midnight Communion Service, there is one in Doddington Church, which begins at 11.30pm.*

CHRISTMAS DAY – United Service Wimblington - 10am

SUNDAY DECEMBER 29TH – a United Service at Doddington – 11am. **A VERY HAPPY CHRISTMAS!**



Lunch Break

Dates for December

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Citizens' Advice Bureau, Wisbech	01945 464367
Community Car Scheme (to book a journey)	07871 262818
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
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Parish Councillor - Jill Bliss	01354 638343
Parish Councillor - Sharon Polmeroy	07837 407536
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 - Kay Miller	01354 638232
Police - PCSO Sue Clarke	07738025220
Police - Emergency	999
Police - Non Emergency	101
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Club Contacts

Art Club - Jan Clifford	01354 638217
Book Club - Sheila Day	07946 635908
Craft Club - Sandra Lloyd	01354 638956
Gardening Club - Marion Hawthorne	01354 638230
Short Mat Bowls Club - Wendy Keen	01945 772737
WI - Peggy Warby	01354 638339

Neighbourhood Watch

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

And Finally!...



Next month will be my last as Editor of The Heron. Time for some new blood! I have very much enjoyed my time working on The Heron and pride myself and the team for having brought it up to the standard that it is today.

I hope that the new team will be able to maintain and/or improve those standards and wish them every success in their endeavours!

I also hope that you will give them your continued support as you have done so far! THANK YOU ALL!



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

'Till next time! For one last time!- Ed'.



AFC CHRISTCHURCH

2019 - 2020 SEASON



On Saturday 23rd November The Magpies had their first away match of the season against Soham Rangers. Soham were 2 - 0 up when Josh Ingram scored from the penalty spot. Soham scored another one before half time. Christchurch AFC came out fighting in the second half with Aaron Elmore bringing the game back into reach for The Magpies. Josh Ingram scored a second with Dale Richardson following up later with another two scores. We had another slow start at the beginning of this game making it hard work but we managed a great comeback, so will be progressing to the next round. Final score Christchurch Magpies 5 Soham Rangers 3. Turned out to be a great match in the end.



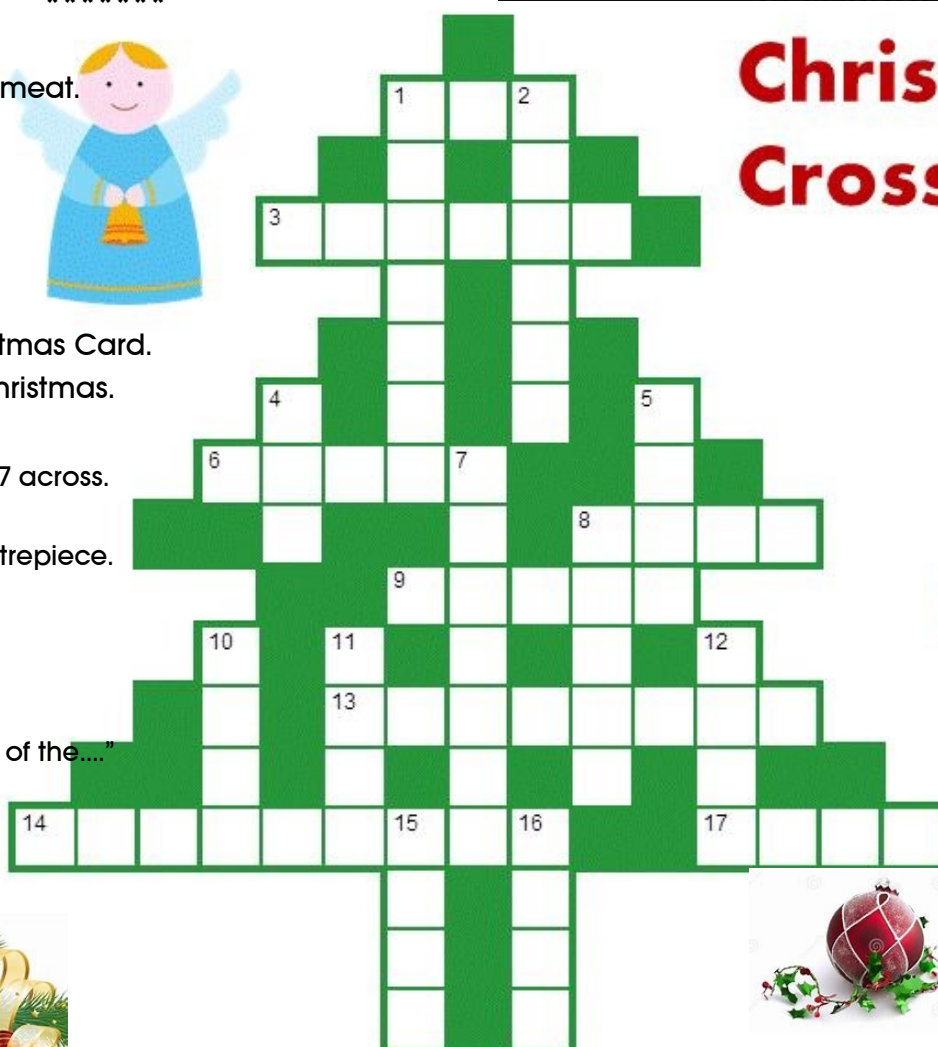
ACROSS

1. Pumpkin or mincemeat.
3. Santa's ride.
6. Celebration.
8. Newborn.
9. Northpole Crew.
13. Word of praise.
14. Words on a Christmas Card.
17. It's opened on Christmas.



DOWN

1. Alternative word to 17 across.
2. Christmas drink.
4. Christmas party centrepiece.
5. Dec. holiday.
7. Christmas warmer.
8. "Jingle...."
10. Christmas tree.
11. O. Henry's "The Gift of the...."
12. What carollers do.
15. French Christmas.
16. Snow glider.



Christmas Crossword



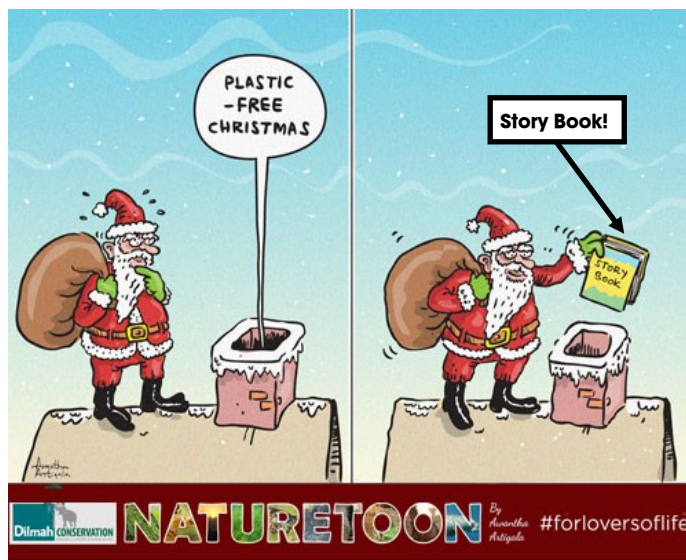
Have a More Eco-Friendly Christmas!

From food waste to packaging, the festive period can have a real impact on the environment but there are lots of ways to have a GREENER Christmas!

Wrapping Paper: If you scrunch wrapping paper into a ball and it stays scrunched, it can be recycled. If it bounces back, it cannot be recycled, and needs to go in your BLUE rubbish bin.

Christmas Trees: You can take REAL trees to any recycling centre and place it in the green/garden waste container. If it's an artificial trees into the bulky waste container. However, if it is still in good condition you could donate it for reuse.

Christmas Cards: These are all mostly recyclable if free from glitter or other decorations. Remove any embellishments before recycling or place the cards in your GREEN rubbish bin at home. Most cards can be UPCYCLED for various craft projects, so you may like to consider saving and storing them for later use of some kind.



Food Waste: For tips on how to be food savvy at Christmas, including recipes and ideas on what to do with ingredients such as leftover sprouts, or other meat and vegetables, or even desserts and puddings, go to www.foodsavvy.org.uk

Good Quality Items: To help 'good quality' items find a new home a network of REUSE SHOPS are

being rolled out across the region. They are a great place to pick up a bargain, like Charity Shops, but also where 'good quality' items will be able to find a new home and benefit a worthy cause or two.

Having a Clear-Out?:

Fly-Tipping is an offence that poses a risk both to people and the environment! Don't forget there's lots of waste

that you can take to your local recycling centre for FREE! Sofas, mattresses, carpet, underlay, electricals, wood, scrap metal, and green garden waste.. For any queries or more information please contact - www.fdc.gov.uk/types of waste

Recycling centres will be closed on Christmas Day, Boxing Day, and New Year's Day, but will be open for 'Business as Usual' during the rest of the festive period!

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