

The Heron

Community Magazine

May 2017

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

Women's Institute lead victory in saving local NHS services - for now!



Following a year long campaign, started by MP Steve Barclay and led locally by the Women's Institute (WI) Isle of Ely Federation and backed by many worried locals, under threat hospitals at Doddington, Wisbech and Ely have been granted a reprieve.

Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Clinical Commissioning Group (CCG) have taken into account local views and attempted to rebalance the services provided, to launch their new Local Urgent Care Services (LUCS) previously known as Minor Injuries Units (MIUs) from April 2017 for a trial period of three years.

The reprieve depends on the take up of patients, and is to be reviewed

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Local Urgent Care Services - in Doddington, Wisbech & Ely

Visit your

nearest Walk-in

Centre or

Minor Illness

and Injury Unit

cuts

sprains

animal bites

scalds.

wound infection

minor burns and

itches

strains

at the end of each year, before commitment is given to extend the trial.

The Heron believes that most residents in the area don't know what they can use the LUCS units for so we have decided to publicise the facts that are known at the moment.

The Big Worry

The major concern is that people with injuries that could be treated at the LUCS (MIU) in Doddington, (or indeed at Wisbech or Ely), will not know about these local services and will attend A&E at Hinchingbrooke, Kings Lynn or Cambridge, further blocking their ability to deal with severe life threatening cases. If these new Units are not utilised then they will not be continued beyond April 2018.

Use it or Lose it

Beryl Brooks, who was instrumental in the WI's involvement, and was reported in last month's Heron delivering a petition to the Chair of the CCG, Dr Gary Howsam, said, "It is important that we get the message out to all our

members and indeed all villagers, that they should go to Doddington to get treatment if their problem is not a major one, nor indeed something that can be treated at home or by a chemist".

We have been sent a leaflet explaining which service is best used for which complaint, and we think its a great idea to distribute one to every household, for you to keep - on your kitchen notice board or fridge door, as a reference.

Opening Hours

One of the reasons Doddington and Wisbech were under threat was the opening hours that they were able to offer. Under the government regulations, what were known as "Walk in Centres" had to be open 24

hours a day, and this was just not sustainable, or in fact needed for the number of people visiting for treatment in our part of the world. As part of the consultation, the Clinical Commissioning Group appealed to the Government to relax that requirement and when presented with the special case of the Fenland area, agreed to reducing hours. So now the hours during the trial are:

Doddington:

Mon-Fri, 8.30am-6pm; Sat/Sun, 9am-5pm Bank holidays; 9am-5pm (excluding Christmas Day and New Year's Day) X-ray facilities

Mon-Fri, 9am-5.45pm; Sat/Sun, 1pm-4.45pm

North Cambs (Wisbech) have

slightly different hours:

Mon-Fri, 8.30am-6pm; Sat/Sun, Closed Bank holidays; Closed X-ray facilities - Mon-Fri, 9am-4.45pm

Princess of Wales (Ely)

Mon-Sun, 8.30am-6pm
Bank holidays; 8.30am-6pm (excluding Christmas
Day & New Year's Day)
X-ray facilities - Mon-Fri, 9am-4.45pm
Or use the App as featured on Page 9 - Ed'.

LUCS Units (Minor Injuries Unit) What conditions can be treated? Experienced and highly trained nurses at minor injuries units will treat a range of problems, that do not need a visit to accident and emergency, such as:

- ♦ Wounds cuts and bruises (including tetanus immunisation)
- ♦ Bites human, insect and animal
- Minor burns and scalds
- ◆ Muscle and joint injuries strains, sprains, limb fractures
- ♦ Emergency contraception
- ◆ Eye problems infection/injury

- Earache (aged two years and over)
- Cystitis (not male patients or children under 14)
- Minor head injuries (with no loss of consciousness).

If your condition is more serious or the nurse practitioner cannot deal with your problem, you may be referred to another service.

The patient's GP is informed in writing of all attendances. In the interests of child protection, Child Health are informed of all attendances of children aged 18 and under.

Λ & F

You should go to accident and emergency or dial 999 for: Medical emergencies GP

You should go to your GP for: Treatment of long standing conditions Routine wound re-dressing and removal of stitches

Repeat prescriptions
Travel vaccinations
Medicals and sickness certificates.

Community Information

Defibrillator - the village has a life saving Defibrillator located outside at Townley School details on the machine

Mobile Library:

First Tuesday each month - In the Lay-by Upwell Road - 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 3rd, 17th and 31st May

Friends of The Heron AGM is on May

18th. If you value the Heron YOU are invited! We want to hear what your views are!
We will need to appoint a new Treasurer and Advert Coordinator, as Vivien Haresnape is

Advert Coordinator, as Vivien Haresnape is stepping down. Both these roles could be covered by one person, or they could be spilt between two people. Call Vivien on 638381 to find out more.

One of our wonderful delivery team, Pauline Hutchens, is currently covering the Euximoor area, as well as doing her own rounds, but we would still like someone else to learn the route and help out.

Christchurch Walking Group

Last autumn we tried to start a monthly walking group in the village which would offer some gentle exercise in the fresh air and the opportunity for a good chat. The first one didn't take place because it poured with rain and then the weather turned cold and wintry.

Now spring is really here and the village and countryside are looking lovely we thought we'd try again. The first one is on Friday 5th May starting from the church at 1.00pm and returning for tea and cakes in the church. The distance and pace of the walk will be adjusted to suit those who come and it is aimed particularly at people with reduced mobility.

You can just turn up or, for more information, call Sandra on 01354 638478 or Sue Beel at Care Network on 01945 589953.

Email sue.b@care-network.org.uk.

Contact the Parish Council?

phone numbers: in Useful Numbers p26, email: christchurchcambspc@gmail.com website: christchurchpc.btck.co.uk

Delicious Fish and Chips are available outside the Dun Cow from Michael and Michelle's van on Fridays 5pm to 8pm

Cotton's Corner on the 16 foot bank is apparently going to be subject to closures, though we can't find any details of when and for how long. Residents who need to get to Upwell and beyond are advised to check.

EDITORIAL

Well! Where does all the time go? Another year gone as we begin our fourth year as the incumbent custodians of The Heron. Viv has come up with more information about the origins of the magazine and about the village - page 17.

Lots happening this month – The Parish Meeting on Monday 8th May ALL WELCOME, Gardening Club's Annual Plant Sale on Saturday 13th, lots of bargains to be had there, and James' Curry and Quiz Night on the 19th, raising funds for Townley. Then in June a community gathering for dinner and dancing on the 3rd, Car Boot Sale on the 10th, and The Great Get Together on the 17th. What a busy village we are! We're really making great use of our new Community Centre. So please check out the ads for these events in The Heron and put all those dates in your diaries.

There are a couple of important leaflets inserted in this month's edition. Very many thanks to Sandra Kay our delivery co-ordinator for all her extra hard work there.

Some heartening news re MIU's, soon to become – Local Urgent Care Services, thanks to the WI on our front and inside covers, some great photos from Sandra Kay and friends special day out on the inside back cover, and finally just a few more candid photos from the recent Over 65's Parish Lunch on the back page.

Then there's all the usual features plus two or three extras which we hope you'll find interesting and amusing.

Enjoy! 'Till next month!

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 e	vents		
Mondays	Pop-Up Coffee Shop - 9am to 11:30am - CCC		
	Pilates - 6:30-7:30pm - £6/ session Info - Jane Green 01354 638378 - CCC		
Fridays	"Cake, Coffee and Chat" Parish Church 2-3pm - All Welcome		
	Fish and Chip Van visits - outside Dun Cow - 5-8pm		
General e	events		
May 2 nd	Mobile Library visits - Upwell Rd Lay-by 12:15-12:45pm		
May 2 nd	Christchurch Craft Club - Sewing knitted squares (or your own project) - CCC - 7pm		
May 4 th	Mayoral Election and County Council Elections - 8am to 10pm - CCC		
May 6 th	AFC Christchurch "Presentation Evening" - 7:30pm - Dun Cow - All Welcome		
May 8 th	Village meeting 6.30pm followed by Parish Council meeting 7.30pm CCC		
May 9 th	Art Club - new students welcome - Note new time - 1:30 - 3:30pm - CCC		
May 9 th	WI - Visit to Skylark Garden Centre - 7pm - CCC		
May 10 th	GREAT GET TOGETHER - Planning Meeting -ALL WELCOME- 7.30pm - CCC pg15		
May 13 th	Gardening Club - Annual Plant Sale and Refreshments - 10am-2pm - CCC		
May 14 th	Welle Cinema - Ethel and Ernest - Cert PG - 1:30pm - TH		
May 16 th	Gardening Club - The Art of the Flower Arranger - 7pm CCC		
May 18 th	Friends of the Heron AGM 7pm at Glynan, Crown Rd (opposite Townley school)		
May 19 th	Quiz and Curry Night - Townley School and Pre-school - 7pm - teams of 6 - see pg 5		
May 23 rd	Art Club - new students welcome - Note new time - 1:30 - 3:30pm - CCC		
May 24 th	Christchurch Book Club - 7:30pm - info: Sheila Day 07946635908		
May 24 th	Christchurch Residents Association - The Old School - 7:30pm		
May 26 th	Jazz Club - only £5 entrance - 12 noon - CCC - Bar and Refreshments		
Jun 3 rd	"Summerland" Ploughman's Dinner and Dance - CCC - See pg 15		

Parish Church Services

May 7 th	11am	Rev I Brady, V Smith	All Age Worship
[∐] May 14 th	9:30am	Rev L Brady, B Hopkins Holy Communion	
[⊔] May 21 st	6:30pm	Rev I Brady	Evening Prayer
[⊔] May 28 th	11am	Rev I Brady, R Holding	Morning Prayer
May 7 th May 14 th May 21 st May 28 th Jun 4 th	11am	Rev L Brady, A Day	All Age Worship

Every Friday 2-3pm Coffee, Cake and Chat in the Church NB — Bank Holiday Deadline Changes - now 19th May — NB

Due to the way the May Bank holiday falls this year, we need to bring the deadline for all copy and advert changes forward for the June issue. We hope this will not cause too many issues for contributors

Advertisers - all our advert rates and conditions can be found on our website 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.

Letters to the Editor



Last month we were a little short of space but I just want to comment on April's letters. How great it was to have a response from Gill Puzey to the photo we featured from Alan Russell's album. Her Dad actually being in the photo too was something of a gem. So thanks to Gill for that and let's hope someone can come up with the answer to the photo featured on page 16 this month?

Thanks also to Mary Robb for her letter regarding her family history research. I am pleased to report that our columnist Joan Smith rang me to say she knew the family and Mary has since got in touch with her as you will see from this month's letter.

Finally, thanks to Maria Higgins, Townley's head, for her very informative letter concerning the National Funding Formula and the forthcoming rebuilding of the schools dining hall over the summer break. We all look forward to the 'grand opening'.

Hello Richard

Thank you

I had a very nice chat with Joan [Smith] yesterday which was really interesting. Would it be possible to let me have her address so that I can send her a card to say thank you? I am hoping I can speak with my father's step brother Gordon soon and put some more pieces into the jigsaw. With many thanks for your help so far.

Best wishes Mary Robb

JAMES' CURRY & QUIZ NIGHT

at Townley School & Pre-School Friday 19 May 2017

Come along for a fun evening of quizzing and curry-eating all in aid of Townley School and Pre-School.

Teams of no more than 6 people please. Bring your own drinks and nibbles. Raffle at half time.

Tickets available from James or Elaine - please ring for details. 01354 638310

Christchurch Community Centre

CAR BOOT SALE

10th June

£5 per pitch

Book with Peggy Warby

01354 638339

or Sandra Kay

01354 638478

In aid of the Community Centre

The Parish Council invites ALL

parishioners to attend the Parish Meeting on 8th May at 6.30 pm, at the Community Centre.

They have a Dementia Friend coming to talk about Dementia and ways to help people with this problem.

L L L

Also invited are the Residents Association, our PCSO, the local vicar and so on.

The Chair of the Parish Council will be giving a summary of what has been achieved by the Parish Council this year.

They would really like as many parishioners as possible to attend this event.

Weather Lore by your Local Weather Sage "Ash before oak and we shall have a soak, Oak before ash and we shall have splash."•

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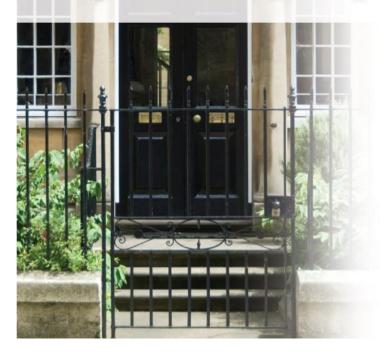
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ELEC

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www.trustmark.org.uk

Electrical Safety Register incorporating





www.electricalsafetyregister.com



MyHealth App launches

Need to find local health services quickly? New 'MyHealth' app for Cambridgeshire and Peterborough

A new app to help Cambridgeshire and Peterborough residents find local NHS services available to them has been launched.

Quick and easy to use, the

'MyHealth Cambridgeshire & Peterborough' app will direct you to your nearest appropriate NHS service. This includes local GPs, pharmacies, minor injury units, and dentists, based on your location or postcode.

Free to download and available in five other languages, including Polish, Latvian, and Lithuanian, MyHealth provides up to date information on current services including directions, opening hours, and contact details.

The app is available to download for iOS via Apple Store, Android via Google Play, and Windows phones via Microsoft Store by searching for 'MyHealth C&P CCG'.

CHRISTCHURCH GARDENING CLUB

Presents ANNUAL PLANT SALE

Saturday 13th May 2017
10.00 til 2.00
Many plants for sale at
bargain prices
Peggy's legendary
bacon butties
Home made cakes, tea
and coffee
Raffle to be drawn at
2.00 pm
Open to all

Upwell Jazz Club 2017

Need to find local health

services quickly?

DOWNLOAD FREE

ealth

Christchurch Community Centre (Sat Nav PE14 9LL)



Sunday 28th May

Guests: Phil Brookes - guitar

Nigel Portass - keyboard

Mike McCann - drums

Upwell Jazz Club welcomes Phil Brookes and Mike McCann to the May session. These two established East Anglian players will be entertaining you with their unique interpretations of jazz classics and more.

Time: 12.30pm - 2.45pm

Admission: £5.00 Accompanied under-16s Free

More information from Nigel Smith on 01945 773121

Bar, fresh rolls, crisps and savouries available



Our speaker this month was Cambridgeshire Historian Mike Petty, who gave a very interesting and detailed account with slides of the 1947 flood. One night in March of that year it started with a terrible raging storm which flooded the fens from Earith right through to Haddenham, with many homes and buildings being completely washed away.

1,000 men worked throughout the night building a wall with American amphibian vehicles - 'ducks' which did work, it stopped more flooding. In the following years, thousands of pounds have been spent at Denver Sluice to control the water flow, making the fens safer at flood times.

Beryl thanked Mike for coming.

Whist Drive - this year's winner was Wendy Yates

Forthcoming Outings - Group Meeting, Federation Evening, Resolution Evening

Next Month - a visit to Skylark Garden Centre and Resolutions

Any enquiries - Tel 638339 Peggy (sec)



Beryl (standing left) and Mike Petty begins his talk on "1947 floods"

Art Club

Please note we have had to change our meeting time to 1.30 –

3.30. We hope this new

time might enable some more budding artists to come along and join us

We have now planned our summer term programme. We will start the term with some 'Back to Basics' sessions. We will then go on to Simple Landscapes and drawing and painting trees.

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 1.30 - 3.30 (term time).

Our dates this term are as below

9th May

23rd May

13th June

27th June

11th July

25th July

Christchurch Book Club

Book Club met on 19th April. We had been reading 'A Humble Companion', a historical novel by Laurie Graham. The story was based on fact, but with some fictional characters. This book had mixed responses, but the general feeling was that it had been interesting to learn about life in Georgian England.

We will meet again on May 24th at 7.30 at Kay's, Brimstone Manor, 16 Foot Bank. PE14 9NS. We shall be discussing 'The Mystery of Princess Louise' by Lucinda Hawksley. This is another historical book - this time about one of Queen Victoria's daughters.

Please contact Sheila Day for more information.



Opium on The Fens

Tuesday 18th April Christchurch Community Centre played host once again to the Gardening Club.

This time however the monthly meeting was due to be addressed by Dr Eric Sommerville on a fascinating subject, the use of opium in the fens. During the talk our members were in turn surprised and enthralled by the unfolding story of the fens in the 19th century.

Wisbech and March were heavily involved in what could best be described as the "Golden Circle" where opium in its many forms was used on a massive basis, where a few drops would constitute a medical application the local inhabitants were getting through literally tons of the stuff.

On any given Saturday night, it was available in liquid form from almost any type of shop for a penny, in fact, so heavy was the use that a family with an income of twenty shillings a year were spending up to twelve shillings a year on dope. Painful ailments such as rheumatism caused by the heavy manual labour in the damp conditions of the fens contributed to this heavy use but there's little doubt that the recreational imbibing of the drug was widespread. It was even given to children to keep them quiet, in effect a huge section of the 19th Century local population were stoned most of the time!

As the twentieth century dawned the government of the day became more aware of the situation and gradually legislated to ease the problem, however the white poppy from which the drug is derived was seen in many local gardens. There is not enough room in the Heron to tell the whole story but this is just a flavour of Dr Somerville's talk, which lasted for over an hour.

Saturday 13th of May will see the Gardening Club hosting its annual Plant Sale at the Community Centre. As in previous years there will be some fantastic bargains, some grown by our members and some which will be sourced from the region's premier suppliers. Hot food, tea and coffee will be on offer featuring the now legendary Bacon Butties and home cooked cakes for those with a sweet

tooth. The raffle will be drawn at 2pm. Come early and get those bargains. All welcome.

Tuesday 16th May top Flower Arranger and designer Corrine Turner will be visiting the club. Corrine will be demonstrating the art of the flower arranger and taking us through the process.

There will be two raffles on the night, our usual raffle with prizes donated by club members and a special raffle which will include flower arrangements donated by Corrine Turner. As with all our meetings this is open to non-members.

Prizes for the raffle will be donated this month by Marcelle Buddle, Jane Williams, Sandra Kay, Sandra Lloyd.

There a few tickets left for our coach trip to the National Flower Show at Hyland House on Sunday 21st May 2017. Members £17.00 non- members £20.00

Call 01354 638 230 for details or to book and for any related information.

Please see Ad on Page 9

I believe everybody enjoyed doing the Glass painting. They were hung on white branches for the photo.



May 2nd Craft Club will be sewing knitted squares together. We were asked if we could put them together, and it was agreed we would.

If you don't care to do this, please bring your own thing to do.

Wendy Yates



Christchurch Residents Association

Our April meeting was held on Wednesday 26th. Apologies were received from Peggy Warby who had a WI Resolutions meeting, and Della who had a migraine. The minutes of the previous meeting were accepted and there were no matters arising.

The first item discussed was the number of vehicles being parked in the village with two wheels up on the footpath. This was making it difficult for pedestrians to pass, and impossible for wheelchairs, prams and mobility scooters, or those with other mobility aids. This problem would be pointed out in May's Heron.

Plans for the first Speedwatch date were almost in place and Richard had been in discussion with Doddington and Welney, with whom we share the monitoring equipment, to finalise this.

Concerns were expressed over the Bedlam Bridge eyesore. People were living on the site and extracting water from the 16 foot drain. Do they have planning permission for habitation and a license for water extraction. Richard had contacted FDC Planning and Environmental Health. Still awaiting a response following site visits.

Concerns had been expressed over the somewhat over zealous actions of one of Christchurch's Parish Councillors. As this had not been resolved satisfactorily by the Parish Council it had been referred to FDC. No further discussion was undertaken on this matter as the complainant was not present.

All those present who had attended the Over 65's Parish Lunch agreed that it had been a great success. The Committee and helpers were to be congratulated on their efforts. Great food and fantastic entertainment. Some disappointment was expressed that numbers were down in some cases apparently because people had not been invited. The Committee were to put an article in May's Heron explaining that it was no longer by invitation. Anyone whose partner or themselves were over 65 were entitled to attend. All they had to do was to telephone the advertised numbers and book their places.

It was agreed to make a representation to the Parish Council for one or two solar powered cameras to be placed at local prime fly tipping sites. This method had been proven to be successful in some areas on a recent TV programme on the subject.

Residents commented that they were very thankful that a number of recent roadworks had now all been completed. It was great to know that Townley's new dining hall was well underway with much of the blockwork completed and windows already going in. We look forward to the grand opening in due course. The Heron was still looking for a new columnist and a Treasurer. Members agreed to chat to other friends and neighbours about this.

Members were encouraged to attend the forthcoming Parish Meeting on Monday 8th May and the Gardening Club's annual plant sale on Saturday 13th. Progress had also been made on the planning of a Food Fayre for September with several local producers already interested.

There was no other business and the meeting closed at 8.30pm. Next meeting Wed 24th May 7.30pm OS



May the Fourth Be with You

Candidates for the County Council part of the vote on the 4th May are listed below in alphabetic order:

Katharine Bultitude Labour

Steve Count Conservative

Stephen Court Liberal Democrats

Andrew Crawford Green
Martin Field Labour

Janet French Conservative

Ruth Margaret Johnson Green

Scott Lansdell-Hill Liberal Democrats

Caroline Smith UKIP
Robin Talbot UKIP

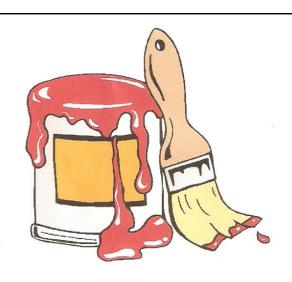
In addition you will also be asked to vote for the new post of Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Mayor. Candidates for this were listed in last

month's Heron page 17

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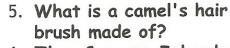
Christchurch, Cambridgeshire

New Seniors' Exam

For Everyone! How clever are you?

You only need 4 correct out of 10 questions to pass and keep on receiving your pension...

- 1. How long did the Hundred Years' War last?
- 2. Which country makes Panama hats?
- 3. From which animal do we aet cat aut?
- 4. In which month do Russians celebrate the October Revolution?





- 7. What was King George VI's first name?
- 8. What colour is a purple finch?
- 9. Where are Chinese gooseberries from?
- 10. What is the colour of the black box in a commercial airplane?

Remember, you need only 4 correct answers to pass. Check your answers below

Answers To The Quiz

- 1. The Hundred Years War lasted 116 years
- 2. Ecuador makes Panama hats
- 3. Sheep and Horses provide cat gut
- Russians celebrate the October Revolution in November
- 5. A camel's hair brush is made of squirrel fur
- 6. The Canary Islands are named after dogs
- 7. King George VI's first name was Albert
- 8. A purple finch is Crimson
- 9. Chinese gooseberries come from New Zealand
- 10. The black box in a commercial airplane is orange (of course)

What do you mean, you failed? Me, too! (And if you try to tell me you passed, you LIED!)



More Rivers Quiz

- 1. Sounds like builders rubbish
- 2. Useful when driving on the course
- 3. Sounds serene and not at all stormy
- 4. Where to watch cricket from a bridge
- 5. The sunshine path
- 6. Once a luxury car
- 7. 5 miles in any direction
- 8. The London cuppa
- 9. The most western airport
- 10. Cut in two to make a Hawaiin Goose
- 11. Could make a length of fencing
- 12. What you do when your team wins
- 13. Not found on this earth
- 14. This one sounds painful
- 15. A maker of cloth

Thanks again John Murray - Ed'.

Answers page 25

Shaun Ginley Asset and Legacy Protection

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This summer on the 17th and 18th of June, millions of people across the country will be getting together with their neighbours to share food and celebrate all that we have in common.

The event marks one year since MP Jo Cox was killed. Jo lived her life according to the belief that we have more in common than divides us, and in that spirit, her husband Brendan and friends are hoping as many of us as possible will mark the anniversary by organising or attending a celebration in our community that weekend.

So, on Saturday 17th June we are having our own 'Great Get Together' in Christchurch.

The food could be a village picnic, a meal together, a bring & share dinner, a themed meal, barbeque, bake off, cream tea or whatever we like! Following on from the success of the village sports day last year we are planning an event with fun for all ages, with races or sports taking place on the playing field and possibly a disco in the evening.

We will be having a meeting to discuss and plan the event at the Community Centre at 7.30 on Wednesday 10th May. Please come along and get involved and let's make this 'Great Get Together' a real celebration of all that is good and positive in our community!

For more information please telephone Ruth on 01354 638419

"Summerland" Ploughman's Dinner and Dance

Saturday 3 June 2017 - 7pm till late Christchurch Community Centre

Ploughman's Dinner followed by dancing to live band:

"Summerland"

Tickets - Adults £10 – Children £5 (to include Ploughman's Platter and Dessert)

Bar, Raffle and Tuck Shop

Tickets on sale from:
Townley School Office
The Pop Up Café (Mondays 9-11.30)
Sunrise, Upwell Road (01354 638866)
The Old Police House, Church Road (01354 638310)

All money raised at this event will go towards the Townley School Council Equipment Fund.

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Do you know who? - from Alan Russell's saved album



We think this was taken in Colwyn Bay, North Wales in 1949. Perhaps you know different? Do you recognise anyone? Let us know - editor@theheron.info or 01354 638990

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Written off too soon!

From a 1984 newspaper clipping. – kindly lent by Ann Hicks.

At this January's WI meeting, the competition was a newspaper, or newspaper clipping. I was very interested to read a cutting about Christchurch from a local paper that Ann Hicks brought along. (see below) She kindly allowed us to borrow and scan it. Among other gems of information, it answered the question of when the Heron first started something we have never been sure of as the earliest copy we have dates from 1987. We've now learned that it began in 1980. At the time of the article, in 1984, the editor was Tricia Fisher (Doris 'Ted' Rolfe's daughter) but she had decided that she was unable to continue with it. However, it was not the end for your community magazine, which has had several re-launches since then!

Heron's last flight, but village is not dying ...

Christchurch's Heron will shortly be taking its last flight. The Heron is the village's own magazine and would have been celebrating its fourth anniversary in November. A gradual run down of contributions and problems with the press — the village school's duplicator — has led the editor for the past year, Mrs Tricia Fisher, to decide to make the next edition the last.

There are those who reckon that the dying Heron is symptomatic with the village as a whole. They

point to the death of the village Tennis Club, the closure of the Methodist Church in the village, costs of running the Parish Church and the Memorial Hall, and difficulties in getting village organisation representatives to attend meetings of the annual gala committee.

There are, however, signs of growth in other areas and the Rector, the Rev Anthony Bennett, hastened to give an assurance: "I wouldn't want

people to think Christchurch is a dying village for it certainly is not"

Nevertheless, he did admit that his church building was having to be rewired and that the Parochial Church Council were taking the opportunity to have a new lighting system installed. All that cost £2,600. On top of that there were the day to day running costs to be found and the diocesan quota to be met. All that was needed to keep the Parish Church a worshipping and serving part of the community.

On the bright side, Mr Bennett pointed out that the Sunday School was thriving and growing. Attendance at church was slightly up and the church continued to service the community in a very positive way

Another thriving organisation is the village youth club which, under the leadership of Mr Bob Jackson, has taken over the former Methodist Church building for its purposes. Not only is the club popular for older members of Christchurch's younger generation but a junior section has been started under the leadership of Miss Rachel Watson.

Tennis may have taken a tumble but the Bowls Club flourishes and so do the Christchurch Sports Club who run both football and cricket sections. At the end of the last football season Christchurch were second in their league.

As for the Tennis Club, they have got rid of their fixed assets and invested the proceeds should a desire to form another tennis club in the village arise.

At opposite ends of the scale the Good Companions and the Play Group are working well. Mrs Margaret Sparrow, it is true is in her sixth

year as president of the Women's Institute — who are holding their own — although it has been traditional for a person to be elected for only up to five years — after the first incumbent had held office for 25 years. She explained, however, that since this was the WI promotion year, with all that entailed members wondered if it would be wise for a new president to take over.

Now, while Mrs Sparrow was prepared to take office for a



The original cutting

further year under those circumstances, she is determined this will be her last.

"Someone will have to take it on or it will fold," she said, "And I don't think it will fold'.

Chairman of the gala committee Mr Wolsey Rolfe admitted that there was not always the turnout for committee meetings he would like.

Each village organisation appoints two members but all too often those representatives do not put in an appearance.

"Sometimes some of these representatives do let their own clubs down a little bit, and you probably do have to do a little bit of pushing just to get the thing moving," said Mr Rolfe.

Nevertheless, the few who do work, and particularly Mr Rolfe and his busy gala secretary, Mrs Jill Bliss, generally see their efforts come to fruition on the day. Certainly they did at this year's very successful event on Saturday.

"It's not a bad little village on the whole but it could do with little bit of whipping up for keenness," said Mr Rolfe, who should know after being at the helm of the gala committee for 24 years.

Like many towns and villages, Christchurch does have some problems with vandals and other mischief makers. Soon after the Women's Institute had presented the village with a sign in September, 1982, someone sawed through the post and brought it down. Upwell Parish Council, in whose area Christchurch falls, had to bear the cost of repair. Then, in November last year, the bolts of the sign were removed and the sign

taken away and tossed into the Townley School's fish pond.

Now the sign is back in all its splendour in the centre of the village again, perhaps a symbol that while Christchurch has its ups and downs it still has something to offer its small community.

33 Years Later - Where Are they Now?

- The tennis club never did restart. We wonder what happened to the invested proceeds of the assets mentioned?
- The old Methodist chapel building was converted into a house around 1995
- Currently, it is hoped to start a youth club in the Community Centre
- Wolsey Rolfe continued to take an active interest in village life for many more years
- Margaret Sparrow is still very active in the WI, which is thriving
- Rev Anthony Bennett moved on in 1986
- The Parish church was threatened with closure in 1994, but is still open
- The 1982 Village sign was later replaced by the present one.
- ♦ The Bowls club is still going
- We have no village cricket team at present, but the football team was relaunched last year.
- We now have a Christchurch Parish Council and Jill Bliss is a councillor.
- The Heron is still going strong after several re-launches!!

The village is definitely not dying!!

Initial comments and summary Viv Haresnape

Pidley Mountain Rescue - the corrected story

Last month I made an unintentional 'faux pas' concerning Pidley Mountain Rescue. Despite it being April I did not intend to be 'foolish' but failed in my research! On checking out their website post April's publication I found out the real story about their creation and ongoing activities. We include it below for your interest.....

The charity is based in the village of Pidley and was originally founded over 30 years ago. The village of Pidley is on the edge of the Fens in Huntingdonshire, and is at its highest only 88ft above sea level. The charity's name was created when a local villager's car broke down on the slope leading to the village. His charitable rescuers pushed the car up the 'mountain' home. Revived in 1999, the Team made over 150 rescues from 1999-2010 and raises £15,000 annually, averaging 12-15 rescues each year.

Our charity provides specialised equipment for disabled children and adults to develop and progress their personal mobility, and improve their homelife, while raising awareness of the needs of disabled people in our community. Examples of equipment supplied include: wheelchairs; electric scooters; specialised trikes; paediatric buggies, adaptive computer software and hardware; and sensory equipment.

The Charity has over 1,000 life members, including well known local politicians and celebrities. To become a life member and support our work costs only £10. Local companies, organisations, clubs and individuals provide most of our income through sponsorship and donations supplemented by the charity's own fundraising activities including the Pidley International Teddy Bear Freefall Competition.



TOWNLEY SCHOOL AND PRE-SCHOOL

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Reception enjoying the school's new laptops. Not only creating some lovely Butterflies using the CBBC's website, but practising their cursor control via the mouse pad.









Still collecting these! Thanks for your support so far!



Provisional Diary Dates

NSPCC session for parents—3 May SATS week year 6—8 May

SATS week year 2—15 May

Year 5 Maths Challenge—15 May

NSPCC Year 5 and Year 6—15 May

Class 3 Story Café—18 May

Lion Learners Year 4—22 May

Light and Life with Year 5 and 6—24 May

Class 1 assembly—25 May

Half Term—9 May to 2 June

Class 3 Harry Potter World—5 June

Class 2 Story Café—8 June

Class 1 Story Café—22 June

Class 3 assembly—27 June

Sports Day-30 June

Class 2 assembly—3 July

The Joan Smith Column

Hello again! My monthly jottings soon seem to come around. Hope you all had a nice Easter. Well, if you recall I'd been busy putting together those medical journals.

Whilst at work Dr. A asked if I knew anyone who might like a job helping us with the collating. I mentioned that I did know someone who I had made friends with and that I would go around and see her after I'd had my evening meal. This I did and told Nancy that I would give her telephone number to Dr. A so they could make contact. It ended up that she would start the following week.

The medical journals were quite popular at teaching hospitals and libraries in many countries. This meant that we had got busier and busier. Hence the need for additional help. It also meant that I still helped out when I could, but I still needed to keep on top of all the household chores. As it turned out Nancy was not offered the job and there were other chores that still needed to be done.

During the weeks that followed there increasingly became a lot of letters that needed answering. I was not a typist so decided to enrol for typing lessons at King's Lynn college evening classes. This included short hand, but I thought there was

no way I could do that as well! It was the typing that I needed.

There was a lot to take in. I had taken a pad with me to jot down notes for homework. We all had a typewriter. There were fourteen of us in the class.

Our tutor seemed much older than me. I was in my late 40's at the time. We were given homework to practice so I needed to get myself a typewriter. I bought myself an Imperial Portable in a nice leather case.

I had not told my bosses about the classes as there would be an exam at the end and I couldn't be sure that I would pass. Six months later the exam came around. It was at 10.00am the next week. The night before the exam I came home from work not worrying about it. I could only do my best and I would either pass or fail.

What could I tell the Andersons as an excuse for not going into work that morning? In the end I had told them the truth the night before as they were both in. They were full of praise for my efforts and said that the typing would be a great help to their developing business. My confession had gone better than I had anticipated. Next day went well and I managed to complete all the questions on the exam paper. It would be a few weeks before we would be notified of the results. So I'd be on tenterhooks till then! Rejoicing or upset I could only console myself that I had done my very best! Only time would tell!

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Parish Council snippets

Public Time

Dog fouling on the footpath outside Syringa house had been noted.

A request by a member of the public to seed areas of the recreation field with bee friendly plants was received, and, despite action not normally allowed to be taken as a result of a public time item, this was agreed as it was necessary to sow very soon.

A question was raised about an article in Cambs Times which involved a planning application turned down by the District Council which had previously not been objected to by the Parish Council. The developer had appealed and the inspector refused to allow development, partly on the grounds that the village had no shops and no public transport. This was said to contravene other sustainability policies of the District Council. The question was, does this preclude any developments in the village? Councillors declared that one could not rely on the Cambs Times to give accurate reports. The issue would be on the Agenda for the next meeting on 8th May.

Outstanding matters

Hedges and trees - there are still overhanging hedges in Church Road particularly the house next to the old shop was cited. Letters have been sent but no action taken. Concerns were expressed about the danger to children if one walked into the hedge and damaged an eye.

Thanks were expressed to Matt Lawrence who has trimmed the recreation ground trees. The dyke required clearing and Cllr Russell would undertake this with any helpers after Easter.

There is no Fenland Dog Warden but there are arrangements for dealing with stray dogs.

On beautifying in the bus shelter, the Gardening Club chairman has been approached and agreed to put it to the committee.

The Village millennium bench - Cllr Russell suggested that the outcome of the bus shelter beautification should be awaited before siting the bench. Cllr Bliss thought it was too nice a bench to be hidden away in the old bus shelter, she instead suggested it be located on the grassed area in Upwell Road east of Fen View. Sited there it would at least allow people to sit in the sun.

The sign marking the start of the village on Padgett's Road from Tipps End - Clerk waiting for

All are invited to the Village meeting on 8th May to hear about how the village could become Dementia friendly, to hear reports of what the Parish Council has done for the Village and to hear reports of the activities of the various organisations operating in the village

costs from Les Middleton a County Highways officer

Police report

It seems the village has been quite quiet recently with no incidents. Cllr Russell objected to this characterisation and mentioned an abandoned stolen van in Euximoor- why was this ignored?

The PCSO had visited the village for a walk round with some councillors and had attended the pop-up Coffee Shop on Monday morning and the village school where she visited each class

District and County Counsellor's reports

The councillors are constrained by the fact that they are awaiting elections. Cllr Tanfield reported she had enjoyed the visit mentioned by the PCSO and found it very useful.

There was some concern over the definitions of what could and could not go into the new Brown Bin scheme as compostable materials. Cllr Yeulett attended for his final meeting, and gave an impassioned message that Townley school was not under threat of closure as one of the political leaflets circulating in the village had stated.

He was thanked for his help and support of the village.

Recreation Ground

Play equipment – still no decision on how to proceed FLP want to do the work early May so they need to know if they are demolishing the wooden castle unit or repairing it – various councillors will meet on site to discuss.

There was an idea that the brush removed from the trees could be used in a 5th November event, but insurance would be a problem, so won't happen.

Road calming in the village was discussed.

Councillors time

Councillors mentioned a car which was always parked partly on the pavement outside the Old School House in Church Road, causing an obstruction to wheelchairs and buggies.





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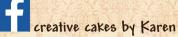
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Richard Hughes' Seared Salmon, Local Asparagus, Orange Butter Sauce

As demonstrated to WI Open Meeting in March Serves 2 people

2 x 150g salmon escalopes, skinned & boned

1 bunch of Norfolk asparagus

2 oranges

1 dessertspoon whipping cream

1 glass white wine

125g butter, cut into chunks, chilled

- Boil the trimmed asparagus spears until tender.
- Pan fry or grill the salmon escalopes.
- To make the sauce, segment the oranges, keeping some segments to one side for garnish.
- Squeeze the juice into a small saucepan.
- Add the wine to the juice and bring to the boil, boiling rapidly until the volume has reduced by half.
- Add the cream, bring to the boil.
- Add the chilled butter.
- Shake to amalgamate all the ingredients.
- Place the salmon on top of the asparagus.
- Pour on the sauce, decorating with the orange segments.

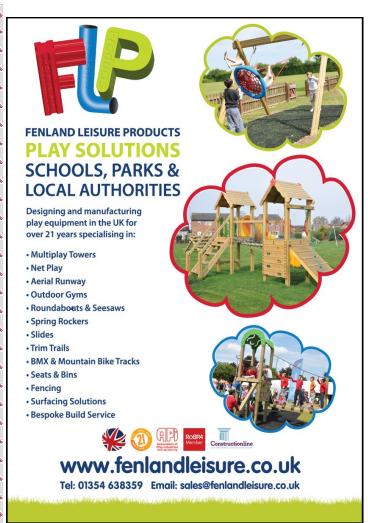


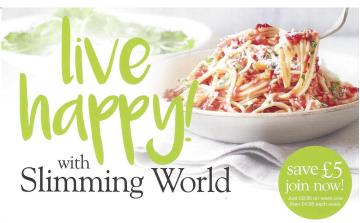
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 8. Tay

 8. Tay

Rivers Quiz -The Answers

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Christchurch Resident's Association	01354 638990
Churchwarden - Mrs. D. Symons	01354 638352
Citizens' Advice Bureau, Wisbech	01945 464367
Community Car Scheme (to book a journey)	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
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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
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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

Dog Thieves hit Upwell

Four female miniature dachshunds were stolen from Upwell registered breeder Christine



Top left - Lola and Phoebe bottom left - Florence and Millie

Christine

believes the thieves had her house under observation for some period before the event.

And Finally...

Why is it that some people are persistently parking their vehicles with two wheels up on the curb? It serves no purpose other than to restrict pedestrian access and make wheelchair users, mobility scooters, mums with prams, or older folks with Zimmer frames or walking sticks, have to walk in the road or cross it.

Please don't do this!

























Wheels! What an important part they play in our lives! From birth in a hospital bed, then our pram or buggy, our own little pedal vehicles, then a grown-up bicycle, professional skateboard perhaps, motorcycle, family car, sports car, then in our twilight years wheeled support, perhaps a wheelchair, and lastly we're driven to our final resting place! There's just no getting away from WHEELS!

Whatever happened to the old horse and cart. Those marvellous dreys, the milkman, the rag and bone man, each with their old nags. Progress? Well we don't get any free manure for the garden anymore!

'till next month - Ed'.

Sandra and friends' special day

A very special lady was host to a very special group of friends on a very special celebration.

Sandra Kay (the Heron's delivery co-ordinator) celebrated the big 70 on 2nd April with ten friends aboard the good ship Narrow Waters on a trip from Upwell to Salter's Lode. Here they were served lunch which

according to the photos below was also special!

Below you can see Sandra with Wendy, Peggy, Alison, Val, Tracy, Anne, Jenny, Margaret and Gail together with Sheena, owner of Narrow Waters and Mike, the boat's helmsman for the trip. We first met Sheena Hartley in 2015 after she had launched her new enterprise - the company Narrow Waters. Indeed she featured on the front cover of the July "New" Heron as it was then.



Based at March Riverside, Upwell, the company runs catered day cruises, with round trips to March, Salters Lode, or Three Holes. The boat is finished in bright royal blue with Union Jack decals tastefully painted to the front and the rear. After a fully catered lunch at the halfway point, clients are later treated to tea and cakes on the journey back to Upwell. Sheena continues to attract such groups as Weddings, Birthdays, Film and Photography Clubs, other celebrations, or people who would just enjoy a catered luxury cruise on a truly beautiful narrowboat.





The company enjoyed a fine lunch at Salters Lode



without the centrepiece of a beautiful cake!

Annual over 65's Parish Lunch



The room set out bedecked with St George's livery

Held at the Community Centre on 23rd April. Themed as St George's Day, a great time was had by all, both those dining and those providing. This is a community event, as was made clear in the thanks expressed by Roger Gladwin - it is not a charity event, but a community event, Everyone over 65, or whose partner is over 65, in the village, is automatically entitled to the meal. Belinda, Roger's wife, expressed how difficult it is to risk offending new villagers when inviting them for the first time, "65 year olds don't look that old these days, and some won't thank you for identifying them as eligible!"

To be clear - ALL OVER 65s ARE REALLY WELCOME TO BOOK A PLACE WHEN WE ADVERTISE NEXT YEAR!



Belinda and Roger Gladwin













Jeremy the entertainer dancing with Paddy Fink

Above - dancing breaks out, Geoff & Doris (Ted) in her wheelchair, even hand jiving from the 50s Below - Ruth and Mick Chamberlain, a group of the committee members. Jeremy & Colin Steenson

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.