



The Heron

Community Magazine

January 2020

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

No. 69

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20
"Happy
New
Year"
20

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"CEILIDH"

£350 made for Community Centre Funds!



Great music! Great Band! Great atmosphere! And the event, held on the Saturday night, 30th November was very well attended as you can see! There was a little confusion at first as people were not paying careful attention to the instructions from the 'caller'. Though, it has to be said, sometimes her instructions were not awfully clear!. This coupled together with some folks not seeming to know whether they were male or female, didn't help!

However, there was a great atmosphere with much fun and hilarity and everyone had a great night. There were burgers and sausages and the bar was open. So what more could you wish for.

Very well done to all the organisers and helpers!

We can't wait for the next 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.

SAVE THE DATE
FEB 29TH 2020 (EVENING)
A 'HeronAid' CONCERT

"VIVA LA VOCE"
A LOCAL ROCK CHOIR

COMING TO CHRISTCHURCH.
SUPPORT YOUR
VILLAGE MAGAZINE.

Look out for further details in
February.

EDITORIAL

Well! It's been fun! And more than a little challenging at times! However, I am sure that I will miss working on The Heron - my baby!

Hopefully all will be well as the new team under Annie Nason gets underway? I am pleased to say that all our delivery personnel, under Sandra Kay's management are continuing, Linda Webster remains as Treasurer and Advertising Manager (I leave with a healthy £????? In The Heron's bank account), and Lewis Bennet of Upwell Computers remains as our Technical & Computer Wizard. He is to be highly recommended if any of you need a helping hand with any IT issues!

Please see the message from the new Editorial & Production Teams on page 5.

No doubt I will see you all around the village at somepoint. 'Till then.....



Reston

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

Dec 10th

Jan 7th Art Club - 1.30-3.30pm - CCC

Jan 7th Craft Club - **NO MEETING IN JANUARY** - 7.00pm - CCC

Jan 12th Welle Cinema - “Aladdin” - doors open 1.30 for 2.00 film - £3.00 per head

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

Jan 14th WI - Resolutions & Chat - 7.00pm CCC

Jan 20/26th “Village Halls Week” - See pages 8 & 6

Jan 21st Art Club - 1.30-3.30pm - CCC

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

Feb 11th WI - Fish & Chip Supper - 7.00pm CCC

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

Feb 29th “Viva La Voce” - local Rock Choir - Heron Fundraiser - SAVE THE DATE! - See page 3

Parish Church Services

Jan 5 th	11.00am	A Day	All Age Worship
Jan 12 th	9.30am	Rev’d L Brady, V Smith	Holy Communion
Jan 19 th	3.30pm	D Morris	Evening Prayer
Jan 26 th	11.00am	Rev’d S & SE Tooke	Morning Prayer & Baptism
Feb 2 nd	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

All best wishes for the New Year from the New Editorial and Production Teams!

We are excited about our new venture, and will begin with the February 2020 issue. Before anything else, we would like to pay tribute to the wonderful work Richard has put in over the years as Editor, making our village magazine one of the best around! And a big thank you, too, for all the hard work he has put in to the Fundraising events. *Well done!*

I will be heading up the Editorial Team, only because there needs to be one point of contact, rather than several, which would be confusing. The others will be contributing in different ways. They are, in no particular order, Sue Norman, Linda Webster, Sheila Day, Sandra Kay and Peggy Warby. Lewis (Upwell Computers) is happy to carry on his marvellous IT expertise and support, for which we are very grateful. Lewis does a great deal for The Heron and doesn't charge for his services. He says he wants to put something back into the Community, and this is his way of doing that. Wonderful! Thank you so much, Lewis. We also have a small team working in the background, who are dealing solely with the Production side, who would like to remain anonymous at this time.

For your information, the contact email for letters and articles will remain the same, so you shouldn't see any difference but, behind the scenes, Lewis will have worked his magic and everything will be sent to me from the beginning of January.

Linda Webster will continue to be the point of contact for our Advertisers so, again, no change there!

We thank you for your continued support of our village magazine.

Annie Nason



The Christchurch Recreation Ground Charity look after the day to day running and maintenance of the Community Centre. We are currently looking for enthusiastic people to join our committee of volunteers to help ensure that our Community Centre continues to meet the needs of our village.

We meet at 7:30pm on the last Wednesday of every month.

If you are interested in becoming part of our team, or for more information please contact Jill on 07807040278

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.

'Wonderful Villages' Photo Competition



Starts 15th December 2019!

**Win up to £1000 for your Village Hall and
£500 for the photographer!
Plus other cash prizes.**

**Open to ALL RURAL UK Village & Community Halls.
Entry is FREE. No purchase necessary.**

**Details of prizes, theme and entry dates are in the
RULES available from our Facebook page:**

 <https://facebook.com/AlliedWestminster>

AND on our website detailing free rebuild valuations:

 <https://villagehallsurvey.com>

***N.B. Please
see page 8!**



THREE HOLES VILLAGE HALL, Junction of Main Road & Squires Drove, Three Holes PE149JY

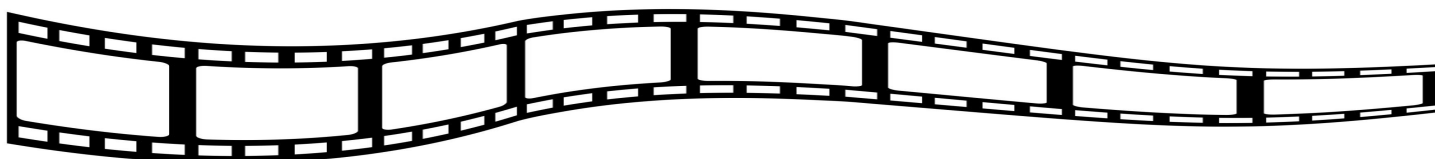


Sunday 12th January 2pm

ALADDIN (PG)

Aladdin is a lovable street urchin who meets Princess Jasmine, the beautiful daughter of the sultan of Agrabah. While visiting her exotic palace, Aladdin stumbles upon a magic oil lamp that unleashes a powerful, wisecracking, larger-than-life genie. As Aladdin and the genie start to become friends, they must soon embark on a dangerous mission to stop the evil sorcerer Jafar from overthrowing young Jasmine's kingdom.

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

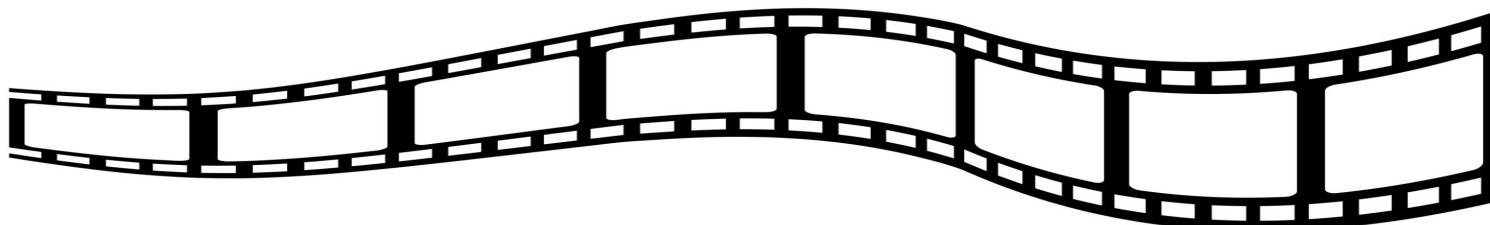


Sunday 9th FEBRUARY 2020, 2pm: BALLOON (12)

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.



Village Halls Week 2020

20 January - 26 January 2020

**Celebrating England's
Village Halls**



Please see the information below and on page 6 of The Heron about an exciting photo competition from Allied Westminster. Entries opened on December 15th so please download a copy of the poster to display in your Community Centre and encourage people to take part. Click the link to download and print a PDF version of the poster to display.

If you need any more additional material for your village magazine please get in touch by emailing me at - lisa.chambers@cambsacre.org.uk

It would be great if we could get lots of Cambridgeshire villages taking part and maybe a Cambridgeshire winner!

The competition will not focus on just the 'pretty chocolate box' village images. This is **ABSOLUTELY NOT THE CASE!** Allied Westminster want this competition to celebrate village life and the vital role that village halls play in our communities. They want to champion the roles that these venues play in bringing all our communities together.

Remember that the judges will be looking for photos that encapsulate that sense of village community and not just a pretty village image. So please get those cameras, phones, and ipads out and start snapping the perfect picture for your community - Capturing Community Spirit!

Best wishes

Lisa

Lisa Chambers

Community Development Officer

Cambridgeshire ACRE



N.B. Please see Ad. on page 6 for full details! - Ed'.

Christmas Quiz & Crossword ANSWERS!

From last month December's issue

Christmas Fun!

The secret message was:

"AT CHRISTMAS ALL ROADS LEAD HOME!"

Christmas Trivia Quiz!

1. Arnold Schwarzeneger
2. The Grinch
3. Bing Crosby, Danny Kaye, Rosemary Clooney, Vera-Ellen, Dean Jagger
4. Ebenezer
5. Four - Past, Present, Yet to Come, and the ghost of Jacob Marley
6. The Polar Express
7. Eggnog
8. Germany
9. Pigs in blankets
10. Coca-Cola
11. Cloves
12. A cabbage and a turnip
13. A hen
14. A wattle
15. Brandy
16. True
17. Mince pies
18. Panettone
19. Yule log (cake / chocolate log or similar)
20. Mulled wine
21. Pear
22. 1843, designed by John Horsley
23. Feliz Navidad
24. Saint Nick, and Kris Kringle
25. The Netherlands
26. Nine: Dasher, Dancer, Prancer, Vixen, Comet, Donner, Blitzen, and of course Rudolph. (Then of course there's Olive - the other reindeer!)
27. Italy
28. Grapes



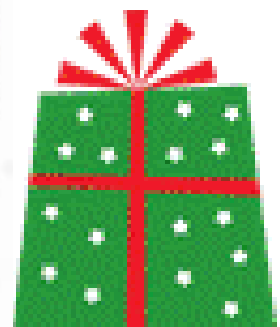
Did You Know:

In Finland it is the custom to light candles on the graves of relatives on Christmas Eve.



An interesting fact:

Robert L. May created Rudolph in 1939, when he wrote a Christmas-themed story/poem to attract customers into his department store.





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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
or call 07739 378901**

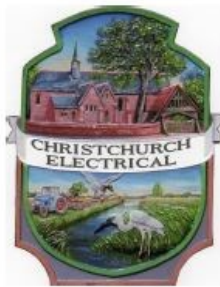
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[As the December meeting was also the AGM, we were joined by WI Adviser, Patricia Ashmore and ACWW WI Representative, Rosemary Green.](#)



AGM protocol was followed resulting in Peggy Warby being announced as the 2020 President. Committee nominations were posted on the board but the new committee could not be announced because not all nominees were present.

A talk by our guest speaker, Dr Maureen James, followed. Maureen gave a lively, illustrated talk that explores the history of the varied customs connected to the festive season. Commencing with Advent Calendars and concluding with Plough Monday, and covering many aspects including Christmas food, decorations, carol singing and Father Christmas.

Some members had made snacks to accompany tea and there then followed half an hour of social time before finishing the rest of the meeting.

Competition was *A Handmade Gift Tag*. Tracy announced the points results as follows:

Margaret S – 5, Elaine – 4, Peggy – 4, Val – 3

The Carol Singing scheduled for 11th December was discussed and, as a few of the interested members had dropped out, it was decided to cancel. However, the Church are holding a Carol Singing session, outside The Dun Cow, on Friday 20th and some members expressed an interest in attending that.

Next month:

Resolutions & Chat

Competition – “White”

Refreshments – Susan Q, Marion

Raffle – Peggy, Elaine, Beryl, Margaret S

The next meeting will be held on Tuesday 14 January 2020 at 7.00 pm.

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

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* – Sarah Naylor

Nov – Field Trip To Amey Recycling Plant, Wisbech –

Further details to follow

Dec – Christmas Quiz and Nibbles

We meet on the second Tuesday of every month, at the Community Centre, and are always looking for new members. In 2019 we set up a few sub-groups including a walking group, cinema group and a theatre group. We visited The Light Cinema in Wisbech to see ‘Live Screenings’ of *The King & I*, *Midsummer Night’s Dream*, *One Man Two Guvnors*, *Andre Rieu Concert* to name but a few. In November, some of us went to Cambridge Arts Theatre to see “Peter Pan Goes Wrong” to get us in the Christmas Panto mood! 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. New ideas are always welcome!



*“Happy New Year
One and All!”*



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



Members had a chance to catch up on their own craft projects this month and we finished our year with drinks and nibbles. We have a full and interesting programme arranged for 2020 which we are all looking forward to.

Here are a few things that we will be getting up to at the beginning of the year:-

January - NO MEETING but we have a "Quiz Night" on the 31st as a fundraiser - See page 5 for full details.

February - Macrame (All materials provided)

March - Zentangle (You will need a fine tipped pen)

April - Making sweets for Easter (you will need a tub to take them all home in!)

Craft Club meets on the 1st Tuesday of the month (except January) at the Community Centre at 7.00pm. We look forward to welcoming new members this coming year. You do not need to be an experienced crafter to join us. Learning is what we're all about!

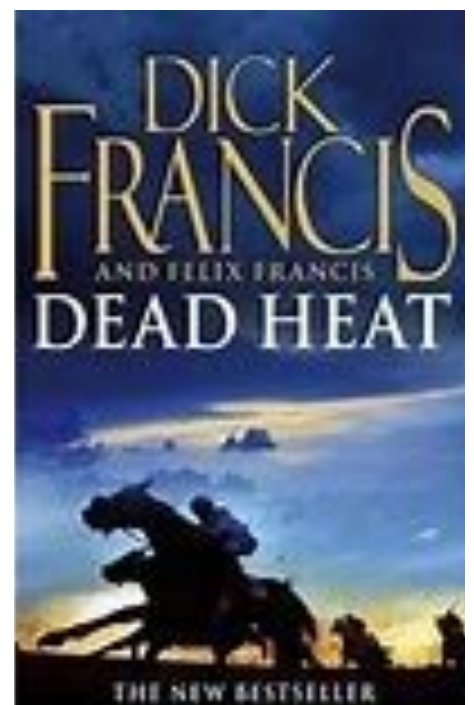
For enquiries please ring Sandra Lloyd in 01354 638956.



Christchurch Book Club

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.



Archbishop of Canterbury

New Year Sermon 2019

Urges Brits to overcome 'Division'

The Archbishop of Canterbury has urged the nation to overcome the “struggles and divisions of recent years” in his New Year’s sermon.

Justin Welby said the country is “wonderfully much more diverse than we used to be, yet we disagree on many things - and we are struggling with how to disagree well”.

He said at Lambeth Palace: “Turn on the television, read the news, and you see a lot that could tempt you to despair.”

But he added: “Hope lies in our capacity to approach this new year in a spirit of openness towards each other - committed to discovering more of what it means to be citizens together, even amid great challenges and changes.

“Committed to discovering more of what it means to be citizens together, even amid great challenges and changes.

“That will involve choosing to see ourselves as neighbours, as fellow citizens, as communities each with something to contribute.

“It will mean gathering around our common values, a common vision, and a commitment to one another.

“With the struggles and divisions of recent years, that will not be easy. But that difficult work is part of the joy and blessing of being a community.”

It comes after the Archbishop used his Christmas Day sermon to highlight the importance of forgetting “tribalism” and “political advantage”.

Business owners are busy at the end of the year taking inventory. This can be painful, but is a necessary reality so that they can know if they have made a profit or not! They take the information they receive and make the necessary adjustments for the coming year.

Philippians 3: 12-16 Paul is taking inventory of his life at the end of this passage in scripture. As Christians we need to stop at the end of the year and measure our progress. Sometimes this is a very painful thing to do. But it is so important that we all try to do this.

Look at the Past:

Paul was apprehended by the risen Christ. Jesus stopped him in his tracks. Jesus saved him and sent him on his life’s mission.

Several years had passed from his Damascus Road conversion when he first wrote the story down. He is confessing that he has not yet arrived spiritually but is continuing the process.

It will do us good to look back to the moment of our own conversion; when Jesus apprehended us, saved us, and gave us something to do.

I read where two monks were in a thunderstorm when they came to a swollen river. There was a Japanese woman in her kimono who needed to cross the river but was afraid. One of the monks asked her, “Can I be of service to you?” She told him she needed to cross the river but was too frightened. The monk picked her up, put her on his shoulders, and carried her across the river. He sat her down on the other side.

The two monks then continued their journey to the monastery. The other monk said, “I have a bone to pick with you. As monks we are not to look at or touch a woman, yet you did!” The other monk replied, “My brother, I helped that woman across the river and put her down on the other side. But you are still carrying her in your mind!”

Learn:

Good judgement comes from experience, and experience comes from bad judgement. We have all made mistakes in the past but so as we learn from those mistakes we grow in a positive way.

Examine things, examine your actions, your thoughts. Were they really very Christian? A good guide is if you ask yourself the question;

“What would Jesus have done?”



Crumbs rom the Good Book by our very own Church Mouse



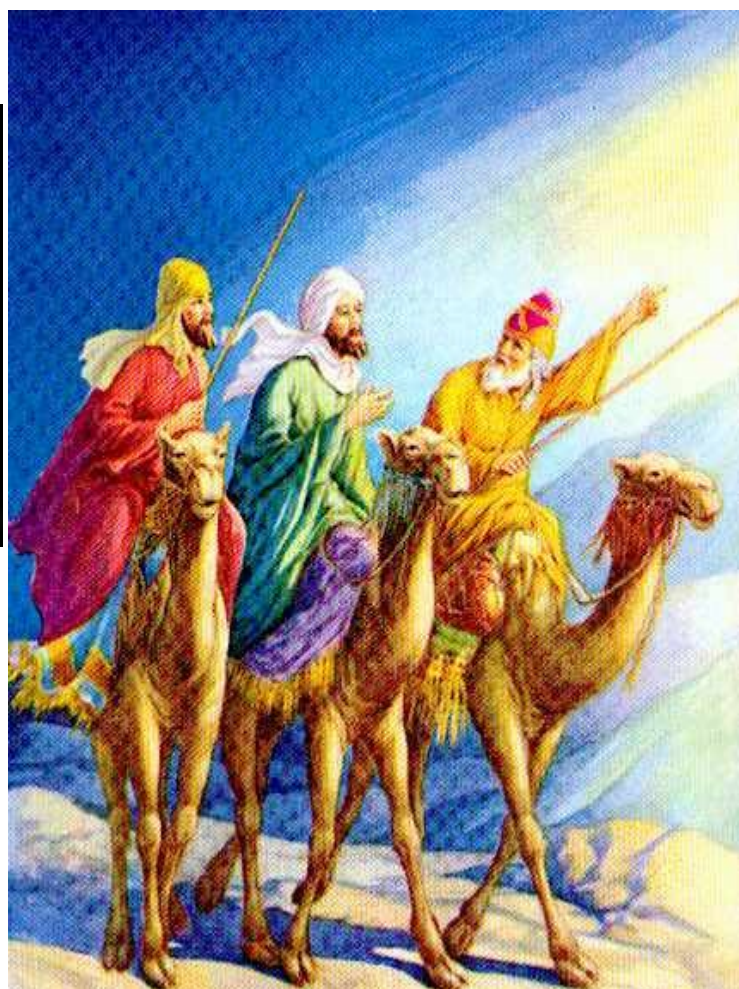
We Mice are very different from you Humans. That's pretty obvious I suppose...in many ways! But I was musing the other day on how much Humans like LIGHTS. Over the winter season, there are so many of them about! Mice are nocturnal animals and we much prefer it to be dark, or at least a BIT dark, as we feel a lot safer. We have very good eyesight, but also have wonderful whiskers which smell out crumbs and seeds with ease.

It set me wondering ... what's the big deal with this LIGHT thing? I gathered from something I heard once that January 6th is an important date for LIGHT in the Good Book.

The day of Epiphany – when the three Wise Men came to see Mary and Joseph and their baby – is on 6 January. They followed a brilliant star, it says, which led them there. For us Mice, bright starlight means we need to be extra careful in case someone wants to EAT US.

However, in The Good Book, there's a lot about light, which shows up the dark corners in people's lives.

A figure of speech, perhaps. That baby (who, by the way, grew up to be the Itinerant Preacher I am always talking about) was known as The Light of The World. There are plenty of dark corners in the World which could do with some lighting up, that's for sure. HAPPY 2020... perhaps we all should aim for 2020 Vision this year. Think about it ... I am musing ...



Old School Honey Farm




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**MONDAY BREAKFAST CLUB - 9.30 till 11.30am (NOT Mon 23rd or 30th Dec, or Jan 6th or 13th)
From Bacon Rolls etc. to Full English - REOPENS Jan 20th from 9.30am as usual**

Happy Hour - Fridays 4.30 to 6.30

Sunday 1st December - "QUIZ NIGHT" 5.00 till 7.00PM
The Dun Cow is running a COMPETITION TO DESIGN A NEW PUB SIGN.

There will be three categories: 11's, 12-18, and Adults

Susan and I will judge the groups, but Elgoods will consider the overall winner which will be created.

The design needs to be in portrait format and eventually end up as a jpeg file.

There will be an overall prize for the winner and Elgoods will donate a poly pin of beer for the winning entry; should it 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. Although the Wikipedia definition of the Dun Cow is a 'brown savage beast' 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.

Cambridgeshire Fire & Rescue Service

Happy New Year to All!

It's time for making your New Year's Resolutions, so why not find out how to keep your family safe in your home!?

At Cambridgeshire Fire & Rescue Service we are encouraging people to make FOUR New Year's Resolutions for 2020 to keep your families and homes safe from fire.

- ♦ Make sure you have a correctly fitted and working smoke alarm on every floor of your house, and TEST it WEEKLY - Involve the children to ensure they are aware of what a smoke alarm does, what it sounds like, and what it means when it goes off!
- ♦ Check older relatives and friends also have a working fire alarm and make sure and test theirs regularly too! You may support older relatives and friends with transport and shopping but may otherwise overlook the crucial role of a smoke alarm. We can provide 'testing sticks' to help older, less mobile, people to test their smoke alarms without overreaching or hurting themselves;
- ♦ We also offer 'Safe & Well' visits to those who are eligible, which cover a far wider range of areas not just Fire Safety. Find out if you, or anyone you may know, are eligible for a 'Safe & Well' visit by contacting us on - 0800 917 9994.
- ♦ "Escape Plan" - Make a 'fire escape plan' so that you and family or anyone else in your home know what to do if a fire should break out in your home. Exit points, and sealing and closing doors up are vital!

Do you live within five minutes of your local fire station? If so why not make a New Year's Resolution to join us as an on-call firefighter. If you are over 18yrs old and have a good all round level of fitness you can apply to join your local station and respond to emergencies in your spare time. Visit www.cambsfire.gov.uk/oncall.

Like us on Facebook for regular updates www.facebook.com/cambsfrs or follow us on Twitter@cambsfrs. For more information, or to get in touch contact us at firefire@cambsfrs.gov.uk. Or on 0800 9179994.

Parish Council Snippets

Dec 9th 2019

“Public Time”: Keith had concerns about the street lights in Church Road. One seems not to be working and might be dangerous; the new LED lights don't spread the light as the old lights did, which leaves dark spaces between the lamp posts; some are almost hidden by trees. The PC will look at them, and do what they can, safely. Annie Nason updated the meeting on the change of Editorial Team from the February issue. The PC wished them all the best in their venture.

District Cllr Will Sutton expressed his appreciation for all that Richard Guilford, the out-going Editor of The Heron, has achieved in developing and producing a modern and well-presented village magazine. “The Heron is a valuable village resource”. The PC was in unanimous agreement. Cllr Sutton also wished Richard all the best, and the new team every success. He also expressed some concern that the way of funding for “The Forgotten Corner” appear to have been changed, resulting in less to be provided than was previously agreed. Moving the goal posts?? He is determined to look into that and rectify the situation.

Trees:

1. The County Council policy is, that if they have to cut down one tree, they will replace it with another one. ELM have decided that, for every tree that is cut down, they will replace it with TWO new trees. The meeting thought that was a great idea!

2. Our Parish Council will be doing its bit for Conservation: there are plans to plant more trees around the edges of the Recreational Ground. The Woodland Trust is to be approached for advice, and a possible source of the young trees.

Photographic Competition: Earn money for your self and the Community Centre! Details elsewhere in the magazine. Beautiful sunset photos posted on our Facebook sites come to mind ...

Annual Report: By the time this magazine has come through your door, you will have received a copy of the Parish Council Annual Report, which helps us keep in touch with what is happening at the PC level in Christchurch.

Just before the meeting closed, Cllr James Hughes brought to everyone's attention the fact that part of the verge along the 16ft has completely disappeared! This very dangerous (but thankfully short) section of the road is almost opposite The Old Wheatsheaf...

And then, everyone wished everyone else a Happy Christmas! Well – let's hope it is a SAFE one!

New Year's Pet Resolutions

The new year marks an opportunity for change, and not just for humans! Early January is the perfect time to fulfill our promises to our pets. Here are a few New Year's pet resolutions to make sure that 2019 is a fantastic year!

DEVOTE MORE TIME TO PLAYING

A great (and fun) New Year's pet resolution is making time to play with your furry friend! Playing with your cat or dog is an excellent way to bond. Cats love the thrill of chasing laser toys and pouncing on bounce toys. For their part, dogs love running after frisbees and playing tug of war! Plus, increasing play time with your pets has the benefit of keeping them active! Playing can be a great form of physical exercise for both cats and dogs. So, try to incorporate at least an hour of playtime into each day to make sure your pet is entertained and getting enough exercise.

ALWAYS MEASURE OUT THEIR FOOD

According to the [Association for Pet Obesity Prevention](#), roughly 56 percent of dogs and 60 percent of cats in the United States are overweight or obese. Excessive weight gain in pets can cause many health problems such as heart disease and decreased life expectancy. Often, we overfeed when we “eyeball” the amount of food we give. To combat this, a good New Year's pet resolution is to measure out the amount of food you give your pet. This will ensure that your pet is getting the correct amount of calories.

PRACTICE GOOD DENTAL HYGIENE

Speaking of keeping your pet healthy, a great New Year's pet resolution is to maintain an oral hygiene schedule. Like humans, pets need their teeth brushed between professional cleanings. You can improve the length and quality of your pet's life with good dental hygiene. For this reason, be sure to take your pets to their vet for an annual cleaning this year.

BE CONSISTENT WITH GROOMING

Regular grooming is essential for a healthy and happy pet. Pets love the attention, which makes it an excellent way to strengthen your bond. Additionally, regular brushing brings excessive fur, dirt, and oil away from the skin. This feels amazing for your pet! Above all, daily grooming prevents matting, which can cause pain and infection. A consistent grooming schedule will help your pet feel (and look) their best.

AND THE MOST IMPORTANT NEW YEAR'S PET RESOLUTION...

Love your pet! Take the time to give your dog or cat the love that they need. Pets spend their lives entirely devoted to their owners. We are their world! So, do something kind for your pet. This could mean getting them a new toy, buying their favorite treat, or even just giving them some extra cuddles. Our pets certainly deserve it. Want to adopt a dog or cat?

Visit getyourpet.com to browse adoptable pets near you.



TOWNLEY SCHOOL AND PRE-SCHOOL

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

Facebook—Townley School
and Pre-School



December 2019

We would like to wish all pupils, staff, families and members of the community a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

Recycling Station

Please remember that the Christchurch Eco recycling stations can still be accessed during the school holidays by going to the back of school through the car park.

Sleeps 'til Santa

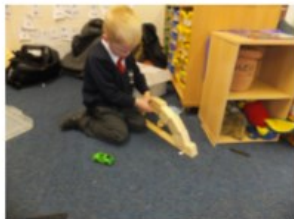
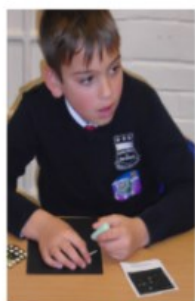
We hope you all got to listen to the children singing "Sleeps 'til Santa" on BBC Radio Cambridgeshire this week. A big Thank You to Chris Pace who organised this for us.

Thank you!

Once again our amazing community has blown us away! We have received a staggering £1600 of sponsorship money for new books from local companies and Usborne books. The children will benefit very much from having these additional resources to aid their learning.

Curriculum Corner

On Thursday 12th December, the whole school took part in a STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Maths) workshop. This was funded by funding from the Opportunity Area and enabled all children to have access to STEM activities, including nursery! In January we are very excited to be starting a Powerful Words project, led by Mrs Greening. This project aims to develop children's vocabulary and language, we look forward to bringing you more details soon.



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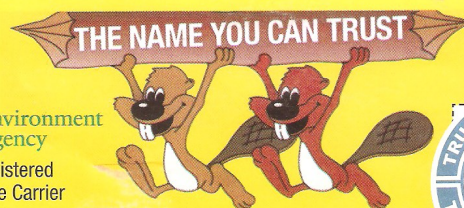
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Church News

*We wish everyone a
Very Happy,
Healthy and Peaceful
2020.*



What a great Christmas Tree Festival we had during Advent! Churches are buildings that really need big stuff to make them look great during the Festive Season. And the Christmas Trees did exactly that. Well done to Helen Chappell and Karen Beers for the idea, and the work done to get it all to function. **THANK YOU** to them, and to all those who took part. It was a good job it wasn't a competition, as it would have been impossible to choose between them. Sadly, "all good things come to an end", and **Friday January 3rd** is the date when we need to take the trees down. The Church will be open for this from **1pm - 4pm**. **Anyone who needs a different time, please get in touch with Helen on 07702-225-259, and you can work something out together.

Did you know that **Sunday January 5th is PLOUGH SUNDAY?** If you are interested, get over to **St James' Wimblington for 11.15 am**. Everyone is welcome to join all those who work on the land. The usual "Blessing of the plough" will happen whilst everyone stands round an actual plough.

At St Nicholas Church, Manea on Sunday January 15th at 6pm there will be a SERVICE OF 9 READINGS AND CAROLS, with Manea Silver Band. This will be followed by the chance to have mince pies and Sherry! All welcome.

Don't forget - our own Church is open on Fridays 2pm-3pm for Coffee, Tea, Cake and Chat.



Lunch Break Dates for January IT'S FREE !



**We always meet on the
second and fourth
Wednesdays in the month.
This month
January 8th & 22nd
12 noon until 2.00pm in our
Community Centre.**

**Bring your own lunch. Hot
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make new ones.**



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Christchurch Resident's Association	01354 638990
Churchwarden - Mrs. D. Symons	01354 638352
Citizens' Advice Bureau, Wisbech	01945 464367
Community Car Scheme (to book a journey)	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
Parish Clerk - David Gibbs	07932 191050
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
Telephone Complaints	0345 145000
Townley School	01354 638229
Trading Standards	845040506
Train Information	08457 484950
Upwell Health Centre (and out of hours)	01945 773671
Upwell Health Centre - Pharmacy	01945 774934
Veterinary Centre - The Crossings (D'Mkt)	01366 382219
Vicars - Ian & Lynda Brady	01354 740627
Water Emergencies	08457 145145

Club Contacts

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

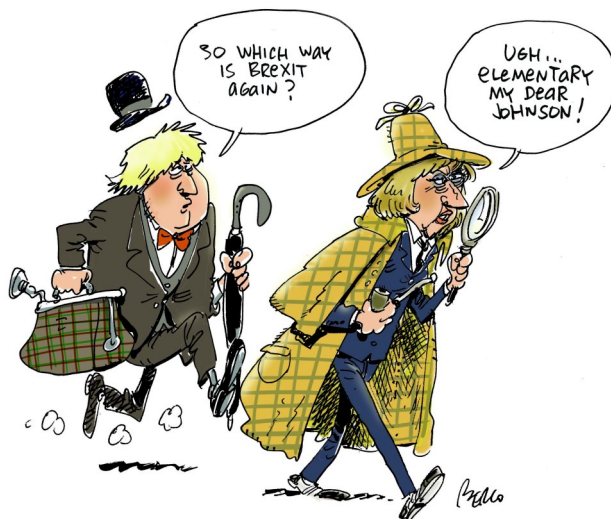
Web links in the Heron are active when viewed in our online version www.theheron.info

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!...

So! 2020 is upon us and still no Brexit! Somewhat unbelievable election result! But I guess that means that the majority of us still want OUT! One wonders what 2020 will bring though? More austerity, or perhaps some economic improvements? Who knows? I'm sure Boris can't be sure himself!



And what of our poor old NHS!? I think we are very lucky having Upwell Health Centre. They may not be perfect, but who is! On the whole I think they are very efficient and caring. Above all they listen and are helpful. So don't knock it. Many other village areas are not so lucky! I have to say, however, that due to my own experiences, I have little faith in Kings Lynn Hospital, mainly due to poor admin. On the other hand, Hinchingsbrooke, despite some poor press, I would put on a par with Papworth! They have always been magnificent as far as I'm concerned!



We don't want to lose our NHS DO WE!? Best wishes and good luck for the future in 2020! - Ed'.

(Retired)

New Year Recipes

Stuffed Figs with Stilton and Parma Ham with Apple and Beetroot Salsa

Sweet, cheesy, meaty New Years nibbles or Christmas starter. Choose figs that aren't too ripe so that they don't collapse in the oven.

Ingredients

8 medium to large [figs](#)
40-50g/1½-1¾oz [Stilton](#) cheese
8 slices Parma [ham](#)
2 tsp [honey](#)
a few [thyme](#) leaves
1 tsp [olive oil](#)
salt and freshly ground [black pepper](#)

For the salsa

200g/7oz cooked [beetroot](#), finely diced
1 eating [apple](#), peeled and grated
½ small [red onion](#), very finely chopped
a few [thyme](#) leaves
a few [tarragon](#) leaves, very finely chopped
2 tbsp [walnut oil](#)
1 tbsp cider [vinegar](#)
25g/1oz [walnuts](#), chopped (optional)

Method

1. Preheat the oven to 200C/180C fan. Trim the top stem of each fig and make a cross almost to the base. Squeeze figs from the base so the tips splay out. **2.** Mash the stilton and divide it between the figs (a teaspoon in each approx.) and push down into the centre. Wrap each fig in Parma ham about two thirds up leaving the tips and cheese exposed.



Bang, Bang Turkey from page 22

- 3.** Place in a small baking dish and drizzle with the honey, thyme leaves, and olive oil. Season with pepper but not salt. Bake in the oven for about 10-15 minutes until cheese has melted and ham just browned.
- 4.** For the salsa, put the beetroot, apple, onion, and herbs in a bowl. Season well with salt and pepper. Whisk the oil and vinegar together, pour over the salsa and stir to combine. Sprinkle with crushed walnuts (optional).
- 5.** Serve the salsa with the stuffed figs.



Stuffed figs with Stilton and Parma ham

New Year Recipes

(Continued)

Chestnut & Chocolate Roulade with Christmas Parfait

Parfait Ingredients

200g/7oz [raisins](#)
1 large [orange](#), finely grated zest and juice
75ml/2½fl oz spiced [rum](#)
1 tsp ground [allspice](#)
½ tsp freshly grated [nutmeg](#)
1 tsp ground [cinnamon](#)
¼ tsp ground [cloves](#)
125g/4½oz dark brown soft sugar
4 large free-range [eggs](#), separated
600ml/21fl oz [double cream](#)

Method

1. Line a large loaf tin with clingfilm.
2. Place the raisins, orange zest and juice, rum, and spices into a saucepan over a high heat, bring to the boil then simmer until the raisins are plump and most of the liquid has been absorbed. Set aside to cool.
3. Meanwhile, beat the sugar and egg yolks together in a large bowl until fluffy and firm.
4. In a separate bowl whisk the cream to soft peaks and stir into the egg and sugar mixture with the raisins and any remaining poaching liquid once cool.
5. In a clean bowl whisk the egg whites to soft peaks. Gently fold into the cream and raisin mixture, one spoon at a time.
6. Pour the mixture into the lined loaf tin, smooth with the back of a spoon and wrap with cling film. Freeze for 45 minutes, then whisk to evenly distribute the raisins. Rewrap and return to the freezer for several hours. Cut into slices and serve.



For the Roulade softened [butter](#), for greasing

6 large free-range [eggs](#), separated

150g/5½oz [caster sugar](#)

50g/1¾oz [cocoa powder](#)

For the filling

150g/5½oz plain [dark chocolate](#), broken into squares

300ml/10fl oz [double cream](#)

200g/7oz [chestnut purée](#)

40g/1½oz [caster sugar](#)

For the topping

50g/1¾oz plain [dark chocolate](#), broken into squares

50g/1¾oz [white chocolate](#), broken into squares

1 tsp [icing sugar](#)

Method

1. Preheat oven to 180C/160C fan. Line a swiss roll tin with parchment, grease and set aside. Put the egg yolks and sugar into a large bowl and whisk until thick and creamy.
2. Sift the cocoa powder over the egg mixture and whisk thoroughly. Wash and dry the beaters.
3. Whisk the egg whites in a clean bowl until stiff but not dry. Fold a third of the egg whites into the cocoa mixture, then gently fold in the rest until evenly distributed. Then pour into the prepared tin and spread evenly, gently, with a spatula.
4. Bake in the centre of the oven for 20-25mins, until just risen and beginning to shrink away from the sides. Remove from the oven and loosen the edges with a round bladed spatula. Stand for a few minutes till just warm.
5. To make the filling, melt chocolate with 150ml of cream in a non-stick pan, on low heat, stirring occasionally till smooth.
6. Put the chestnut puree in a food processor with the sugar and slowly add the melted chocolate and cream blend, with the motor running, until light. Trim the edges of the sponge and gently spread with the mixture. Whip the rest of the cream to soft peaks, then spread it over the chestnut and chocolate filling. Drizzle with melted chocolate and serve once cool.

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.