

The Heron

Community Magazine

June 2019

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

No. 62

Gardening Club

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Editorial Team:

Website:

www.theheron.info

Richard Guilford – Editor

Enquiries: editor@theheron.info / 01354 638990

Linda Webster – Treasurer & Ad. Manager

adverts@theheron.info / 01354 638124

Support - Hazel Crawford, Derek Randall-Hall, Lewis Bennett, Annie Nason, Sandra Kay & Team



Christchurch Gardening Club ~ 20 years and Counting!



Lunchtime, Sunday May 5th, 2019 the members of the gardening club, suitably scrubbed up and dressed to impress, arrived for a celebratory lunch at the Crown Hotel in Upwell. This was an occasion to celebrate the club's formation back in 1999 a full twenty years ago. Although personally I had yet to find Christchurch on the map, or even be thinking of a move to this area, I imagine village life has changed considerably since.

It all began when the then editor of the Heron put out a survey to ask the residents, what they would like to see happen in their village. I have it on good authority that the overwhelming response was for the formation of a gardening Club. Village resident Alison Small took up the challenge and so together with some like-minded individuals a committee was formed which included as President Anna Horton, Chair Les Mills, with Alison Small secretary and Tracy Day as treasurer. Peggy Warby and Tracy Day have been there since day one and are still active and valued committee members.

In the early days the meetings were quite formal or, so I am led to believe, however times change and the meetings in 2019 are less formalised and more sociable, with an everchanging list of excellent speakers, keeping the members entertained and informed about all things horticultural.



Most of the years landmark occasions still feature in the program, such as our annual Buffet and the evergreen Fish and Chip supper.



Throughout the year's members move away and life takes its toll on all of us, committee members change, and new members join. For many years the clubs Chairperson was Bubbles Whiting who with her vast knowledge of all things garden, helped keep things on an even keel. Wendy and David Yates also ran the club for some considerable time during Bubbles recovery from a coach accident in Austria.

The club was the first port of call for Marion when we first moved into the area with me joining a little later. Marion has been club secretary for several years, and I became Chairman when Bubbles stood down. So that's a potted history of the club, long may it continue. May I just thank all the members as well as our hardworking committee for their continued support. Here's to the next Twenty Years!

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Community Information Boot's Bridge Open at last! We are

Mobile Library: First Tuesday each month in the lay-by Upwell Road - 12:15 - 12:45pm. Forthcoming dates are: June 4th, July 7th, Aug ^{4th} and

Mobile Post Office:

Visits Mon to Thu 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

Community Car Scheme:

The Community Car Scheme requires a new voluntary driver. Please contact Jill on 07981 262818. The scheme can be used by anyone who either does not have their own transport or who would like someone to take them for medical or appointments, shopping trips, or social journeys or visits. Transport is door to door and passengers make a small contribution towards the cost. For more information or to book a journey please contact Jill on 07981 62818.

Defibrillators - We are fortunate to have two of these machines in Christchurch. One is located on the side of Townley School Dining Hall, facing the Car Park, in Crown Road; the other is on the front of the Community Centre in Upwell Road.

Parish Council Vacancy

Following the recent election for members of Christchurch Parish Council, a vacancy has arisen in the office of Councillor. This vacancy is for a fouryear term of office until May 2023 and will be filled by co-option at the June meeting of the Parish Council.

If you are a resident of the Parish and would like to play a part in maintaining local amenities and improving the lives of local people, please contact the Clerk, Dave Gibbs, on 01945 870083 to discuss the role.

Many thanks

Dave Gilles

Dave Gibbs

Clerk to Christchurch Parish Council

01945 870083

07932 191050

clerk@christchurchparishcouncil.org.uk

www.christchurchparishcouncil.org.uk

pleased to report that the new bridge is now completed and reopened on Friday 24th May at around 5.00pm. Hoorah! Let's hope that no idiots smash into it in the near future!!!

"Charity Garage Sale" Fri 14th & Sat 15th June 10.00am till 3.00pm each day

Ladies clothes, Ladies shoes/handbags, Barbecue, Garden Furniture, Christmas Decorations. Kitchen Items, Luggage,

Plus much more...

All proceeds will be donated to Charity The Shieling, Upwell Rd., Christchurch **PE14 9LF**

EDITORIAL

Summer's here at last I think!? Shame it wasn't for the Village Plant Sale three weeks back! Blowing a bloody gale it was! So cold we didn't sell many cream teas. Too cold to sit out most of the time, though we did do a few 'takeaways'. We were worried at one stage that we were going to lose money. But we soldiered on over the three days and, with a steady trickle of customers, in the end we took £1186! Amazing! Especially considering the weather! Makes you wonder how incredible it might have been had the sun been out? So a VERY BIG THANK YOU! To all of you who braved the weather, bought plants ,and raffle tickets. We had some really great prizes this year!

The Alan Norris Big Band concert was much less well supported, despite being inside! Only about twenty people enjoyed what was a fantastic night, with the band really on form. Disappointingly we only made about £140 profit from that one. We had expected much more! However, for the two events, after deductions for costs it will still mean that we can pay £868 into The Heron's bank account! Great news!

We can look forward now to the Car Show on the 9th June, and the Summer Barbeque on Saturday 6th July. Good weather for those we hope!?

Enjoy! 'Till next time!

DIARY DATES

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

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

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

General events				
June 4 th	Mobile Library visits in Upwell Road Layby - 12.15 to 12.45pm			
June 4 th	Craft Club - Fairy Houses from old books - "6.30pm" - CCC			
June 9 th	Welle Cinema - "Stan & Ollie" - Doors open 1.30 for 2.00pm film, £3 per head - TH			
June 9 th	Christchurch Car Show 10.30am till late afternoon - Car Boot, BBQ - See back page			
June 10 th	Parish Council Meeting - 7.30pm CCC - ALL WELCOME			
June 11 th	Art Club - 1.30pm till 3.30pm - CCC			
June 11 th	W.I "But Don't You Look Indian Miss!" with Annie Nason - 7.00pm - CCC			
June 12 th	LUNCH BREAK - 12.00pm to 2.00pm - CCC - meet friends, make new ones			
June 17 th	"Friends of The Heron" AGM - 7.00pm CCC - ALL WELCOME			
June 18 th	Gardening Club - David & Lynn Whites Tropical Garden, Manea - Details 01354 638230			
June 25 th	Art Club - 1.30pm till 3.30pm - CCC			
June 25 th	Book Club - "The Love Letter" by Lucinda Riley - at Sandra's 29, Fen View - 7.30pm			
June 26 th	LUNCH BREAK - 12.00pm to 2.00pm - CCC - meet friends, make new ones			
June 30 th	Jazz Club - Digby Fairweather, Len Skeet, & friends - 12.30 till 2.45pm - £6.50 CCC - p 7			

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Darish	Church Se	ruices				
<u>r arisir</u>	Charch 30	<u> </u>				
June 2 nd	11.00am	A Day	All Age Worship			
June 9 th	9.30am	Rev'd S Tooke	Holy Communion			
June 16 th	6.30pm	V Smith	Evening Prayer			
June 23 rd	11.00am	A Day	Morning Prayer			
June 30 th	11.00am	Revs S & SE Tooke	United Service at BENWICK			
Every Friday 2.00 - 3.00pm Coffee, Cake and Chat in the Church building Daphne and Andrew						
A BIG THANK YOU to all those who helped prepare and serve the Christian Aid Breakfast on 12th May.THANKS SO MUCH!						

PLEASE NOTE — The Heron May Deadline

*The deadline for all **copy** for **July's** edition of The Heron is **25**th **june.** * However, due to the amount of copy we are getting, leave it till then we may not have space. So -

AS EARLY AS YOU CAN PLEASE!

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

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

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

Letters to the Editor



Hi Richard!

I am sorry to report that vandalism has reared its ugly head in the village again!

The culpritsclimbed over the fence into the Bowling Green and played with and damaged equipment. They also used the hose to fill our new rubbish container with water.

It's a great shame that this mindless vandalism occurs. People in this village give freely of their time to help m,ake Christchurch a lovely place for all of us to live in and enjoy. This kind of behaviour is a slap in the face for those that work tirelessly for the benefit of all Christchurch residents.

Peter Owen - Parish Council Chairman

Absolutely no excuses for such idiocy! There is already a skatepark and other equipment to help keep the youth amused. Might the provision of a Youth Club al so help? Any volunteers? - Ed'.



Could this be a reason why Morrisons have changed their catchphrase? "More reasons to shop at Morrisons!"

Stonea railway bridge was labelled the country's second most bashed bridge by Network Rail when it launched a campaign urging drivers to 'Size up, Wise up' to prevent crashes last October. At that time the bridge on the Peterborough to Cambridge line had been hit 15 times in 10 months.

Louise Stephenson who lives close to the Stonea bridge said Sunday's incident which involved a Morrison's supermarket delivery van was one of the worst to date.



Residents living close to the underpass bridge opposite The Golden Lion are calling for action following this latest accident on Sunday.

Louise Stephenson who lives close to the Stonea bridge said that Sunday's incident involving a Morrison's supermarket delivery van was one of the worst to date, with the van body being ripped completely off the vehicle chassis in the accident. She said: "There was an almighty crash and everyone who lives near the bridge rushed out to see what had happened. The delivery van had completely lost its top and all the grocery orders were strewn across the road. It is a miracle the driver wasn't hurt. He was visibly shaking after the crash. I really think something needs to be done to stop these crashes. There are not enough warning signs, if you go to the bridge at Ely which used to get hit all the time there are loads of signs warning about the low height."







Everyone is invited to the

Christchurch Summer Barbeque

SATURDAY 6th JULY 2019

CHRISTCHURCH COMMUNITY CENTRE

Doors open 5 pm – Food served from 6 pm Good food, games, a bar and great company! Come and chill with friends & neighbours.

Tickets: Adults £10 Child (Under16) £5 Under 5's Free!

Family Ticket: (2 x Adults 2 x Children) £25

For Tickets please call either:

Ruth Ingram 01354 638419 or Elaine Reed-Hughes 01354 638310.

(Tickets also available from the Monday Coffee Shop at the Community Centre).

Please purchase tickets before the night so that we can cater without waste! Limited tickets available! Book now!

All proceeds to go towards the Parish Lunch



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



Sunday 9th JUNE 2019, 2pm: STAN & OLLIE_{(PG) 98 mins}

Laurel and Hardy -- the world's greatest comedy team -- face an uncertain future as their golden era of Hollywood films remain long behind them. Diminished by age, the duo set out to reconnect with their adoring fans by touring variety halls in Britain in 1953. The shows become an instant hit, but Stan and Ollie can't quite shake the past as long -buried tension and Hardy's failing health start to threaten their precious partnership.

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



German Shepherd Rescue Elite



All my adult life I have had German Shepherds, they are fabulous intelligent dogs, they give so much and expect very little in return.

Two years ago I lost my boy to a tumour on his leg, he would have been 11 years old on his next birthday and I had him from an 8 week old puppy, and to say I was devastated is an understatement, my house felt empty and quiet and he left a very

big gap in my life.

I was persuaded to look at rescue centres. I looked on a website that was German Shepherd Rescue Elite and saw this message from one of their volunteers and it said "can someone give this old boy a home, he is nearly 10 years old, he has come from a bad background, he has bad hips and is on medication, he has been in kennels for nearly a year, he does not get along with other dogs, please can someone give him a home"

That was enough for me. I completed a very long questionaire, the charity sent two of their volunteers to check my home was suitable. My family were very against it because of his age and I would have to go through this heartache again so soon, but I could not leave him there. I felt that I needed him as much as he needed me.

My daughter drove me over to Boston and that was it. I took him straight to my vet for a check up and he was 6kg underweight - he isn't now, but a lot of dogs don't eat After more than two years of campaigning, Finn's Law when they are in kennels. The volunteers came over to see us 6 weeks later to check everything was okay and said if I could get him through the next 3 months of the winter they would be very grateful, as he was quite poorly, they also said that if he had spent another winter in kennels they think he would have died there.

later, yes we have had health issues along the way which been very busy indeed spreading the word about we have solved, I have the best Vet ever, he is on medication for his legs which will get worse with time, but he is happy, he is eating, loves to sunbathe and so we are two oldies together.

This charity is run completely by volunteers, no one gets paid, they are very honest about the dogs they re-home i.e. if they are good with children or other dogs or any problems they may have, and they try very hard to

match the right people to the right dogs. When I first met the volunteers I did say that I wondered if I would be too old to adopt and they said if I had asked for a young dog they would have said no, which proved to me that the welfare of the dog is their first priority. They rent kennel space all round the country, they are always looking for people who can foster dogs that cannot cope with kennels. These people spend every spare minute they have looking after these dogs and they all have full time jobs. I have seen how much this charity care (they were taking my dog for swimming lessons to try and strengthen his leas before he came to me) so I have joined Facebook to sell plants to raise funds and my webpage is linked to theirs so I see the dogs coming in and the things that have happened to them.

Yvonne Major

Fabulous Finn ~ Patron of GSRE

On the night of 5th October 2016 whilst tracking down a fleeing criminal Finn was stabbed repeatedly in the chest and head, potentially saving his handlers life he was now fighting for his own. Finn underwent 4 hours of life saving surgery and 11 weeks of recovery before miraculously returning to active duty ahead of his planned retirement in March 2017.



You may be surprised to learn that there was actually no law in this country to protect service animals against such attacks as this one, but since this horrendous attack Finn, his family and an ever growing army of supporters, tirelessly campaigned to get this law changed.

became a reality in April 2019 as The Animal Welfare (Service Animals) Act 2019, which makes it an offence to harm service animals, was given Royal approval by The Queen. The first reading was held on the 13th June 2017 and Royal Assent was given on the 8th April 2019. The Act will come into force in June 2019.

Instead of 3 months we thought, I still have him 18 months Since his retirement in 2017 this gorgeous boy has Finn's Law and also becoming possibly the most decorated police dog of his time. During his service he received numerous police commendations, he scooped all the awards at the Regional dog trials 2 days before he retired. He has over 300 arrests to his name, he has recovered thousands of pounds worth of stolen goods and has also found in excess of 40 vulnerable people!

He has received the PDSA Gold medal for Bravery 2018, IFAW – Hero Animal award 2017, The Daily Mirror Animal Hero Awards – Hero Animal of the year 2017, Woofstock 2017 – Hero Animal Award, Finn has been to the House of Lords, Westminster, Holyrood House, Crufts. He has shared the sofa with This Morning's Phil and Holly, the BBC and LBC. He also recently took part in the Memorial service for Animals in War. And to top it off, In March 2019, Finn and Dave won Friends for Life 2019 at Crufts, also winning £5,000 for his chosen charity! A very special, and very emotional day for us all! WOW! In our opinion what better Patron could there be for a German Shepherd Rescue than.....a German Shepherd, and let's be honest, the Fabulous Finn ticks all the boxes and more. We could not be more proud!

You can also follow our Finn on:

Facebook or Twitter



Check out Finn's story on our website gsrelite.co.uk and if you're thinking about rehoming a German Shepard......

German Shepherd Rescue & Rehoming

German Shepherd Rescue Elite (GSRE) has been formed with the aim of rescuing, re-homing German Shepherd Dogs (GSD's) and educating people on the breed. GSRE is backed up by a team of unpaid volunteers who strive to aid and promote responsible ownership of the breed.

GSRE's aim is to be the prevention and not always the cure, through offering education on the lovely breed and how to look after these amazingly intelligent and energetic dogs. We not only look to re-home dogs but keep them in their original homes by offering training and behaviour advice.

Through our volunteers and website we want to inform people on all aspects of dog ownership before you decide to take the plunge especially as German Shepherd Dogs are a large working breed and are not suitable for everyone.

More recently GSRE have also been helping the Belgian Shepherd Malinois (Mali's) breed who have started finding themselves in rescue, and as the other main working breed used by the police and armed forces, we feel we are better placed than many rescues to understand their needs.

GSRE is a registered charity that works alongside many other reputable rescues which means that through team work and pulling together we can help even more dogs in need. To assist in this we are now a Full Member of the Association of Dogs and Cats Homes (ADCH) who promote best practice in animal welfare, and a member of the EU Dog and Cat Alliance who call for EU action to build a better Europe for dogs and cats.

We are a proactive charity with a common goal; the welfare of animals.



Pop-Up Café & Coffee Shop

Pop along and have breakfast with us!

We are now offering a
Full English Breakfast
plus sausage, bacon, and/or egg rolls,
using homemade produce,
and locally sourced, free range
meat and eggs where possible.

EVERY MONDAY MORNING

9.00am - till - 11.30am

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

All Welcome!
We look forward to seeing you!

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





ARE HOLDING A CHARITY RACE NIGHT AT MARCH BRAZA CLUB & WOULD LIKE AS MANY OF YOU AS POSSIBLE TO JOIN US FOR LOTS OF FUN & LAUGHTER

WE ARE RAISING FUNDS TO PROVIDE COMMUNITY TRANSPORT SERVICES & BEFREINDING CLUBS FOR OUR REGIONS

ADMISSION - £5 PER PERSON

PLACES ARE LIMITED TO 80 SO BOOK EARLY TO JOIN IN THE FUN TICKETS CAN BE PURCHASED BY RINGING 01354 661234 OR EMAIL AMY@COTRANSPORT.ORG

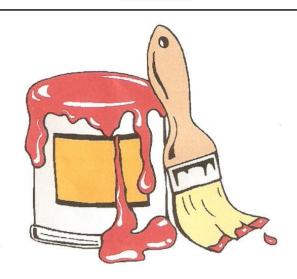
WE WILL BE PROVIDING FREE TRANSPORT FOR OUR MEMBERS SO RESERVE YOUR SEAT WHEN PURCHASING YOUR TICKET

SATURDAY 8TH JUNE 2019 FROM 7PM

PRIZES TO RACE WINNERS



MARCH BRAZA CLUB ELM ROAD MARCH PE15 8NZ



S & H Painters and Decorators

Tel: 01354 638124

Mob: 07905145680

Steven Horne

Christchurch, Cambridgeshire

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Simon Freeland Hill Farm, 3 Church Road, Christchurch, PE14 9PQ

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GRANARY STUDIO
Christchurch

Contemporary pictures and bespoke framing

The Granary, Hall Farm, Upwell Road Christchurch Cambs PE14 9LJ 01354 638614 Peggy opened the meeting and welcomed everyone. Apologies were received from Tracy, Belinda, Annie, Wendy, Sylvia W and



Tonight's competition was A Limerick – The Maypole and Peggy announced the points as follows:

Sheila - 5 Elaine - 5 Sue N - 5 Ann - 4 Margaret S - 4 Annie - 4

Beryl read out the Resolutions and discussions and votes were collected ready for inclusion at the Annual Meeting:

Call Against the Decline of Local Bus Services – Majority "FOR"

Don't Fear the Smear – Majority "FOR" but agreed to leave the Christchurch vote to our delegate for the final decision on the day, after more details had been heard.

There then followed a Chocolate Tasting. Elaine handed around 10 samples of different types of chocolate for identification and rating. All seemed to enjoy the experience with some unusual samples being tried – Almond and Orange, Raspberry, Coconut and Cornflake and a really rather bitter 81% Cocoa Ecuadorian Dark Chocolate – which was an acquired taste! There was no time for games.

June Meeting:

Annie Nason – 'But you don't look Indian Miss'

Competition - Design a Henna Tattoo

Refreshments - Sylvia Mc & Tracy

Raffle Prizes - Ann, Wendy, Tracy, Annie

We meet on the second Tuesday of every month, at the Community Centre, and are always looking for new members. We have some very exciting things already planned this year:

(a games evening, demonstrations on acupuncture, yoga, needle-felting and a cookery demonstration by Richard Hughes later on in the year - details to follow later) and our members have expressed an interest in doing some other fun things, which we also hope to achieve throughout the year, to include: Picnic in the Park with Games, Cheese & Wine Get Together, 3 mile walk with pub lunch, Cinema, 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.

Mr PICKWICK COMES TO CHRISTCHURCH



When attending a monthly gardening club meeting, perhaps the last thing on one's mind would be Mr Pickwick or the Pickwick Papers. But, that is exactly what happened at the Community Centre last Tuesday 21st May when Mike Petty came to give a talk. Many years ago while researching Norfolk and Cambridgeshire; Mike came across an old poster advertising a visit to the city of Cambridge by author Charles Dickens. This would have been around 1838 the height of the Pickwick papers popularity. This in turn led Mr Petty into wondering what Mr Pickwick would have seen, had he toured the area at that time. As the jump off point for his talk, it was an original and fascinating concept. Over the course of an hour, with the aid of slides, Mike led the audience through a tour of Norfolk and Cambridgeshire in that dark period of workhouses, food shortages and the establishment of the large farms and disenfranchisement of the working people. Swaying slightly on the spot, eyes closed Mike brought to life those times, enacting conversations between protagonists, adopting the syntax and thick Norfolk accent of that period in our history.

The riots at Littleport, he intoned, the soldiers coming from Bury St Edmunds and rounding up the villagers, carting them off to Ely where the judge placed a black cap on his head and sentenced them to be hanged, which they duly were. The Judge whose name was Christian, had a brother named Fletcher, who, at that moment was carrying out his own mutiny on the Bounty!

He explained how Manea was first established as a kind of 19th century hippy commune. I could fill the Heron with the amount of information imparted in that sixty minute talk. But safe to say I believe this was one of the best talks we have witnessed at the gardening club.

Once each year the club spends an evening out, at a garden or somewhere garden related.

This year on the 18th June, the club will visit David and Lynn Whites Tropical Garden in of all places, Manea. I know that perhaps we don't associate Manea with the tropics so it should be another interesting evening.

Don't forget all the clubs activities are open to members and non-members alike, so if you would like to give us a try or come along to one of our meetings please do. For more information or to become a member call 01354 638 230

Christchurch Art Group

We meet in the New Village Hall on the 2^{nd} and 4^{th} Tuesday of the month 1.30 - 3.30

We started back after Easter on 23rd April. Once again we have a varied term's programme planned covering different painting media and subjects. Last month we reviewed composition again, and more recently had another session on Acrylics.

Our group is friendly and relaxed. We are all enjoying the sessions and have recently welcomed some new members. We look forward to any more new members giving art a try.

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



This term as we have a few new members we no longer require the termly joining fee to cover costs.

Our attendance fee is £5 a session.
Once again this will be

reviewed from time to time depending on numbers attending.

We welcome any new members, no need for previous experience. We all work at our own level, 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)

Jan Clifford





month we will be making Fairy Houses from old books using folding techniques. Please bring along an old paperback book and any odds and ends you may have to decorate the houses, such as ribbons, flowers, jewels etc and remember we are going to start at 6.30 as we need a bit more time for this project. We'd love to welcome new members to Craft Club, so, if you're new to the village (or even if you're not), please come along and join us. Don't feel you

have to be great at crafting. We're a group of all ages and abilities who enjoy having a go at different crafts.

Our next meeting is Tuesday 4th June at 6.30 (usually 7.00). Contact Sandra 01354 638956



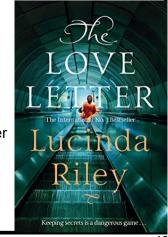
Christchurch Book Club

Book club met on 28th May. We had been reading "Brave New World" by Aldous Huxley. As usual there were mixed reactions. Some did not enjoy it at all, while others found it a gripping, if rather disturbing, read. This is a dystopian novel, about a future where babies are bred in incubation plants, conditioned for particular jobs and everyone is encouraged to throw away and consume as much as possible; unhappiness being banished with the drug "soma". One character, John Savage, is raised outside the "Brave New World" and brought into it with disturbing consequences.

Our next meeting will be on Tuesday 25th June, 7.30pm at Sandra's, 29 Fen View. We shall be discussing "The Love Letter" by Lucinda Riley. 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.



Cambridgeshire Fire & Rescue Service

SUMMER FIRE SAFETY

As the weather brightens up and the sunshine starts brightening our weeks, we welcome the longer, brighter nights, and the opportunity to enjoy summer days and nights in the garden with barbeques etc.

When powering up your BBQ's and putting out the garden furniture for the summer season, be sure to take note of our top tips below to ensure you have a fun and safe summer in the garden.

- If cooking outdoors, always check BBQ's over after winter storage. Keep them on level ground and ensure they are sited away from sheds, fences, overhanging foliage, and property.
 - Keep children and garden games well away from the cooking area, and never leave the barbeque unattended.
 - If you have a bonfire, even in a fire-pit have it away from buildings, tents or other flammable objects in case of a flare-up, band make sure it is properly out when you finish.
- When out in the countryside, extinguish cigarettes properly and dispose of them responsibly. Never throw a lit cigarette into a field or wooded area. Extinguish all fires.
 - Don't forget to stay safe around our county's waterways, and if you see someone in trouble in the water
 call 999 immediately with clear details of your location.
 - When out camping or using a tent, never use candles or naked flames inside or anywhere nearby, and always discourage smoking nearby. Never cook inside a tent!

For the latest news, incidents, and safety advice, or to contact us, log onto www.cambsfire.gov.uk Sign up to email alerts and find us on Twitter, Instagram, YouTube and Facebook, or call 01480 444500

FAVOURITE BIBLE VERSE

It's my turn to share my favourite Bible verse ... one of many, I have to say.

It shows me that God's ways will lead to peace in our lives. His 'plans' are about love, justice, respect, honesty, kindness....

Jeremiah 29:11

For I know the plans I have for you,' declares the LORD, 'plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future.

Annie Nason.



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Parish Council Snippets

Aggggh!! So sorry but I was ill so couldn't attend the meeting. My apologies. The Parish Council web site will have the Draft Minutes up soon, though.

I would just like to say CONGRATULATIONS to Kay Miller on her first meeting in office as a Parish Councillor. Whilst I am in congratulatory mood, also CONGRATULATIONS to Will Sutton for yet again being voted on to the Fenland District Council.

All the best to you both.

Annie Nason



LUNCH BREAK DATES

JUNE-12th& 26th (2nd & 4th Weds)

BYO lunch and meet up with friends. Arrive any time between 12 and 2pm at Christchurch Community Centre. Everyone welcome ...all ages!



In May, we had a visit from an Age UK representative, Ms Karen Watson, who explained how older people can access information they

need, and get help in many ways...filling in forms, understanding legislation, receiving benefits.... Age UK also provides companion-type services, such as regular visits to lonely old folks, or regular 'phone calls just to check on how folks are. Karen is the person who oversees the FENS area.

If you would like to know more, call them on 0300 666 **9860**. or email them on

infoandadvice@ageukcap.org.uk Mention Karen's name and she will call you back as soon as she can. Or just speak to the person at the end of the line (as it is an 0300 number).



What's the BUZZ?

"I am pleased to report that my beekeeping friend Richard has received several callouts following last months article. We are really grateful that you took note and are really trying to do something to help us poor bees.



Our bumblebee friends also need to be protected and cared for. Several of Richard's visits were to small colonies of White Tailed Bumblebee (Bombus Lucorum). They often like to colonise small bird boxes or the eaves of

buildings. There are never more than about one hundred in a colony and they will all die out by September. They are a particularly docile species and are unlikely to present any problems or threat, so are best left to their own devices.

BUMBLEBEE SPECIES OF BRITAIN



WHITE - TAILED BUMBLE BEE BOMBUS LUCORUM





COMMON CARDER BEE ROMBUS PASCUORUM



ROMBUS TERRESTRIS





Sadly, some brothers and sisters of ours had unwisely decided to colonise a flt roof space via a gap under the gutter board. Short of ripping up the roof to extract

them you would need to telephone FDC re having an exterminator visit to deal with them. No one would be



expected to destroy their property to save a colony but where you can, if you see a swarm, please let Richard know on 01354 638990 and he will come out to you and hopefully be able to save the colony and remove them safely."



The Newbie Blog



When I moved here in November 2017, I hadn't realised that we are regularly "flown over" by the huge Bombers from the Air Force bases in East

Anglia. What an amazing sound they make! I absolutely love it. The noise is so loud that you can actually feel it through the ground and in the air.

I have history of living under aeroplane flightpaths. When I left school, I attended a Teacher Training College in Twickenham. This was in the 1960s. Our college was directly under the flightpath from Heathrow Airport. I suppose there were not as many aeroplanes flying then as there must be now, but they were very noisy. I think I remember the Boeing 707s being the worst. That had a scream that might have split your ears! I believe modern jets make far less noise. My room in a Hall of Residence one year was on the first floor. In the daytime, you could see the 'planes flying low with their feet down – wheels ready to land -and at night, their headlights would light up the windows, much as the lights of a car might do from the road.

From there I moved to Old Windsor to take up a teaching post in their Primary School. Hey-ho ...same flightpath ... but there we had to stop teaching every few minutes, as we simply couldn't make ourselves heard; nor could we hear the children. I used the BBC 'Music in Schools' radio programmes, and decided that I would record them (cassettes!!) rather than listen to them live, as at least you could pause them for a minute or two, when the noise was bad, rather than miss the (usually vital) bit.

To get back to our personal fly past days...they set me thinking. Whilst I love to

nightmares.

look at the sky when the bombers are overhead, I can only imagine what people in war zones must feel when they hear these hefty aircraft approaching. Terrified probably doesn't cut it. Whatever the rights and wrongs of any situation, let us take some time out to grieve with, and for, all those men, women and children living those

** BTW Any other NEWBIE is welcome to have a go at a blog! Just get in touch with the Editor. I met some Newbies at the Plant Sale ... you know who you are) **

Vet's View

by Nick Wojciechowski

Should cats be kept indoors or roam freely: that is the question! Whether 'tis nobler to let them go out each day and night or to keep them indoors from the very start?



The majority of UK's 8 million cats population are indoor-outdoor cats, spending at least part of their day outside. These cats are often free to come and go as they please, staying outside owners supervision.

The outdoor cats enjoy more enriched environment, being able to climb, roam and explore their neighbourhood. They can also meet and interact with other cats. Unfortunately it comes at a cost. Free roaming cats are known to encounter a high number of hazards and are known to have shorter life span than their indoor kept counterparts. Outdoor cats can meet other animals, like cats, dogs, foxes, badgers and many more, what leads to risk of contracting infectious diseases (including life limiting FIP, FIV and leukaemia), wounds and injury or even death. They are also at risk of falling victim to road traffic accidents. We see a worryingly high numbers of injured outdoor cats in the emergency clinic, often with serious, life threatening or life changing injuries. Free roaming cats are also a danger to local environment and can cause significant damage to local population of birds and small mammals. The problem of fouling in gardens

can also lead to dangerous (and illegal) actions of the desperate house owners who want the cats to stay away from their property.

Indoor cats will be secure from the above dangers. Unfortunately,



indoor living can become boring and predictable, leading to stress, inactivity and obesity. House marking, damage to property, risk of diabetes are common issues encountered with indoor cats. However, with appropriate planning owners can provide good living space for their cats. They will need plenty of space to roam and play, with a lot of hiding places. Indoor cats need toys, scratching posts and a lot more time and effort from their owners. I cannot say which way is the best, but from a veterinarian point of view I am in favour of keeping cats indoors.

Crumbs from The Good Book

By our very own Church Mouse....



VERY SPECIAL THINGS

June ... STRAWBERRIES
.....ahhhh - love them. Sadly,
they don't grow in
churches, of course, and
sometimes we Church Mice
have to travel a long way
to find them. Some years
our family have never

found any at all, as the weather was against us. Last year was a good year, but even so, we see strawberries as a very special treat, and only have one or maybe two chances to taste them in a season.

Legend has it that one Church Mouse in the old days felt that strawberries were SO special, he set out a long time in advance in order to reach the strawberry patch just when the dew was on the first sweet fruit. It took him ages and he was exhausted when he came home, carrying his load. He had to avoid dangers ... owls, cats, weasels, and other animals that prey on mice; quite an arduous and dangerous journey. Quite a price pay for a strawberry. He lived to tell the tale, I am pleased to relate.

That fellow Jesus told some tales ... stories, I mean, not telling on anyone! His stories always seemed to have a hidden meaning; or not-so-very-well-hidden meaning, in some instances. See what you think the hidden meaning of this one is. It is about a very special thing of "great value".



"The Kingdom of Heaven is like a Merchant looking for fine pearls. When he found one of great value, he went away and sold everything he had, and bought the pearl".

(Mathew 13.4546)

WOW! It must have been a wonderful pearl.



"Friends of The Heron" "Liends of The Heron"

Since various staff changes at The Heron and a major change in the way that we are now funded, it came to our notice that, due to being somewhat preoccupied with the above, that we had not held a meeting of all our "friends" for sometime. We need to address this and, accordingly, are inviting all interested parties to attend the following meeting:

AGM Monday 17th June 7.30pm at

Christchurch Community Centre

All are welcome whether you are already a member or not. We need to elect officials, discuss ways of gaining future funding, ideas and changes for The Heron, pros & cons, goods and bads etc. Why not have a say in the running of your local Community Magazine? It's for YOU! So if you have an interest in the future of The Heron, any ideas, or wish to volunteer to help in some way, PLEASE COME ALONG! You will be made most welcome!



Some favourite recipes from recent events:

Shirley's Moist Fruit Cake

Following the success of our recent Village Plant Sale, at which the above proved so popular, many of you asked for the recipe. So here it is, kindly supplied by Shirley herself. It proved so popular that we sold out on Saturday and I had to ask her to make a second one which also sold out on Sunday. If you came on Monday - Sorry! - you missed out! But now at least you can make your own. Really easy apparently!

5oz margarine

5oz caster sugar

2 medium eggs

8oz self-raising flour

1tsp mixed spice

12oz mixed fruit of your choice (sultanas seem best)

290ml (1/2 pint) milk (or just under - go easy!)

8" cake tin, greased and lined with greaseproof

Cream together the margarine and sugar. Beat the eggs and then added to creamed mixture and blend. Fold in flour and spice. Then mix in milk gradually till it's all sloppy. Mix in fruit, bit by bit. Pour into an 8" cake tin and bake at 160° for one hour. Check with a knife if it's cooked. If blade comes out clean it is done. May take a little over an hour (maybe up to another 15mins) depending on your oven. Enjoy with a cuppa!

Riccardo's Ratatouille

At the Alan Norris Big Band concert evening last month we served filled jacket potatoes with baked beans, chilli, or ratatouille. All of which could be had with or without cheese. Many folks commented on how good the ratatouille was in particular and asked if we would publish the recipe in The Heron. So here it is!

2 tins of chopped tomatoes

1 heaped tablespoon of tomato puree

1 large onion (or 2 medium)

2 medium aubergines

2 or 3 small peppers (different colours)

2 large courgettes (or 3 smaller)



A glass of red wine

Preheat oven to 160^C

2 tablespoons of Worcestershire Sauce

2 dessert spoons of vegetable gravy granules

Sugar, vinegar & honey to taste

Himalayan or Sea salt

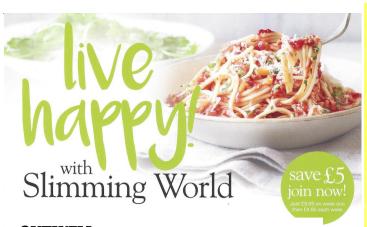
Freshly ground black pepper

Gently fry off the aubergines until slightly browned (cut in half or quarters depending on diameter) and put to one side. Do the same with the courgettes which should be sliced crossways about 1/2cm thick then halved. Chop the onion and fry until transluscent (do NOT brown). You can use shallots for a milder flavour if you prefer.

Return all the other fried vegetables into the pan with the onions and add the tomatoes together with a glass of red wine. Use water if you prefer but it will not have such good flavour. Stwe this mixture on a medium buble whilst you slice the peppers into 1cm strips, then halve crossways. Add the peppers to the pan with a tablespoon of tomato puree and 2 tablespoons of Worcestershire Sauce. Season with Himalayan or Sea salt and freshly ground black pepper. Reduce the heat and simmer for 20mins or so, stirring regularly.

Finally, and this is critical, adjust the flavour balance with a dessertspoonful of vinegar, 2 teaspoons of sugar, and a heaped dessert spoonful of honey. You can vary these amounts to your own taste but this seems about right to me. Remember you must cook out the vinegar first before making any further adjustments.

Finally, and approximately two dessert spoonfuls of vegetable gravy granules to thicken. Heat gently for a further five minutes and then serve. This dish can also be served cold, and freezes well. Great also mixed with cheese. Enjoy!



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We Are NOT Orphans! ~ We Are Family!

Over these last few months or so, I have had plenty of time to reflect upon my younger days when I was a lad and a young lad of ten who knew everything. I recall there were times when I would refused to accept a 'no' when I wanted something from my dad and I would continue to argue with him and dad would respond to my whingeing with a saying that has stuck with me all my life. 'You'll get it when Easter and Pentecost fall on the same day'. Coming from a working class Liverpudlian Catholic background that was a friendly way of saying it will never happen. Easter and Pentecost on the same day, impossible. Such sayings are now disappearing from everyday speech, its fair to say some people can barely give an answer to the question 'What does Easter mean?' let alone have any knowledge of what Pentecost is celebrating.

When I was young the Sunday between Ascension Day and White Sunday was known in church circles as 'Orphans Sunday' and its was called that because Jesus had through his Ascension had taken leave of his disciples but the Holy Spirit had not yet come upon them. The disciples had felt like children who had been left behind, all alone and in that situation people need each other more than ever. The disciples are missing Jesus their friend, their leader, their teacher, their great inspiration and they feel like orphans.



But those who have a faith can find comfort in what Jesus said to his disciples who without their leader felt completely lost. 'I tell you the truth: it is to your advantage that I go away, for if I do not go away the Advocate will not come to you: but if I go, I will send him to you' (John 16:7). The Holy Spirit brings people together when he comes upon them creates a unique fellowship, joining countless peoples in churches, in communities around the world together. As we celebrate Pentecost let us be assured that we are part of God's family and part of a world wide fellowship.

Church News

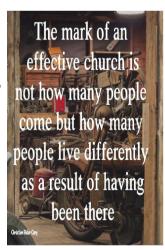
Church News



Well done to those who did the Big Brekkie for Christian Aid in May. £140 was raised for the charity. (Tasted great too...). The next joint service for all 6 Fen Churches is on Sunday, June 30th, at 10am in BENWICK. Everyone welcome! Our Church is an Anglican Church – C/E

Our Churchwardens and Church Council were elected for the coming year at the AGM. Did you know that Churchwardens have to make a promise in front of a Registrar to fulfil their role? It is a legal appointment. What IS their role then? Well, they represent "the Laity" ... the folks who aren't vicars, basically....which is most of

us, of course! They are legally responsible for all the property and moveable goods which belong to the church and the churchyard. They have to keep up the yearly records of any maintenance of the buildings, having applied to the Ely Diocese for permission (gaining a 'Faculty' = permission). They are also responsible for keeping up the Sunday Services, Baptism (sometimes known as



Christening), Marriage and Death records. Anyone interested in Family or Local History will doubtless have consulted such records many times. If you are one of those persons, you need to thank all Churchwardens of the past! Added to all that, they are responsible for seeing that services happen, and maintain order in the church and churchyard. Daphne and Andy will soon tell you that their role involves much more than that! It is a big responsibility, and brings quite a work load. THANK YOU to you both for your hard work over the years, and especially for standing for another year.



TOWNLEY SCHOOL AND PRE-SCHOOL

Christchurch, Wisbech, Cambs. PE14 9NA

Email: office@townley.cambs.sch.uk

June 2019

Mrs Ford is retiring!

Mrs Ford, who has been at Townley school for over 25 years, is retiring. We understand there will be lots of former pupils and families who live in and around Christchurch that would like to come and say goodbye. To celebrate Mrs Ford's time at Townley school, we are going to hold a SURPRISE picnic day on the last day of term 19th July on the school field. We warmly invite any former families to come and join us either with their own picnic or to have a fish and chip lunch from our kitchen at the cost of £2.44. If you wish to join us, please discreetly let the school office know by Friday 7th June at the latest. Fish and chips can be paid for in advance via the school office. We are also looking for photos and memories of Mrs Ford to share on her last day, if you have any you are happy to share with us, please call or email the school office

office@townley.cambs.sch.uk 01354 638229

Story Café

This term has seen Emperor, Hawker and Emerald classes host their story cafés. Emperor class enjoyed celebrating children's writing and artwork and made marvellous mocktails to taste. Emerald class hosted a French story café sampling foods from France and learning about the French school day. Hawker class have been learning about space and showcased this at their space story café.

















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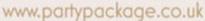
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Citizens' Advice Bureau, Wisbech	01945 464367
Community Car Scheme (to book a journey)	07902 316360
Community Centre bookings	01354 638478
Community Fire Safety Officer	07717858166
District Councillor - Will Sutton	01354 638025
District Councillor - Michelle Tanfield	07908 707129
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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 -	01354
Parish Councillor - Roger Gladwin	01354 638538
Parish Councillor - Geoff Harper	01354 638681
Parish Councillor - James Hughes	01354 638310
Parish Councillor - Peter Owen (Chair)	01354 638847
Parish Councillor - Kay Miller	01354 638232
Police - PCSO Sue Clarke	07738025220
Police - Emergency	999
Police - Non Emergency	101
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Upwell Health Centre - Pharmacy	01945 774934
Veterinary Centre - The Crossings (D'Mkt)	01366 382219
Vicars - Ian & Lynda Brady	01354 740627
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Book Club - Sheila Day	07946 635908
Craft Club - Sandra Lloyd	01354 638956
Gardening Club - Marion Hawthorne	01354 638230
Short Mat Bowls Club - Wendy Keen	01945 772737
WI - Peggy Warby	01354 638339

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

And Finally!...

So we managed to swell the Heron coffers a little and we'd like to thank al those of you who attended the Village Plant Sale and came along to the Alan Norris Big Band concert. Forgot about the football being on, not that I care about it anyway, but Eurovision!? Really?! All of the voting is entirely political these days as proven by our lack of points; i.e. all of Europe was never going to support us anyway with Brexit going on! Or NOT! As the case may be.

So we have Trump in the White House, possibly
Boris to take over from May, and with Farage now
in Europe, it seems that the world has gone even
more madder than I already thought!!!
Still I guess that someone, somewhere has things
all carefully planned out?



Rest assured that we here at The Heron will keep our eyes peeled, our ears to the ground, and will poke our nose in even where it's not wanted. All to bring you the TRUE facts about all the goings on. Especially locally! We'll be watching!

'Till next time! - Ed'.



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

My favourite Art

....is contemporary abstract; in particular, abstract that immediately tells you something.

This type of art first appeared in the late 19th century when the impressionist movement was formed.

More than any other single artist, Claude Monet was the creator of this new idea of painting. His 'Impression, Soleil Levant' dated 1872 gave rise to the name of the Impressionist movement. Its subject is the harbour of Le Havre in France, using very loose brush strokes that suggest rather than delineate it.



Impression, Soleil Levant' by Claude Monet



Many of today's artists have been inspired by this early type of art. If I had to choose two from my own list of favourites, they would be John Douglas and Paul Duncan.

John Douglas studied fine art at university in Arizona. His passion for travel has taken him around the globe and back. Personal favourite retreats include Thailand, Florence, Vienna, Prague and the Amalfi Coast, all of which have provided him with tremendous inspiration which overflows in his work. I love his use of vibrant colours which his 'Sunset Pasture' demonstrates.

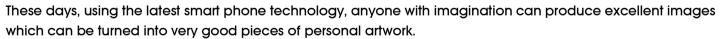
'Sunset Pasture' by John Douglas

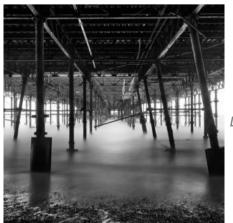
Paul Duncan was born in South America. His work shows his total immersion and fascination with shapes with colour. Sometimes, it is as simple as a piece of wood and other times he is inspired by the architectural beauty of buildings. His 'New York Abstract' cleverly portrays dizzy heights and features a pleasing cool collection of colours

'New York Abstract' by Paul Duncan

I am also a great fan of professional photography – particularly black and white. Lee Frost, one of the UK's best known landscape and travel photographers, manages to

cleverly create an Abstract feel. 'Beneath' and 'Arc' are good examples of his work.





Rex Ockenden

Granary Studio, Christchurch

Images by courtesy of Felix Rosenstiel, London, suppliers of fine art prints.







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Is it true? Does a deaf bird need a heron aid?



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