

# The Heron

Community Magazine

May 2020

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

No. 73

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“Even the darkest night will end ...



Christchurch Sunrise - 6 April 2020 - Photo by Nicola Rose

... and the sun will rise” - Victor Hugo\*\*



See pages 6 & 7 for our feature on this momentous anniversary and to see how villagers can still get involved on 8th May.



This month's focus is farming and our wonderful farmers.

See pages 17 and 27.

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## TOWNLEY SCHOOL AND PRE-SCHOOL

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Townley School and  
Pre-School

### COVID 19

Unfortunately, due to the COVID 19 virus, we had to make the difficult decision to close on the 17<sup>th</sup> March, as too many staff either were required to stay at home due to pre-existing illness or were showing symptoms. We are incredibly grateful to the whole school community for the support they have shown us during this very difficult time. We are missing everyone terribly, but the most important thing at the moment is to keep everyone safe. We have set up class Facebook Groups, these are private groups where the parents and carers can share with their children the learning from the teachers, each day the staff read the class story, add spelling lists, teach lessons and such like. This has been really successful, with all but three families accessing the groups. Staff are supporting learning, and undertaking training from home.

### Emerald Class Art Work

The children in Year 3 and 4 have been learning about the artists Heaton Cooper and Andy Goldsworthy. We are grateful to the members of our local community who allowed us to use your photographs to inspire us to work in the style of these artists recreating Fenland scenes. Subsequently, the Year 3 children went to Westwood School to use their art room to create clay tiles depicting their own Fenland scenes. Due to the school closures the finished tiles have not been returned to us yet and unfortunately the planned art exhibition in March Library has been postponed, for now.



### Fenland District Council

As many of you will be aware, we asked parents and carers of Townley children to complete a questionnaire for FDC, because of this we were given £500 and entered into the prize draw for a further £500, which I am delighted to say we won! As a result, we have purchased these beautiful tables, which the children have not seen yet, made from recycled plastics! I would like to thank Nate Lansdell for assembling these for us.





# Community Information

## Mobile Post Office:

Visits Monday to Thursday in the lay-by on Upwell Road

Monday and Thursday - 16.30 to 17:00pm

Tuesday and Wednesday - 16.10 to 17:00pm

Fridays - no service.

ANYONE WISHING THEIR ITEMS TO BE POSTED,  
ON THE DAY, WILL NEED TO GET THEIR POST TO THE  
VAN BY 4.40PM - WHICH IS WHEN IT IS COLLECTED.

Use it or lose it!

## Community Car Scheme:

This scheme is still running for Christchurch and surrounding villages. To book a ride or to become a volunteer driver please ring 07902 316360. An additional driver is still required for the scheme. For more information please ring the number above.



Please remember that no dogs are allowed on the playing field. Thank you. Your co-operation is much appreciated.

## BREAKING NEWS

**Wearing a mask 🧐  
inside your home is now  
highly recommended.  
Not so much to prevent  
Covid-19 but to stop eating.**

# Editorial

Welcome to our May 2020 edition.

First, on behalf of the team, I would like to send our thoughts and best wishes to anyone who is suffering physically or emotionally from the effects of Covid-19.



In East Anglia, many people are sick, or have passed away, at this very difficult time. For most of us, life will never quite be the same again, but for some of us, our lives will have changed dramatically. The

night will pass, and the sun will rise, but for some of our friends and neighbours the darkness and pain will linger. We should remember that.

What a wonderful article Sheila has done for us this month – see page 11. Drum roll please for all our frontline people, whether in Health Care, support services or our immediate neighbours.

Now. Who's up for **The Heron 2020 Sunflower Challenge?** What magnificent plants they are! Can you grow the tallest Sunflower in the village this year?

I have SEEDS. If you would like to take part, please let me know, and I will give you a few Giant Sunflower Seeds to grow on. I will pack 3 or 4 seeds in little parcels, which you can collect from me. "First come, first served". Open to adults or children. Good luck!



Great to see a new Club coming into being! We look forward to hearing about the night skies from the Christchurch Stargazers. Let's see your photos now and again too.

Stay safe and well.

Annie Nason

Show your appreciation for our wonderful NHS and Key Workers - if you are able to - every Thursday evening at 8.00pm!



## ★★ Who is Victor Hugo?

**Victor Hugo**, in full Victor-Marie Hugo, (born February 26, 1802, Besançon, France—died May 22, 1885, Paris), poet, novelist, and dramatist who was the most important of the French Romantic writers. Though regarded in France as one of the country's greatest poets, he is better known abroad for such novels as *Notre-Dame de Paris* (1831) and *Les Misérables* (1862).

## Coronavirus (COVID-19)

### Information about Coronavirus (COVID-19). Updated: 14:30, Monday 20 April

COVID-19 is an illness that can affect your lungs and airways. It's caused by a virus called Coronavirus.

**Stay at home:** The Government's advice is to **stay at home**.  
You should only go outside for food, health reasons or essential work.  
Stay 2 metres (6ft) away from other people.  
Wash your hands as soon as you get home.

**Our services:** We are committed to continuing to operate essential services whilst following the latest guidance from the Government and Public Health England.

Our refuse services are currently operating as normal. Please allow a little longer for us to collect missed bins (5 days, instead of 3.)

Other service updates include:

- We have temporarily closed our Customer Service Centres and Community Hubs. Residents can still call us as usual on 01354 654321 or **contact us online**.
- We've also set up a community hub service that brings together volunteers, support groups and partners across Fenland to help those most at risk during the coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic.
- If you're a resident and need help with food shopping or collecting medicines, we can provide details of a local voluntary service who can help you. Call us on 01354 654321 or email covid19@fenland.gov.uk
- If you're a resident and are able to offer help to people in need, please register as a volunteer
- Our parks remain open, but our **play areas have closed**
- Some of our **committee meetings** have been postponed
- A number of events have been postponed, including the **Pride in Fenland** awards, St George's Fayre and Chatteris Midsummer Festival
- We have made temporary changes to our taxi licensing procedures. We are not accepting new applications at the moment and have put revised procedures in place for renewals
- Our markets remain open, but are only selling essential items (groceries and food). Please only go out if absolutely necessary to buy what you need and remember to follow NHS and Government guidelines
- Wisbech Yacht Harbour, Crab Marsh Boatyard and Crosskeys Marina is closed to leisure and recreational vessels
- Due to the closure of our customer service centres, we are temporarily unable to issue tokens for the pump out facility at our March Sanitation point. There will still be facilities for boats to use the Sluice Room and the Potable Water facilities which are still operational as normal.

We apologise for any inconvenience this may cause.

## Parish Church

Although the building is not open, please do come and wander round our churchyard, listen to the birds singing, see the new signs of life as flowers push their way through the soil.

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

**Copy Deadline** - The deadline for copy for the April edition of the Heron is **26th March**.

**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.**



# Your Letters



When asked on Facebook whether anyone actually READ The April Heron on line, several people replied. Here are a few of the comments:

Sandra Lloyd: *"I always read the paper one cover to cover. Read all of this one too, but much prefer the paper copy - easier to refer to for Post office times, 'phone numbers etc and nice to read in the garden with a coffee. Loved the kids pages this time, and the Christchurch characters remembered and Parish council snippets. Loved the full colour too (one bonus of it being online)."*

Viv Haresnape: *"Yes, I liked the bit about Hilda Lepla. I remember her from when we first moved to the village. She was very friendly, a great character, always up and down the road on her little bicycle. The then head of Townley, Peter Hearnshaw, remarked once, that there was not a lot of point in the children doing a traffic survey outside the school as a data collection lesson; as the road was so quiet that all they'd be able to count was Hilda on her bike!"*

Paul Haresnape: *"She was a menace on that bike! If she'd gone any slower, she'd have been going backwards!"*

Pat Rigby: *"I like it, read it cover to cover and I know where to find it online, unlike the paper copy which always got mislaid."*

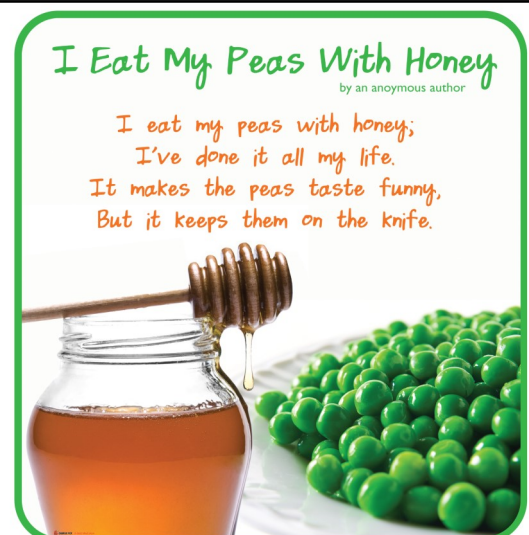
*Good to hear our labours aren't in vain, folks! We will be back to normal at some stage this year, but not just yet. Ed.*

# Heron Notices



We are sorry once again that we cannot deliver the May edition of The Heron through every door. The Lockdown rules don't permit this. What's more, we wouldn't want to put any of our deliverers at risk. So, we are, once again, **ON LINE ONLY** - except for a few of our most vulnerable people, who will get a paper copy. We have to thank our printer Steve, of **MARCH STATIONERY AND PRINT**, who is working with us in this regard and is allowed to do some printing, from online sources. They have a very strict health system in place and his shop still remains shut. However, Steve has agreed to print some paper copies for us, each individual copy in it's own A4 envelope (Steve is kindly providing the envelopes, at his own expense, to support us) with his own safety measures on the front along with instructions for your own safety. These few filled envelopes will be left in a cardboard box for at least 3 days and then delivered to various homes, by deliverers using gloves, and put on front doorsteps. If you know of anyone who didn't get a paper copy in May, but needs one, please let me know. I imagine we will still be in the same situation for the June edition but, hopefully, not for much longer after that.

***Let's hear it for Steve and his team!  
A great big thank you to you all.***



## Letters to the Editorial Team

The Editorial team welcome letters from its readers. Please email letters to: [editor@heron.info](mailto:editor@heron.info) or post them to *The Editor of The Heron, Grasshopper Cottage, 5 Upwell Road, Christchurch, PE14 9LF.*

**PLEASE NOTE:** Letters will only be considered for publication if they are accompanied by name and contact details - names will be published, but not contact details. The Heron will not share any contact details unless given permission.

The team look forward to hearing from you!



Sadly, The Heron Delvers have been unable to find any reports to do with Christchurch celebrating VE DAY 1945... Or any subsequent ones. But here's a reasonably "local" gem. Enjoy!

Source: Cambridgeshire County Archive Network

## Wisbech Celebrates VE Day 1945 The Old Dun Cow Pub

The Old Dun Cow pub (formerly in Victoria Road, Wisbech - now demolished) was the venue for the week long celebrations organised by the then Landlord Charlie Barton.

On the announcement that the war had ended in Europe, Charlie's customers pushed the piano out into the court yard, that became the start of the week long party.

Customers came from all over Town to join into the singing and dancing that went on every night. Mr Barton had a problem keeping stocks of beer flowing since he sold out every night.

The picture depicts the special day time party for local children held in the pubs court yard.



*"Courage is what it takes to stand up and speak. Courage is also what it takes to sit down and listen". Winston Churchill*

## VE DAY CHRISTCHURCH-STYLE

A Street Party with a difference ...

*The latest advice is for members of the public to temporarily cancel all planned VE Day celebrations. Until more is known, for now, it's thought that all former VE Day plans will be moved to be celebrated on the weekend of the 15-16 August, to coincide with VJ Day - which commemorates the surrender of Imperial Japan during World War II.*

Let's not allow the VE date to go by unmarked in Christchurch. Our suggestion:

At 4pm on Friday 8th May, Everyone who is able - come to your front door, or front gate (SAFELY, of course), with a cup of tea and a cake or a sandwich, and wave a flag, or ring a bell, or clap, or sing the National Anthem, or wave from your window if you cannot get outside. Dress in period costume, if that takes your fancy! It was a momentous date in 1945. We need to commemorate it and wish each other well. Remembering the sacrifices that all people across the land had to make to win our freedom from the threat of Fascism. **DON'T FORGET TO SEND US YOUR PICTURES!**







## Christchurch Heroes from WWII Remembered



### ***Princess Elizabeth and Princess Margaret's adventure on VE night 1945.***

The Princesses had lived very sheltered lives for much of the war at Windsor Castle and their only contact with boys of their own age was at dinners given by their parents. Elizabeth had done her duty during the conflict by joining the Women's Auxiliary Territorial Service and training as a mechanic and driver and mindful of her war service and the need for his daughters to let their hair down, the King and his wife gave their blessing, despite mutters of disapproval from advisers.

The royal adventure into the thronging streets of London was to be unofficial and a group of 16 chaperones was hastily convened to ensure the Princesses came to no harm. They all slipped out of the Palace unnoticed through a side exit. Among those accompanying the Princesses was Lord Porchester, a Royal Horseguards officer, who recalled: "We were mixed up in the crowd. No one recognised Princess Elizabeth or Princess Margaret and we went up Whitehall, up Piccadilly, into the Ritz Hotel and back through Hyde Park Corner and down the Mall. Everyone was very jolly, linking arms in the streets and singing 'Run Rabbit Run', 'Hang Out The Washing On The Siegfried Line', 'Roll Out The Barrel', 'Under The Spreading Chestnut Tree' - all those sorts of things."

It might seem remarkable now that the Princesses were not recognised but Elizabeth wore her uniform with the cap pulled down over her eyes and on that raucous evening, she was just another pretty girl, in khaki, out celebrating. (Source: Daily Express 2015)





# Coronavirus and Christchurch Village Life

## Basic protective measures against the new coronavirus

Take care of your health and protect others by doing the following:

- ♦ Wash your hands frequently.
- ♦ Maintain social distancing (at least 2 metres) between you and anyone else whilst out (1 hr per day).
- ♦ Avoid touching your eyes, nose and mouth.
- ♦ Practice respiratory hygiene (covering nose and mouth when coughing or sneezing by using either a bent elbow or tissue - disposing of the tissue immediately).
- ♦ If you have a fever, cough and difficulty breathing - seek medical care early (see info below).
- ♦ Stay informed on the latest developments - the World Health Organisation (WHO) website is a good one to follow - and follow advice given by healthcare advisers.

Upwell Heath Centre - 01945 773671 and Pharmacy 01945 774934 (dialling 111 out of hours or following the step-by-step instructions on [111.nhs.uk/covid-19](https://111.nhs.uk/covid-19) website).

**TO PROTECT YOURSELF AND OTHERS - STAY AT HOME! DO NOT GO TO YOUR GP, PHARMACY OR HOSPITAL.**



## WE CAN HELP WITH

- Shopping
- Friendly phone calls
- Picking up prescriptions
- Urgent supplies
- Accessing FaceTime to speak to families
- Anything else (within reason)
- Dog walking
- Running errands
- Posting mail



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**JILL  
WATTS**

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07807 040 278



**KAREN  
WILLCOCKS**

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07388 445 232

### FREE CARE FROM PEOPLE WHO CARE...

Coronavirus is contagious. Please take every precaution to ensure you are spreading only kindness. Avoid physical contact (2m distance) and wash your hands regularly. Items should be left on your doorstep.

*Caring for*  
**CHRISTCHURCH**

# MAJESTIC

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## Can you Solve This One?

Cannibals ambush a safari in the jungle and capture three men. The cannibals give the men a single chance to escape uneaten.



The captives are lined up in order of height, and are tied to stakes. The man in the rear can see the backs of his two friends, the man in the middle can see the back of the man in front, and the man in front cannot see anyone. The cannibals show the men five hats. Three of the hats are black and two of the hats are white.

Blindfolds are then placed over each man's eyes and a hat is placed on each man's head. The two hats left over are hidden. The blindfolds are then removed and it is said to the men that if one of them can guess what colour hat he is wearing they can all leave unharmed.



The man in the rear who can see both of his friends' hats but not his own says, "I don't know". The middle man who can see the hat of the man in front, but not his own says, "I don't know". The front man who cannot see ANYBODY'S hat says "I know!"

How did he know the colour of his hat and what colour was it?

**(Answer on page 26.)**



Surgery : 01945 773671 Dispensary: 01945 774934 Out of Hours: 111

## COLLECTING REPEAT PRESCRIPTIONS (for patients 70 years old or over)

From Wed 18th March, if you are 70 or over (or care for someone who is) we would ask, if possible, for you to collect your repeat prescription from us between 8 and 9am. This is a new service we are trialling, to help people who are socially distancing themselves, to collect their medication at a quieter time with less contact with other people. Please note this is for repeat medication collection ONLY. You will not be able to purchase items from the shop or obtain acute medication between 8 and 9am. Please tell your friends - spread the word - thank you!

We are doing our very best to help everyone in this difficult situation.

## Important information about the coronavirus (COVID-19)

Upwell Health Centre is taking steps to minimise the risk of coronavirus infection by limiting the number of people that come into the surgery.

This means that:

- we will carry out most consultations by telephone
- all routine and non-urgent appointments will be carried out by telephone or cancelled for the time being
- we do not want you to attend the surgery in person without contacting us first.

If, after contacting us, you do need to attend the surgery please only come yourself or with people that are caring for you.



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## A New Kind of Hero! - By Sheila Day

As we progress through this time of “lock-down”, a new tradition is emerging - clapping at 8pm on Thursday evenings. Initially this was focussed on the NHS where nurses were identified as heroes who were risking their health to safeguard that of others. However as the weeks have gone by it has become increasingly clear that there are a wide variety of people doing a wide variety of jobs, all of whom are working valiantly, often in difficult circumstances, to keep us going during the crisis. Some of these live in and around our village. Here is a very small sample (*in alphabetical order of the given names of the people I spoke to!!!*)...

One local business which has been very badly hit by the curtailment of travel is Osborne Place Boarding Kennels in Tipps End. Amanda Palmer reports that uncertainty over Brexit and the demise of Thomas Cook had already had an impact. Amanda keeps close links with her existing clients and is happy to help in support of key workers, who are facing extra demands and often increasingly long hours.

Ganene works in a children's home. There are four teenagers in her care and one has learning difficulties. They are lucky to have a large garden, but not leaving the premises and not having any contact with parents is proving challenging. The children all have individual needs and with a birthday approaching for one of them, making it special is going to be difficult. Ganene is struggling with the fact that in-school education has not really worked out as she was hoping for these vulnerable children and is finding the learning packs difficult to implement. Staffing issues have meant that Ganene, who would normally expect to work a 40 hour week, is now working over 80 hours a week, including some overnight stays. Protective equipment has been provided by the director of the organisation, but staff are not using it as they try to make the residence a home as much as possible. However, Ganene is aware of how this puts her and her team at risk.

Louise is a manager at a large supermarket in Peterborough. She has seen the development from initial panic buying to a steadier approach as the public began to understand the need for restrictions. However, it has been an extremely challenging time for her. She recalls that the first two weeks were terrible, with many incidents of customers being abusive to shop floor staff and, as a manager, it was Louise's job to try to resolve this, dealing with heightened emotions and on one occasions even being threatened with an elderly lady's walking stick! Louise is thankful that the staff now have some protective equipment, and that customers have now calmed down, with many realising what a challenging time it has been and showing appreciation. However there are still too many customers who do not appear to appreciate that staff are putting themselves at risk and who are not yet demonstrating an understanding of social distancing within the store.

Sharon is a teacher in a Kings Lynn school. As it became clear that schools were about to close she, along with other staff, prepared learning packs for her pupils, especially those without home access to the internet. For those with the internet, codes were given to access learning resources. Sharon phones the homes of her pupils to check all is well. She is particularly concerned for her year 11 students, who will now not be taking their GCSE exams, and feels that teacher assessment will leave some children, who generally perform well in test conditions, at a disadvantage. A small number of children are still attending school and Sharon works, within school, on a rota basis. Sharon is also concerned about children from vulnerable domestic situations, who may be at increased risk. At this time, Sharon is doing volunteer work for the “50 Backpacks” charity, originally set up to deliver free groceries to homeless people, but who have extended their remit to vulnerable and elderly people during the pandemic crisis.

As a rural community, we are more aware than most of the value of farmers. Sue and Jim, are livestock farmers. At this time of year they would normally be busy with lambing supported by their “surrogate children”, Matt and Jess, in addition to four students from The Royal Veterinary College who come and stay with them to support with their 1600 ewes. However, this year it has not been possible for the students to come, so the stresses have been considerable. Teenage sons Jack and Josh have been able to help this year as their school has been closed, but with lambing and 25 cows also in calf, it has been pretty “full on”. In addition to this, there has been a shortage of animal medication as the NHS has increased its demand and obtaining lab results has been difficult. Selling livestock from the farm has been problematic resulting in many animals being retained on the farm for longer than usual which, for many farmers, will mean a cash-flow problem.

Wendy works in a sheltered housing complex with a dementia unit. She is thankful that at time of writing there have not been any cases of the virus. Those in the sheltered units have been instructed to stay in their flats and not mingle. This is proving very difficult for some, who do not appreciate how vulnerable they are. Boredom is a huge factor for these clients, as well as the lack of visitors. In the dementia unit it is impossible to insist on isolation so clients are allowed to mingle. Wendy and her colleagues are grateful that they have been issued with protective equipment but she is having to work extra shifts, as colleagues have self-isolated as a precautionary measure, for the protection of their families and the residents. Wendy is also struggling to cope with the fact that her 72 year old father who has been in hospital for some months, has now contracted the virus.

Collecting this information has been a humbling experience for me. So many villagers (and I know there are more, not included in this article) are putting their own health and well-being on the line for the good of others. We salute you all!

*We know that this is a small sample of our heroic key workers, we would love to hear of the experiences of others...*

# Christchurch Art Group



## Ideas for all aspiring artists

We are no longer able to meet, but we can still keep our art work going. Here are some ideas.

- Make a palette of all your paint colours on a piece of suitable paper. (Remember the three primaries are red, yellow and blue).
- Mix some of these colours together, no more than three and write a note of colours used, see how they change when you vary the amounts.
- If you have different paints see what changes occur with different makes.
- Try using different papers watercolour/acrylic/ cartridge of varying quality.
- Try to mix a variety of spring and summer greens.
- Mix a variety of brown and greys, see which colours work best and make notes.
- Now have a look through all your pencils and spent some time sharpening them all.
- Sit in your favourite chair and look around you.....try to sketch what you can see. The corner of the room/your favourite mug/ your plate of biscuits/your shoe/your thumb!
- Keep a **Lock Down Sketch Book**, this will be good to look through and share with the group when we return.
- If you have young family members they will love to see your efforts. I have a sketch a day challenge with my grandson. We send it to each other every evening.
- No art materials? No problem just use what paper/ pen or pencil you have to hand!

I have seen some of the rainbow pictures children have put in their windows and I am sure some of you with young children at home could have a go with these exercises.

How about drawing a tree shape and let them use their hand prints of many colours to make the leaves. That might cheer us all up!

Jan Clifford



# Christchurch Craft Club

April Craft Club was planned as sweet making for Easter so, I decided I'd have a go at a recipe I remember making in High School (yes that was an awfully long time ago!). It took me a while to find desiccated coconut but managed to get some in Morrison's this week. Here's my recipe for Coconut and cherry squares:-

225g (8oz) cooking chocolate  
75g (3oz) soft margarine  
75g (3oz) caster sugar  
175g (6oz) desiccated coconut  
1 egg beaten  
100g (4oz) glace cherries (rinsed, dried and roughly chopped)

Oven temp Gas mark 4 - 180deg C (160 fan)

Line a 27.5 x 17.5cm (11 x 7") with tinfoil. Melt chocolate in a heatproof dish over a saucepan of hot water (or in microwave). Pour the chocolate into the lined tin and chill until set. Beat together the remaining ingredients until thoroughly combined. Transfer to the tin, completely covering the chocolate. Level the surface. Bake for 25-30 mins until golden brown (mine was ready after 20mins). Cool in the tin. When completely cold, take out of tin, remove the foil and cut into squares or slices.

Yummy, just as I remembered it. No idea why it's taken me so long to make it again. One thing I'm really enjoying about Lockdown is finding the time to do more regular baking (and using up all the ingredients going past their "Best Before" dates!).



I hope all you Craft Club ladies are finding plenty of crafts to keep you occupied during Lockdown. Please send us pictures of any projects you are currently doing or give craft ideas for us all to try while we're apart. Happy baking everyone. Stay safe and well.

Sandra Lloyd

Hi everyone.

## Christchurch Stargazers



I have been asked to start up a new club, at the request of several villagers who have expressed an interest in amateur astronomy/sky-watching. This will be a new venture so, over time, things will evolve. There will be a Christchurch Facebook page which anyone who's interest can join. There will be people interested who do not have internet access, so I will pass on my mobile phone number, maybe, or we can keep in touch by some other means. Ideas welcome!

May skies will show Venus in the evening but this will set 4 hours after sunset on May 1st and 30 minutes after sunset on May 31st. Mars will brighten in the morning sky and Jupiter and Saturn will also be visible. **A word of warning:** Never, ever look at the sun with your naked eye, through sunglasses or through binoculars. **Always use the correct equipment.**

Mark Andrews

# Christchurch Book Club



Book club was due to meet on 28<sup>th</sup> April, but again it will come as no surprise, that it has been impossible to convene this meeting. Luckily the library had already given us our copies of "The Death of Dalziel" by Reginald Hill before it closed due to the pandemic. In this strange time, some members have not started it, others could not get on with it, whilst others thoroughly enjoyed it.....this is very typical for our club!

Although we are (in theory) meant to be meeting again on 26<sup>th</sup> May, it is, I believe, likely that lock-down will still be continuing at least in some form at that time, and in any case, we are unable to access books from the library. However, we have started a WhatsApp group which we use to let others know what we have been reading and to give and receive recommendations. Books recommended include:

"The Holiday" by TM Logan - *4 best friends and their families go on what should have been a perfect holiday together in The Mediterranean but Kate suspects her husband is having an affair and the other woman must be one of her 3 friends. Kate closes in on the truth but soon realised that someone is The villa is prepared to kill to keep their secret hidden. Easy reading with a few twists.*

The Tattooist of Auschwitz by Heather Morris - *the story of Lale Sokolov. Lale arrived in Auschwitz in 1942 as a young man and was recruited as the tattooist. It's a moving story of love and courage.*

"Lady in Waiting" by Anne Glenconner, *who was Lady in Waiting to Princess Margaret. Very entertaining!*

"The Mirror and the Light" by Hilary Mantel - *the third in the Wolf Hall trilogy...focuses on the last part of Thomas Cromwell's life after the death of Ann Boleyn. Bit hard going - but a must for history buffs, read the first two parts first (or see the TV program on IPlayer!).*

If you would like to join our WhatsApp group contact Sheila Day on 07946635908, its open to everyone, even if you are unable to attend meeting in "normal times"!

In addition to this, we are grateful to Nate, who has transformed one of the recycling stations (end of Fen View) into a book and puzzle swap.

Keep healthy, keep safe....and keep reading!

Sheila Day

No Gardening Club news this month ... instead, let us celebrate the beautiful flowering May Tree which we see in the hedgerows during the month of May.

**Hawthorn (*Crataegus monogyna*):** Named after the month in which it blooms and a sign that Spring is turning to Summer. The pale green leaves of this hedgerow staple are often the first to appear in Spring, with an explosion of pretty pale-pink blossom in May. It simply teems with wildlife, from bugs to birds.

**Common names:** Common Hawthorn, Hawthorn, May Tree, One-seed Hawthorn, Whitethorn, Quickthorn.

**Scientific name:** *Crataegus monogyna*

**Family:** Rosaceae.

**Origin:** native UK

Mature trees can reach a height of 15m and are characterised by their dense, thorny habit, though they can grow as a small tree with a single stem. The bark is



brown-grey, knotted and fissured, and twigs are slender and brown and covered in thorns. It often hybridises with the UK's other native hawthorn, Midland Hawthorn (*Crataegus laevigata*). Both species are similar and can

be hard to tell apart. **Look out for:** the deeply lobed leaves, spiny twigs and haws (berries).

**Flowers,** Hawthorns are hermaphrodite, meaning both male and female reproductive parts are contained within each flower. Flowers are highly scented, white or occasionally pink with five petals, and grow in flat-topped clusters.

**Fruits.** Once pollinated by insects, they develop into deep-red fruits known as 'haws'.

Midland hawthorn (*Crataegus laevigata*): The flowers of common hawthorn have a single stigma, whereas Midland hawthorn has two. The common hawthorn fruits have a single seed, whereas the fruits of Midland hawthorn have two seeds. The leaves of common hawthorn are not as deeply cut.

Source: Woodland Trust

**The spread of Covid-19 is based on two factors**

- 1. How dense the population is**
- 2. How dense the population is**



## Why was Christchurch formally known a Brimstone Hill? One theory ...

Taken from an article in one of the local newspapers circa 1988, which talks about Fen Devils, some of you may be interested to hear one story of why Christchurch used to be called Brimstone Hill.

*"The most well-known fable involving Beelzebub must be that of Tom Hickathrift, the legendary giant-killer from Marshland. Reputed to be buried at Tilney, this famed giant-killer is said to have fought with the devil at Walpole St Peter Churchyard during his later years. The unwelcome visitor is also said to have called at St Peter's Church in Upwell where it seems the devil was spotted in the tower, disguised as a witch, by a cleric, who then chased him out of the building. The devil ran, with the cleric in hot pursuit, right through the village and out across Upwell Fen until he disappeared in a cloud of fire and brimstone. That area then became known as Brimstone Hill. In later years, a community formed there, but when they tried to build a church, the tower fell down; so they renamed the area Christchurch, and had no further problems. Instead, the steeple at St Peter's Church, Upwell collapsed!"*

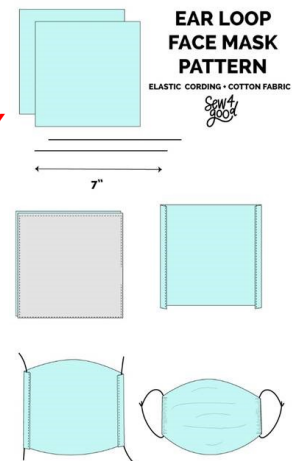


The truth of this tale has, no doubt, varied over the years of re-telling and appears a little doubtful, but certain 'facts' do still ring true. There was a place called Brimstone Hill in the Christchurch area, which now no longer exists, and it is quite true that attempts were made to build a tower on the church – unsuccessfully. Contrary to the implications from the tale though, the church is still tower-less.

***If you feel you would like to do this, here is an easy pattern to follow.  
The pattern is not one for MEDICAL USE but for your own use when shopping.  
There is evidence that these masks DO NOT work as well as PPE medical masks, and  
there is a debate on whether or not they are needed. ALWAYS wash the mask thoroughly  
after an outing.***

These masks are ear-loop masks and the thin elastic cording is comfortable to wear. They are also really fast to make with an elastic gathering technique.

Cut two lengths of 1/4" elastic 14" each. Pin one length at the top corners of the fabric and the other at the bottom. Lay the second piece of fabric face down. Sew around all edges with a 1/4" seam allowance, leaving a small opening to turn. Turn, press and create pleats according to the pattern piece. Sew pleats down and backstitch. This stitching will also close the opening that you left.



## SHAKE AND BAKE PARTY

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# Summer fire safety

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



**CAMBRIDGESHIRE  
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*Working together to improve community safety*

We would urge residents to think twice before lighting a garden fire and consider the impact it might have.

Lighting any kind of fire poses risks. Having a bonfire in your garden might seem a good idea to get rid of waste from a clear out, but these can easily get out of control. It could also aggravate health conditions for neighbours, particularly if they are furniture for the summer season, be sure to take note of our top tips below to ensure you have a fun and safe summer in the garden.

- Never leave it unattended
- Keep children, pets and garden games well away from the cooking
- Make sure the BBQ is well away from your fences or hedgerows
- Don't use petrol to get it going!

For the latest news, incidents and safety advice, or to contact us, log on to [www.cambsfire.gov.uk](http://www.cambsfire.gov.uk). Sign up to email alerts and find us on Twitter, Instagram, YouTube and Facebook.

Please do not reply directly to this email. If you wish to get in contact, please email [pressoffice@cambsfire.gov.uk](mailto:pressoffice@cambsfire.gov.uk).

## Test your smoke alarm!

Did you know that you should test your smoke alarms at least once a month? Or that you should have smoke alarms on every floor of your home? Or that Cambridgeshire Fire and Rescue Service do free home visits to make sure your home is fire safe?

Visit this website for helpful tips and advice: <https://firekills.campaign.gov.uk/>

It only takes one accident to start a fire. Fire kills. Let's prevent it.

For more information log on to [www.cambsfire.gov.uk](http://www.cambsfire.gov.uk), follow us on social media or call 01480 444500. Please do not reply directly to this email. If you wish to get in contact, please email [pressoffice@cambsfire.gov.uk](mailto:pressoffice@cambsfire.gov.uk).



Terry Waite, 1763 days as a hostage in appalling conditions.

He just told us all to "stop complaining! Change your mindset he said, you're not STUCK at home, you're SAFE at home".  
#TerryWaite



His advice:

- Keep your own dignity - get out of your PJs!
- Form a structure for the day.
- Be grateful for what you have - shelter, home, possessions.
- Read and be creative.





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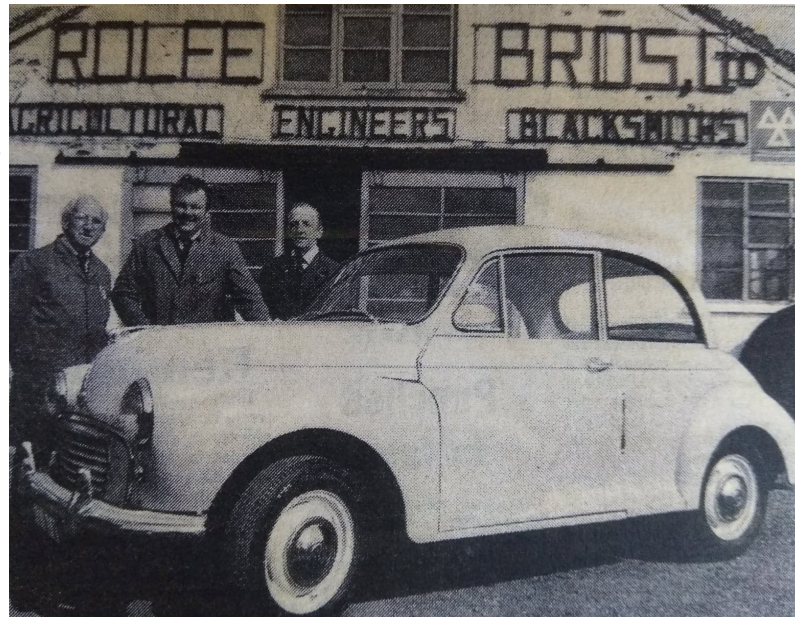
**SUNDAY BRUNCH** - from 10.30 am  
Next one is Sunday 26th April

*Happy Hour - Fridays 4.30 to 6.30*

## Christchurch Characters Remembered ...

A story taken from a 1984 copy of The Cambs Times gives details of the monumental day that brothers Wolsey and Jack Rolfe sold their agricultural and motor engineering business (Rolfe Bros. Ltd), Roffco Works, to Fred Edgley from Chatteris. With Fred firmly at the helm, Jack obviously had difficulty in letting go completely as he used to pop along most days to give Fred a helping hand - with Wolsey moving on to become Works Manager at an MOT testing station.

Jack, being the eldest of five brothers, was the first to join his father, John William, in the farrier/smithy business after leaving school at 14. Together Jack and his father built up a reputation that extended far beyond the village boundaries and operated what must have been one of the first "mobile" workshops. The Rolfes travelled the Fens in their converted army ambulance, to customers' farm premises, to shoe their heavy horses on the spot. John and Jack's business thrived with them achieving many accolades for shoeing successful show horses.



Wolsey, on the other hand, started his working life as a teenage hall boy at Lilford Hall, working his way up to footman. It wasn't until his father and brother's thriving business took off that it was decided they needed an extra pair of hands. So Wolsey returned to Christchurch, to help, before being called up for war duties.

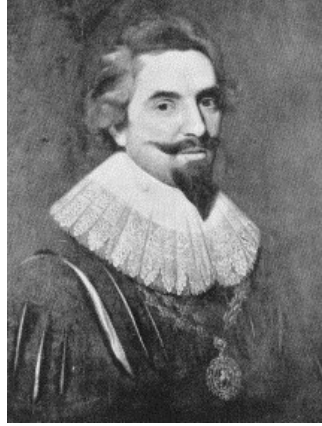
The name 'Roffco Works' was created during the Second World War with the business having to be registered as a works in order to obtain a permit for steel and accessories. The Rolfe Brothers' business, which spanned over 70 years, has to be one of the few Fen businesses that managed to survive all the industrial changes to motor car production and the introduction of mechanised farming.

*Text and photo taken from clippings found in scrap books kept by Malcolm Hicks*



# FARMING IN THE FENS

Food and farming in the Fens have been delivering for Britain for hundreds of years. It was the prize of farming its fertile soils that first led to the Fens being drained, transforming it into the powerhouse of productive agriculture and horticulture it is today. The Fens begins its life in the surrounding 'uplands' where four rivers – the Witham, Welland, Nene and Ouse – start their journeys. These rivers carry water from the uplands, and surrounding areas, down through the Fens and into the Wash. The Fens, as we know it now, started to take shape in the 17th century, when drainage of the wetlands began in earnest. It was systematically drained under the supervision of Dutch engineer Cornelius Vermuyden. The drainage changed the Fens from a series of wetlands, which provided fish and waterfowl for the local population, plus living space on higher ground, to a place where its high-quality soils could be used for farming.



Cornelius Vermuyden

(Source: NFU Website)

A newly-appointed East Anglian agricultural leader is urging farmers to champion their industry as they adapt to the major challenges of life outside of the EU.



Third-generation Fenland farmer Mat Smith is taking over as chairman of the Cambridgeshire branch of the National Farmers' Union (NFU) at a pivotal time for the industry - with a new agricultural policy under development, trade deals to be negotiated and growing concern about the potential impact of climate change.

Mr Smith, 44, farms in a family partnership at Ramsey Mereside with his brother Lloyd, who is currently chairman of the NFU's Ramsey and Whittlesey branch. They host trials on the family's 400-acre arable farm, looking at crop protection products and different seed treatments, and also work with the RSPB on environmental measures, including about four acres set aside for lapwings. "I'm a big believer in conservation," said Mr Smith. "We don't make any profit from it but we both think it's the right thing to do. We've definitely seen an increase in wildlife in the margins around the farm, as well as protecting our water courses."



*"You are the master of your unspoken words, but a slave to the words you have spoken".*

Winston Churchill

Mr Smith sees climate change as a huge issue for the industry, with the NFU setting the ambitious goal of reaching "net zero" greenhouse gas emissions across agriculture in England and Wales by 2040. Like many farmers, he is looking at how to adapt the business, including investigating changes to the crops grown, and introducing livestock to the crop rotation to help improve soil structure. "I don't think that simply planting trees across the Fenland landscape is necessarily the answer," he said. "We only have three trees on the farm, but we have miles of dykes providing wildlife corridors".

(Source: The Eastern Daily Press. Published 20/02/2020)

## Tongue Twisters:

Silly Sally swiftly shooed seven silly sheep.  
The seven silly sheep Silly Sally shooed  
Shilly-shallied south.  
These sheep shouldn't sleep in a shack;  
Sheep should sleep in a shed.

A tutor who tooted the flute  
Tried to teach two young tooters to toot.  
Said the two to the tutor,  
"Is it harder to toot, or  
To tutor two tooters to toot?"

Any advance on 40?.... Pauline Hutchins beat our total of 30 words made from 'EASTER EGG' Well done Pauline!!



# Kids Corner

**STARGAZING IN CHRISTCHURCH: Make you own star charts and then find these constellations in the night sky.**

**(You will need an adult to help you, because you will need to use scissors, and a sharp item to bore the (small) holes. They could also print out this page for you, from The Heron on-line.)**

1. You will need a torch, scissors and a drawing pin or similar.

2. Get hold of some fairly thick black paper.  
(If you can't find any, use thin dark cardboard).

3. Cut out 8 rectangles about 150mm x 200mm.  
Use one for each of the patterns here.

4. Write the name of the constellations on the front of the pieces of paper, right at the top.

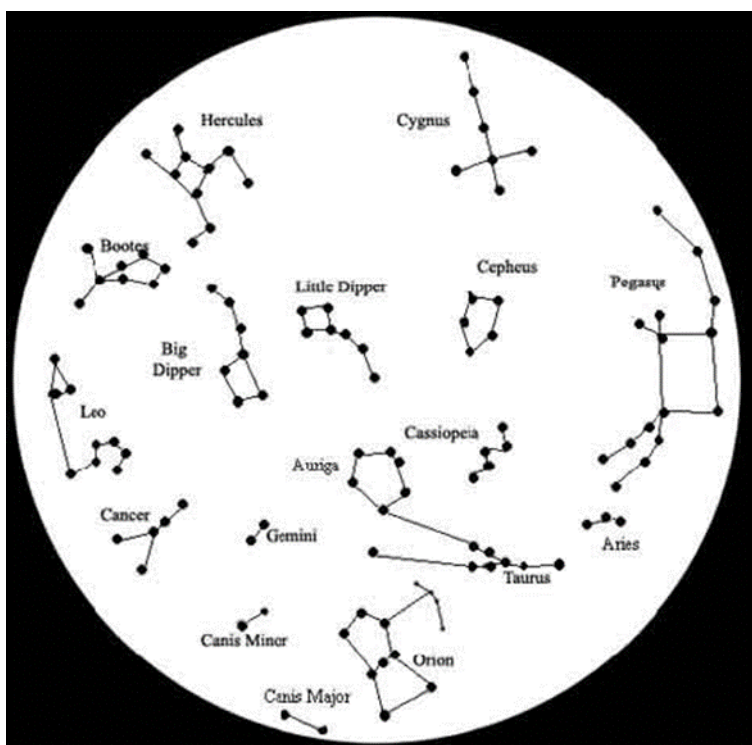
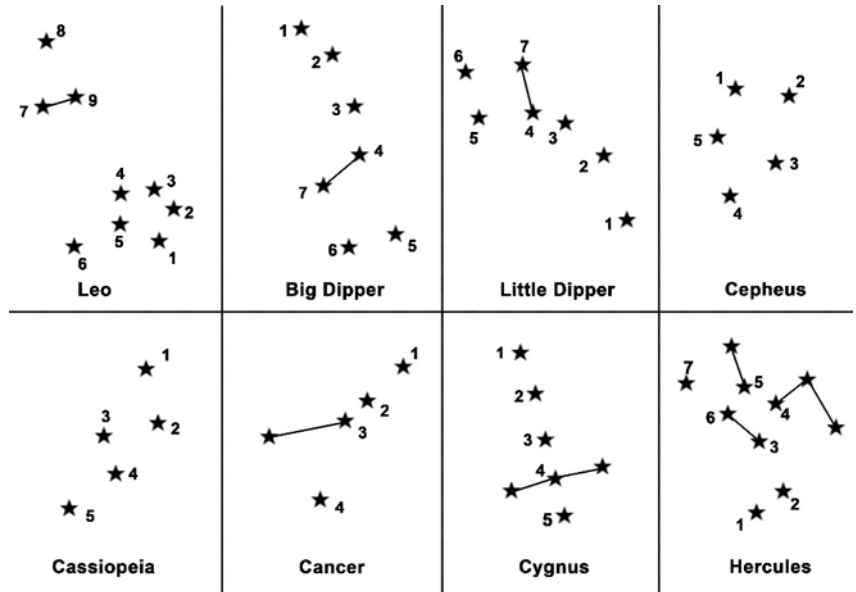
5. Use a WHITE crayon or colouring pencil (or a yellow one) and mark very small dots on the paper, copying the **exact** shapes of the STARS on the patterns (ignore the lines and numbers).

6. Poke the pin bit of the drawing pin through each mark you have made. Be sure NOT to place your hand underneath the paper when you are doing this or it will be OUCH ! Why not ask a grown up to do this bit for you?

7. Find a dark room, and hold a lighted torch directly behind your paper. It will seem like the stars are shining in the night sky.

8. Try to memorise the shapes and look for them in the real night sky. **Cassiopeia** is a nice easy one to find. It looks like a 'W'. **Cygnus** looks like a flying swan (Cygnus).

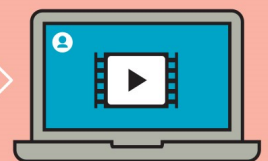
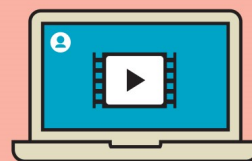
The **Big Dipper** (Ursa Major) and the **Little Dipper** (Ursa Minor) are shown on the back of this magazine. Have a look.



Kindness during the coronavirus outbreak



Arrange to watch a film  
at the same time as a  
friend and video call





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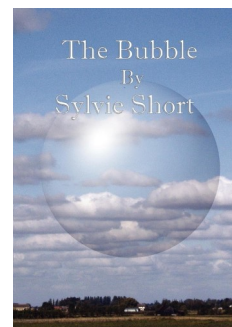
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## Book Review – ‘The Bubble’ by Sylvie Short

Travel restrictions, not being able to get to work, or visit certain shops, feelings of confusion and uncertainty, then the atmosphere changing, neighbours pulling together to share resources and support each other, people finding the time to do the things they had been meaning to try for years, or learning new skills .....

Sound familiar? No, I'm not talking about the Corona virus lockdown, but about the plot of 'The Bubble' by local author Sylvie Short from Upwell.



The story begins when the inhabitants of three adjoining villages (just possibly based on some not too far from Christchurch?) set off to work as usual one morning, and find their way blocked by a mysterious transparent bubble. There is no way to break through it, or to get under or over it! First reactions are anger and confusion, but they are sure this thing will be gone in a few days, and that life will return to normal. As time goes on, and they realise that the bubble is here to stay, they begin to adapt, to get to know their neighbours, to work together as a community, to help on the farms, and to learn from each other the skills they will need in this new life. People find that without the pressures of modern life they are much happier than they used to be! No computers or mobile phones, but they still have water and electricity, the stock in the village shops is mysteriously replaced each night, and there is a young man called Jack who appears in the area at the same time as the bubble, and is always on hand to give advice and encouragement.

But of course there are a few people who are determined to disrupt the new tranquillity....

Interestingly – Sylvie published the book in 2010, but set the story in 2020! A coincidence I only realised when I decided to re-read it.

Vivien Haresnape (former Christchurch resident)

'The Bubble' is available from Amazon, or from Sylvie's own website [www.sylvieshort.co.uk](http://www.sylvieshort.co.uk)

## May Day Celebrations

by Ben Johnson

Many folklore customs have their roots planted firmly back in the Dark Ages, when the ancient Celts had divided their year by four major festivals. *Beltane* or 'the fire of Bel', had particular significance to the Celts as it represented the first day of summer and was celebrated with bonfires to welcome in the new season. Still celebrated today, we perhaps know *Beltane* better as May 1st, or May Day.

Down through the centuries May Day has been associated with fun, revelry and perhaps most important of all, fertility. The Day would be marked with village folk cavorting round the maypole, the selection of the May Queen and the dancing figure of the Jack-in-the-Green at the head of the procession. Jack is thought to be a relic from those enlightened days when our ancient ancestors worshipped trees.

Oliver Cromwell and his Puritans took control of the country in 1645 describing maypole dancing as 'a heathenish vanity generally abused to superstition and wickedness', legislation was passed which saw the end of village maypoles throughout the country. Dancing did not return to the village greens until the restoration of Charles II. 'The Merry Monarch' helped ensure the support of his subjects with the erection of a massive 40 metre high maypole in London's Strand. This pole signalled the return of the fun times, and remained standing for almost fifty years.

Maypoles can still be seen on the village greens at Welford-on-Avon and at Dunchurch, Warwickshire, both of which stand all year round. Barwick in Yorkshire, claims the largest maypole in England, standing some 30 meters in height. May Day is still celebrated in many villages with the crowning of the May Queen. The gentlemen of the village may also be found celebrating with Jack-in-the-Green, otherwise found on the signs of pubs across the country called the Green Man.

May Day traditions in southern England include the Hobby Horses that still rampage through the towns of Dunster and Minehead in Somerset, and Padstow in Cornwall. Further north in Castleton, Derbyshire, Oak Apple Day takes place on 29th May, commemorating the restoration of Charles II to throne. It is important to remember that without 'The Merry Monarch' May Day celebrations might have come to a premature end in 1660.



# Church News

Rev Lynda recommends this site, if you would like 15 minutes each day to be quiet and be refreshed.

<https://pray-as-you-go.org>

## CHRISTIAN AID WEEK 2020 - MAY 10<sup>TH</sup> - 16<sup>TH</sup>

Christchurch Parish Church had planned to hold a Christian Aid Breakfast in the Community Centre – but, sadly, that has had to be cancelled. Never mind.

Christian Aid Week is now ON LINE. You may like to visit their website and donate directly via this link.

<https://www.christianaid.org.uk/about-us/christian-aid->



## CHARLES WESLEY

AN AMAZING HYMN WRITER, BORN IN LINCOLNSHIRE.

The Wesley brothers were famous Christians in England in the 18<sup>th</sup> Century.

Methodism has its roots in eighteenth century Anglicanism. Its founder was a Church of England minister, *John Wesley (1703-1791)*, who sought to challenge the religious assumptions of the day. His hymns are often sung today in at our services in our C/E Church.

*Charles Wesley - (Born Dec. 18, 1707, Epworth, Lincolnshire. Died March 29, 1788, London). He published more than 4,500 hymns and left some 3,000 in manuscript; George Frederic Handel wrote music specifically for some of them. Among Wesley's best-known hymns are "Love divine, all loves excelling"; "Hark, the herald angels sing"; "Christ the Lord is risen today"; "Soldiers of Christ, arise"; "Rejoice, the Lord is king"; and "Jesu, lover of my soul".*

There used to be a Methodist Chapel in the village, but it is now a private dwelling. People who have lived in Christchurch for a long while will remember the time when there was a Methodist congregation and Sunday School there.

# Thoughts from the Rectory

## *We all have the chance to shine.*

Due to my enforced rest following my operation, I have now reached the stage of my recuperation of having to walk twenty minutes a day. So, in the evening when the village is all quiet and there is nobody around, I go out with Lynda to walk our dog Bonny.

One such evening when we were walking Bonny, the street lights with their orange glow were lighting up the village streets and houses. Suddenly the street light that we were standing beneath went out, even though the others remained on. We stayed out for another ten minutes as Bonny rummaged around trying to find her lost ball in the dark. As we stood waiting for Bonny to eventually hunt down her ball, we stood on the path by the ground looking up at this one light that had gone out. I thought one street light going out really doesn't make a difference, but what would the village look like if the next light went off and then the next until they had all gone out. What a dark place it would be.

We may sometimes feel that, on our own, we don't make much of an impression on our surroundings. Perhaps we regard ourselves as being insignificant, doubtful that we can influence anything on a grand scale. Most of us don't have much of a say in national and global affairs, we don't even have much of a say in our local affairs in our villages. But that does not mean we should dismiss the value of what we can offer and what we bring to our own village communities, especially at this difficult time.

Running an errand for an elderly neighbour, writing a card to a friend who has been bereaved, 'phoning someone you haven't seen for a while, could make a big difference to their lives. You know, it could even brighten up their day.

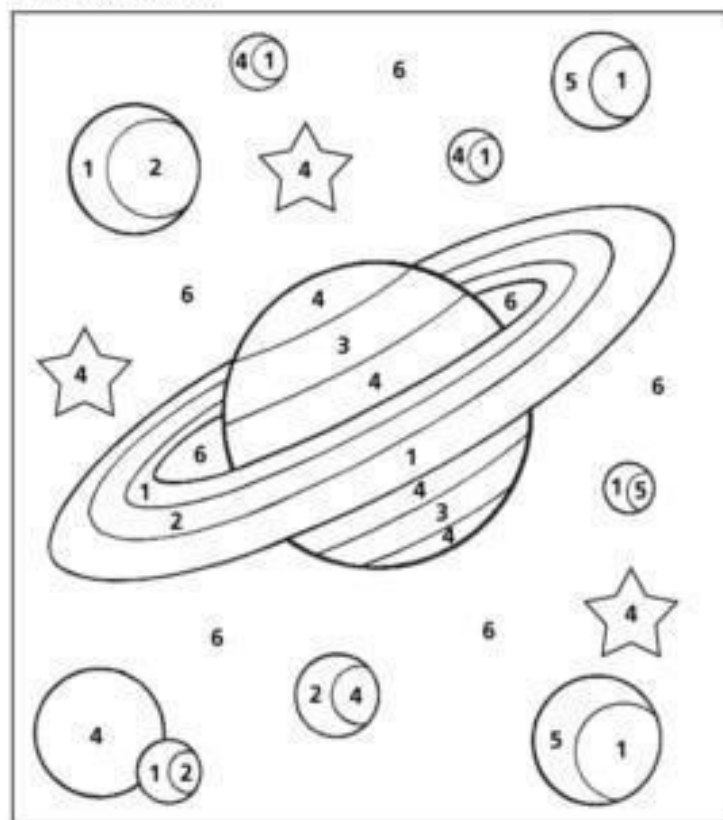
A verse in the Bible describes Jesus as someone who 'went around doing good' (the book of Acts 10:38 NIV). What a beautiful description of his life!

We are living in strange and challenging times, by the time this present fever has left our land. We would have ministered, if we already haven't, to those within our community who will have lost much and those who would have given much. This is our time to shine; this is our time to go around doing good.

The next time I go out with Lynda taking the dog for a walk, I'll see if the street light has returned. I hope it has because, however small, it has a part to play in giving light to the whole village. Keep safe every one.

Ian

## Colour By Numbers



- |           |           |          |
|-----------|-----------|----------|
| 1. Red    | 3. Orange | 5. Green |
| 2. Purple | 4. Yellow | 6. Blue  |

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# Useful Telephone Numbers

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Alzheimer's Society (Fenland)	01945 580480
Christchurch Resident's Association	01354 638990
Churchwarden - Mrs. D. Symons	01354 638352
Citizens' Advice Bureau, Wisbech	03442 451292
Community Car Scheme (to book a journey)	07902 316360
Community Centre Bookings	01354 638478
Community Fire Safety Officer	07717 858166
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 045 5225
National Debtline	0808 808 4000
Norfolk Dial-a-Ride	01553 770310
Parish Clerk - David Gibbs	07932 191050
Parish Councillor - Jill Bliss	01354 638343
Parish Councillor - Sharon Pomeroy	07837 407536
Parish Councillor - Roger Gladwin	01354 638538
Parish Councillor - Geoff Harper	01354 638681
Parish Councillor - James Hughes	01354 638310
Parish Councillor - Peter Owen (Chair)	01354 638847
Parish Councillor - Kay Miller	01354 638232
Police - PCSO Sue Clarke	07738 025220
Police - Emergency	999
Police - Non Emergency	101
Telephone Preference Service	0345 070 0707
Townley School	01354 638229
Trading Standards	03454 040506
Train Information	03457 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	03457 145145

Club Contacts	
Art Club - Jan Clifford	01354 638217
Book Club - Sheila Day	07946 635908
Craft Club - Sandra Lloyd	01354 638956
Gardening Club - Marion Hawthorn	01354 638230
Short Mat Bowls Club - Wendy Keen	01945 772737
WI - Peggy Warby	01354 638339
Jazz Club - Nigel Smith	01945 773121
Christchurch Eco - Nate Lansdell	07401 319347

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

## POEM - By Pam Ayres

I'm normally a social girl I love to meet my mates But lately with the virus here We can't go out the gates.	So here you find me stuck inside For 4 weeks, maybe more I finally found myself again Then I had to the door!
You see, we are the 'oldies' now We need to stay inside If they haven't seen us for a while They'll think we've upped and died.	It didn't really bother me I'd while away the hour I'd bake for all the family But I've got no flaming flour!
They'll never know the things we did Before we got this old There wasn't any Facebook So not everything was told.	Now Netflix is just wonderful I like a gutsy thriller I'm swooning over Idris Or some random sexy killer.
We may seem sweet old ladies Who would never be uncouth But we grew up in the 60s - If you only knew the truth!	At least I've got a stash of booze For when I'm being idle There's wine and whiskey, even gin If I'm feeling suicidal!
There was sex and drugs and rock 'n roll The pill and miniskirts We smoked, we drank, we partied And were quite outrageous flirts.	So let's all drink to lockdown To recovery and health And hope this awful virus Doesn't decimate our wealth.
Then we settled down, got married And turned into someone's mum, Somebody's wife, then nana, Who on earth did we become?	We'll all get through the crisis And be back to join our mates Just hoping I'm not far too wide To fit through the flaming gates!
We didn't mind the change of pace Because our lives were full But to bury us before we're dead Is like a red rag to a bull!	

The man in front knew he was wearing a black hat  
because he knew the first man did not see  
hats and he knew that the second man did not see  
one white hat because if he saw a white hat, the  
second man would have known that his hat was  
black from hearing the first man's statement.

Can You Solve This One? ANSWER:

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

## DELICIOUS GREEN PEAS

The Nation's favourite vegetable? Definitely a top contender in that race! The Heron is going to track the story of peas on the farm, month to month this year, with grateful thanks to Jill Bliss for the information!



Pea Drilling - Bliss Farm - Late March

In late March, the Bliss Farm tractors were drilling peas. In other words, sowing them on a large scale. You may have spotted them. In late April, the peas are growing but pigeons love to eat the new green shoots! Bird scarers are needed to keep them off, so that we can all enjoy one of our favourite vegetables.

Here is a very tasty way to serve them. Give it a go!



Green Pea stir fry with explosive Asian flavours: you could add oyster sauce, freshly grated ginger, soy sauce ... Simple Stir-fry: 10.5 oz frozen green peas (300 g), ½ small red onion, 1 large garlic clove, 1 tbsp fresh ginger (grated), 2 tsp lemon juice (or lime juice). ENJOY!

***FARMERS CARRY ON CARRYING ON, WHATEVER...  
THANK YOU FROM US ALL!***

Our local farmers are having a difficult time ... February was VERY wet, so things got off to a very late start, with a good deal of the Oil Seed Rape crop having to be abandoned; a knock-on effect of this has been less pollen for our bees. Then came the Lockdown. That has had several consequences for our farmers. One of them is that if a farm worker has to self-isolate, the rest of the staff have pressure of more work, because farm work cannot be put off until they are back. "Seedtime and Harvest" both have very small windows of opportunity where they can happen. One local farm has a huge store of potatoes. Why? Because all the chip shops, restaurants and fast food outlets are closed, and no longer need potatoes. And now, the next crop of potatoes has had to be planted, so as to have a crop for the next potato harvest. The worry is – can the ones in store be sold before the new crop is harvested and needs to be put into store?

Source ... local farmers, who wish to remain anonymous.



Some good news from Russell's Farm ... young animals born in the Spring.

(Left - Twin Calves)



Photos by Russell's Farm



Be sure to look for [Red Tractor logo](#), as this guarantees that the food and drink that you are buying is traceable, safe and farmed with care. Combined with the British flag, it's a sure way to know the produce can be traced back to British farms.

The [British Lion](#) is the UK's most successful food safety mark with nearly 90% of UK eggs now produced within the Lion scheme.

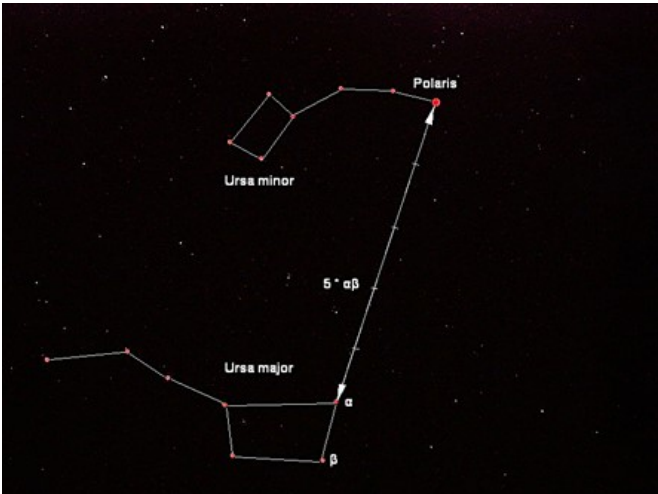


# HOW TO FIND THE NORTHERN POLE STAR IN THE NIGHT SKY

Earth's Northern pole star, Polaris, is a magnitude-2 star aligned approximately with the Earth's Northern axis. This is a time-lapse photograph of the night sky (from the web). At the centre is The North Pole Star, or Polaris. All the other stars appear to move around it. But stars also have their own proper motion through space. So, when we say that stars "move", it could be because of the Earth, because of the star movements, or because of both!



Stars that are close to the Earth's axis of rotation — what we call the North and the South pole - rotate around the poles.



**Christchurch skies are spectacular on a clear night.  
Go outside and have a look...you won't be disappointed!**

How to find Polaris in the night sky.

Find the Constellation Ursa Major, also known as The Great Bear or The Big Dipper. Now track a straight line with your eyes from the two bright stars on the right-hand side up to a reasonably bright star. You can double check by finding Ursa Minor, also known as The Little Bear or the Small Dipper, and follow line of 4 stars (or the dipper handle) to the point where that line meets the other one from Ursa Major.

## MAYDAY MAYDAY MAYDAY

**Mayday** got its start as an international distress call in 1923. It was made official in 1948. It was the idea of Frederick Mockford, who was a senior radio officer at Croydon Airport in London. He came up with the idea for "**Mayday**" because it sounded like the French word *m'aider*, which means "help me."

**Mayday** is an emergency procedure word used internationally as a distress signal in voice-procedure radio communications.

It is used to signal a life-threatening emergency primarily by aviators and mariners, but in some countries local organizations such as firefighters, police forces, and transportation organizations also use the term. Convention requires the word be repeated three times in a row during the initial emergency declaration ("Mayday Mayday Mayday") to prevent it being mistaken for some similar-sounding phrase under noisy conditions, and to distinguish an *actual* mayday call from a message *about* a mayday call.



(From 1922-2002 the University Hospital in Croydon was known as the Mayday Hospital - with one of our very own Christchurch residents being born there in 1964!)



*"We make a living by what we get. We make a life by what we give."*

Winston Churchill

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.



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