

The Heron

Community Magazine

March 2019

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

No. 59

In this issue!

Colin's Ypres Trip	2 & 3
Community Info	5
Editorial	5
Diary Dates	6
Letters to the Editor	7
Parish Lunch	7
Arts - Calendar Girls	8
Arts - Welle Cinema	9
Arts - Jazz Club	9
Clubs Pages	12 & 13
Uptown Fun	14
Gardening Club	15
FACT	16
PC Snippets	17
Doris (Ted) Rolfe	18 & 19
Church News	22
Church Mouse	22
Heron Funding	23
Gin Club	23
Newbie Blog	26
Vet's View	26
FRSC Fundraising	27
Useful Numbers	28
And Finally	28
Townley Page	29
Lunch Break	30
Volunteer Group	30
Forgotten Corner	31 & 32

The Heron Flies Free!



Unfettered by Shackles



Full Story on page 23

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Lambretta Club of Great Britain - Ypres Rally 2018

The 13th September 2018 saw the Lambretta Club of Great Britain set off to their rally at Ypres. A dual event to also commemorate the end of WWI. I set off from home with my friend Graham, our two bikes on his trailer, towed by my (or should I say Helen's) car. We caught the ferry from Dover to Calais and met up with our friend Christine and her friend Caroline on the other side of the Channel.

We arrived about 3.30pm and drove on to Ypres, which was about sixty miles away, getting there just after 4.30pm. We set up camp and then went to the Menin Gate near the centre of town where the main WWI memorial stood with a list of 55,800 soldiers.

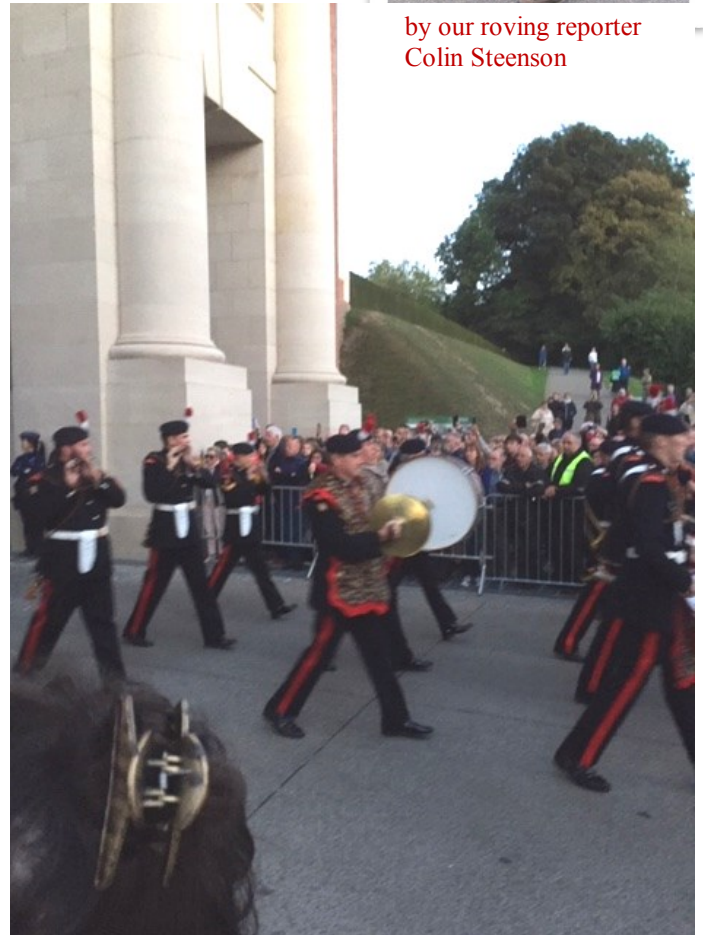
At 8.00pm every evening, 365 days a year, they play "The Last Post", and have a service "At the going down of the sun...etc." After the service was over we went to get a bite to eat in town.



by our roving reporter
Colin Steenson

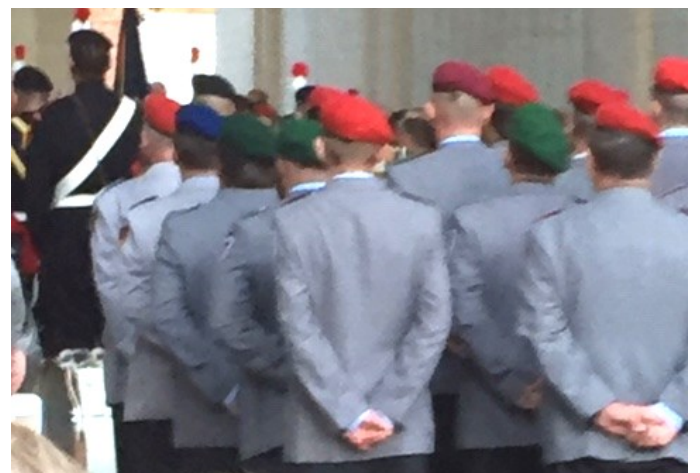


Menin Gate



The Band lead off after the service!

Ypres is a walled city with a series of entrance gates, and a moat all round the outside. After our meal and a couple of pints we went back to camp and bed. The girls were staying in a local hotel as they didn't fancy sleeping with 'insects'! That's not us by the way but the bugs!





TOC-H is an international Christian movement. The name is an abbreviation for 'Talbot House', TOC signifying the letter 'T' in the British Army signals alphabet.

Next day we went off to Popperinger where TOC-H is. Rev. Philip 'Tubby' Clayton the local priest converted the top floor into a chapel. This was designed as a place of rest for soldiers during WWI. A cup of tea and a bit of R&R served the troops well. They could have a snack, read a book, or just chat together. All of this you can still do! You can even stay in the small hotel downstairs. Our own local preacher Rev'd Tooke has visited there and stayed over night on several occasions. A bench in the beautiful gardens outback celebrates Harry Patch - "The Last Fighting Tommie".



Deserters plaque.

Outside the church around the corner there is a plaque listing all the soldiers who had been shot for desertion. They would spend a night in the cells and then be shot the next morning.

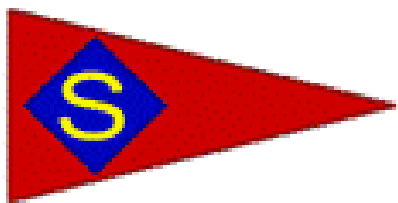
We stopped at the local restaurant in La Grand Place for a meal where there is a statue and plaque dedicated to Elaine Cossey who served tables there during the war and was well known for her dancing.



Later we drove back to Ypres where there was a small rally site. Outside the walled city we crossed the moat to and fro via a footbridge. We went back to camp and just 'chilled' for the rest of the afternoon, before making our way back over the footbridge and into the city again for our evening meal. Sampling the local cuisine of course which was delicious, though I couldn't tell you what it was. We'd just looked at other peoples plates which looked nice and said "*Je prendrai un de ces, s'il vous plait!*" ("One of those please!")



PART TWO NEXT MONTH



Snettisham Beach Sailing Club



FREE SAILING OPEN DAY: *PUSH THE BOAT OUT!*

All are welcome again as Snettisham Beach Sailing Club throws open its doors for its annual Open Day on Saturday 11th May 2019 from 10.00 am until 4.00 pm, as part of the RYA national initiative "Push The Boat Out" to promote sailing. Everyone is welcome to come along and try sailing –

ALL FOR FREE!

There will be free sailing taster sessions on the sea from 11.00 and on the lake all day.

Come and enjoy our clubhouse with food from the BBQ and drinks from the bar.



Save 10% off any R.Y.A. courses booked on the day, and 10% of club memberships purchased on the day.

There is no need to book in advance just come along on the day!

Just bring footwear you don't mind getting wet, a windproof top, a change of clothes, and a towel.

No experience is necessary and would-be sailors of all ages from 8 years upwards are welcome. Children, must be accompanied by an adult but the adult doesn't have to go sailing. Come and chat with our members and find out how you can get into sailing.

For full details see www.snetbeach.co.uk, and have a look at the video from 2017's Open Day at <http://snetbeach.co.uk/video-page>

For further information, please contact: Mark Foley:
publicity@snetbeach.co.uk

0783 3332055/ 01362 688 946

Photographs by Mark Foley
publicity@snetbeach.co.uk



Community Information

Mobile Library: First Tuesday each month - in the lay-by Upwell Road - 12:15 - 12:45pm. Forthcoming dates are: Feb 5th, Mar 5th, April 2nd, May 7th, and so on.

Mobile Post Office:

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

Community Car Scheme: This scheme now has two drivers living in the village. It can be used by anyone who either do not have their own transport or who would like someone to take them for medical, social journeys, or shopping. Transport is door to door and passengers make a contribution to the cost. For more info or to book a journey call Angie 01354 638721.

Delicious Fish and Chips are available outside the Dun Cow from Michael and Michelle's van on Fridays 5.00pm to 8.00pm

Police Community Catch-Up

On Monday 1st April from 10.00am till 11.00am at the Community Centre there will be an opportunity for any interested Christchurch residents to raise any questions or queries, or indeed impart information, to local PCSO's. Not only that but you can treat yourself to some breakfast at the same time as the Pop-Up Café will also be in full flow. **(NOT an April Fool's)**



How on Earth did that happen?

Photographed on Friday 22nd around 3.00am. Brings a whole new meaning to the phrase - "Up the creek without a paddle!" Can't imagine how they managed it? Some nefarious activity I suppose? Unregistered!

School Defibrillator location is on the wall of the dining hall in Townley School grounds. Access via carpark, via Greenways off Crown Road.

TOOL FAIR - at Three Holes Village Hall on Saturday 6th April

If you would like information about booking a stand as an exhibitor please contact Geoff Fox-Noble mob: 07969 336107 or email: king-of-clubs@sky.com or see www.threeholesvillagehall00.org.uk

EDITORIAL

What a breath of fresh air! Could it be that Spring is nearly here already?

Judging by the immersion at the bottom of the previous column it would appear that all this 'fresh air' affects some people rather strangely. It makes Graham Chappell's Fenland Road Safety Campaign article on pages 31 & 32 all the more poignant. Please check out his ad. on page 27 too!

Yes! You read it right! 32 pages and four extra in colour. Just had so much copy to squeeze in this month.

There's part one of Colin's Ypres Trip, which we've held back already for several months; we wanted to give you plenty of advanced warning re the - Snettisham Beach Sailing Club - Free Sailing Open Day - "Push the Boat Out!"; a feature on dear Doris (Ted) Rolfe, who was christened - "Grand Lady of the Fens" by Alan Russell, both now sadly departed; some extra news from the WI with an article on their recent trip to see "Calendar Girls - The Musical"; a new business feature on "Uptown Fun", which has also been held over several months; some important news about FACT following recent discussions; news of 'Gin Club'; and also Christchurch Volunteer Group. Lots happening! What a great little village we are!

Don't forget - "You get out what you put in!" So come on! If you haven't done so already - Get involved!

Then of course there's all the usual features with all those clubs you could get involved in; WI, Gardening Club, Craft Club, the Art Group, and Book Club. Check them all out on pages 12 & 13.

Well! That's me done! (Sun 24th Feb, midday) Think I'll treat myself to a brief sit out in the garden before the Rugby. It's definitely warming up you know!

Enjoy! 'Till next time!

Restard

DIARY DATES

Abbreviations for commonly used venues:

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

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

Weekly events

Mondays 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

Mar 5th Mobile Library visits in lay-by on Upwell Road - 12.15pm till 12.45pm

Mar 5th Craft Club - Jan Clifford - How to work with Clay - 7.00pm CCC

Mar 10th Welle Cinema - “The Bookshop” - Doors open 1.30 for 2.00pm film, £3 per head - TH

Mar 11th Parish Council Meeting - ALL WELCOME - 7.30pm - CCC

Mar 12th Art Club - Watercolour Pencils & Coloured Crayons - Abstract - 1.30pm till 3.30pm - CCC

Mar 12th W.I. - Colours - Mary Blackhurst-Hill - 7.00pm - CCC

Mar 19th Gardening Club - Dr. Eric Somerville- First Aid in the Garden - 7.00pm - CCC

Mar 24th Jazz Club - A Benny Goodman inspired afternoon see p.9 - £6.50 - 12.30 to 2.45pm - CCC

Mar 26th Art Club - follow up on Abstract - see page 13 - 1.30pm till 3.30pm - CCC

Mar 26th Book Club - “No Further Questions” by Gill McAllister - 7.00pm - Kay’s, Brimstone Hall

April 1st Police Community Catch-Up - 10.00am to 11.00am - CCC

April 6th TOOL FAIR - Three Holes Village Hall - from 10.00am - see page 3

Parish Church Services

Mar 3rd 11.00am S E Tooke, A Day All Age Worship

Mar 10th 9.30am Rev’d L Brady, A Day Holy Communion

Mar 17th 3.30pm A Day Evening Prayer

Mar 24th 10.00am Rev’d S & L Brady Holy Communion

Mar 31st 11.00am Rev’d S & SE Tooke Morning Prayer

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

PLEASE NOTE — The Heron April Deadline

*The deadline for all **copy** for **April’s** edition of The Heron is **25th March**. * 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!

Very sorry to hear about all the shenanigans at February's PC meeting. If you resign the whole enterprise is likely to fold isn't it? Your drive and enthusiasm is what is keeping it going to my mind. As to signing away your independence to allow censorship by the PC, forget that! Life in a village eh! Keep positive.

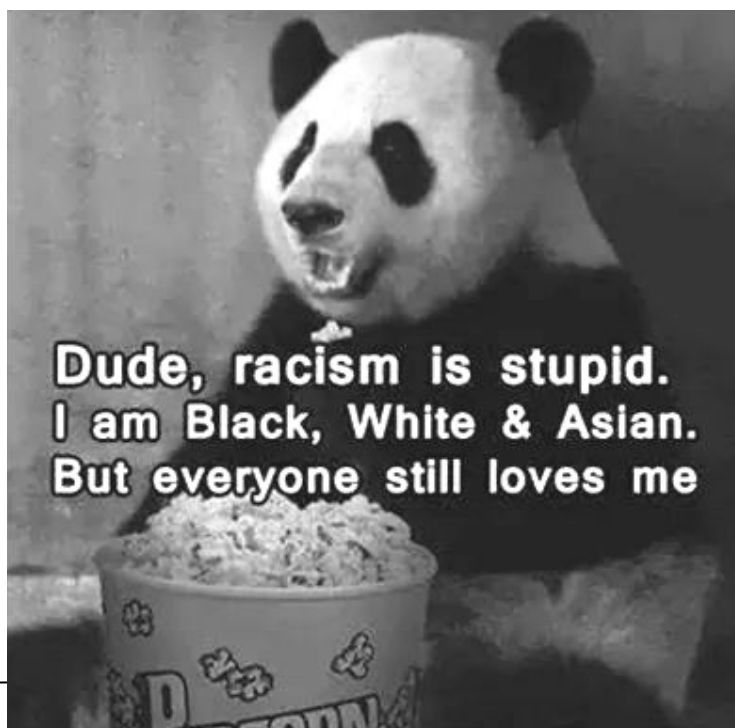
Regards

John Garlick

Hi Rich!

With our move imminent I am pleased to see that you are standing firm and holding your ground after the recent PC debacle. Well done!

No way should The Heron be beholden to the Parish Council for any reason! The thought of them, effectively, seeking to apply some form of



Censorship, would destroy the magazine, as we have come to love it, and make the whole thing unworkable.

Who'd be an Editor - eh? Good luck for the future!

Regards

Paul Haresnape



The 2019 Christchurch Parish Lunch

will take place on

Sunday 7th April 12.30 for 13.00

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

Personal invites are coming around but just in case we miss you, everyone who is over 65 (or whose partner is) and lives in Christchurch Parish is invited.

If you need help with transport or have any queries, please contact

Ruth Ingram on 01354 638419

If you put your name down and then are unable to attend we would really appreciate it if you could PLEASE let us know. Thank You!





Christchurch WI Trip to see Calendar Girls the Musical at the Theatre Royal, Norwich

Ten ladies from our WI group joined other ladies from March WIs and boarded the coach heading for Norwich. With one stop on the way to collect ladies from Wisbech we had a lovely smooth drive courtesy of our charming driver, Andy! Andy was full of very useful information on the trip, which included showing us the house where Stephen Fry lives!

After having a bit of lunch and a mooch around the shops we all met back at the theatre in time for the Matinee performance. The theatre was mainly full of ladies – with lots of WI groups amongst them from far and wide.

The curtains open on a beautiful backdrop of rural Yorkshire and the story unfolds about a group of older

ladies from a Yorkshire WI who are out to challenge the standards placed on women. Throughout the show the cast appeared to be having a great time – as, indeed, were the audience. There were some really funny scenes and some incredibly moving bits too with some great acting by TVs Denise Welch, Ian Mercer, Sara Crowe and Fern Britton. The final scene – the calendar photoshoot – was done exceptionally well and in 'good taste'. I bet every woman in the room was able to relate to it – whatever their shape or size!

The show is a great mix of talent, fun and emotion (with a Yorkshire accent thrown in for good measure) which brought across a powerful message to the audience – regardless of age.

The show ended to a standing ovation and we were all left feeling a little bit emotional but thoroughly entertained.

We were met at the front entrance by Andy and our coach, but not before one of our group decided to get into the spirit of the day by posing for her own Calendar Girl page (see below).





THREE HOLES VILLAGE HALL, Junction of Main Road & Squires Drove, Three Holes PE14 9JY

Sunday 10th March 2019, 2pm:



THE BOOKSHOP (PG) 113 MINS

Set in a small English town in 1959, a free-spirited widow (Emily Mortimer) decides, against polite but ruthless local opposition, to open a book shop. With the help of kindred spirit Mr. Brundish (Bill Nighy) they begin a struggle not just for the book shop but for the heart and soul of the whole town.

NO NEED TO BOOK - Admission £3 per person. Doors open 30 mins before 2.00pm screening. Refreshments & Licensed Bar

Tel: 01945 773710, or 01945 772824

Upwell Jazz Club 2019

Christchurch Community Centre (Sat Nav PE14 9LL)

Sunday 24th March

Guests*: Pete Neighbour – clarinet

Roy Williams – trombone

Phil Phillips – piano

Len Skeat – bass

Neil Bullock – drums

This session sees the return over the ever-popular Pete Neighbour.

Backed by old favourites Len Skeat and Neil Bullock with club first timers Roy Williams and Phil Phillips.

A Benny Goodman inspired afternoon of music making!

Time: 12.30pm - 2.45pm Admission: £6.50 Accompanied under-16s Free

Bar, fresh rolls, crisps and savouries available

More information from Nigel Smith on 01945 773121

*** artistes subject to change**





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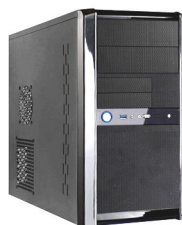
Fenland Leisure, Fenland House,
Padgetts Road, Christchurch, PE14 9PJ



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GUTTERING

UNDERGROUND PIPE & FITTINGS

CEMENT, MULTIFINISH, PLASTERBOARD

Our President, Peggy Warby, welcomed all to the February meeting.



Apologies were received from Ann Hicks and Michele Nardeccia.

We were then introduced to our speaker, Kathleen Henderson from 'Forever Active', who gave us a half hour fitness talk and trial. Kathleen led us through some gentle, chair-based exercises that suited all ages and abilities. This gave us an opportunity to work up an appetite for our Fish & Chip Supper which followed.

Competition entries were received for *A Valentine's Item* with the following points being awarded:

4 points – Susan Quail, Peggy Warby, Margaret Sparrow, Sylvia McLean, Sandra Kay

3 points – Janet Harper, Beryl Brooks, Valerie Parker, Tracy Day, Belinda Gladwin

March's meeting is *Colours* by Mary Blackhurst-Hill

Competition – Something Blue

Refreshments – Sandra Kay and Janet Harper

Raffle Prizes – Margaret Hayes, Sandra Kay, Susan Quail and Valerie Parker

We ended the evening with a sing-along which was enjoyed by most of us.

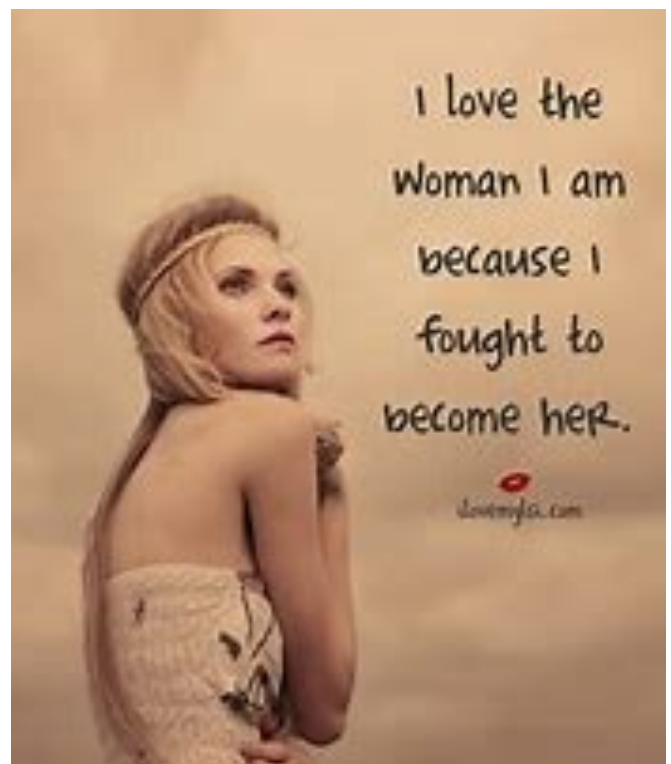
On Wednesday 13th February 10 members from the Christchurch group joined ladies from other WIs in the area on a coach trip to Norwich Theatre to see ***Calendar Girls***. They had a super day where there was time for lunch and shopping before the afternoon performance. Everyone agreed that it was a brilliant show with some really funny and sometimes emotional parts. Highly recommended. (See feature on page 8 - Ed'.)



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, chocolate tasting and 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.

Elaine



Christchurch Art Group

**We meet in the Community
Centre on the 2nd and 4th**

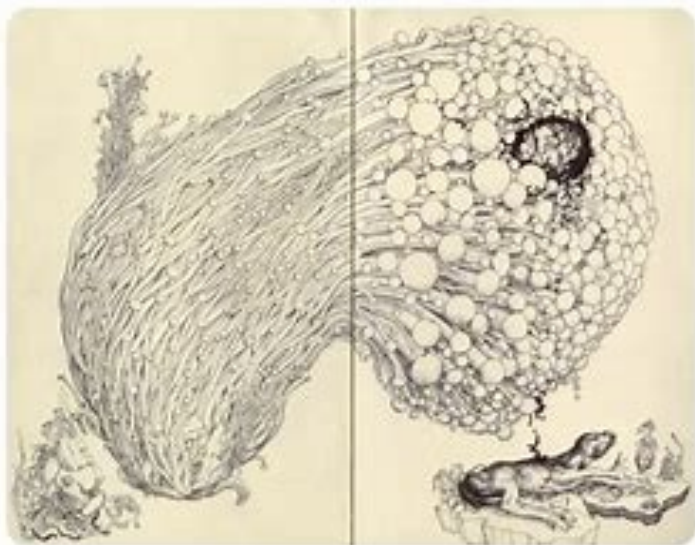
Tuesday of the month 1.30 – 3.30



We started this term reminding ourselves of colour mixing and pen & wash in watercolour, we then had another session on the various types of Pastels.

Our last February session was spent on Sketchbook Art, covering the different ways we can use our sketchbooks both at home, day's out and holidays. This also links to our pen and wash session.

In March we will be looking at watercolour pencils and coloured crayons. Then to finish our spring term we will have fun with Abstract.



Our group is friendly and relaxed. We are all enjoying the sessions and have recently welcomed four new members. We have a tutor to lead us, but we can 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

To cover costs from September we have a joining fee of £20 per term then an attendance fee of £5

This is 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.

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)

Jane Rees was our demonstrator for February's meeting. She showed us several ways to make an attractive bookmark including using a plaited spine (a technique we'd learned last year for Cardmaking), button

elastic, collage (using pictures from magazines) and a corner made from card and decorated with pretty tapes; the corner sits neatly on the corner of the page you are reading.

We used ribbons, charms and various craft bits and bobs to decorate them so all were unique to the crafter. Thanks Jane for all your ideas and for planning a lovely evening.

Next month our demonstrator will be Jan Clifford who will be showing us how to work with clay.

We're a happy, chatty group with a mixed age range and we're always happy to welcome new members. We meet at 7.00pm on the 1st Tuesday of every month at the Community Centre.



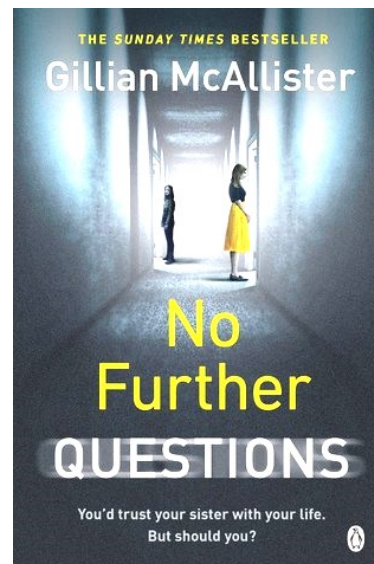
Christchurch Book Club

Just like last month, book club will not have met by the publishing deadline of "The Heron" so this report is written before the meeting. We have been reading "The Wilt Inheritance" by Tom Sharpe. It looks as though we will be having an interesting meeting, though, as it appears that some members have thoroughly enjoyed this book, some "couldn't get into it", whilst others just found it "silly"!

Our March meeting will be on Tuesday 26th March at Kay's, Brimstone Hall. We will be discussing "No Further Questions" by Gill McAllister.

New members are always welcome. We read a wide variety of books and often disagree about how enjoyable they were! Books are supplied by the library, although some prefer Kindles or audio-books.

For more information please contact Sheila Day on 07946635908



UPTOWNFUN



The party industry is one of the leading driving forces in the retail economy, with something happening almost on a daily basis. Whether it's Halloween, Christmas, Easter, St.Patrick's, St.George's, Valentine's, or more everyday Weddings, Birthdays, Hen & Stag nights, or just a Fancy Dress Party. We must keep one step ahead of course. So when most people are planning their Spring Holiday we are already sourcing products for Halloween and Christmas.

Not only is our business varied but it has grown, and grown since our humble origins back in 2005 working out of our garage, thanks largely to the growth in popularity of online shopping. Most of our business is still done online but from very early on we felt that a shop presence was one of the best ways to keep an eye on the marketplace and to see what trends are developing.

We are a family run business, originally from Essex. Starting as an online retailer we soon opened a showroom/warehouse in Epping Forest. This ended in July 2018 when the family moved to Upwell and decided to open a shop the very next month!

Moving to a new house is supposed to be one of the most stressful experiences in your life! Ours certainly was, taking a year to fall into place! So we must have been gluttons for punishment when we moved our business just weeks later. Three young children to get organised for new schools and all this in the build up to the busiest time of year for us - Halloween!

Matters were not made easier for us with our choice of premises, The Old Post Office in Upwell. It was literally falling down, inside and out, so it was all hands to the pumps to get it ship shape before opening in September, just in time for Halloween.

Initially a lot of people thought we might be a pop-up shop just for Halloween. They soon knew different. Obviously within the confines of a relatively small shop space is at a premium, so we always advise our customers to ask if they can't see what they want. As an online retailer we have been offering a 'click-and-collect' service for many years as well as worldwide delivery. Retailing via our website, eBay, and Amazon, as well as through the shop we have a product range of well over 60,000 at the last count.

So if at anytime what you want is not in the shop we can usually lay our hands on it in a day or two. We provide our customers with all manner of party decorations, novelties, and themed tableware, as well as a large variety of gifts, toys, and jokes. The beauty of being an experienced online retailer is that we have a strong logistics partnership with our manufacturers and suppliers; which means if we don't have a product in stock at the shop or in our warehouse, we can typically order it for delivery within 48hrs.

The official registered name of the business is Partypackage Limited, a name derived from the early days of the business when all our customers were online. However, having moved to Upwell, and with a new shop, we were keen to introduce a new trading name for the shop which was less product specific and reflected our business presence as it is now today. Also we were keen to make people aware of where we were.



Uptown Fun at The Old Post Office, Town Street, Upwell. Open Mon-Sat or 24/7 via our online outlets. Please see our ad. on page 11 of The Heron.

So we 'splurged' these two ideas together and came up with "Uptown Fun". The 'Up' being part of Upwell, and the 'town' being after Town Street which is where we are. We think the 'Fun' part speaks for itself.

We strive to excel at providing a personalised service, and it would be our pleasure to serve you, discuss your requirements, and provide everything you need for your event. We are also exploring a new venture in Downham Market at the newly opened Regent's Market.

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

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A.G.M

Christchurch Gardening Club



As the club members gathered in the Community Centre on the evening of Tuesday 19th February it really didn't seem almost three months since our last meeting. There was much chatting taking place as old friendships were renewed. Even in a small village like Christchurch, it's possible to lose touch with people quite quickly, as we all tear off in different directions, such is the pace of life in the 21st century.

The A.G.M is the one meeting of the year where we don't have a speaker. The committee was re-elected unchanged again this year and is as follows:

Chairman, Steve Hawthorn. Secretary, Marion Hawthorn. Treasurer, Peggy Warby. With the other positions filled by Graham Warby, Tracy Day, Sandra Kay, and Jenny Farnsworth.

Our club secretary Marion Hawthorn has once again produced a program of some of the most talented speakers in the area, which I think surprised even our most veteran members, with its breadth of subject and far ranging interests.

First up on the 19th March 2019 is a welcome return of club favourite Dr Eric Somerville. Dr Somerville was last at the club a couple of years back, when he delivered a riveting talk on opium in the fens. This time however, he will be telling us how to stay safe, while working the land, with a talk on First Aid in the Garden. Perhaps a timely intervention for some of our clumsier members. The following month we have a visit from Brian Massingham, telling us all about Wisbech in bloom, on the 16th April 2019. That promises to be another fascinating evening. Then on Sunday May 5th we have the big event of the year the club's 20th anniversary. We are all going out for lunch at the Crown Hotel in Outwell, which should at the very least be a memorable occasion. Especially as Richard Guilford, our esteemed editor, has promised some extra coverage of the club in the Heron, to celebrate this achievement (you never know it might even be in colour!)

The club diary dates are on display in the Community Centre and will be printed in the Heron as usual. If you require any more information about upcoming talks or events or would like to join the club, details of membership are easily obtainable, from myself or Marion on 01354 638 230 Or come along to one of our meetings, we would be happy to see you.

Steve



Fenland Association for Community Transport Ltd.

YOUR COMMUNITY TRANSPORT

Firstly please allow me to introduce myself, my name is Michelle Irvine and I am the new Head of Finance and Funding for FACT – your community transport provider.

I was delighted to be invited to your Parish Council Meeting on Monday 11th February at your Community Centre having met with Councillor Will Sutton previously.

It was great to meet everyone that attended and I hope that we will be able to strengthen our links to you and provide a service that will meet all the needs of the residents of Christchurch.

At FACT we are entering a new era and our vision is to reach more of the communities that are becoming isolated by the reduction of bus services to these remote areas in any way we can by filling in these ever widening gaps.

We do have a dial a ride service currently covering Christchurch (please see our timetables on the website) for this service but we would welcome any suggestions of further services that you may be looking for.

I previously discussed with Councillor Sutton a service to run from Christchurch into Downham Market and this was the main reason for my visit to your Parish Council Meeting. I put together a couple of options that I believe would work for you and they would require Christchurch Parish Council becoming a group member at a fee of £15 per year. Prices were put forward for us to provide buses and drivers and also the option of you using our buses but you providing volunteer drivers.

If the decision is to utilise our buses for volunteer drivers then these individuals would be required to attend our MiDAS training course for 1 day (driving only) or 2 days (with accessibility training). The accessibility training would involve how to assist wheelchair users and anyone who requires help to board the buses.

Our new buses are fully accessible with a lift at the rear and very low steps to enable people who are able to walk assisted to board more easily.

Our offices are located in March and we would welcome anyone who feels they would like to pop in and meet the team and have a look at our buses.



The future for FACT is looking increasingly bright and we would very much like our many existing members and any new members to join us on this journey.

Thank you

Michelle Irvine - Head of Finance & Funding

Membership Fees

Individuals	£10 per year
Groups	£15 per year

We are a membership organisation and as a member of FACT the following services are available:

Dial a Ride This is a pre-bookable scheduled service operating throughout Cambridgeshire currently five days a week, providing a door-to-door service for individual people unable to utilise conventional public transport services. This service is based on a timetable/route and users holding a valid Cambridgeshire County Council bus pass can travel for free.

Dial-A-Car This is a pre-bookable service which can be used by any individuals who have no access to transport services. This service can be used for you to visit friends/relatives, appointments, holidays etc.

Group Hire Our mixed fleet of fully accessible minibuses are available by any not for profit body whose activities are concerned with social welfare, recreation, cultural or similar purposes.

For more information please ring us on 01354 661234 or alternatively please feel free to call in to our offices at 5 Martin Avenue, March, Cambs PE15 0AY and meet our team and have a look at our vehicles.

You can also register as a member, or, enquire, using our website: www.fact-cambs.co.uk



Please quote Ref: HER001

PC SNIPPETS

February 11th 2019

Well. The heating was not working in the Community Centre. Not an auspicious beginning! It was quite a feisty meeting in parts, so there was enough hot air to keep us, if not cosy, at least warm enough.

AND – there were about a dozen people attending this meeting as well as the Councillors. The Chair of the PC warmly welcomed everyone, saying how good it was to see so many villagers there. He encouraged folks to come more often; a fair amount of warmth around, in spite of the lack of heating.

1. Public Time: **a)** Mr K Hill was pleased to announce that there are now several drivers for the Community Car Scheme. **b)** Speedwatch Training isn't done by the police. Richard Guilford has done the course and can train others, once everything goes ahead. The March PC meeting will look at this in detail. **c)** Is the CFC Capture Site going to be an environmental hazard? If so, can anything be done about that? The PC seemed to think their hands are tied and it is the responsibility of the owner of the land.

2. Outstanding matters:-

A Bus: There have been enquiries from villagers as to whether there could be a bus service of some description for Christchurch. A presentation was given by Ms Michelle Irvine, of Fenland Association of Community Transport (FACT), citing the possibility of a weekly bus service to and from Downham Market, on a Friday. Much discussion followed. Several scenarios were put forward, two of which were that either FACT would provide a driver plus minibus, or the community could ask for volunteer drivers. The first idea adds considerably to the cost. The Parish Council could become a member @£15pa. Using the FACT drivers, the cost to the PC would be over £100 per weekly bus; quite a lot less for volunteer drivers, but then they would need the correct qualifications. The question was asked – is there an age limit for drivers? Ms Irvine said she would find out. For fuller details, please see the PC website once the Draft Minutes have been posted. Is the bus more than a ride? An outing for people to enhance their lives? The meeting was not sure many people would take advantage of a bus, were we to have one. All things need to be considered and costed in detail before the PC can vote on this matter. That's for another time.

Dial-a-Ride was discussed too. That only functions in Cambridgeshire.

Other Items: Allotments, Road Signs, Local Highway Improvements, War Memorial work, Street lighting ... all good news but very slow progress. Street light at Wayside, Upwell Road; there is a problem with the electricity supply to it. The PC will have to come to a decision once all the options are considered.

Traffic Calming in the village:- The PC decided to go for a sign which shows a smiley face when cars pass within the speed limit. A cross face would show when the speed limit is

exceeded. A suggestion was put forward for some sort of traffic island at Church Road/Padgetts; also, a sign just there, pointing to Church Road saying "Christchurch Village Only", to avoid trucks driving through the village to get to the Downham Market road. These will be considered and costed.

Recreation Ground Community Action Day: discussion about what needs doing and who would come along. The PC is hoping for support from the village.

Footpath outside Plot 1, Upwell Road. The owner of Plots 2 and 3 spoke. He is very concerned that he might be evicted from his home, if the footpath is not completed. He cited the deeds of the matter, and explained that he considers it not to be his responsibility. After lengthy discussion, the Parish Council and the owner will both look into the legalities. The PC was very sympathetic to him with regard to the eviction threat, and wanted to avoid that at all cost.

The Heron: This topic generated a lot of hot air. If readers wish to have all the details, please look at the Draft Minutes on the PC website. *(Also please see the article on page 23 - Ed')*

Lunch Break is happening twice a month, and the rental costs of hiring the small room in the CCC are being met by a grant from CARE NETWORK, CAMBRIDGESHIRE. Thanks were given to Cllr Will Sutton for finding out about CNC. but he said it was actually his wife who suggested it. Thanks were then expressed to her by the PC Chair.

Bowls Club; a tree needs to be removed - Cllr Hughes in charge.

Trees elsewhere which appear to be a hazard: the PC needs to approach the Landlord before taking action

Police Report: The PSO had visited the school.

County/District Councils: Cllr Will Sutton mentioned the Golden Age Fair in Chatteris. These Fairs seem to have helped a number of people.

3. Clerk's Report: a) The Precept has been submitted to the County Council. b) The Clerk attended a session on TREES and the responsibilities of the village. Did you know that there are 3 TREE PRESERVATION ORDERS in the village? The Willows by the Dun Cow; a Sycamore in Crown Road, and an Ash in Green Lane. c) In 2020, there is to be a countryside VILLAGE HALLS WEEK. The Clerk will find out more about this and report back. d) There was an accident outside the school - the pavement needs looking at. This is the Highways responsibility.

4. The Recreation Ground Charity need a meeting.

5. Planning – details will be on the website; nothing much to report.

6. Finance: doing fine, but the street lighting repairs and replacement will take a big chunk out of the funds.

Annie Nason

Memories of Mum

By Tricia Fisher
(Daughter)

Before I began to write my tribute to Mum I recalled a few years ago Mum told me that she had written down everything about her early life. Whilst looking through some papers I then discovered yet another notepad in much more detail. The following piece is in her own words;



I was born on the 19th December 1923. My parents were Annie and Fred Morley, I was their only child. We lived in an old farm house along the 16ft bank which was owned by Mr Pate of Ivy House Christchurch. My Dad was yard man for him as he kept bullocks, pigs and chickens. I longed to have a brother or sister and one day Mum caught me looking under the gooseberry bush. "What are you doing Doris?" she said. I said "I'm looking for a brother or sister, you said they come from under a gooseberry bush." When I reached 5 years old I went to the Old School (next to the Church) having to walk as there was no transport like there is today, but there were other girls who lived close to me to walk along with. If it was wet we used to take off our coats, hats and dry them by an old open fire in the classroom. There was the infants room, along with the big hall which held 3 classes, each one having their own teacher. My close friends were Doris Coulson (Doris Wolsey) as you now know her and Maisie Hutchison.

I was brought up as a Methodist, my mother was caretaker of the Methodist Chapel along Upwell Road Christchurch and from a very early age would go along with my bucket to help her in any way I could. Dad had to light the fires and fill the old oil lamps and in turn we could choose our hymns. We always chose

"Joyful Joyful" as that used to make poor old Billy Cawthorn cry. HOW NAUGHTY! The first Sunday in June was our anniversary when we wore our new dresses and straw hats hoping to look our best. We sang and recited our rescitations. The following day we would pile into the horse drawn wagon with the organ and parade round the village singing. We travelled down to Exmoor and Lakesend from 9 in the morning arriving back at the chapel for tea. Sometimes it was very hot weather. Once a year we went to Hunstanton. That was the only outing we had!

We moved house and went down Dun Cow Drove in a bungalow named Strawberry Villa, that's where Pat Osborne lives now, although its all very different today. We later moved to a house round the Toll. I was about 7 or 8 then and I had my first bike so was able to cycle to the Townley School which was fab. We were very pleased with our gym slips and white blouses and I stayed there until I was 14. In 1937 some of my friends went off to Wisbech High School, but my parents couldn't afford for me to go, so I left school and went to work as a maid at the Rectory for five years. Phyllis Gipson (later Phyllis Russell) was the cook, Doris Cornwall was the parlour maid and I was the kitchen maid. I used to get 5/- a week which was paid monthly which I had to sign for. If you broke anything you had to put sixpence in the missionary box. Mother had to buy my morning clothes – dress, apron and cap. Afternoon wear was paid for by my mistress. Our food was included. We got one half day a week and every other Sunday off but we had to be in by 9pm. I had to be up every morning at 6.30, then sweep the stairs and hall and dust and light the fires. One morning the mistress said did you dust the pictures on the landing. "Yes Mam!" I said, "Well I know you did!" she said, because they were oil paintings and you could see where I had dusted them. Not knowing I should have used a feather duster. No one told me that and we certainly didn't have any oil paintings at home (Oh dear!). We didn't have any electric sweepers just an old Ewbank that you pushed over the floor. The outside step was scrubbed every morning and the door bell and knocker polished before breakfast at 9am.

Mum was 18 when she first met Dad. He was from the nearby village of Welney. Their close friends were Walter Chamberlain and his wife Ivy. They were often out and about together. A photograph of Mum, Dad and Walter was discovered when Walter passed away which Malcolm Hicks gave to us. We nick-named them the Bonnie and Clyde of Christchurch as Dad was smartly dressed and looked as though he had spats on.

In August of 1942 they became engaged and were married on the 4th March 1944. It was a very quick affair as Dad had to be back in Coventry to join his regiment. Rumour went round that Mum was pregnant but I wasn't born until six years later. In 1947 Dad was demobbed and they lived down Crown Road in a cottage owned by Don Russell's mother. Phyllis and Don were our next door neighbours. Ten years later we moved to Wayside Estate.

Mum worked hard on the land helping out when she could whilst Dad was working on a local farm before working for Biggs Wall. Doug and I had a very happy childhood spending many hours pulling strawberries on Dad's land before returning home to a nice cooked breakfast before going to school. They didn't have much money but we never felt deprived of anything. Dad was in his early 40's before he passed his driving test. He had promised that if he passed we would go to the seaside. What a treat. I remember standing on the front lawn waiting for his return to see if Dad had passed. Now instead of heading to nearby Hunstanton, he decided to go to Skegness. There were no Sat Naves in those days. We all piled in and set off. Now Mum was never a good navigator so we got lost. She said to Dad "Well, follow that car Ted, they have got buckets and spades in the back window". We followed and ended up in a car park and had to pay to get out. Needless to say Dad was not pleased.

On another occasion Mum said "Go slow Ted. It says that on the sign up there!. Dad said "Oh for Lord's sake Mother it says 'George Stow' cattle crossing!". Every time they went out in the car she had to take a flannel and salt and vinegar for the fish and chips. When I asked why she had to take a flannel she said "It's in case we get 'gormed up!'". Its still a joke in my family as I have said it to my boys over the years.

In 1999 Dad died. They had been married for 55 years. Life is never the same when you lose your husband but with the help of family, wonderful friends and neighbours she carried on.

In June 2008, aged 84, Mum suffered a small heart attack and ended up in QEH in Kings Lynn. A few days after she was taken to Papworth for a heart bypass. The heart bypass was successful but sadly two days later she lost her left leg. Many people thought that was the last time they would see her. In September she came back to Christchurch to Wayside Estate and was cared for by Doug and I and our spouses taking it in turns. It soon became apparent that we needed greater care as it was such hard work so we were fortunate to get home care in place. In the April of 2009 she moved to 6 Upwell Road in a beautifully adapted council bungalow. Gradually, bit by bit, she became that

independent person again. She continued to have home care four times a day and was always bright and cheerful when the carers came. She built up a lasting friendship with Debbie, they shared many a laugh and joke together. Mum also looked forward to her daily visits from her dearest friends Alma, Sheila and the late Mary Rolfe.

Mum was a sociable person, she loved to talk to anybody. She would often sit outside on the bridge as we called it and speak to everyone that passed. Schoolchildren would call out "Hello Doris!". People would walk by with dogs, and she even knew the names of the dogs. She would say to me oh that's "Mr so and so". I hadn't a clue who these people were but she would make a habit of asking if she saw strangers. We called it the Doris Rolfe Fan club. Mum was also a member of the WI joining at the age of 19 paying 2/- a year. How times have changed. She enjoyed short mat bowls and in her younger days was very keen on drama and starred in many plays directed by the late Mrs Constance Sparrow. My Uncle George used to call her "Dora Bryan". Mum also loved the village gala's and was never afraid to wear some outrageous costumes on some of the floats.

In March last year the remaining leg would not support her and so back to hospital again. Doug and I were actually told that night that Mum's heart was very weak and we should be prepared.

At the age of 94 we weren't surprised, so we came home feeling a bit low and wondering if we would have to prepare a funeral. However the next day when I visited her in hospital she was sitting up in bed and protesting why am I here. She always bounced back. It was remarkable.

Finally in April it was agreed that she couldn't be cared for anymore at home and we would have to look for a care home. Doug and Sue found "The Chestnuts" and phoned me to say it was just the right place for Mum. I went the following day with Doug to check it out myself.

She arrived on the 6th April and had a wonderful welcome from the staff and residents. However about a month in she wanted to come home. I think because everytime she had been in a care home it was for respite but this time was different. We had to tell her that she wouldn't be going back to her beloved Christchurch. "Oh dear", she said, "I won't see my friends and I wont ever be able to go back to the WI". She was wrong of course as many of her friends have visited her in the Chestnuts and gradually she came to accept it.

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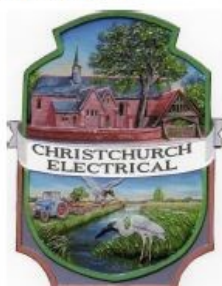
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Recently, we were saddened by the death of well-loved Doris (Ted) Rolfe. It was a privilege to hold the celebration of her life in our Parish Church, which was a wonderful tribute to her long life. We all came away blessed, I am sure. A very dear friend of so many.

EASTER is not very far away, which means that the season of **LENT** will soon be upon us. Ash Wednesday is the first day. **LENT** is the name given to the six weeks that precede Easter. Tradition has it that we should perhaps consider experiencing some kind of hardship during Lent, remembering the time Jesus spent fasting in the desert. Some people do indeed fast during Lent; others give up things they like; chocolate, or sweets for example. The church is holding some events which **EVERYONE** is invited to join in with **EVERYONE MEANS EVERYONE, by the way, not just church members!**

a) Everyone cares about our village community. During Lent, we are going to pray for our community. There is a small leaflet with ideas and prayers which you might like to have, and join us in praying for people who live on selected roads listed in the leaflet; different roads in each of the six weeks of Lent. You take the leaflet home and use it to remind you to pray on your own, where and when it suits you. Every day, or once a week. Collect one from the church, or from Annie Nason.

b) Remember the **LENT LUNCHES** that were so popular some years ago? (Sometimes known as **HUNGER LUNCHES**). We will be holding two Lent Lunches this year. They are on **Saturday March 16th at Pear Tree Farm, at 12 noon**, and **Sunday March 24th in the church, also at 12 noon**. Just turn up. We will serve soup, bread and cheese. There will be no charge for the meal, but the idea is that, if we feel able, we bring a donation of food (non-perishable) for a local Food Bank, and/or a donation of money for a local charity for the homeless. The lunch on Sunday 24th, will follow the service that day. On that Sunday, it is Christchurch's turn to host the other churches in our group (Six Fen Churches) in a joint Holy Communion Service. Come along to that before the lunch, or just come to the lunch. **EVERYONE IS WELCOME!**

Rev Ian Brady and his wife, Rev Lynda Brady would value your special prayers at this time. They were in Edinburgh in February for a short break, when Ian was taken ill and he ended up in hospital there where he still is at present. Please pray for his recovery and for Lynda and their sons too, at this worrying time.

22 **Get well soon Ian!**

Crumbs from The Good Book

By our very own Church Mouse....

There have been a lot of Mad March Hares about in this neck o'the woods this year. Well, they aren't really mad, of course. Humans gave them that name because they didn't understand what the Hares were about, sadly. It's so easy to misunderstand our fellow creatures. We assume something is just so, without checking whether things are, in fact, "just so". It can be quite hurtful sometimes.

That itinerant preacher in the 1st Century is a case in point. One instance I heard about (when someone was reading out loud from The Good Book in the Church) sticks in my memory.

He was outside somewhere, talking to a lot of people. They were crowding him, and some children wanted to get to the front and see what was going on. Youngsters are the same in every species!



His friends told the children to go away, but he said "No way! Let them come. They are as important as adults" ...or words to that effect. His friends had assumed, wrongly, that he just wanted to give his time to grown-ups. He went on to say that unless the grown-ups became like children in their attitude and openness, they would completely miss the point of God's love and care.

I bet *that* particular crumb shook some of them up a bit!



Heron Funding

It seems that my elation last month at retaining PC funding until the end of the next financial year 2019/2020 was a little premature. You may remember my mentioning that there were moves afoot to put some rules in place and make The Heron sign up to some sort of contract with the PC. Well that was never going to happen.

I had pointed out to the PC that, as funding had already been agreed following February's PC meeting, it would be 'wrong' to change the rules until the end of the next financial year 2019/2020. They said that this was not the case despite it being agreed at February's PC meeting and minuted with Cllr Jill Bliss proposing and Cllr Jeff Harper seconding the Income & Expenditure part of said minutes, as shown in extract below.

111/18-19

Income & Expenditure

a) As at 31 December income of £16,962.68 had been received and expenditure of £8,974.48 had been incurred, resulting in a surplus of £7,988.20 for the year and a total cash balance of £52,119.07.

b) Members considered the draft budget for 2019/2020. **The following sums were ALLOCATED: -**

Replacement of 16 street lights	£16,782
Mobile speed monitoring device	£3,200
Legal fees for Recreation Ground	£2000
War Memorial reserve	£2000
Election costs	£1,000

Heron Grant £960

Village entry sign on Padgett's Rd.	£500
Community Centre direction signs	£500
Additional Community Centre bin	£309
	£27,251

Total expenditure	£40,150
Available from reserves	£25,000
Anticipated Income	£2,500
Precept to balance budget	£12,750

Cllr Bliss proposed the adoption of the draft budget. This was seconded by Cllr Harper.

c) Members resolved to set the precept for 019/2020 ay £12,750, a reduction of 1,500 or 10.53%. Proposed by Cllr Bliss, seconded by Cllr Harper.

d) Members approved the following accounts for payment:

Clerk salary & Home Office allowance	£335.57
Clerk back pay re 2018/2019 pay settlement	
	£38.72

The Heron £80

E Mason & Son	£1,680,000
---------------	------------

However, I shall be magnanimous and make no further comment save to simply say that, from the beginning of the financial year 2019/2020 we will no longer require a subsidy from the PC as we have secured a source of short term private funding to cover this.

We will, however, still need to hold two or three fundraisers during this coming year to make ends meet. Things in the pipeline are; a Rock Choir concert, The Alan Norris Big Band with special guests, and Heronaid II. We hope that we will be able to count on your support at these events - soon to be announced!

As always any donations in support of The Heron would be most gratefully received, and we thank wholeheartedly our regular contributors.

We hope that the £960 per year saving made by the PC by no longer funding The Heron can be put towards a good cause such as the proposed new village bus service.

Richard WB Guilford - Editor

Gin Club



Dry January came to a spectacular end on the 26th during the first meeting of the Christchurch Gin Club which was held at a secret location. Six people attended culminating into what was an amazing evening.

The evening commenced at 7:30pm with six colourless spir-its, an aqueous mixture of alcohol alongside aromatic plant extracts. Spicy, Chocolate, Orange and well-known Gins were occasionally accompanied by varieties of tonic from the Mediterranean through to local supermarket originals. The crisp dash of quinine and bitterness allowed the flavour of the gin to come through and whet the palate for what was the start of something very inspiring.

Four hours later, boxes were ticked describing the look, design of the bottle, the smell, the taste and which tonic was best accompaniment for each of the Gins. After the first, maybe second glass, it was announced a committee should be created allowing the CGC to become a more regular fixture in the village social diary.

Voting commenced, scrap paper was ripped into small pieces allowing the six people in attendance to vote in secret. Election of Chairperson was unanimous, closely followed by Treasurer, Minute Taker and Public Relations Officer. Marketing Executive came in 3-3 with a second vote 6-0, and everyone voted for themselves on Weights and Measures, but after a few more glasses, the vote was once again unanimous and the sixth person was sworn in.

It was decided that the Christchurch Gin Club would meet monthly and the next date was set for early March. For more information on subscriptions and what to bring to the next event, please email derekrh@btinternet.com

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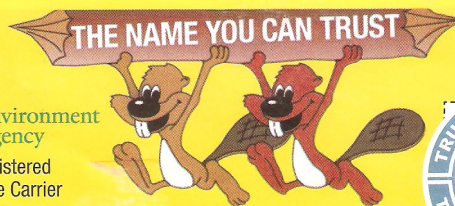
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The Newbie Blog

A BIG THANK YOU TO OUR FARMERS

I would like to raise a toast to all Farmers, their wives and families, and their farm workers. They do a great job for us, and are so very important to our country. I find it so very interesting, talking to farming folk, who know the land, the weather, the farming year, the various crops they are growing....we don't have many animals on farms close by, but where would we be without such food staples as potatoes, onions, and cabbages? Then there is the oil seed rape blossom, to come in a few short weeks. Not only do they feed us, and other farm animals, but they also make the countryside look wonderful. Flowering crops, different colour greens of foliage, contrasting with the black East Anglian soil. What a picture!



Recently, though, I have been distressed to see on TV, and to read in the newspapers, the stories of our farming community in The Fens being threatened by criminals, who come from around the UK to indulge themselves in the so-called "sport" of Hare Coursing. They come, in spite of the fact

that this "sport" is against the law. It never occurred to me that this could happen. I am shocked, and very concerned for all people involved in farming. So sad.

I must be very naïve. In the past, when people talked of the farming community being in danger, I would think of accidents involving farm vehicles, or chemical-related injuries. In fact, those dangers are still very real, though less so these days, as the vehicles have safety built in to them. But I have a friend whose farming husband died young, about 10 years ago, as a result of an accident involving a tractor. She was left with three young children, and has done a great job bringing them up on her own, I have to say! Lovely young people. So

LET'S HEAR IT FOR OUR FARMING COMMUNITY!



Vet's View

by Nick Wojciechowski



The Equine influenza outbreak this winter has become quite a hot topic. As we have a number of stables in our area I would like to provide a brief update on the subject.

Equine influenza is a respiratory disease of horses caused by a virus. Like the human influenza virus it tends to mutate quickly, making prevention difficult. The disease is endemic in the UK which means it is expected that a number of cases will be identified as the virus circulates in the horse population. The virus spreads through an airborne route from an infected horse, either directly or indirectly via handlers and equipment. The incubation period lasts two to five days. This means that animals might not show any clinical signs of the disease for a few days which makes spreading of the disease rapid, especially in unvaccinated horses.

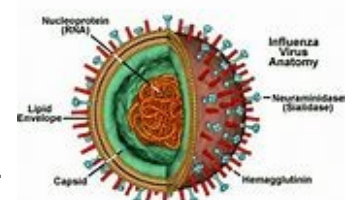
Clinical signs of equine flu include: sudden onset of dry, harsh cough, fever, nasal discharge – initially clear but it becomes purulent and thick with time, lethargy and loss of appetite. In most of the cases these signs will stop within one to two weeks. In some cases the infection can

lead to secondary pneumonia, muscle pain, inflammation of the heart muscle



and limb swelling. Although disease is normally curable some horses might die because of the infection. It is recommended that all horses should be vaccinated against the disease. Regular vaccination should protect the horses from the infection or at least make the signs a lot milder. If you suspect that your horses might have contracted the disease please contact your vets immediately. On top of providing appropriate treatment vets might collect necessary samples for testing which currently can be run free of charge at the Animal Health Trust for registered practices.

Nick



N.B. There is some risk of cross-contamination to dogs. Any abnormal signs consult your vet - Ed'.

Continued from pages 18 & 19)

She made friends very quickly and loved musical movement which the residents had once a month. She would sing all the songs and move her arms and urge others to join in. She would sing all the songs and move her arms and urge others to join in. She loved to do word search and adult colouring and even took up knitting again, although there were only 10 stitches on the needle she was having a go.

On the 19th December it was her 95th birthday. Doug, Sue and I had agreed that we would make it very special. She said she didn't want a fuss but at such a great age you never knew whether there would be another birthday. We took her best friend Alma and had lunch with her before entertainment was laid on for her the musical movement lady who she so enjoyed. We have a wonderful video of her enjoying the sing a long and doing all the movements. All the residents then enjoyed birthday cake it was a truly lovely day.

On Christmas Eve I spent the day with her as this was the first Christmas that I wouldn't have her at my table. It was hard for both of us. I gave her her Christmas present and she said did I want her to open it now. Inside I had made her a photograph album of her life. She was absolutely thrilled.

I last saw her on the Sunday two days before she died. She was very tired but happily sat up to see photos of her great grandson Thomas and videos I had taken in. Then as I sat there she went back to sleep.

Mum lived for her family she absolutely adored her grandchildren and great grandchildren. The next biggest thing in her life was this village. She had spent the last 94 years of her life in Christchurch, spending only the last eight months in Wisbech. As one resident said to me "I will always remember her smile!" Each one of you will have special memories of her. It was very humbling to hear from Arnie the owner of the Chestnuts to say that she had a great impact on so many lives in the home in so short a time. You cant ask for better than that. As the late Alan Russell said on her 80th birthday, they broke the mold when they made this Grand Lady of the Fens.

She was a wonderful Mum, and we will miss her so very much but Doug and I are so thankful that we had her in our lives. Rest in peace Mum now reunited with

*Snakes alive!
Playful 'till the end!*



Fundraising for the Honey Farm Bend Safety Barrier Installation Bid

PLEASE SEE FULL ARTICLE ON PAGES 31 & 32

FRSC (Charlotte's Way) Chair, Graham Chappell, of Euximoor Drove, is offering his services, in the coming weeks, as a Trainee Gardener and odd job man, in return for donations towards the Campaign's portion of the Honey Farm Bend, Sixteen Foot Bank Road, Safety Barrier, joint 'LHI' bid, detailed in this month's edition of The Heron (pages 31 & 32).

Graham specialises in jungle clearance and other awkward jobs but is also a keen gardener and is currently studying for the RHS level 2 Horticulture qualification.

Contact Graham on 07505 726475 for more details .

The Fenland Road Safety Campaign

(Charlotte's Way)

Registered Charity No. 1144547



Useful Telephone Numbers

Age UK Cambridgeshire	0300 6669860
Alzheimer's Society (Fenland)	01945 580480
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
District Councillor - Will Sutton	01354 638025
District Councillor - Michelle Tanfield	07908 707129
Electricity Faults - UK Power Networks	105
FACT	01354 661234
Fenland District Council	01354 654321
Floodline	0845 988 1188
Library - March	0354 0455225
National Debtline	0808 808 4000
Norfolk Dial-a-Ride	01553 770310
Parish Clerk - David Gibbs	07932 191050
Parish Councillor - Jill Bliss	01354 638343
Parish Councillor - Richard Lloyd	01354 638956
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
Veterinary Centre - The Crossings (D'Mkt)	01366 382219
Vicars - Ian & Lynda Brady	01354 740627
Water Emergencies	08457 145145

Club Contacts

Art Club - Jan Clifford	01354 638217
Book Club - Sheila Day	07946 635908
Craft Club - Wendy Yates	01354 638448
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!...

Some of you may have seen the new comedy programme on Dave called - **HYPOTHETICAL** in which various comedians are given hypothetical scenarios to test their skills on how to deal with them.

Here are a few examples to see how you might react to them, and attempt to resolve them.

1. A Parish Councillor assaults a village resident.
2. Another is regularly seen throwing bags of rubbish out of his car window.
3. Another threatens to shoot your dog.
4. A local businessman unfairly sacks a previously well praised worker on the basis of an anonymous letter posted through his letterbox.

Would you:-

- a. Ignore it and sweep it under the carpet?
- b. Confront the person concerned and suggest they resign / reinstate their employee?
- c. Make sure everyone in the village knows about it?
- d. Contact the relevant authorities; police, FDC, etc., and report it?

What would you do?

We will be introducing a new column next month entitled "Critics Corner" where we invite readers to comment on any local bugbears they may have, whether in the village, or, round and about. Where possible we will attempt to address these concerns, and deal with them; like for example the residents who are dumping their household rubbish onto the Playing Field!

'Till next time! - Ed'.

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



TOWNLEY SCHOOL AND PRE-SCHOOL

Christchurch, Wisbech, Cambs. PE14 9NA

Email: office@townley.cambs.sch.uk

March 2019

Story Café

Thank you to everyone who came to Emerald's story café. They had a wonderful time talking and learning about Diwali, making Divas and baking some lovely Diwali treats.

Early Years Camera

Do you have a digital camera that you no longer use? Early Years' camera has broken and taking photos is an essential part of their learning journals. If anyone has a camera they would be willing to donate, we would be extremely grateful.

Annual Bedtime Read

As always, our bedtime read was a magical affair and we would like to extend a huge Thank You to the staff and FOTs for making it happen. Also, thank you to Kieran and Alex's Nan for providing biscuits for the whole school!



FOTS

Our Friends of Townley School are extremely low on funds! They only have £495 in the kitty and it costs us over £1000 to get the pool up and running, (which FOTS usually cover). Children in years 1-6 are taking part in a poster competition, with a prize going to the most persuasive poster. FOTS have a number of lovely events coming up to help raise funds for the pool. If you can help at any of these events please let us know.

12th March—FOTS and Governors will be holding a coffee morning 8:45am to 9:45am

5th April—Easter cake bake and Egg hunt after school, each class will make something special for a raffle

17th May—Rock Paper Scissors Cup and cake sale after school

24th May—Non-Uniform Day £1 to wear non-uniform to school

19th July—End of term party after school

FOTS really need your help in supporting these events otherwise the children will not be able to swim this year.



Check us out on Facebook!

Townley School and Pre-School



Lunch Break

MEET YOUR FRIENDS...

MAKE NEW ONES...

**Join us for lunch at the Community Centre
on the Second and Fourth Wednesdays of
February, March, and April**

12.00 noon—2.00pm

Bring your own lunch. The kettle will be on for
tea, coffee, soups, etc.

NEED A LIFT? (No charge!) Contact Wendy Yates
on 638448. If she can't bring you she
will contact you with someone who
can!



QUESTIONS? Contact Annie 638088
or, annie_nason@yahoo.com

Our Village Pub used to do lunches twice a month a while back, but that came to an end. Folks were disappointed, so our wonderful Pop-up Cafe ladies came up with their version of it, twice a month. The food was excellent, and the company great, by all accounts. However, their family commitments were such that they couldn't continue with the venture. They and their lunches have been much missed, which shows how much people appreciated their contribution to our extended village life. Thank you ladies! Now we will have "Lunch Break". It is happening on the 2nd and 4th Wednesdays of the month, 12-2pm, beginning in February. This is not my original idea. I was inspired by Lunch Break in a much smaller village, UFTON, Warwickshire, where I lived for a number of years. There, it happened once a month, only for an hour, in various homes. People took their own lunch and the host home provided hot drinks. It was fun to meet people and catch up. As we have such a superb facility here - our Community Centre - I thought it might be fun to try a Lunch Break in Christchurch, in the CCC, rather than in someone's home. Having spoken to a lot of people, I have found there is good support for the venture. Councillor Will Sutton found an organisation that funds small social ventures such as this and 'Hey Presto!' the CCC rent has been funded! Website - www.care-network.org.uk

THE FIRST ONE WAS GREAT! COME AND JOIN US!?

Annie

Christchurch Volunteer Group

Is anybody interested in helping to organise
and set up a volunteer group for
Christchurch?

There are many of you that already
volunteer or organise volunteer work. The
aim of the volunteer group would be to
bring all these activities together under one
roof and create a one stop shop. Those
people already running a group would be
able to share their expertise and also
hopefully have access to a volunteer group
that may alleviate problems with recruiting
and ensure continuance of service. There
may be benefits in a group being better able
to secure funding and take on a wider
selection of projects.

Are you retired or do you have some spare
time available for volunteering on projects
in the village? I am aware that there are
people who buy newspapers for their
neighbours or pop round for a cup of tea
and a chat. This maybe just good
neighbourliness but it is a form of
volunteering that might be a project that
could be expanded.

If you are interested in volunteering or just
fed up, bored or lonely then maybe
volunteering might be the opportunity you
have been looking for.

Contact Martin on 01354 638150





The Fenland Road Safety Campaign

Registered Charity No. 1144547



Honey Farm Bend, on the Sixteen Foot Bank Road



Cambs County Council Local Highways Improvement joint multi-Council and multi-agency funding bid.

Following the death of Sharon Taylor (54), from Sutton-in-the-Isle, in a single vehicle immersion accident in the Sixteen Foot Drain, at Honey Farm Bend, Stonea, in October 2017, concerns were raised. She had been en route to a car boot sale in nearby Wimblington, and was not travelling fast. The particular hazard of this bend on the Sixteen Foot, had previously claimed the life of a young mother, Karen Poole, from Christchurch, in an earlier single vehicle immersion accident, from which her then baby daughter, Hannah, was miraculously saved by a local farmer who HAD witnessed the accident. He had bravely entered the river to do what he could, to help.

A supporting document, entitled 'The Forgotten Corner of Fenland', has been produced on behalf of The Fenland Road Safety Campaign, FRSC (Charlotte's Way), which is intended to give a detailed history and

explanation for the proposal to submit a joint, multi-Council, multi-agency bid for Cambs County Council Local Highways Improvement funding, for the installation of a suitable stretch of safety barrier, at the Honey Farm Bend, which lies on the B1098, near the town of Chatteris, on the boundary of both Wimblington and Stonea, and Manea Parish Councils, and within the territory of Fenland District Council.

This proposal has been developed following initial discussions between local Fenland District Councillors, Cllr Will Sutton, and Cllr Maureen Davis, colleagues at Wimblington and Stonea, Christchurch, and Manea Parish Councils, FRSC, Fenland Road Safety Campaign (Charlotte's Way) Chair, Graham Chappell, and Andy Preston, Highway Projects and Road Safety Manager, of Cambs County Council, who advised, in April 2018, that this would be an appropriate way to try to secure the level of funding required for safety barrier installation at this location, which is likely to cost upwards of £50,000, and therefore well beyond the scope of any individual Parish or Town Council, seeking funding through the LHI scheme, which limits County Council funding to £10,000 per individual Council bid.

Commitment to the Joint LHI bid -

Those who have committed to joining the proposed bid, thus far, are Wimblington and Stonea, Christchurch, and Manea Parish Councils, who have each agreed to allocated LHI bids of £1,000, to secure contributions of up to £10,000, per bid, from Cambs County Council. In addition, it is proposed that the FRSC (Charlotte's Way), will contribute £10,000 to the bid, with an anticipation that this will be matched by a further £10,000 input from Cambs County Council, under the LHI scheme, which would take the bid value total up to £40,000 from Cambs CC, and £13,000 from Parish Councils and FRSC (Charlotte's Way), giving a combined total of £53,000, thus far.

It is likely that the cost of installation for the proposed stretch of safety barrier at Honey Farm Bend, will exceed the £50,000 cost that was indicated for the similar, North Bank Bend installation, of December 2013, allowing for potential price inflation and any other contingencies that may arise in the installation process.

Whatever the cost, as always, Cambs County Council are under extreme financial pressure due to ongoing Central Government grant reductions. It is therefore vital that all other Councils, businesses, other agencies and individuals who are supportive of the aims of this proposed joint bid, do actively demonstrate their support by pledging a suitable financial commitment, which may also secure additional entitlement to Cambs CC LHI funding input, and by putting pen to paper to make their endorsement for the bid a matter of public record and lasting testimony.

With enough support, it is intended to formally submit this multi-Council, multi-agency bid, by the end of June 2019, so that, if successful, it will be incorporated



Three identical bends on the three main Fenland adjacent roads: the Forty Foot, North Bank, and Sixteen Foot Bank roads. Two have safety barriers installed, only one does not - Honey Farm Bend

into the Cambs CC scheme of works for 2020. All FRSC efforts are now focused on securing the support and funds required for this extraordinary joint bid.

Graham Chappell

Chair, Fenland Road Safety Campaign
(Charlotte's Way)

PLEASE SEE GRAHAM'S AD. ON PAGE 27

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