

# The Heron

Community Magazine

February 2020

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

No. 70

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## The Friends of the Heron

are proud to announce that

### "Viva Voce Choir"

will be performing at the Heron Fundraiser  
at Christchurch Community Centre

*[our story on page 15]*

*Saturday 29<sup>th</sup> Feb  
2020 7-9.15 pm*  
*Tickets must be purchased, in  
advance, from Annie.  
Please ring  
01354 638088*

*£7.50*

*LOVERS  
LEAP*

*Buffet*

*Tea*

*Bar*

*Raffle*

*Adults £7.50,  
(under 16)  
FREE*

*Coffee*

## EDITORIAL TEAM:

Annie Nason—Editorial Team Leader

Linda Webster—Treasurer & Ad. Manager

Editorial Team Members: Sue Norman, Sheila Day, Peggy Warby, Sandra Kay

Support—Lewis Bennett (IT), Sandra Lloyd, the Delivery Team and Publishers

## ENQUIRIES

editor@theheron.info Tel: 01354 638088

adverts@theheron.info Tel: 01354 638124

Website: [www.theheron.info](http://www.theheron.info)





# TOWNLEY SCHOOL AND PRE-SCHOOL

Christchurch, Wisbech, Cambs. PE14 9NA

office@townley.cambs.sch.uk

Website: www.townley.cambs.sch.uk  
01354 638229

**January 2020**

Facebook—Townley School  
and Pre-School



## Fossils Galore

Emerald Class have been to visit Fossils Galore to learn about rocks and minerals.



## Early Years

Mr Evans brought in his ducks to show the children, everyone had a great morning learning how to care for ducks!

## Mystery Readers

Thank you to all who have offered to be a mystery reader this term, the children are enjoying hearing stories read by different people.

January has flown by at Townley, it almost feels like Christmas never happened! Working in a small, village school is a really special job, at times it can feel exhausting trying to ensure our children are given the same opportunities as the children in the large town school, but the rewards of being part of a community make it all worthwhile. Our community really is a valuable resource for our school, from our mystery reader volunteers, to those of you supporting through the village recycling stations, we couldn't do it without all of you.

We are still awaiting our delivery from Usborne Books—I can't wait to update you on how much we have raised!

## Curriculum Corner

We have begun the Powerful Words Project this term. So far this term the children have been using the words, 'shimmering', 'bloodshot' and 'pot-bellied'. We are hoping to update the website soon with some of the work the children have produced.



# Community Information

## Mobile Library:

First Tuesday of each month - in the lay-by on Upwell Road - 12:15 - 12:45pm. (Dates on the next page.)

## Mobile Post Office:

Visits Monday to Thursday in the lay-by on 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. To book a ride or to become a volunteer driver please ring 07902 316360. An additional driver is still required for the scheme. For more information please ring the number above.

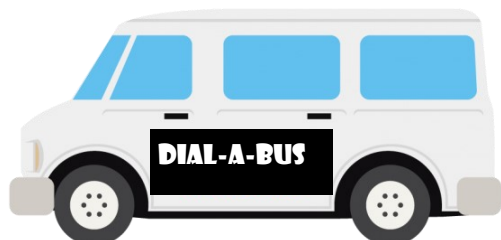
## West Norfolk Transport Project ~ Marshland Dial-A-Bus

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 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.**

Why not give them a ring?



# Editorial

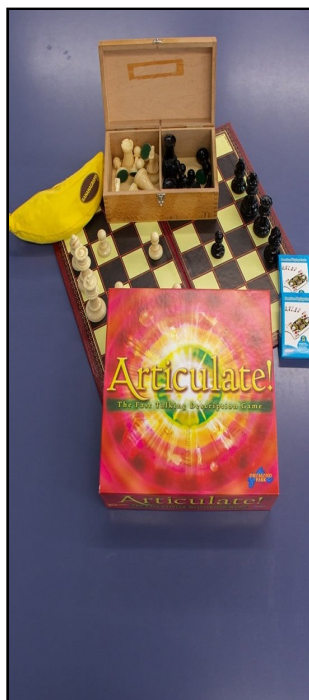
Well – hello everyone, from the team! Our first edition of THE HERON. We hope you like it. Let any member of the team know what you think. The Editorial won't always be written by me, as others will take their turn now and again. I think it might be fun for us to mention a few things about ourselves, for your interest. As it's my turn this month, here goes: I am waging a war on the misuse of the words LESS and FEWER. You have been warned! I have recently been to an exhibition ("Pre-Raphaelite Sisters") at the National Portrait Gallery; I am a bit of a Tennis nerd, though I have never played the game (since school).

We are bang in the middle of "Farming Country". Now that the UK is out of the EU, our farmers have a number of concerns as to their future. We intend to address some of them occasionally. Any contributions from our farming community would be very welcome. Let's BACK BRITISH FARMING! (See page 14)

We are looking forward to the "LOVERS' LEAP" concert at the end of the month (Front Cover). **Tickets will be on sale soon.** Ask a member of the team. Please come and support your village magazine. It costs us about £340 for each edition. Only 41% of our income comes from our advertisers; we have to raise the rest. We are applying for a grant, but will still need your support. Thank you for all the messages of support for the application. Results in the March Heron.

Be sure to visit a Snowdrop Display (back page). Wonderful sight. Might see you there!

Annie Nason



**New for 2020!**  
**Games Club for Adults**  
Every Monday 2-4pm  
Chatteris Library

Feeling bored? Come and try a selection of board games or bring along your favourite game and find a partner to play with. No need to book. No charge though donations are always welcome. Talk to staff to find out more.

Chatteris Library,  
2 Furrowfields Road, Chatteris,  
PE16 6PT - Tel: 0345 045 5225

## Weekly Events

**Mondays** Breakfast Club at the Dun Cow - 9.30 - 11.30am

**Tuesdays** Mobile Library (1st Tuesday of the Month) - 12.15— 12.45pm

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

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

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

Fish & Chip Supper at The Dun Cow - 5.00 - 8.00 pm

## General Events

Feb 4<sup>th</sup> Mobile Library—12.15—12.45 - Upwell Road Layby

Feb 4<sup>th</sup> Craft Club—7.00– 9.00pm - CCC (Macrame) - **All materials provided**

Feb 9<sup>th</sup> “Balloon” - 2.00pm - Three Holes Cinema

Feb 11<sup>th</sup> Art Group - (Pen & Wash) 1.30-3.30pm - CCC

Feb 11<sup>th</sup> WI - Fish & Chip Supper - 7.00pm - CCC

Feb 12<sup>th</sup> Lunch Break - 12-2pm - CCC - **Bring Your Own Lunch**

Feb 18<sup>th</sup> Gardening Club - AGM - 7.00pm - CCC

Feb 25<sup>th</sup> Book Club - 7.30pm - Glynan , Crown Road

Feb 25<sup>th</sup> Art Group - (Collage) - 1.30-3.30pm - CCC

Feb 26<sup>th</sup> Lunch Break - 12-2pm - CCC - **Bring Your Own Lunch - (Community Police in Attendance)**

Feb 29<sup>th</sup> “Viva La Voce” - local Rock Choir - Heron Fundraiser - 7.00pm - CCC

Mar 1<sup>st</sup> Lent Lunch - 12.15pm onwards - Parish Church

Mar 8<sup>th</sup> “Rocketman” - 2.00 pm - Three Holes Cinema

Mar 10<sup>th</sup> WI Open Meeting - “Mellymade Designs” - 7.00 pm - CCC

Mar 28<sup>th</sup> Dun Cow Pub Sign Competition Closing Date

April 5<sup>th</sup> Over 65s Parish Lunch - CCC

## Parish Church Services

Feb 2<sup>nd</sup> 11.00am A Day All Age Worship

Feb 9<sup>th</sup> 9.30am Revd S & S E Tooke Holy Communion

Feb 16<sup>th</sup> 3.30 pm A Day Evening Prayer

Feb 23<sup>rd</sup> 11.00am Rev L Brady, V Smith Morning Prayer, Baptism

Feb 26<sup>th</sup> 7.30pm Rev L Brady Ash Wednesday Service

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

Daphne and Andrew

**Advertisers** - all our advert rates and conditions can be found on our website [www.theheron.info](http://www.theheron.info). Business advertisers can book series of 6 or 12 adverts, paid in advance. Adverts for village fundraising events, personal announcements, or small private ads are usually free.

**Copy Deadline** - The deadline for copy for the March edition of the Heron is **24th February**.

**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 Editorial Team

The Editorial team welcome letters from its readers. Please email letters to: [editor@heron.info](mailto:editor@heron.info) or post them to *The Editor of The Heron, Grasshopper Cottage, 5 Upwell Road, CHRISTCHURCH, PE14 9LF.*

The decision as to whether to include your letter in the Heron will be taken by the team. If for some reason your letter cannot be included, we will endeavour to contact you and explain.

**PLEASE NOTE** Letters will only be considered for publication if they are accompanied by name and contact details - names will be published, but not contact details. The Heron will not share any contact details unless given permission.

The team look forward to hearing from you!

Hello,

A story regarding my Mum and Dad, Ken and Jean Rayner appeared in your edition dated April 2016 on page 2, "Descendants of Dun Cow landlord revealed". In a further edition on page 22 (apologies - only kept the article rather than the whole edition) the article was entitled "The Rayner family - the story goes on!".

Heather Hannah is related to Joan Smith. Heather was tracing her family tree from Christchurch, and off the back of the article, visited my Mum and Dad in Coates.

If you wouldn't mind passing on a message as sadly dad (Ken Rayner) passed away on the 12th December 2019 and the cremation service took place on 2nd January 2019.

Thank you.

Helen Townsend (Daughter)

Should a member of the family wish to contact me, my number is 07769 714430.

*Please accept our condolences for your loss. Ed*

## Christchurch Characters Remembered ...

We moved into our house, in Fen View, 40 years ago. The back garden backed onto a small cottage attached to the shop - although it was smaller than it now is. It had a substantial garden with neat rows of well-tended vegetables. A large row of Hawthorns separated the two gardens.

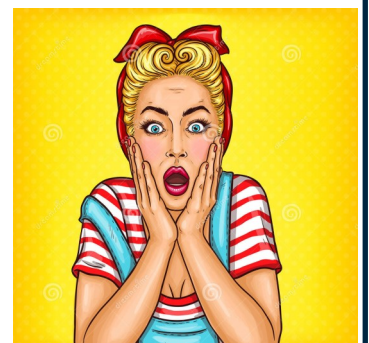
Early one morning we woke to find an elderly man in our garden trimming the hedge. He told us that we weren't laying it properly, so we left him to it.

We later found out that his name was Tom Flatt. He and his wife lived in the cottage of which he was immensely proud - as he owned it rather than rented or tied.

We had many conversations "over the hedge". He went everywhere on his bike and didn't seem to travel far. He said that he had visited Peterborough to look at the cathedral and also to Ely. Both times he had got there by skating on the frozen waterways in severe Winters when the weather made it possible.

Another time he heard us "debating" as to who was going to make a cup of tea. He said to my husband "You want to take a birch to her backside"!

Sue Norman



If you have any memories and stories of any Christchurch Characters, we'd love to hear from you.

# Lent Lunch

Come and join us in the church after our  
All Age Worship Service  
Sunday 1<sup>st</sup> March 2020

Homemade soups, bread and cheese  
will be served from 12.15pm onwards.

There will be no charge for the lunch, however  
any monetary donations will go to  
The Ferry Project in Wisbech  
and donations of non perishable food will  
be taken to The March Food Bank.

**ALL WELCOME AT AAW SERVICE AND/OR LUNCH.**

For catering purposes please let me know numbers beforehand  
Helen - 07702225259/638092

## Lunch Break

**Come along and join us!**

**IT'S FREE!**

We always meet on the 2nd and 4th  
Wednesday in the month. This month on

**12th and 26th\* February.**

12-2.00 pm in our Community Centre.

Bring your own Lunch. Hot drinks provided. The kettle is always on!

Meet up with old friends and make some new ones!

We'd love to see you.

Everyone welcome!

**\*COMMUNITY POLICE IN ATTENDANCE ON THIS DAY. COME AND SAY HELLO.**

# WELLE CINEMA

THREE HOLES VILLAGE HALL *Charity No. 304483*

Junction of Main Road & Squires Drove, Three Holes, PE14 9JY

**Sunday 9<sup>th</sup> February 2pm**

## **BALLOON (12)**



In 1979, the Iron Curtain was virtually impenetrable. Rarely did anyone from East Germany manage to flee west. But a film by Michael Bully Herbig tells the true story of two East German families who made a spectacular escape attempt a decade before the Berlin Wall fell. On September 16, 1979, the Strelzyk and the Wetzel families flew to freedom in home-made hot air balloons: four adults and four children wedged in a basket measuring two square meters, and towering 30 meters above them the balloon made of 1,245 square meters of material. For half-an-hour at night, the gondola carried the families to their destination in West Germany's Bavaria, 18 kilometers from their starting point in communist East Germany.

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

**Sunday 8<sup>th</sup> MARCH 2020, 2pm: ROCKETMAN (15)**

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

**Sunday 12<sup>th</sup> APRIL 2020, 2pm: DOWNTON ABBEY (PG)**

Michael Engler's Downton Abbey is a reboot of the television series of the same name. The film picks up the saga of the Crawley family and their mostly loyal servants in 1927.



## Crumbs from The Good Book

*By our very own Church Mouse....*

Some things I overhear in the Church really don't make much sense to me. For instance, everyone seems to be talking about something called LENT. It doesn't seem to be anything to do with "lending". It appears to involve giving up things you like to eat. Why? is the question that comes to mind. We mice love to eat the things we love to eat, if you get my meaning. BTW, I believe there is a "LENT LUNCH" planned in the Church, and you can be quite sure we won't be giving up eating "the crumbs we love to eat" which may be dropped on THAT occasion!

You might have guessed it has something to do with that itinerant preacher the Good Book goes on about. Apparently, he gave up food for ages once. He went into the desert to pray. Well, there isn't much food to be found in a desert, anyhow. The Good Book says he worked on his priorities whilst he was there.

Ah-ha! Maybe that's what this "LENT" is all about then.... People deny themselves something nice in order to concentrate their minds on other more important things.... not 'stuff', but priorities. Hum. That is a real challenge, when you come to think of it. And I will be thinking of it ... for a while yet ...

*Ebenezer*



### VALENTINE'S DAY

Roses are red, violets  
are blue, Remember...  
Some of us struggle on  
that day..do you?

Anon



### Valentine Biscuits

#### Ingredients:

225g (8oz) Self Raising Flour  
100g (4oz) Caster Sugar  
100g (4oz) Butter or Margarine  
½ Lemon (Grated rind and juice)  
1 Egg (Size 3) Beaten

#### Method:

Heat oven to 160° c.  
Mix flour and sugar and rub in the fat.  
Add lemon rind and juice and sufficient egg  
to make a stiff dough.  
Roll out thinly and cut into hearts or rounds.  
Place on a lined baking tray and bake for  
about

#### Tips:

Add your beaten egg a little at a time.  
Flour your board well when rolling out.  
Leave the lemon out and put chocolate chips instead.  
Children love to help decorating the finished biscuits. Enjoy!

Peggy Warby



# UPWELL HEALTH CENTRE

## Introducing the "On the Day Team"

We will shortly be implementing a new approach to looking after our patients for all immediate needs and queries. It will be called the "On the Day Team".

Each day the practice will have a team of clinical professionals whose job will be to look after all patient appointments, phone calls and queries that come into the practice that day. The team will be made up of a mix of different clinicians - Paramedics, Advanced Nurse Practitioners, Physicians Associates and at least one GP. This team will work together to ensure all patient needs are met.

### So, what does this mean for you?

It is quite like what you are used to. When you call, you will be asked to give us a little bit of detail regarding your condition or query. Based on a GP approved list of scenarios we will offer an appointment or a telephone call back. In some cases, we may refer you to another healthcare provider. For example, a minor injuries unit (for a suspected broken bone say) or a Pharmacist.

When you are offered an appointment, you will be given a time to arrive at the surgery on the same day – just check in as normal and you will be called in by a member of the On the Day Team as soon as possible.

If you request or are offered a telephone call back a member of the On the Day Team will call you as soon as possible. Please ensure you give us the correct number to call you on and be available to take the call.

The most significant change you will notice is that patients obtaining an appointment or a call back on the same day will not be able to request a specific clinician as it could be any one of the team members. Be assured however that you will be seen by a suitably qualified individual and there will always be GP support in the team to assist if needed. You will still be able to pre-book an appointment with a specific clinician for future dates for non-urgent matters. As currently, if you have an urgent need on the day and all appointments have gone then you will be spoken to by a clinician and seen at the surgery as required.

### So, why are we making this change?

This is a big change to our method of working internally and our aim is to be able to manage an increasing workload, maintain good care and be ready for the future. Like many practices we are using other clinical roles in conjunction with GPs to ensure that we have enough GP time available for patients that can only be looked after by a GP. The number of complex patients (with multiple conditions and medications) is increasing yet the number of GPs nationally is simply not keeping up. We also need time to consider and develop our services to you.

### Comments & Suggestions

We may need to alter how we manage the system after a period of time. Please do not hesitate to let us know how the new system is working for you. Thank You.

Steve (Practice Manager)

## Upwell Jazz Club 2020

Christchurch Community Centre  
(Sat Nav PE14 9LL)

The UK's first  
guaranteed  
banjo-free  
jazz club.

### 2020 Diary Dates

Sunday February 23<sup>rd</sup>  
Sunday March 29<sup>th</sup>  
Sunday April 26<sup>th</sup>  
Sunday May 31<sup>st</sup>  
Sunday June 28<sup>th</sup>  
Sunday July 26<sup>th</sup>  
Sunday September 27<sup>th</sup>  
Sunday October 25<sup>th</sup>  
Sunday November 29<sup>th</sup>

Time 12.30-2.45 pm ~ Admission £8.00 (Accompanied Under 16s FREE)  
For more information contact Nigel Smith on 01945 773121  
Bar ~ Fresh Rolls ~ Crisps & Savouries available.

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This month's meeting's main focus was this year's resolutions. Five members read out each of them and members voted as follows:



A call to increase potential stem cell donor registration;	11 votes
Female crash test dummies;	6 votes
End modern slavery;	1 vote
Time to talk about death and dying;	0 votes
Protect our precious helium.	0 votes

Peggy mentioned the Whist Drive arranged for 21 February, to be held at Sheila's house, and card tables to be provided by Tracy. There was lots of interest in this.

Next month:

- Fish & Chip Supper and Sing-along
- Competition – "A special trophy, certificate or award"
- Refreshments – Sheila and Wendy
- Raffle – Ann H, Sylvia Mc, Janet, Tracy

The next meeting to be held on Tuesday 11 February at 7.00 pm.

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  
 Jun – Curling Session – Lauren Bremner  
 Jul – *"You Cannot Be Serious"* – Talk by Ex Wimbledon Umpire, Alan Gray  
 Aug – Needle-felting – Kay Miller  
 Sep – Sugar Craft – Joanna Gamble  
 Oct – A day in the life of a First Responder – Representative from the Ambulance Service

*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 Gardening Club

January, the start of another year, doesn't always feel like Spring is on the way, but the cold wet rainy days of Winter are set to change, as the days get slowly longer and the temperatures, hopefully rise. The precursor to spring and the herbaceous plant that's long been said to herald the arrival of our favourite season, is the Snowdrop.

The Snowdrop is among the first flowers to bloom sometimes forcing its way through the snow, though happily that has not been necessary this year. Abundant in the UK and parts of the USA, the Snowdrop's origins are in Europe and Asia Minor. In some parts of the World people will not have the plant in the house, as they believe it foretells misfortune and death, a view subscribed to in the UK, by the Victorians. Oddly enough, it is also thought to represent purity and sympathy at the same time. At this time of year, you can see them in abundance at Anglesey Abbey between January 20<sup>th</sup> and February 23<sup>rd</sup>. The Abbey is a great place to visit and has events throughout the year, for more information go to [www.nationaltrust.org.uk](http://www.nationaltrust.org.uk) and see the back page!

For events nearer home, the Gardening Club will be reconvening at the Community Centre on Tuesday February 18<sup>th</sup> which is the club's A.G.M. This is an important meeting where the committee is chosen to run the club for another year. It's also an ideal time to come along and try us out and become a member. With recent events around the World and burgeoning awareness of our planet's health, there has never been a better time to get involved with a club, that promotes gardening and agriculture with a continuous array of experts, who will happily pass on their knowledge through a regular series of talks. It is also a friendly and welcoming club.

For more information call 01354 638 230 and speak to Marion or Steve.



Snowdrops in our very own Churchyard



# Christchurch Art Group



## We meet in the Community

**Centre on the 2<sup>nd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> Tuesday of the month 1.30 – 3.30**

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. No need for previous experience. We all work at our own level, plenty of tuition is offered.

We look forward to new members giving art a try. All materials will be available to borrow 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.

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.)*

**Jan Clifford**

## Spring Term 2020

### **11<sup>th</sup> February**

Pen and Wash session two – Simple landscape with trees/ small building.

### **25<sup>th</sup> February**

Collage with combination of Paint/drawing/Coloured pencils.

### **10<sup>th</sup> March**

Recap Pastels and Pastel pencils. We will look at the various types of pastels and the papers to use them with. I will bring a selection of both. Please bring object/photo of choice.

### **24<sup>th</sup> March**

Have a go of using Acrylics, simple still life/flowers & foliage.

*When photo and pictures are requested, they are useful for a guide and reference material not to straight copy. Sometimes though it may be helpful to trace a small area.*

How's the New Year  
diet going?



More waist ...  
less speed!

Craft Club had a break in January but we're back to start afresh on Tuesday February 4<sup>th</sup> at 7pm in the Community Centre. We'd love to see new faces joining us. Don't worry if you've never attempted a craft before, there's always someone to guide you and we try to keep things as simple as possible.



At our February meeting we will be having a go at Macrame (all materials provided).

In March we will be trying out the art of Zentangle and in April we will be making sweets for Easter. More to come during the year (always check the Heron for details).

We meet on the first Tuesday of every month and only charge £1.50 for the evening (pay as you go). What a bargain for a chance to learn a craft, have a chat over a cuppa and a biscuit (30p) and take part in a monthly raffle (50p).

## Christchurch Book Club

Book club met on 21<sup>st</sup> January. We had been reading "Dead Heat" by Dick Francis. Everyone at the meeting enjoyed this book. It is a "Who Dunit" within a catering/horse racing setting. There is poisoning, an explosion and many mysteries to be solved with a generous dose of suspense! Definitely a recommended read!

Our next meeting will be on Tuesday 25<sup>th</sup> February, 7.30pm at Sue's, Glynann, Crown Road (opposite the school). We shall be discussing "Secrets of the Homefront Girls" by Kate Thompson.

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

For more information please contact Sheila Day on 07946635908.

For people who like to be organised, the dates for future meetings are: March 24, April 28, May 26, June 23, July 28, August 25.

# THE YEAR TO BACK BRITISH FARMING



## How the Fens delivers for Britain

The fields around Christchurch are part of a rich agricultural and natural landscape that delivers both for food and the environment.

A report produced by the National Farmers' Union (NFU) shows just how much food is produced in the Fens and how farmers are working to mitigate the impact of climate change. It also highlights why the people, property and farmland in the Fens must be protected for the future.

Statistics in the report include:

- £3.1 billion – the value of the Fens' food chain
- 500,000 people live in the Fens
- 80,000 workers are employed from farm to fork in the Fens
- A third of our fresh vegetables and more than a fifth of all UK flowers and bulbs are grown in the Fens
- 428,000 homes can be run off Fens-generated renewable energy.

The report points out that well-maintained flood defences are essential to protect the people, businesses and the 1,500 square miles of the Fens, much of which is below sea level.  
You can read the report here: <http://bit.ly/fensreport>

## Public urged to back British Farming

Cambridgeshire residents are being asked to get behind a new campaign that recognises the important role farmers play in feeding the nation and caring for the countryside.

Food and farming contributes over £120 billion to the UK economy and provides jobs for more than 4 million people.

British farmers produce food to some of the highest standards in the world but there are concerns that future trade deals will allow the imports of food produced to standards that would be illegal here.

As part of the Back British Farming campaign, the National Farmers' Union (NFU) is asking the public to urge local MPs to champion British food and farming.

The campaign website also includes information on food standards, food labelling and advice on how you can enjoy fresh, quality produce by buying seasonal food. You can find out more about the campaign, and how to get involved, at <https://www.countrysideonline.co.uk/back-british-farming/back-british-farming-our-latest-activity/back-british-farming-get-involved/>







# Christchurch Street Pride Group First Meeting

Monday 24th February 2020 at 7.00pm  
Christchurch Community Centre

Meeting will involve:  
Welcoming members  
& Setting up the group

Your chance  
to make a  
difference

**Everyone is invited and can be  
assured of a very warm welcome!**



For more information please contact:  
The Street Pride Coordinator  
on 01354 654321  
or email [streetpride@fenland.gov.uk](mailto:streetpride@fenland.gov.uk)



## Christchurch Community Centre:

We would like to remind you of some of the rules when hiring the Community Centre:-

- ◆ If you have only hired the large hall, please don't use the meeting room (and vice versa)
- ◆ Please leave the rooms as you find them:-
  - *chairs stacked no more than 6 high and please don't stack them against curtains, acoustic foam or Fire exits.*
  - *Wipe down tables before stacking them away on the trolley (main hall) and close all fire doors and windows. Cleaning equipment in the red bag attached to the table trolley and bin bags under the kitchen sink.*
- ◆ Do not use sellotape on walls, windows or doors.
- ◆ Please use the left-hand notice board for any posters promoting your club.
- ◆ If you wish to use the fridge temporarily, please cover and label items with your club name and ensure items are removed before their use by date. Please do not store anything not intended for Human consumption in the fridge.

If you need to store any items from one meeting to the next, please check with our Bookings clerk (Sandra Kay 638478 or [sandrajkay@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:sandrajkay@hotmail.co.uk)) who will advise if there is any storage space available. If you notice any problems, please let us know asap so we can put things right. Thank you.

Christchurch Community Centre Committee

## VIVA LA VOCE – Our Story

For many years adults told Linda Ekins, an experienced vocal tutor coaching children, students, amateurs and professional singers, that they couldn't sing; never could sing because they remembered being told by teachers when they were very young to sing quietly at the back or play the tambourine instead. Sadly, children don't develop their "musical ear" until between 8 and 14 years old. Most were discouraged from singing before they had learned to listen - before friends become important and communication skills develop quickly.

Linda had a theory that even as adults, people could learn to listen and tune in to sing confidently. She won a grant from the Arts Council to develop her idea and so in 2017 she set up her first course, Viva la Voce, which means "live the voice!"

During that course everyone felt so good about singing they all "tuned in," they started to sing in harmony and even had a go at Improvising. At the choir's first big show at Christmas, several were brave enough to sing a solo or a duet.

But members did much more than sing better. They gained a confidence which changed their lives as they realised they could achieve what they wanted and not hold back.

Viva la Voce is now part of LEADA Cambs CIC, a company set up by Linda and fellow Directors, dedicated to "Make Life Great through Creative Dramatic Arts." Viva sing their favourites and make their own music.



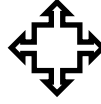
# The Dun Cow

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**OPENING HOURS - Weekdays from 4.00pm**  
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**MONDAY BREAKFAST CLUB - 9.30 till 11.30am**  
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**FRIDAY FISH & CHIP SUPPER - 5.00 till 8.00pm**  
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## *Happy Hour - Fridays 4.30 to 6.30*

**The Dun Cow is running a COMPETITION TO DESIGN A NEW PUB SIGN.**

**There will be three categories: under11's, 12-18, and Adults.**

Susan and I will judge the groups, but Elgoods will consider the overall winner. The design needs to be in portrait format and eventually end up as a .jpeg file and sent to me at [paulgasimpson@gmail.com](mailto:paulgasimpson@gmail.com). There will be an overall prize for the winner and Elgoods will donate a polypin of beer for the winning entry. (Should the winner be in either of the younger categories then an equivalent prize will be awarded.)

I have been in touch with Townley School who will be taking up the challenge as part of an Art Class project and if the Christchurch Art Group would also like to join in then that would be great. Although the Wikipedia definition of the Dun Cow is a 'brown savage beast', The Dun Cow and the brewery are quite taken by the quirky-style pictures we have added. So the challenge is to find the best entry from the village.

**CLOSING DATE: Saturday 28th March 2020**

## Cambridgeshire Fire & Rescue Service

Cambridgeshire Fire and Rescue Service is looking for on-call firefighters to join on-call fire stations around the county. On-call firefighters aren't based at a fire station, instead they carry a pager and respond to emergency incidents as and when they happen.

The Service has introduced a new **daytime contract** to the on-call service, which allows people to be available to respond to emergencies from just **24 hours a week**, for example while working at their regular day job or from home.

The new contract is available for anyone interested in joining an on-call station, providing they can offer a minimum of **24 hours per week (between 7am and 7pm during the week)** and attend the weekly drill night.

On-call firefighters can be men and women that come from every walk of life. They may be at home, working for themselves or a nearby company, or even out in their local community. They must maintain their availability to respond to emergencies by staying within five minutes travel time of the fire station. They receive an annual wage plus additional payments for attending incidents and drill nights.

Those interested in finding out more can visit [www.cambsfire.gov.uk/on-call](http://www.cambsfire.gov.uk/on-call) or contact [recruitment@cambsfire.gov.uk](mailto:recruitment@cambsfire.gov.uk)



## Parish Council Snippets

The PC held their first meeting of the decade on January 13<sup>th</sup>. Everyone wished everyone a Happy New Year. It may seem odd, reading this in February, but it was a nice touch, and set the tone for a pleasant meeting. Cllr Peter Owen, the Chair, began by thanking everyone, Counsellors and villagers alike, who give up their time and work so hard to make Christchurch a great place to live.

**PUBLIC TIME: Christchurch Eco:** Nate Lansdell reported on the litter pick held on Saturday January 11<sup>th</sup>. 14 people joined up, which broke an unofficial record for the number of people attending and wanting to start a Street Pride Group. The Fenland District Council rep who attended was impressed. Well done to Nate. (See back page) He also talked of a Green Dog Walkers Scheme. Further details to the next PC meeting. Everyone was very encouraged to see the amount of support for Christchurch Eco, and for Nate.

**Heron Funding.** The Heron is putting in a bid for funds from The Whitemill Fund and asked whether the PC would write a letter of support for that, and it was agreed.

**The Post Van – again** - It is forever NOT THERE when it should be! How can they inform us beforehand? The PC has no control over all things postal so it was suggested that villagers call the appropriate people and complain.

**Crown Drove:** It was pointed out that several cars have become stuck down the unmade part of Crown Drove. Sat Nav errors, apparently. Farmers – or for that matter, anyone else with a vehicle, are reluctant to get involved, as their insurance doesn't cover any problems that may arise.

Most other items were on-going from the last meeting, as the Festive Season got in the way of things... but nice to see that the Grant Application to the PC from the Craft Club has been approved.

I hope you have all had your copy of the Parish Council Annual Report and find it interesting. If you haven't, and would like a copy, please get in touch.



Please remember that no dogs are allowed on the playing field. Thank you. Your co-operation is much appreciated.

Under Bye Laws, a person who doesn't clean up after their dog may face an on-the-spot fine of up to £80. These fines are known as fixed penalty notices. If a person refuses to pay they can be taken to the local Magistrates Court for the dog fouling offence and fined up to £1,000.

## Community News

### With Thanks



I would like to thank everyone in the village for their kind thoughts, offers of help and cards received following my wife Beryl's passing.

Thanks also for the donations in her memory, to Cancer Research, and especial thanks to everyone who attended her funeral on the 30th of January at March Crematorium.

Geoff Cochrane

### Thank you

We are delighted to report that the Friday afternoon Coffee and Chat Group made more than £960 for our church in the last 12 months!!

Congratulations to Jenny and John, Peggy and Graham for their hard work organising it all. Also a big thank you to Helen and Karen for all they do and also all our bakers .... whose fame spreads far and wide! This huge total could not have been reached were it not for all the lovely, generous people who attend each Friday, in the Church (2-3pm). Why not join us?

CONGRATULATIONS and grateful thanks from our Church Wardens Daphne and Andy.



### DID YOU KNOW...

Although there are many accounts of coffee history dating back to the ninth century and earlier, the earliest credible evidence of humans interacting with the coffee plant comes from the middle of the 5th century. This is when it was consumed in the Sufi monasteries of Yemen. Monks drank it to stay alert during their night time devotions and long hours of prayer.

## Vet's News

Our Winter this year has been rather mild and wet. The footpaths are wet and muddy. Many dog owners will choose to take a stroll in the Norfolk woodlands.

At this time of the year a vet doesn't want to think about Alabama Rot disease. Fortunately, this disease has not been confirmed in Cambridgeshire and Norfolk as yet, but with each year that passes, it seems to be getting closer to our region. I think it would be good to know a bit more about it.

Alabama Rot, or *Cutaneous and Renal Glomerular Vasculopathy (CRGV)* is a disease that causes damage to blood vessels in the skin and to kidneys. The disease is very challenging to diagnose and to treat and is potentially life threatening.

The first signs are developing skin sores, not caused by wound or injury. Skin lesions might look like a swelling, a patch of red skin or ulcers. They are most commonly found below the knee or elbow; occasionally on the stomach or face. Within a few days, the dog will develop signs of kidney failure, reduced appetite, thirst, fatigue and vomiting.

The survival rate is low, between 20-30% so it is very important to alert your vet early if you see any worrying signs. It is also worth remembering to wash dogs' legs and belly after each walk to remove all mud and dirt.

Nick



Did you know ...

*Valentine's Day has origins in the Roman festival of Lupercalia, held in mid-February. The festival, which celebrated the coming of spring, included fertility rites and the pairing off of women with men by lottery. At the end of the 5th century, Pope Gelasius I replaced Lupercalia with St. Valentine's Day.*



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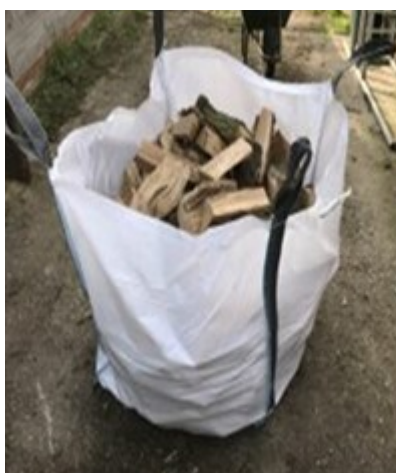
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# MellyMade Designs

Textile Artist & Tutor



Christchurch WI and Members would like to invite you to an evening of creativity with Melanie Missin-Keating of MellyMade Designs, Littleport.

Melanie is a British Textile Artist and Tutor who will be coming along to **Christchurch Community Centre** to give us a demonstration of her talents using scrap and recycled fabrics on **Tuesday 10 March 2020 at 7.00 pm.**

[www.mellymadedesigns.com](http://www.mellymadedesigns.com)

Entrance is free. There will be a raffle and refreshments available.

Places are limited so please contact Janet Harper, Secretary, Christchurch WI on 01354 638681 or 07941 465319 to book your place.

theWI  
INSPIRING WOMEN

# Church News

Have you seen our own Snowdrop display in the Churchyard? It might not be on the same scale as the ones promoted on the back page, but the plants are just as lovely. Spring is springing! A big thank you to those faithful people who look after our Churchyard, which is also a haven for wildlife. It's worth a walk just to soak up the peace of the place.

**Our Reverends Ian and Lynda** haven't been too well lately Please keep them in your thoughts and prayers. They are such an inspiration to us all.

**The season of LENT** begins on Ash Wednesday, Feb 26th. Shrove Tuesday is the day before, traditionally the day for Pancakes, when people used up their eggs before Lent. Have you tried adding food colouring to the mix? It makes for far less boring pancakes!

**Lent Hunger Lunch:** We will be holding a Lent Lunch again this year in Church, on March 1<sup>st</sup>. Details on page 6.

**Christchurch Church Lent Prayer Project:** We will again be praying in our homes for our community, using prayer cards which remind us to pray for certain roads in each of the six weeks in Lent. If you would like to join in, whether you come to Church or not, please ask for a prayer card. 01354 638088. It could be your Daily Lent Event; just a few minutes every day. Why not be part of it?

**New Initiative:** There is a 9.30am Church Service on the second Sunday of each month. The church will be open after that service from 10.30am for an hour for anyone who would like to come in to pray, or just sit quietly. There will also be an opportunity to pray with others, for ourselves, our Community and our Church, if you are so inclined. No pressure. All ages welcome.



The Church of Christ, PE14 9PQ

## Thoughts from the Rectory

*Dressed to Impress*

The attention of fashion watchers around the World is being collared by London this month. Models are showing off designers newest creations in London's Fashion Week, which this year is on 14th-18th February. One of the labels which will be taking part in London, will be one of the new ethical fashion brands, People Tree. The Fair-Trade label is conscious of the emerging trends and what they say about our times.

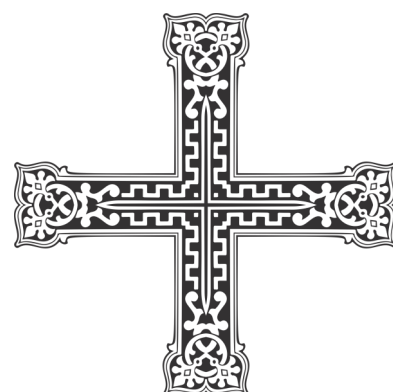


Fashion gurus say that *'this coming year the colours are quite subdued there are a lot of greys, blacks and cobalt blues so in a way it does reflect the mood of the nation. Because of Brexit uncertainty and the general slow down on the high street. This has left people with less money in their pockets, so people are looking for cheaper buys or purchases that they can keep'*. The Fair-Trade label is making a statement by the way it makes clothes. For they use traditional hand skills and encourage people to think before they buy and the label wants people to buy clothes that will last more than one season.

Clothes over the ages have always made a statement. The Intoxica clothes brand says its designs are *'for the freethinking individuals'*. The Prophetik clothes brand describes its clothes as *'wearable philosophy'*. If clothes make statements about life, it should come as no shock that people make statements about life in terms of clothes.

*'Clothe yourselves with compassion, kindness, humility, meekness and patients'*, advised the early Christian Paul (Colossians 3:12NRSV). His statement was that people could throw away their old lifestyle and be clothed in a 'new self' (3:10). Paul spotted the truth - life would have a whole new look about it if we could think and act in the same style as God thinks about, and acts towards us. He had become conscious that, in Jesus, God showed that He cares for us and offers us something new; challenging us to change, and live that new designer life.

Ian





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Hands on/off and

Remote/Distant Healing sessions available.

**Reiki** promotes self-healing, relaxation and sleep. It can also help to relieve aches and pain, muscle tension, and fatigue. It assists the body to cleanse itself of toxins and helps to support the immune system.

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

**Email: [michelelowery24@gmail.com](mailto:michelelowery24@gmail.com)  
or call 07739 378901**



# Useful Telephone Numbers

Age UK Cambridgeshire	0300 666 9860
Alzheimer's Society (Fenland)	01945 580480
Christchurch Resident's Association	01354 638990
Churchwarden - Mrs. D. Symons	01354 638352
Citizens' Advice Bureau, Wisbech	03442 451292
Community Car Scheme (to book a journey)	07902 316360
Community Centre Bookings	01354 638478
Community Fire Safety Officer	07717 858166
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 045 5225
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 - Sharon Pomeroy	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	07738 025220
Police - Emergency	999
Police - Non Emergency	101
Telephone Preference Service	0345 070 0707
Townley School	01354 638229
Trading Standards	03454 040506
Train Information	03457 484950
Upwell Health Centre (and out of hours)	01945 773671
Upwell Health Centre - Pharmacy	01945 774934
Veterinary Centre - The Crossings (D'Mkt)	01366 382219
Vicars - Ian & Lynda Brady	01354 740627
Water Emergencies	03457 145145
<b>Club Contacts</b>	
Art Club - Jan Clifford	01354 638217
Book Club - Sheila Day	07946 635908
Craft Club - Sandra Lloyd	01354 638956
Gardening Club - Marion Hawthorn	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

## Valentine Quiz

(Answers at the bottom of the page)

1. In Holby City, what is the first name of Dr Valentine?
2. Who played Shirley Valentine in the 1989 film?
3. Who was the Greek goddess of Love?
4. In which city did the 1929 Valentine's Day massacre take place?
5. What sign of the zodiac is someone born on Valentine's day?
6. Which British band had a 1988 hit called "Valentine"?
7. Which famous explorer was killed in a fight with the natives of Hawaii on 14 February 1779?
8. Ti amo is "I Love You" in which language?
9. In which country is it customary for women to give men chocolate on Valentine's day?
10. In Roman mythology, who is cupid's Mother?

## A Maze puzzle for Valentine's Day:

Can you find your way out?



1. Oliver 2. Pauline Collins 3. Aphrodite 4. Chicago  
5. Aquarius 6. T'Pau 7. James Cook 8. Italian 9.  
Japan 10. Venus





## Nate's Squirreling Nutters

What a start for a group of like-minded people (aka Nutters), all holding the same views as Nate Lansdell, who arrived at the Community Centre for The Christchurch Eco Group's first ever litter pick.

Cold, certainly, but fired up with enthusiasm, a group of 16 set out with litter pickers in hand. Yes - we all noticed the photographer (Andy Lansdell) catching us unawares. The tea and coffee afterwards warmly welcomed.

Nate has had his Nutters Squirreling away items in his stations, successfully converted into cash for Townley School.

The good news: this village is, on the whole, clear of litter and well maintained. The not so good: a number of sacks of both recycling and litter, as well as an office swivel chair complete with wheels were collected.

The future: Nate's Nutters move to a new phase - Christchurch Street Pride.

The inaugural meeting is to be held next month on Feb 24<sup>th</sup>, 7pm in Christchurch Community Centre, so let's get behind the group. We are looking forward to the growth of the group to include the community and beyond.

***REMEMBER: Every box of crisp packets, pet food pouches, batteries and printer cartridges among others, is one less in landfill.***

Liz Scott



Nate's Squirrelling Nutters (Photo Andy Lansdell)



# Beautiful Snowdrop Displays



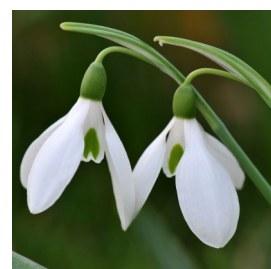
**Anglesey Abbey** has one of the finest snowdrops collections in the country, with over 300 varieties of the delicate white flowers, including 20 varieties that have been discovered here at Anglesey Abbey. Also a beautiful and fragrant Winter Garden. Thousands of snowdrops are bursting into flower across the gardens to herald the arrival of spring. This year our Snowdrop Season runs from 20 January - 23 February. You also have extra time to explore as the gardens now open earlier at 9.30am.

Enjoy the space in Hoe Fen this half term with the Hidden Homes nature trail, whilst still having the opportunity to see some of the snowdrop collection on your walk.

Anglesey Abbey is a National Trust property and a bit pricey if you aren't a member. However, it has disabled access and a nice coffee shop/restaurant.

Adults - £15.80 (£17.40 with Gift Aid)

Child - £7.90 (£8.70 with Gift Aid)



Wheelchairs and Motor Scooters available for the disabled and a Golf Buggy lift available at no charge (but donations welcome). Early booking is advised. Call for further details and to book.

Anglesey Abbey, Quay Road, Lode, Cambridge CB25 9EJ. Tel: 01223 810080. Open Daily from 27 January 2019 from 9.30am - 4.30pm.

**Chippenhams Park Gardens** will be open to the public for the whole of February from the 8th to see the snowdrop gardens. A truly unforgettable experience. With acres of lakes, woodland and walled gardens to see and a cosy Potting Shed Café. Recently converted from part of the old potting sheds, our excellent cafe overlooking the kitchen garden is open for all the garden days. Serving fresh coffee, tea, delicious cakes, our own free-range pork hot dogs and hot soups, we hope you will come and treat yourselves to something delicious.



Adults - £5 (Cash Only)

Chippenhams Park Gardens, Chippenhams Hall, Chippenhams Park, Newmarket CB7 5PT. Tel: 01638 721416.

Any views expressed in The Heron do not necessarily reflect the views of The Heron Editorial Team. The team aim to provide a balanced view of village opinions where such views are expressed. We reserve the right to edit any submissions where we feel this is appropriate.

