

# The Heron

Community Magazine

March 2017

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

## CUTS THREAT TO TOWNLEY SCHOOL

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## 15% budget drop likely by 2019

Following years of pressure on governments from Cambridgeshire County Council to create a fairer funding method, the current administration has come up with a system that threatens the very existence of small rural schools all over the country—Thanks for that!

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# Government Funding cuts threaten Townley School!

Following a far reaching change in the formula used to allocate cash to schools, Townley School is set to be hardest hit in the local area, losing up to 15% of its budget by 2019.

So worrying was this news that I asked the Headteacher, Mrs Maria-Anne Higgins, and the Chair of Governors, Mr Tony Bradbury how such a prospect was anticipated.





They sent us the following statement:

*Many of you will have seen recent commentary on the government's proposals for changes to school funding which they claim will result in fairer funding for schools (National Funding Formula). These proposals include details of the funding each school should receive if the proposals are implemented. We had hoped that the new National Funding Formula would indeed deliver the much-promised fairer funding for our school and so for our children.*

*However according to the figures we have received our school looks set to receive less funding, not more under the National Funding Formula. It has been estimated that by 2019 we could receive 15% less funding than we do at present.*

*The pressure to achieve a balanced budget and yet maintain high quality teaching and learning for our children continues to be challenging, however we are continually trying to work collaboratively, including with other*

*schools, to ensure the children get the very best we can offer. We have written to Stephen Barclay MP to draw his attention to our current position. We will let you know when we get a reply. In the meantime, we want to reassure the whole school community that the school continues to work extremely hard to achieve a balanced budget and to ensure that our very limited funds are well-spent.*

SCHOOL	IMPACT
 <b>Townley Primary School</b> Cambridgeshire	 <b>-£63,306</b> Budget change by 2019
Unless the Government allocates more money, schools will lose £3 billion a year in real terms by 2020.  98% of schools' costs are rising faster than their income.  60% of secondary schools are running deficit budgets.	 <b>-£753</b> Per pupil <sup>[2]</sup>
	 <b>-1</b> Teachers <sup>[3]</sup>

The change was intended to rebalance the cash given to London and other urban centres, to schools in areas that receive less money, such as those in the north where performance has been much poorer.

The long-awaited new funding formula was

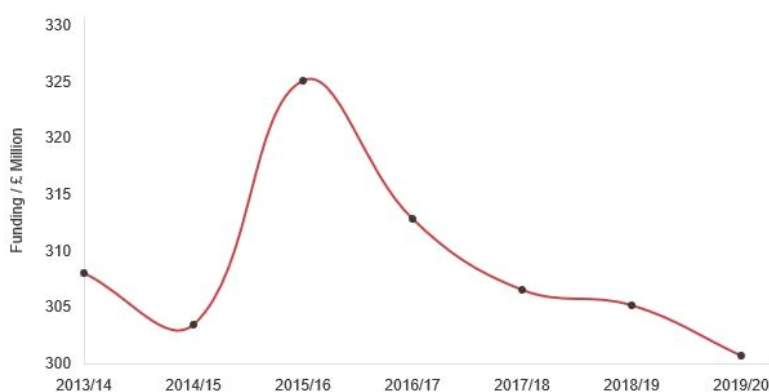
announced on the same day that Whitehall's spending watchdog, the National Audit Office, warned that schools in England were facing an 8% real-terms cut in funding per pupil by 2019-20 as a result of £3bn worth of cuts. The changes

outlined in the new funding formula will mean further cuts on top of this for some schools.

Justine Greening, the Education Secretary, attempted to reassure London schools, No school will lose more than 3% overall, with a maximum cut capped at 1.5% per year. Despite these reassurances to the London schools, we now know Cambridgeshire schools in our area are projected to lose much more than the

*... schools in our area are projected to lose much more than the 3% ...*

**Education funding for all of Cambridgeshire**  
Showing how it is projected to fall in future years



3%. Townley tops the list at 15% and will lose £753 per pupil. Generally cuts of this magnitude threaten staffing levels, equating to 1 teacher loss in Townley's case. - see top graphic.

## What can you Do?

Email our MP Steve Barclay and express your concern - <http://stevebarclay.net/contact/>

- sources [schoolcuts.org](http://schoolcuts.org) & Guardian

Paul Haresnape



# Community Information

**Mobile Library:** Friday March 3rd - in the Lay-by Upwell Road 15:00 - 15:40  
**Then from April changing to first Tuesday each month 12:15 to 12:45pm**

## Mobile Post Office:

visits Mon - Thu in the Lay-by Upwell Road  
Monday and Thursday 16:30 to 17:00  
Tuesday and Wednesday 16:10 to 17:00  
Fridays - no service

**Dun Cow Meal Deal** on alternate Wednesday lunchtimes - 2 courses for £5.50 - Pre-Booked places ONLY.  
This month's dates are 8th and 22nd March

**Pilates class** is now in the Community Centre on Mondays at 6:30pm

**Nuisance Calls** - do they worry you? - If you are a BT landline user, there is a new service offered FREE to allow you to block such calls. Called "BT Call Protect" - it's easy to set up and use and YOU can decide what you want to block! All new and existing BT home phone customers can opt in at [bt.com/callprotect](http://bt.com/callprotect) or 0800 3281572

**Heron needs your help** Urgent - we need one or two people to join our wonderful delivery team to bring the Heron to Euximoor each month. We would provide training, and show you the ropes. Ring Sandra Kay 638478 for an informal chat to find out more. PLEASE!

**Also - PLEASE** mention the Heron when contacting advertisers, as it helps them see that the Heron is providing a useful service.

## Contact the Parish Council?

phone numbers: in Useful Numbers p26,  
email: [christchurchcambspc@gmail.com](mailto:christchurchcambspc@gmail.com)  
website: [christchurchpc.btck.co.uk](http://christchurchpc.btck.co.uk)

**The Art Club has spaces** available - come and have a go! see Page 10 for details

**The Parish Lunch** will be on Sunday 23rd April. Everyone who lives in the Parish and who is, or whose partner is, 65 or over - is welcome!  
Details on Page 6

**The Community Centre** Annual General Meeting will be taking place at 7.30pm on Wednesday 15th March at the Community Centre - everyone is welcome to come along.  
Tea, coffee and cake will be served!

**'Allo 'Allo - the wartime sitcom** by Jeremy Lloyd and David Croft is featuring at March Community Centre, Station Rd March on 2nd to the 4th March 7.30pm - put on by The Anglian Players tickets from Rob's Pet Shop -£8 (concessions £7) -

## Baby-Friendly Pop-Up Coffee Shop

Christchurch Community Centre  
Every Monday Morning  
from 9.00 am till 11.30pm  
Coffee, Tea, Squash. Biscuits and  
Homemade Cakes and Cookies.  
Pop along for a cuppa and a  
chat. All welcome.

**We look forward to seeing you.**



## Weather Lore

Fogs in March—Frosts in May

by your Local Weather Sage

*Watch out for your tender plants - Ed'..*

## Treasurer sought - for Heron

Vivien Haresnape will be standing down as Treasurer at the Annual General Meeting in May, and we will be looking for someone else to take this on.

# 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

**If you have any important up and coming events let us know for inclusion here:**

Mar 3 <sup>rd</sup>	Mobile Library visits - Upwell Rd Lay-by 3-3:40pm
Mar 6 <sup>th</sup>	'Baby Friendly' Pop-Up Coffee Shop - 9am to 11:30am - CCC
Mar 6 <sup>th</sup>	Pilates - 6:30-7:30pm - £6 (monthly discount) Info - Jane Green 01354 638378 - CCC
Mar 7 <sup>th</sup>	Christchurch Craft Club - Bring and Do Your Own Thing - CCC - 7pm
Mar 10 <sup>th</sup>	"Cake, Coffee and Chat" Parish Church 2-3pm - All Welcome
Mar 12 <sup>th</sup>	Welle Film Club - A Street Cat Named Bob - Cert 12A - 1:30pm - TH
Mar 13 <sup>th</sup>	'Baby Friendly' Pop-Up Coffee Shop - 9am to 11:30am - CCC
Mar 13 <sup>th</sup>	Pilates - 6:30-7:30pm - £6 (monthly discount) Info - Jane Green 01354 638378 - CCC
Mar 13 <sup>th</sup>	Christchurch Parish Council Meeting - 7:30pm - CCC
Mar 14 <sup>th</sup>	Art Club - - 10am to 12 noon - CCC
Mar 14 <sup>th</sup>	WI - OPEN MEETING Cookery Demonstration with Richard Hughes - 7pm - CCC
Mar 17 <sup>th</sup>	"Cake, Coffee and Chat" Parish Church 2-3pm - All Welcome
Mar 20 <sup>th</sup>	'Baby Friendly' Pop-Up Coffee Shop - 9am to 11:30am - CCC
Mar 20 <sup>th</sup>	Pilates - 6:30-7:30pm - £6 (monthly discount) Info - Jane Green 01354 638378 - CCC
Mar 21 <sup>st</sup>	Garden Club - Scent and Flowers - Stuart Limpus - 7pm CCC
Mar 24 <sup>th</sup>	"Cake, Coffee and Chat" Parish Church 2-3pm - All Welcome
Mar 26 <sup>th</sup>	Jazz Club - only £5 entrance - 12 noon - CCC - Bar and Refreshments
Mar 27 <sup>th</sup>	'Baby Friendly' Pop-Up Coffee Shop - 9am to 11:30am - CCC
Mar 27 <sup>th</sup>	Pilates - 6:30-7:30pm - £6 (monthly discount) Info - Jane Green 01354 638378 - CCC
Mar 28 <sup>th</sup>	Art Club - - 10am to 12 noon - CCC
Mar 29 <sup>th</sup>	Christchurch Book Club - 7:30pm - "Glynan" Crown Rd info: Sheila Day 07946635908
Mar 29 <sup>th</sup>	Christchurch Residents Association - The Old School - 7:30pm
Mar 31 <sup>st</sup>	"Cake, Coffee and Chat" Parish Church 2-3pm - All Welcome

## Parish Church Services

Mar 5 <sup>th</sup>	11am	Rev L Brady, A Day	All Age Worship
Mar 12 <sup>th</sup>	9:30am	Rev S Tooke, SE Tooke	Holy Communion
Mar 19 <sup>th</sup>	3:30pm	Rev I Brady, L Brady	Evening Prayer
Mar 26 <sup>th</sup>	11am	Rev L Brady, B Hopkins	Mothering Sunday - Morning Prayer
Apr 2 <sup>nd</sup>	11am	Rev L Brady, A Day	All Age Worship

**Friday 3rd March at 2pm, Welney. Women's World Day of Prayer - Please ALL come and join in!**

## The Heron Deadline

The 25th of the previous month is the deadline for all copy. However, due to the amount of copy we are getting, if you 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](http://www.theheron.info)  
Business advertisers can book series of six or 12 adverts, paid in advance. Small private ads are charged by the word. Village fundraising events or personal announcements 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.**





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## EDITORIAL

**So! It seems we** HAVE escaped the predicted severe bad weather. At least for the present!? No doubt our new weather sage will keep us posted!? Dare I say that the recent few days of glorious sunshine herald the Spring? Certainly it has encouraged people out into their gardens again.

That reminds me – it was the Gardening Club's annual AGM last month with lots of new speakers and trips planned for this year. They always welcome new members and are a great crowd with lots of knowledge which can be of great help to a novice.

Shocking news regarding severe cuts to the education budget for the County. Despite Steve Barclay MP fighting our corner, it is likely that Townley will have to lose a member of staff! See cover and page 2.

There's a special recipe from our own celebrity chef Richard Hughes on page 7, along with a reminder of the WI's special meeting on the 14th of this month, featuring a demonstration by Richard himself. There's been a lot of interest in this and just before we went to press we heard that unfortunately there are no more places available!

Great news about the Community Centre - pages 8 & 13 and of course all our clubs on pages 10 & 11, plus the Jazz Club on page 12.

Sad news of the death of Barbara Kingman on page 14, who wrote to us only last month; she was Parish Clerk from 2002 to 2006, and was part of the Editorial Team when The Heron had been previously relaunched in 2003. We are sure that many of you will have fond memories of her.

Check out the photo on page 13! Does it bring back any memories as regards the people, or the event?

Some important news and advice from DEFRA on p 16; which is very important for all you chicken keepers, and bird fanciers.

Forthcoming new 'dog poo' legislation on page 23 and more details regarding dealing with this really messy problem. WHY do we have to keep mentioning it!#???

Then there's all the usual features, plus a few extras for your information and amusement.

'til next time.

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*The 2017 Christchurch Parish Lunch*

*will take place on*

*Sunday 23<sup>rd</sup> April 2017*

*12.30 for 13.00 at*

*Christchurch Community Centre, Upwell Road, Christchurch, Cambs PE14 9LL*

*The Parish Lunch is open to everyone that lives in the Parish who  
is 65 and over or whose partner is.*

*If you need help with transport or have any queries, please  
contact Ruth Ingram on 01354 638419*



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## Letters to the Editor



Dear Editor,  
I would like to thank, through your pages, the people that turned up to help Lindsay & me celebrate our 45th wedding anniversary. Many thanks for the kind gifts & donations to Papworth hospital, £200 was raised which we'll send off in the near future. Christchurch is a really lovely village to live in and we both feel we've been made welcome here.  
Once again thank you all  
Peter & Lindsay Owen

Recently I was stopped in the street by Mrs Tibbles who had seen in January's Heron that it was suggested a seat in memory of Wolsey Rolfe replace the redundant bus shelter. She wanted to remind the village, and the Parish Council, that the Christchurch Horse Show committee had bought such a bench for the village 17 years ago and it had been "spirited" away and never installed! Can anyone cast any light on this?  
PVH

## Orchard Spiced Pudding Cake - recipe by Richard Hughes

*The cake will be quite wet, indeed that's why we call it a pudding cake. As it stands the fruit will release more juice, and so it keeps very well, if you can resist it!*

250g muscovado sugar  
250g butter  
1 dessertspoon spice  
250g wholemeal flour  
2 tsp baking powder  
4 eggs  
400g chopped apples and pears (peeled and cored)  
Cream together the butter, spice and sugar.  
Sift together the baking powder and the flour.  
Alternately add the beaten egg and the flour.  
Fold in the fruit.  
Line an 8 inch spring loaded cake tin with buttered greaseproof paper.  
Place the mixture in the tin.  
Bake for 60 minutes at Gas Mark 4/180°C.



A  
SPECIAL  
INVITE

Why not come along to  
Christchurch WI's Open Meeting  
on Tuesday 14<sup>th</sup> March  
Christchurch Community Centre  
starting promptly at 7pm?

**RICHARD HUGHES**

(as featured on the TV show 'The Great British Bake Off')  
will be giving a demonstration  
and answering your questions  
and refreshments will also be available

The meeting is open to ALL -  
non-members £5.00 per head

To book your place please telephone  
Peggy on 638339 or Beryl on 638135

**SOLD OUT**

# Christchurch Community Centre

Upwell Road, Christchurch, Wisbech, Cambridgeshire. PE14 9LL

Registered Charity Number 1010290

**In April, it will be a year** since our new Community Centre opened – how time flies! It has been a very busy year and one in which so much has been achieved. There is a lot to celebrate and a lot for the village to be proud of.

So much has happened in our first year! We've had a wedding reception, christenings, birthday parties, discos, a wake, a referendum, a conference and a Parish Lunch! We've had Indoor Bowls, Outdoor Bowls, barbeques, Pilates, Art Club, Craft Club, WI, Gardening Club and even a Village Sports Day. We've had a village football team again, there's jazz music playing and we've even had a visit from a celebrity chef!

We really do want it to be YOUR Community Centre and we are always open to new ideas and suggestions on how we can improve the facilities. Even better than just suggesting things - get involved!

Although the Community Centre is owned by the Parish Council it is managed by Christchurch Recreation Ground Charity which is a registered

charity made up of volunteers. It is a non-profit making organisation whose sole purpose is to run the building to ensure it is a success and an asset to the village. We really want to see the Community Centre become the 'hub' of the village – a meeting place where everyone is welcomed, where community groups can meet in a pleasant, warm environment, where people can celebrate together, eat (and drink!!) together, participate in activities, meet new people and generally feel valued and a part of village life in Christchurch.

There is always room for more volunteers or if you have ideas for a new group or activity or event then please come along and discuss them – you will be very welcome!

**Our Annual General Meeting will be taking place at 7.30pm on Wednesday 15th March at the Community Centre and everyone is welcome to come along.**

Tea, coffee and cake will be served.

Bookings: Sandra Kay 01354 638 478

Ruth Ingram

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The theme for the February meeting was Sweets. The speaker was David Chearner from "The Olde Sweet Shoppe" in Ely. He gave a very interesting and amusing talk, starting by giving everyone a bag of 10 sweets more than half of which had been made in England, including an Army & Navy aniseed ball, flying saucer, coconut mushroom and chocolate lime, but there was one that looked like a stick of wood called Spanish root, if you chew it enough you get a liquorice flavour. Members enjoyed reminiscing about many of their favourite sweets. David was originally from London but he met and married a Littleport girl and moved to Welney for the next eight years. Perhaps you will remember David, he used to drive the Croft Carrier (like the FACT bus) to Downham Market on Fridays. He moved to Ely about 20 years ago, but it's in the last four years he's had the sweet shop in the High Street (opposite Argos). It's a MUST to visit. Our president Beryl Brooks thanked David for an excellent talk.



### Outing

Group meeting at March Federation meeting at Neale Wade Visit to Denby Pottery including a two course meal

### Competition

A Valentines card  
5 points Beryl and Susan Quail  
4 points Sandra Lloyd, Anne Atkinson, Wendy Yates, Peggy Warby and Margaret Sparrow  
3 points Linda

### Next month Open Meeting

Cookery demonstration by Richard Hughes with homemade cakes  
Competition a favourite utensil/kitchen item

### Raffle Rota

Viv, Margaret S, Susan Q, Alma

### Refreshments

Sandra K, Sandra L  
Enquiries - Peggy on 01354 638339



## Art Club -

Our February sessions have been concentrating on landscapes and skies and clouds in watercolour. We hope to be able to put the exercises to good use when we have a go at painting outside! Weather permitting this summer.

Our March sessions we will be having fun with charcoal, ending this term with a 'free choice' week.

Our group is friendly and relaxed. We are all enjoying the sessions and would love to welcome some more members. We have a tutor to lead us, but we all can learn as much from each other and gain in confidence. All artists have their own special style and approach so we have a lot of variety and some very good art.

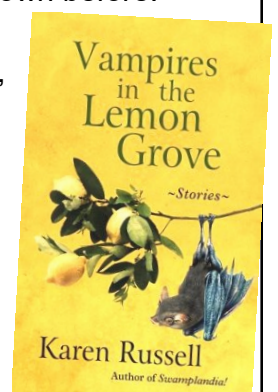
Do contact Sandra (638478) or Jan (638217) for more information, or pop along during the session to see what we are up to. We normally meet on the 2nd and 4th Tuesday of the month at 10am to 12 noon. (term time).

## Christchurch Book Club

Book Club met on 22nd February. We had been reading 'Agatha Christie, an English Mystery' by Laura Thompson. This was a biography of the famous author. It was a very long book, and most of the group found it rather 'hard going', though we did learn a lot we had not known before.

Book Club will meet again on Wednesday 29th March at Viv's, (Glynan, Crown Rd) We will be discussing our book for March, which is 'Vampires in the Lemon Grove', a book of short stories by Karen Russell.

For further details contact Sheila Day 07946 635908





# Christchurch Gardening Club

## "A ROSE BY ANY OTHER NAME..."

Tuesday 21st February saw the club's Annual General meeting. This is where the new committee is elected by the members to run the club for the next year. First on the agenda this time was the actual name of the club as there was apparently some confusion as to what the original name was.

In some document relating to the Clubs inception it had been called "The Garden Club" yet in adverts that appeared in the Heron at the start of the monthly meetings it was known as "The Gardening Club." Some more detailed research revealed that the name "Gardening Club" was used more times than "The Garden Club" and seemed in common parlance among the members. A vote was undertaken and by an overwhelming majority it was decided that henceforth we will be known unequivocally as "THE GARDENING CLUB."

The previous committee stood un-opposed for re-election and was subsequently voted in.

They are as follows: Chairman Steve Hawthorn, Secretary Marion Hawthorn, Treasurer Peggy Warby, other committee members are Sandra Kay, Tracey Day, Jenny Farnsworth, Graham Warby.

The Clubs Secretary Marion Hawthorn has once again pulled out all the stops for the forthcoming year and was therefore able to present the club with a packed list of events and trips.

Kicking off on Tuesday 21st March 2017 with a talk about Scent and Flowers by Stuart Limpus. Stuart is an old friend of the club and has visited us on past occasions, this sounds like a very fragrant evening.

Some time ago I was lucky enough to hear a talk by Dr Eric Sommerville. He gave a fascinating account of the use of Opium on the Fens (in bygone days of course!) I am delighted to hear that he will be joining us on Tuesday 18th April 2017 to give that same talk to The Gardening Club. As with all our meetings and events Non-Members are more than welcome.

Our first meeting of the year was well attended and had a very positive atmosphere. It was good to meet up again with some long-established

members and welcome to the club some new members, who came along to check us out and ended up joining the club's ranks. I think I can speak for all the committee to say we value all our members old and new.

Information on

the club's activities is always in The Heron and can be found posted on the notice board at the Community Centre. Raffle prizes in March will be donated by Tracey Day, Sheila Dore, and Jenny and John Farnsworth.

Till next time

Steve

call 01354 638 230 for more information.



Stuart Limpus - an old friend

We had a most enjoyable evening. Margaret Sparrow showed us how to do Encaustic art. They were then made into cards. I believe most

people made two. Thank you Margaret once again for the demonstration. I am most grateful to Florrie Piper for kindly giving us an Encaustic set.

Our March meeting "Bring and do your own thing".

I look forward to seeing you all ON THE FIRST TUESDAY IN MARCH.

Wendy



Our youngest members with their cards

picture Susan Gibson

## Upwell Jazz Club - First Gig a Success - by Steve Wayne

**Just recently Nigel Smith**, proprietor of the Upwell Jazz Club took the bold step to move the Club's regular gigs to the Christchurch Community Centre. A brave move as the club had been at the Hall in Three Holes for many years and was well established there. Happily, it seems to be working out as the first date of the year was nigh on a sell-out! It was good to see some faces from Christchurch in the audience, if you haven't been yet, it's a good use of a Sunday Lunch time (you can always eat later!)

The band took to the stand at twelve thirty on Sunday 29th January for the inaugural set featuring Chris Kirk on Trumpet and Flugel Horn, Myke Clifford playing Sax's and Flute, ably supported by Nigel Portass contributing Keyboards and Bass pedals as well as Drummer Russel Keay.

From the moment Myke Clifford wrapped himself around his tenor sax and blew the first notes of the opener the gathered crowd knew they were in for a treat and so it transpired. Clifford and Kirk sparred and jousted through over two hours of Jazz and Blues standards with the audience the ultimate winners. On several tunes Myke Clifford added his rasping blues inflected vocals most noticeably on the old warhorse Stormy Monday, While Chris Kirks warm haunting horns offered a counterpoint and

Nigel's Keyboards a foundation to a good start to the Club's tenure at the hall.

For anyone who may not know, Django Rheinhart and Stéphane Grappelli were the founding fathers of a Guitar and Violin centric music which has taken on the mantle of Gypsy Jazz. It's a rocking swing music guaranteed to get those feet tapping. Django and Stéphane are sadly no longer with us but many exponents of this style of music can be found all over the world happily plying their trade. One such group pay a visit to the club on Sunday 26th February 2017. They are Parisian Swing and are not to be missed.

An extra date has been added on March 12th when a group of internationally acclaimed musicians take the stand. Clarinettist Pete Neighbour over from the states is joined by Vibes player Roger Nobes, Bassist Len Skeat, Pianist Brian Dee (previously with Tony Bennet) and Clark Tracy on Drums, all at the clubs usual and very reasonable entrance fee. This is followed on Sunday 26th March by Mike Betts Guitar and Mark Wilkinson on Sax's supported by the House Band.

The Club is on the last Sunday of the month, and opens at 12.00pm, entrance £5.00. Food and drinks available. For More Information Contact Nigel Smith on 01945 773121



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## Community Centre gets new “buggy friendly” path

Following several complaints from Community Centre users who had found it difficult to get their baby buggies, or wheelchairs from



*Richard, Colin and Geoff prepare the site*



*Sandra lays the last few mesh panels*



*Geoff compacts the sub-base*

membrane and a sand base, and backfilling with new pea gravel.



*Ruth, Colin and Richard lay the mesh*

Upwell Road to the Community Centre building, a small dedicated and hardworking team spent a Saturday morning lifting the old gravel, laying ground reinforcement on



*Geoff, Peter and Richard survey the finished job*  
On behalf of the users from the village we would like to thank those involved



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# Barbara Kingman - RIP - by Jill Bliss

*There was a letter from Barbara Kingman in last month's Heron, but just before the magazine was distributed, we were shocked to hear that she had passed away in hospital on Sunday January 29<sup>th</sup>.*

Barbara was appointed clerk to our Parish Council in February 2002 and quickly got to grips with all the position entailed. She travelled with her husband as chauffeur and wheelchair assistant, from her home in Chatteris to the Memorial Hall on a monthly basis (sometimes more) to Council meetings etc come rain or shine. Unfortunately, Barbara's health very gradually deteriorated and it became very difficult for her to carry on, resulting in her having to resign in the autumn of 2006. We as councillors missed her input and expertise in getting matters resolved etc and indeed her as a person when she left.

In May 2003, Barbara joined the late Pat and Les Mills along with Jill Bliss and The Heron was re-launched, Barbara as editor, Pat and Les as admin/co-ordinators and Jill Bliss as treasurer. We were a happy little group and thanks to all The Heron progressed to what it is today.

Before Barbara, Terry and their family moved to "The Fens," Barbara was a medical secretary at The St. Mary's Hospital, Harrow Road, London, - now known as St. Mary's, Paddington, London. After their family came along, Barbara fostered 30 children or so, until such time her own children were of school age and had well settled into that daily routine. Barbara gave up being a "foster mum" and joined The Metropolitan Police, as a court secretary.

Barbara and Terry came to live in Chatteris after many years living and working in the London area, they both enjoyed their garden, Barbara doing what she was able towards growing fruit and veg. etc, resulting in jars of chutney and jam being prepared and made by her and Terry - a lot of which she had great pleasure donating to her charity groups and friends. To the time of Barbara's passing, she was secretary to "The



What Next Group", in Chatteris, which is run for the disabled, being responsible also for the operation of the small vehicle for people who have difficulty in using ordinary transport. The vehicle is adapted to transport a wheelchair with the disabled owner in situ, along with their carer/ friend as passenger. This vehicle is open to hire in

the area.

Barbara was a keen supporter of the local boxing club in Chatteris and attended matches as and when she could, with much enthusiasm.

Barbara was a remarkable person with a lovely personality who will be sadly missed by her family and all who knew her.

R.I.P. Barbara.

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# The Alan Russell Column



*Alan continues his account, (gleaned from other old pupils) detailing more school holidays undertaken by Townley School pupils...*

Several school holidays followed. To the Isle of Wight, Isle of Man and Devon. Annette was taken ill on one of these and had to be in quarantine all holiday with one member of staff looking after her at all times, but she was allowed to travel home with the rest of the school party being strictly supervised.

In Devon they stayed on a farm and this is where she got addicted to thick Devon cream and strawberries.

Marjorie [Frost, nee Morris] (see last month - Ed'.) informs me the last Townley School trip was in 1955 to Guernsey sailing to St Peters Port and staying at Rocquaine Bay Camp. Being from a farming family one of her recollections is all the

derelict greenhouses that used to provide tons of tomatoes before the war but they had not at that time got round to repairing them.

She tells me that a local farmer used to bring a big jug of his homemade scrumpy to be shared by the staff and helpers, she writes "by gum! It could knock your socks off" During this period in the 1950s the school also went to the Festival of Britain, London Zoo and Heathrow Airport on day trips and quite a few organised days out for parents and children.

No doubt several ex-pupils of the era have their own memories but several declined to offer thoughts of the time and several have genuinely forgotten details of these holidays.

*To be continued*



*Rocquaine Bay Guernsey*

## Who Knows?

Are you in this picture (below)? do you recognise any of the people? Do you know what the event was? The photo is in an old album which was in Alan Russell's possession. More about that next month!





**ADVISORY NOTICE** - With DEFRA now extending the 'lock-down' and indoor quarantining to try and limit the spread of 'Bird Flu' from wild to domestic bird populations, we thought it prudent to publish their latest advice on combating this virulent disease. With the quarantine period now extended until at least the end of April it is of the upmost importance that domestic bird keepers, most particularly with regard to poultry, take the necessary precautions to limit the spread!



Department  
for Environment  
Food & Rural Affairs

## How to keep your birds safe from Avian Influenza (bird flu)



Avian Influenza, also known as bird flu, is a disease that affects all types of poultry including chickens, ducks and geese. A severe strain of the disease, H5N8, has recently been found in wild and captive birds in the UK. This guide is designed to help keepers of small flocks of poultry look after their birds while there is a prevention zone in place.

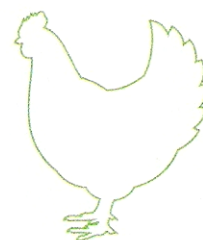
### How bird flu spreads

**Bird flu can be passed from wild birds to poultry, causing birds to fall ill and die. It can be transmitted directly from bird to bird or via the environment, for example in wild bird droppings.**

To reduce the risk of bird flu spreading from bird to bird there is currently a legal requirement for all birds to be housed or otherwise kept separate from wild birds.

This means if you keep poultry, including chickens, ducks or geese, even as pets, you must take action to prevent contact with wild birds and protect them from this potentially fatal disease.

Risks to human health are very low and bird flu does not pose a food safety risk.



### Protecting your poultry

**Where possible, move birds into a suitable building,**

like a shed or outbuilding adapted to house them, or a new temporary structure like a lean-to or a polytunnel. Put netting over openings to stop wild birds getting in and remove any hazardous substances.



It is your responsibility to ensure your birds' welfare while indoors and keep them calm and comfortable:

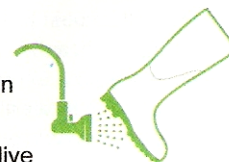
- If you keep several types of birds, house chickens or turkeys in separate enclosures from ducks and geese. Check the birds regularly to ensure they are healthy and have enough food, water and dry bedding.
- Keep the environment interesting to reduce the risk of feather pecking. Add fresh bedding, straw bales, perches and objects such as cabbages, scatter feed or grain on the floor and add grit to litter to encourage birds to scratch.
- Make sure birds have natural light where possible and are not permanently in the dark. Light should ideally follow typical day and night patterns.
- You may want to consider nutritional supplements in drinking water that can help keep birds calm.
- Skin parasites like red mite can be a problem in birds kept indoors and can make birds more irritable. Advice on controlling parasites can be obtained from your vet.

### Reducing the risk of infection

If you don't have a suitable building to move your birds into, or the welfare of the birds would suffer if moved indoors, you must take sensible precautions to keep them away from wild birds.

**You should follow these steps to reduce the risk of infection via the environment, for example in wild bird droppings, even if your birds are inside.**

- Keep food and water supplies inside where they can not be contaminated, feed birds inside and keep them away from standing water.
- Where birds remain outside, set up a temporary enclosure covered with netting that wild birds can not access.
- Minimise movement in and out of your birds' enclosure and clean footwear before and after visits.
- Keep the area where your birds live clean and tidy, removing spilled feed.



### Signs of Avian Flu

Signs include loss of appetite, swollen heads and respiratory problems. **If you suspect bird flu call the Defra helpline on 03000 200 301.**

### Further information

Further details can be found at [www.gov.uk/guidance/avian-influenza-bird-flu](http://www.gov.uk/guidance/avian-influenza-bird-flu)



# Christchurch Residents Association

**After our winter hiatus** we met again on Wednesday 22nd February. Apologies were received from Simon Freeland who had a Governor's Meeting. The previous meetings minutes were accepted and there were no matters arising.

The problem of lorries parking in the village, and most notably on the footpath, seemed to have been resolved for the moment. However, there was a three foot patch of damage to the footpath outside The Old School House which needed attending to as it presented a dangerous trip hazard.

The proposed housing development for 16 homes on the site of the scrapyard on Upwell Road was again discussed. Members were unanimous in reaffirming that they saw no objections to this development. It would be better than the scrapyard with all the lorries that to and fro, and better than the warehouse and distribution centre which had been mooted, and which would be totally inappropriate for such a small village as Christchurch.

There had again been a delay in organising the first Speedwatch trial but this should now be possible in early March. PCSO Sue Clarke would also be in attendance for this.

The 'dog poo' problem was worsening again despite some posters having already gone up. Another 'spray-day' would be arranged in due course which our PCSO Sue Clarke would be supporting. There is new legislation in process with increased and 'on the spot' fines being brought in by October. More details on this would be in March's Heron.

All those present were in favour of the removal of our unsightly, and unused bus shelter. It ruins the most beautiful part of the village. A raised bed supported by Gardening Club would be more preferable.

The Parish Lunch for over 65s was mentioned and the forthcoming stages of an "Allo! Allo!" tribute from 2nd-4th March at March Community Centre with The Anglian Players at £8 per head. A joint trip was suggested with possible concessions. Richard would look into this.

It was noted that fines for 'fly-tipping' had now been doubled but it was felt that a more active

approach was necessary perhaps with solar powered cameras attached to lampposts or telegraph poles at prime sites.

Great concern was expressed over proposed education funding cuts which would adversely affect Townley with a loss of £750 per pupil, further necessitating the loss of at least one member of staff. There would be a major article on this in March's Heron.

Richard suggested organising a Food Fayre in the Summer. All members supported this idea and Richard would look into it.

The meeting closed at 9.15pm. Next meeting Wednesday 29th March at The Old School, 7.30pm.



## British Rivers Quiz.

Thanks to John Murray for these Geographic teasers

1. Egyptian Goddess
2. Not my current partner
3. Sounds like pleading for life
4. Certainly not a wild river
5. Peaceful bird
6. Helps to make excellent whisky
7. Not in the first three
8. Just keeps rolling along
9. Sounds like an animal trainer
10. Bonny's partner
11. Ding dong calling
12. Replace a letter to end the cut
13. Seeps across the country
14. Scottish cloth that makes part of the Border
15. Sharp pointy spike
16. Not Tweedle Dum, the other one

Answers page 25



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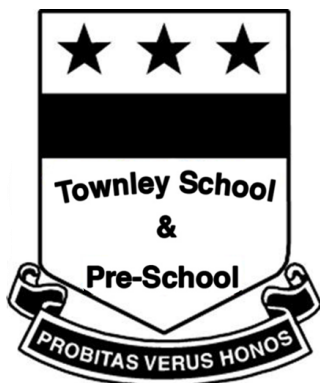
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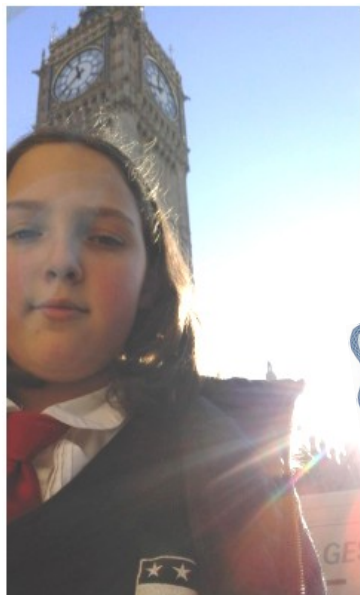


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Website: [www.townleyschool.org.uk](http://www.townleyschool.org.uk)



Penny entered a reading competition in the summer and won the prize to visit the Houses of Parliament for her excellent reading. Our MP Stephen Barclay arranged for Penny to have a guided tour. Well done Penny, we were all very pleased for you!



In December, Townley started subscribing to Sumdog, an online program designed to help pupils with maths fact fluency. January's challenge was to complete the training phase, which over half our pupils achieved! **WELL DONE!**

### Can you help us Please!



Last year the children benefited from us collecting an amazing 1000 vouchers. We are being ambitious this year and would like to double that amount. Please help us! Vouchers can be handed into the school office or by using the post box.

### Provisional Diary Dates

World Book Day, children can dress up as their favourite book character -2nd March

Bikeability Week - 6th March

Parents Drop in Vicky Bisanz—17th March

Red Nose Day— 24th March

Reception and Year 6 NHS Visit—27th March

Parents Evening, details to follow 27th/28th March

Last day of Term, Easter Assembly at Church 31st March

# Parish Council snippets

Prior to the meeting, Cllr Sutton made the suggestion that those present stand for a minute's silence in remembrance of Barbara Kingman, past Clerk to the Council who had died recently.

## Public Time

Following the request at the last meeting, Public Time was moved to an earlier spot in the Agenda and 15 minutes were allocated, no one person to be allowed more than five minutes

Thanks were expressed for the efforts in completing the Community Centre Car Park path for pedestrians.

The ongoing issue with dog mess around the village was again highlighted, particularly on the unpaved areas up Green Lane and Crown Drove. An example was given of some authorities setting bylaws to allow fines to be administered to dog walkers who could not produce "poo bags" when challenged.

Speedwatch was mentioned - it is nearly ready to implement.

Canker on some of the trees alongside the road from Tipps End had been spotted, Cllr Russell would follow this up and take advice.

## Street Lighting

Some clarification was given on the Fenland District Council position on this. A discussion was again held on whether to contract with Balfour Beatty or Electrical Testing Company, who had tendered very low in comparison, but there were fears that they would make this up with on costs and by replacing lamp posts with smaller and cheaper types.

## Speed Limits through Tipps End

The Chairman had met with Highways on this subject and was led to believe that since much of the road was under Norfolk jurisdiction, Upwell PC would be best to carry this through. Other voices suggested that there was a long standing convention that this could be dealt with by Cambridgeshire, a resolution is hoped for after a meeting on 18th March.

## County Councillor's report

Cllr Yeulett reported that there would be a increase in the Council Tax by 5% up to the maximum allowed to better fund the County Council's social care programme.

There were to be changes in the School funding formula across the country which would hit Townley and some other local schools very severely There had been discussions with our MP—Steve Barclay. He reported the unconfirmed possibility that there could be the loss of two teachers.

Other areas of concern—NHS in Cambridgeshire is reporting increasing bed occupancy delays in all areas at 39% worse than their targets.

Also children classified as "Looked After" are increasing in number and all this on a falling budget

## District Councillor Report

Cllr Sutton reiterated the concern over the School budget. He also pointed out that Planning Application and Approval documentation would all be electronic very soon.

## Recreation Ground Charity (CRGC)

The Clerk gave a ruling on how councillors who are also members of the CRGC should behave in each meeting. Principally centring around they must act in the interests of the body they were serving on at the time of the meeting, and for instance not act as a councillor when attending a CRGC meeting as a member of that body.

A lot of time was spent trying to allocate a division of responsibilities between PC and CRGC. It was decided on some areas which were clear, but others were left and to be looked at again in 12 month's time.

During this discussion it came to light that the play equipment removed from the old playpark site was still in store awaiting inspection and possible refurbishment or replacement. Cllr Russell would take it all to Fenland Leisure to allow them to decide.

## Planning

The application for 16 dwellings on the Fridge Recycling yard was considered at outline level. Opinions were expressed regarding the siting of some of the properties, particularly to do with closeness to the road. It was explained this was a "reserved matter" as were some other issues regarding refuse disposal, and would be addressed at the detail planning stage



## The Joan Smith Column

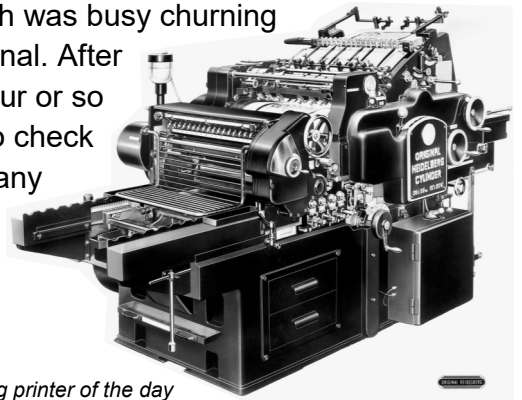
*Joan continues her story about working for Dr and Mrs Anderson*



Another work day ahead. I was asked to be indoors as there was to be no work in the Press Room until the next day. Then we would have a Cytobios ready for collating. This was one of the names of the medical research journals which eventually would be sent out to many different countries. The manuscripts were being written by young research fellows, students in university, hoping that the subject they had been studying, and researching would pass both for inclusion in the journals, and perhaps to make their name in their chosen field of study.

We had our eleven o'clock break, Dr. A taking out Trevor's coffee to him in the press room, and Mrs. A and I having ours in the kitchen. The girls were pottering about to and fro with Mr. Clarke the gardener. He was a real old Norfolk man who had previously been a farm worker for many years, for the same family until he retired. He was very likeable. Later we had lunch together sat on boxes outside as it was a beautiful sunny day.

I was told that next day I would be in the Press Room to collate the next batch of journals. There were hundreds of them. The large table tennis table had been placed at the entrance to the press room. The pages were all in neat piles around the table, in sequence. The huge Heidelberg press was at the far end. Dr. A stood at the beginning of the piles to be collated. "Now, watch what I do and follow me 'round." He explained to me that I was to pick up a sheet from each pile in sequence and, when I got back to where I started, that would form a complete journal. The last page was a pile of coloured paper and these sheets would form the back pages. "Do you think you will be able to do that?" asked Dr. A. "I'm not stupid!" I replied, curtly. "Of course I can!" He went over to Trevor, who was stood by the Heidelberg which was busy churning out the next journal. After about half an hour or so he came back to check I had not made any mistakes in my work—of course I hadn't!



*A Heidelberg printer of the day*

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## Butcher retires after over 50 years!

**Customers of family butcher** J.D. Spikings & Son Ltd, Upwell, were very sorry to hear that it had closed their doors for the final time in February due to retirement. It was a very popular local business. There was always a friendly welcome, and at times almost a party atmosphere in the shop, especially just before Christmas, with everyone collecting their Christmas orders, and chatting to each other.

Three generations of the Spikings family have worked in the village of Upwell for over 90 years.

The business commenced in the early 1920s with Jessie & William Avery Spikings. William Avery died in 1928 and Jessie carried on until their son Jack took over. In 1945 Jack married Kathleen Cole of the family butchers in Norfolk Street, Wisbech, and they had three children, Barbara, John & Mary.

John started his working life as a Saturday boy aged 13 earning a £1 a day, with his father telling him to keep it quiet as he was grossly overpaid! He started work full time when he left school in 1966. Sadly, in 1967, John's father Jack died, and John aged 17 and his mother Kathleen took over the running of the business.

Fast forward and John completed 50 years in the shop in June 2016, John had been joined in the



*Barbara Seaton, John Spikings and Vivienne Spikings bowing out*

business by Barbara who has worked there for 43 years, and later by his wife Vivienne who has worked there for the last 19 years.

They have said that they would like to thank everyone who has supported them over the years, Also a special mention of thanks to the local businesses that have traded with them.

The family has made many friends along the way and will miss them greatly but hope they will have more time to chat over coffee when out and about in the village.

For our part, we hope that John, Vivienne and Barbara will enjoy a long and happy retirement!

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## IT'S GETTING SERIOUS!

As of last month, Boston Borough Council in South Lincolnshire have 'stepped in' to take control of dog fouling. This clearly remains the responsibility of the dog owner. 'On the spot' fines of £100 are to be implemented both for fouling and if owners are not carrying the required 'poo bags'. This applies to any and all public spaces including; footpaths, grass verges, roads and pavements, and farmers' fields. These new powers are being introduced under the Anti-Social Behaviour Crime & Policing Act 2014, which allows councils to create a Public Spaces Protection Order (PSPO).

90% agreed that it should be an offence for dog walkers not to carry the necessary 'poo bags', and 74% agreed that the fine should be £100, with others thinking that it should be more.

Fenland District Council currently have a similar consultation document before them with similar measures likely to be in place in or before October 2017. Proposed measures include:

1. Faeces to be removed from any land (including roads, pavements & footpaths), to which the public have access.



2. Dogs to be put on a lead when requested by an authorised officer.
3. Dogs to be kept on a lead in open play areas, public facilities, and closed cemeteries & churchyards.
4. Dogs to be excluded from fenced/gated play areas and open cemeteries.

When the dog poo issue was discussed at a recent meeting of Christchurch Residents Association, it was suggested and agreed by all those present that there should be a specific mention of roads, pavements, footpaths and grass verges with regard to dog fouling. Local farmers who trim the verges and local droves are regularly incensed by their machinery becoming plastered in the stuff leading to prolonged cleaning operations. Parish Councils can also create and implement local byelaws.

For more details concerning the consultation document or any of the above please refer to:

Fenland's current Dog Control Orders with maps of their locations

Government information on PSPO's in relation to controlling your dog in public

Or, [surveymonkey.co.uk/r/8795638](https://surveymonkey.co.uk/r/8795638)

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## Snettisham Beach Sailing Club

Snettisham Beach Sailing Club welcomes new full time Senior Sailing Instructor James Trim to their instructor team in April 2017. James is joining from the Northshore chandlery shop & Sail Craft Sea School at Brancaster Staithe where James was teaching and instructing students in sailing. After James's seven years at Brancaster Staithe, Northshore has closed due to the owner Jamie Borthwick's retirement.

James is making a full career out of his love of outdoor pursuits; after leaving Springwood High School, King's Lynn in 2009 he took the College of West Anglia's Higher Outdoors Activities Course and completed it in 2010.

He took his Senior Sailing Instructor course in March 2016 at Bradwell



Outdoors Centre in Essex on the Blackwater River. That is a packed 5 days of being taught to teach, management of groups, management of staff, first aid and safety and managing fleets of sailing dinghies under instruction.

Besides sailing, James is into white water canoeing, hiking and cycling. He swims a mile a week and goes to the gym just to keep fit. He also recently acquired a Wayfarer dinghy from Northshore that he sails with fellow ailing instructor Nick Williams and keeps at Brancaster Staithe.

If you want to get afloat check out the opportunities on the website at [www.snetbeach.co.uk](http://www.snetbeach.co.uk) and speak to Jane Leet: Chief Dinghy & Power Instructor [c\\_instructor@snetbeach.co.uk](mailto:c_instructor@snetbeach.co.uk) 07938 190 846 or 01485 779 027 .

### Cambridge Council for Voluntary service (CCVS)

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✉ [Enquiries@cambridgecvcs.org.uk](mailto:Enquiries@cambridgecvcs.org.uk)

🌐 [www.cambridgecvcs.org.uk](http://www.cambridgecvcs.org.uk)

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## Round Table meeting

Wednesday 5 April 2017

10am-12noon

Ferry Project Octavia View, Wisbech PE13 1JQ

- Hear what the Big Lottery priorities are.
- Tell us the key issues facing your organisations and communities
- Network with other groups

1. Isis
2. Exe
3. Mersey
4. Tame
5. Dove
6. Spey
7. Forth
8. Thames
9. Tamar
10. Clyde
11. Avon
12. Severn
13. Ouse
14. Tweed
15. Tyne
16. Dee

Quiz - The Answers

## And Finally...



Yep! It's the same old crap all over again! WHY? WHY? WHY? Do we have to keep on mentioning it? Because people don't take note!

If you are a dog owner you have responsibilities: Firstly, you are responsible for your dogs health – you need to look after and provide for it! Secondly, you are responsible for its behaviour – it needs basic obedience training including recall and knowing the meaning of NO! Thirdly, YOU are responsibly for picking up after your dog and disposing of the offending and unhealthy mess! Check out the newly proposed legislation and 'on-the-spot-fines' including not having the necessary 'poo-bags' on your person. Now increased to £100!

On another animal note – PLEASE! Take note of the DEFRA initiative on page 16. These instructions are particularly important if you keep chickens, with two major culls just over the border in South-Lincolnshire, and more recently in Suffolk. Domestic birds are more at risk if you are near large bodies of water as waterfowl are known to be the major carriers of the bird-flu virus. With Welney Wildfowl Trust just around the corner we really need to be vigilant in protecting our domestic birds.

Sorry to be a bit doom and gloom this month but both the above issues are so very, very important. So PLEASE let's work together to protect our own precious local environment.

'till next month – Ed'.

# Useful Telephone Numbers

Age UK Cambridgeshire	0300 6669860
Alzheimer's Society (Fenland)	01945 580480
Anglian Water – Susan Bull	08457 145 145 101
Christchurch Resident's Association	01354 638990
Churchwarden - Mrs. D. Symons	01354 638352
Citizens' Advice Bureau, Wisbech	01945 464367
Community Car Scheme (to book a journey)	07902 316360
Community Centre bookings	01354 638478
Community Fire Safety Officer	07717858166
County Councillor - Fred Yeulett	01354 653763
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 - Jane Rees	01354 638131
Parish Councillor - Jill Bliss	01354 638343
Parish Councillor - William Beswick	01354 638758
Parish Councillor - Roger Gladwin	01354 638538
Parish Councillor - Geoff Harper	01354 638681
Parish Councillor - James Hughes	01354 638310
Parish Councillor - Peter Owen (Chair)	01354 638847
Parish Councillor - Nigel Russell	01354 638279
Police - PCSO Sue Clarke	07738025220
Police - Emergency	999
Police - Non Emergency	101
Telephone Complaints	0345 145000
Townley School	01354 638229
Trading Standards	845040506
Train Information	08457 484950
Upwell Health Centre (and out of hours)	01945 773671
Upwell Health Centre - Pharmacy	01945 774934
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 - Wendy Yates	01354 638448
Gardening Club - Marion Hawthorne	01354 638230
Short Mat Bowls Club - Wendy	01945 772737
WI - Peggy Warby	01354 638339

Web links in the Heron are active when viewed in our online version [www.theheron.info](http://www.theheron.info)



# A First Varsity

- Steve Drawbridge

Part 2 of 3

With interviews complete and the sports bulletin on air it was time for a quick pit stop in the “Alastair Hignell” canteen in time for the main event kicking off at 2.30pm. We were going live from 2.15pm so had a little time to see the teams arriving and appreciate the atmosphere that the fanatical undergraduates from both cities were generating.

Let there be no doubt that this fixture, whilst not in the top tier of English rugby, generates huge support from not only the relevant universities but across the international rugby community, as both teams contained players from as far afield as Australia, New Zealand, Hong Kong, USA and Watford. Around 25 to 30 thousand spectators were expected on the day and, taking advantage of generous discounts for admission, a large traditional gathering of schoolchildren were amongst the excited throng. I had a few minutes left before going “on air” so tried to hunt down the voice of rugby for BBC Radio, Ian Robertson, feeling sure that he must be sharing my gantry along with the other radio station hacks. No, he was nowhere to be found, neither were the faces of BBC TV Rugby - John Inverdale and Jeremy Guscott. But finally I spotted them at the end of the pitch doing live interviews pre-match.

When they had finished they disappeared off to some plush studios to continue their live coverage going out on BBC 2. Not for them the cold expanse of concrete above the royal box that was now my media gantry. Still we all start somewhere, right, and there were actual TV cameras next to me and I did have a BBC microphone all of my own from which I was going to expound my ‘expert’ punditry to an unsuspecting public, yeah that will do nicely. With pre match done with links back to the studio at the business park in Cambridge complete, and the all the excitement, nerves and trepidation of the day were kicking in. 15mins to “on air” it is really its going to happen. Having had one shock result today would we now see another one and would

*Continued next page*





this indeed be a bad thing? Oxford had won the last six matches – a record in the series for either team, and Cambridge last won in 2009 when Australian international Dan Vickerman was captain of the light blues. Cambridge had to stop the rot and were coming into this match

having won five of their nine warm up matches including their last four in an unbeaten November. A much better record than their opponents. Last year's game was very close and expectations were high that this would be the light blues year, time to reverse this long losing streak and on my debut too! For the record Cambridge lead the series on 61 wins to 58 with 14 draws.

"Good afternoon this is BBC Radio Cambridgeshire live from Twickenham for today's 135th Annual varsity Match....."

We're off and running no time for nerves just concentrate and focus and please, please try and enjoy it and above all remember it. Wise words but after a little hesitation I'm swept up in the occasion and the game and soon we are interacting like we've done this before!

"Cambridge have made a hesitant start, Steve, what do they need to do to break down this strong Oxford defence?" "Well Jacko, composure is missing at the moment, which is only to be expected given we have nine new blues in this team and they haven't quite settled into their game plan yet"..... and so on.

The commentary team are settling into their game plan nicely and despite a few missed cues, a few umms and aahs and only a little waffle we seem to be getting away with it. Only hope its coming across OK? Still, too late to worry now! That's the thing with live broadcast you cannot dwell on what you've said or edit it, its instant history and mistakes are already recorded for posterity. It's strange, everything is slowing down in my head and I seem to be speaking and thinking at half pace, apparently this is good thing as I'm prone to gushing and trying to cram too much into one sentence.

The game is a tense affair with both sides struggling to settle in to any shape or pattern and defences are winning out forcing mistakes from both sets of players.

Cambridge have to match the physicality of Oxford who have a powerful pack and a big hard running set of backs whilst Cambridge are looking to dominate the open play and breakdowns with their back row allowing their flair players in the back line to provide the scoring opportunities. Akin to the ladies match, the opposing full backs will be key, and in Charlie Amesbury I believe Cambridge have the stand out player with a bit of the X factor that could deliver the one magic moment that swings the game our way.

First blood goes the way of Oxford with a successful penalty by their huge fly half who having missed an opportunity minutes before slotted a simple shot in front of the posts. Both full backs were soon called into action, but not as predicted by the "pundit" for their attacking expertise, but by huge try saving tackles as the game raced to half time and then with three minutes to go the breakthrough we need. A complicated midfield move was intercepted by Cambridge centre Mike Philips who raced in to score under the posts

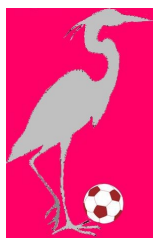
The conversion was good and the half time summary was taking on a whole new complexion, the score is 7 – 3 Cambridge.

"So Steve, a half time lead for Cambridge but slightly against the run of play, what is the coach going to be saying?" "Well Jacko, Shanners will want to remind his players of the game plan and what it is going to take to unlock the Oxford defence but above all he will want to bring some composure to their attack and to keep their defensive shape".....

Summary done and time for a quick pit stop and canteen visit to stock up for what's going to be an epic conclusion to this game, can we hold out and more importantly can the commentary team hold it together and actually tell you about it!?

*To be continued*





# HeronSport



Lee Markillie rises to smash a header against Outwell's post



Needingworth defend a corner as AFC battle the elements to get back on terms

It was a disappointing end to Christchurch's home campaign. Playing against Needingworth United Res, in the tail end of Storm Doris, AFC struggled to control their passing game, and went down 5:3. They had looked good in the first half playing into the wind,

and had come back from an early reverse to see the half out 2:2. In the second half though, playing with the wind, it was a different story and Needingworth's class showed through.

Paul Haresnape

## Football Results

### Mead Plant & Grab 5B League

Cottenham Utd	2	7	AFC Christchurch
AFC Christchurch	1	1	Outwell Swifts Res
AFC Christchurch	3	5	Needingw'th Utd Res

### Reg Haig & Arthur Peck Cup

Histon Hornets Res	4	1	AFC Christchurch
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## Football Fixtures (home team first)

### Mead Plant & Grab 5B League

4 Mar 3pm	Outwell Swifts Res v AFC Christchurch
11 Mar 3pm	Benwick Ath Res v AFC Christchurch
25 Mar 3pm	Houghton & Wyton Res v AFC Christchurch

### Mead Plant & Grab 5B League Table at 26/02/2017

POS		P	W	D	L	GD	PTS
1	Houghton & Wyton Reserves	15	13	1	1	52	40
2	Huntingdon United Reserves	17	13	0	4	58	39
3	Needingworth United Reserves	17	12	0	5	33	36
4	Outwell Swifts Reserves	15	11	2	2	34	35
5	Coldham United Reserves	18	9	2	7	15	29
6	Wicken	18	9	2	7	3	29
7	AFC Christchurch	19	8	2	9	-4	26
8	Fenstanton Reserves	18	7	1	10	4	22
9	Marchester United	18	7	1	10	-24	22
10	Benwick Athletic Reserves	18	4	2	12	-51	14
11	Cottenham United A	18	3	0	15	-33	9
12	Chatteris Town B	17	1	1	15	-87	4

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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.