

The Heron

Community Magazine

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

September 2016

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HOW TO WIN

£50

INSIDE

***one entry per household**

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Parents step up to make growing areas - Paul Haresnape

Parents, children and some friends of the Townley school have been hard at work over the summer break to provide some exciting new facilities for the children at the school.

As well as other parents, Bex and Tony Bradbury have been supported by Tesco's Hostmoor Community Champion, Kelly Riddle, who has provided materials and time to encourage the school to get involved in growing their own produce.

Each of the three classes have a new area created from recycled materials, to grow vegetables, as well as a flower bed each .

Bex was full of praise for the effort Tesco's store has put in to make the project possible. She said, "You would not believe how helpful they have been—not only providing the physical help from Kelly but also in the donation of materials. They are also going to devote a day to collecting money at the store, for us, next term."

It is expected that, as well as the experience of planting and tending the



Bex, some of her children and Kelly from Tesco's

plants and seeds, each of the classes can get other curriculum aims met by the project. They will be able to use it to get science, cookery, business, maths and negotiation skills *(they are apparently going to sell produce to parents –Ed'.)* as well as other benefits such as seeing healthy vegetables being grown. Research tells us that children are much more likely to try vegetables they have grown themselves, and go on to eat them normally.

As I write the project is not complete, Bex explained, "We could do with some additional

features to help this achieve success - some



Bex puts the final touches to the veg plots, the tyre stacks are for growing potatoes



The project begins in glorious sunshine

garden benches, with backs, for adults to use when supervising the children. The area does not benefit from a water supply, but we could collect water from the Swimming Pool roof, if we had some water butts. One other thing is a lockable shed to store the tools that the children will need, currently there is no money left to buy these".

I wonder if there are any kind people out there who would either be able to donate some used butts or benches, or a shed/store? If so we at the Heron would be delighted to pass on your offer. The number's on the front cover. - Ed'.

Community Information

Mobile Library: first Friday each month

in the Lay-by Upwell Road 15:00 - 15:40

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 14th and 28th Sep

Upwell Road will be closed

from 12th to 16th September - in two phases from the Sixteen Foot Bank Road to Ha'penny Toll Road, and from Ha'penny Toll Road to the village

The new walking group

sets off on Friday 16th September. Open to all - anyone interested meet outside the Church at 1pm - finish up at the Church at 2pm for "Cake Coffee and Chat" The aim is some good exercise in the fresh air as well as the opportunity for a nice chat. Because the pace is gentle, the other groups that they run have attracted people with reduced mobility, so anyone can take part. Contact Sandra Kay on 01354 638478 for further information

Poppy Sellers are needed desperately in Christchurch for Padgets Road, Green Lane and Scott's Road. Also Wayside, Crown Road and Fenview.

Can anyone please help with any of these roads? Any amount collected goes long way to help so many. It is once a year and a reminder that we haven't forgotten all those men and women who have fought for our country.

Please contact Lesley Kennedy on 01354680410.

Would you like to help garden

for those less able than yourself? Do you know someone who needs some help getting their garden straight? It has been suggested to the Parish Council that the village would benefit from a voluntary working party to help those that are needy for any reason, with their garden. The working party would help them to get their garden

in order again, making it easier for the owner to keep on top of the work.

We all need a little help now and then, so if you would like to be part of the working party, please contact Councillor Geoff Harper, geoffrey.harper1@ntlworld.com

Please cut back your hedges

to ensure they do not encroach on the village footpaths. This is the message from the Parish Council. If you have a hedge that grows over a pathway, someone may report it to the Highways department. If this results in them doing the work to cut back the hedge, you, as the homeowner, are likely to be charged for the work carried out. If anyone sees an overgrown hedge, please speak to the home owner or someone from the Parish Council - (*phone numbers on Pg 26 - Ed'*) Please keep your hedges under control!

It's flu vaccination season again.

This year the clinics are scheduled for the Saturday mornings of September 24th and October 1st, 8th and 29th. The appointments are available to book now so please call the surgery on 01945 773671. If you are 65 or over, have a chronic disease such as diabetes, COPD, asthma, heart disease, lowered immunity etc it is recommended that you should have the vaccine. If you have any doubt about your eligibility please just ask us. This year the age range for non injection flu vaccine for children covers all children aged 2,3, or 4 on September 1st. We can also use this vaccine for children with one of the qualifying conditions, especially asthma, up to the age of 18. This vaccine is supplied by the government and it will not be available until mid October. We will be sending letters out to children we think should have it and this will be given in separate clinics. Those of you who are 65 or over should also have one pneumococcal vaccine in your life. We usually offer this when you attend for your flu vaccine. Please ask for this if you have not had it as it protects you from pneumococcal pneumonia which can be a very serious illness as we get older. Once again the shingles vaccine is available for those people aged 70, 78 or 79 on September 1st. We will be offering this when you come for your flu jab but for those who do not wish a flu jab but would like either a pneumococcal or shingle vaccine please make an appointment with the nurse. (from Upwell Health Centre)

DIARY DATES

Abbreviations for commonly used venues:

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

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

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

Sep 2 nd	"Cake, Coffee and Chat" Parish Church 2-3pm - All Welcome
Sep 2 nd	Mobile Library visits - Upwell Rd Lay-by 3-3:40pm
Sep 5 th	Licensing of new vicar team - Ian & Lynda Brady - Doddington Church - 7:30pm
Sep 6 th	Christchurch Craft Club - Glass Painting - CCC - 7pm
Sep 12 th	Pilates - 6:30-7:30pm - £5 per session, BodyCare conditioning 7:30-8:00pm - TS
Sep 12 th	Christchurch Parish Council Meeting - 7:30pm - CCC
Sep 13 th	Making and Mending - Queen Mary Centre Wisbech - 10am-1pm FREE - see pg 19
Sep 13 th	WI - Cheese - Karen Brammer - 7pm - CCC
Sep 16 th	Walking Group - first walk - open to all - 1pm - Outside Church
Sep 16 th	"Cake, Coffee and Chat" Parish Church 2-3pm - All Welcome
Sep 19 th	Pilates - 6:30-7:30pm - £5 per session, BodyCare conditioning 7:30-8:00pm - TS
Sep 20 th	Garden Club - - 7pm - CCC
Sep 21 st	Christchurch Residents Association - 7:30pm - The Old School
Sep 23 rd	"Cake, Coffee and Chat" Parish Church 2-3pm - All Welcome
Sep 26 th	Pilates - 6:30-7:30pm - £5 per session, BodyCare conditioning 7:30-8:00pm - TS
Sep 28 th	Christchurch Book Club - 7:30pm - venue tba
Sep 30 th	MACMILLAN coffee morning - Church 10am - All Welcome (no Coffee Cake & Chat)

Join us to support MACMILLAN
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Parish Church Services

Sep 4 th	11am	H Chappell, A Day	All Age Worship in Townley School
Sep 11 th	11am	C Day	United Benefice Service at MANEA
Sep 18 th	6:30pm	V Smith	Evening Prayer
Sep 25 th	11am	B Hopkins	Morning Prayer
Oct 2 nd	11am	Churchwardens	Harvest Festival in Parish Church
Every Friday 2-3pm - except 5th Aug - Coffee, Cake and Chat in the Church building			

The Heron Deadline

The 25th of the previous month is the deadline for all copy. However, due to the amount of copy we are getting, if you leave it till then, we may not have space. So - AS EARLY AS YOU CAN

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



Dear Editor,

I did meet you on my trip to Christchurch a few weeks ago and you were so helpful that I now feel that I must write to you to express what a great deal it meant to me. From the time I first arrived in the village to see The Dun Cow pub where my father took me every Sunday morning so my mother could get on with the Sunday dinner, and then to find the very house I was born in and lived for eight years. That so kind lady who came out to help us was beyond belief. Then the following day to come back to the Church, where a very kind lady, the Church Warden, Daphne, opened up the church for us and I was able to look up all the records of my family, the RAYNERS, and then to make things complete that lovely lady Louise Wilson had left a letter and some of her photos of the house as it was and as it is now. We were then invited into Paul and Vivien's for a cup of tea. All this kindness and hospitality left me speechless.

As you probably know I am living on borrowed time but that trip made a 'full circle' for me. I was reinvigorated and since then I have done so much. I even met someone who I hadn't seen for 70 years. Although it has grown somewhat over the years Christchurch is still the same village I knew; such great people, so friendly and welcoming. I wish that I could have ended my days there but it was not to be. However, my three children will be down when I have gone to make a complete record of my life. Christchurch was the very best place to have been born and my family will be able to show my grandchildren that this is how life should be.

With love and very sincere wishes.

God bless you all.

Margaret Jenn (nee RAYNER)

PS On reading this I realised that I had left out an important few years as through the war years I came back several times to stay with my Grandma Rayner in Happy Row and went to Townley School for a few weeks at a time until my mother made me come home. Even after the war I brought my husband down to meet my grandma and cousins but he was a London boy and could not take to the flatness of the fens. My Gran Woolner was also a cook at the school. I believe the very first one!

Thank you Margaret for your wonderful letter I'm sure it will jog many memories. Alan Russell our columnist lived in Happy Row when he was young and our other columnist, Joan Smith, was formerly a WOOLNER before marriage. Both are more than happy to speak or meet with you if you so wish? – Ed'

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EDITORIAL

Hi All!

"£50?" I hear you say, and for very little effort too!

We really need some feedback from you via the Community Shop survey enclosed with this month's Heron. Please check out the article on page 15 too!

How great it is, albeit a little late, to be enjoying a more extended period of glorious sunny weather. What do you mean it's too b****y hot? We're never satisfied are we? I guess part of the trouble is that we never have such balmy weather (or should that be barmy!?) for a long enough period to get acclimatised to it!

Anyway – on to business! Some parents have got together to help the school 'grow' the learning opportunities on page 2. A lovely letter from Margaret Jenn gets us started this month. An interesting and detailed article from Linda Webster of Padgetts Road on planning issues which affect us all; i.e. the village as a whole, is featured on page 24, A Rectory swap? see page 11. News of the recently formed Art Club and You Really Can Eat Flowers, including a recipe, in the Club Pages 12 & 13. Alan Russell takes us on another holiday on page 14, learn about 'Treezilla' on page 16, and we learn if Joan Smith got her job at Jermyn's on page 7.

Then of course there's all the usual features, plus loads of Community Info as well as some more useful info on the back pages.

I wonder who's going to win that £50?

Enjoy!

Till next month!

Reshna



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The Joan Smith Column



Joan had now got her dress but didn't know yet if she had the job at Jermyn's ...

The next week a big brown envelope came through the door with the Customagic logo on the right hand side. I opened it and with a few tears in my eyes found out that I had been the lucky one. Inside was a pad of time sheets, and a tiny brooch with Customagic on it that I was to wear whilst at work. I had to report for duty the following Tuesday, Thursday and Saturday.

I left in good time on my first Tuesday morning to give myself time to get parked up. It turned out to be quite easy as there were of course not so many cars about in those days. As I sat in my car for a few minutes I could see men and ladies going into the side entrance of Jermyn's. Eventually I got out and followed on asking where the office was that I was supposed to go to. I was directed to it and tapped on the door. The lady said, "Mrs. Smith I gather?" I nodded and answered, "Yes! That's me." She asked me to sit for a moment then went through some of my work details with me before taking me round and to my work station. She turned out to become a really good friend to me.

So, I was working at Jermyn's at last. I was allowed discount on anything I bought and just had to save the receipts and hand them in at the end of the month and her staff in the office would calculate the discount and refund it a few days later. She took me upstairs to where one clocked in and out, gave me a key to a box where you could store your bag as no one was allowed a handbag in the store. She also showed me the canteen. My lunch break was to be 10.45 and dinner break at 1.30. Most of the counters had two assistants and I was allocated a space near the curtains and fabrics.

There were two very long counters, one either side of the walkway. There was a Mr. Melton the manager who I really was not impressed with, two assistants and another young man his side. The other side there were three assistants. The eldest lady had started when she had just left school. She was 61 then and would retire at 65. I got on very well with everyone. The youngest assistant, who was married to one of the delivery men, now lives in Ashby-de-la-Zouch, and we still exchange Christmas and Birthday cards to this day, also another in the same department lived in

Clenchwarton. We still see each other occasionally but talk on the phone quite a lot.

So, friendships were good, but what about customers? Sure, I'd secured a position at Jermyn's but how good was I going to be at the job?

Joan (*Joan concludes her story next month - Ed'.*)



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Get Fit for Christmas!

If you would like to get fit in time for Christmas—come and join our friendly class - It's based on easy ballet core exercises - and open to all ages. Come and meet Marina, who is a professional ballet and pilates trainer. We start 12th September at Townley School.

Please ring me, Jane on 01354 638378 for any help or advice.

Pilates - 6-30 to 7:30pm

Ballet core - 7:30 to 8pm

Both pilates and ballet core - 6:30 to 8pm

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The Alan Russell Column

Alan starts a new series this month, but first he needs to lay some groundwork...



Before I begin the theme of the next holiday in years gone by, I need to digress for a few paragraphs of explanation leading up to it.

In 1947 Mr. K Hart, the headmaster of the Townley School moved on. I am informed he was an affable, mild mannered gentleman who was well liked. His replacement as headmaster was Mr. William Pennary Evans, a thin rimmed spectacle wearing (as the name implies), Welshman.

He moved into the Old School House with his wife and three boys, Roddy 5 years, Christopher 8 years and David 12 years. Mrs Evans was a Domestic Science teacher. We understand that he came from a tough inner-city school where discipline and his teaching methods were based on fear, probably much needed at such a tough school but not ideal for a quiet backwater school in the heart of the Fens.

From the first Assembly on day one, nobody was left in doubt of his ground rules, or this was my opinion of him, others perhaps had different views. It seemed to me he delighted in humiliating anyone who did not fit into his ideology.

I remember one little girl in particular, two or three years younger than me, who was a very light eater, being made to sit and eat all her dinner while everyone else had to sit and wait instead of going out to play, causing moans all around and she just could not eat it all, she was called "Sylvia half-a-dinner" by him in front of us all.

Several years later a lady who was the infant teacher at that time told us that if he just put his head in the class room door, two or three of her infants would wet themselves with fright.

I remember I just tried to keep out of his sight in school but not thinking, one hot Saturday morning, I was riding my bike along Church Road, no hands, and whistling, when a head looked over the school hedge and barked out "Russell – Monday Morning". I grabbed hold of my handlebars but it was too late and it seemed like the sun went in and it was cloudy all weekend from then on.

Monday morning came, Assembly in the hall – no mention of it. Playtime the same, by dinner I'm thinking he's forgotten about it!! But at twenty minutes to twelve he appeared in he classroom, a pointing finger became a beckoning one and I followed him into his study. He picked up his cane and said, "You know what it's for don't you?" "Riding no hands no doubt," I said "And whistling that awful

racket". Four strokes later he said, "You won't do that again will you?" Not while I'm in your sight I won't, I thought.

But he had his good points as well, no doubt though I could not see it at the time as he and other teachers got me through the 11+ first time and went out of his way to encourage me and others to seize the opportunity for better education – not that it did me all the good it should have done, I'm ashamed to say.

Geography has always been a subject I enjoy and in his lessons he worked into it the regions of GB and its counties. There must have been a method in his madness!! If I had known what it was leading up to.

Even though I disliked much of his attitude, Mr. Evans was in most things fair and would not harbour grudges. Although in some way a bully himself he nipped it in the bud among pupils. A big lad of 15 years was caught fighting in the playground two days running so W.P.E. said if you like fighting so much, fight me tomorrow and I will have one hand tied behind my back. Next day two pairs of boxing gloves were brought on and true to his word his right hand was tied up. The big 15 year old went at it hammer and tongs swinging wild punches in every direction hoping to do as much damage as possible to the headmaster but Mr. Evans was very nimble on his toes and by ducking and feinting to the left and right avoided most of the blows just keeping out of reach but jabbing with his left hand on the point of the lads nose until after about two to three minutes one of the other teachers intervened and a draw was declared. Secretly we were all hoping one of the 'haymaker' punches would connect to W.P.E., but we had to be satisfied with the result.

School life continued as before until all pupils aged between 9 and 15 years were one day sent home with a sealed letter to our parents. On opening it, it stated that Mr. Evans was organising a ten-day holiday for this age group to ... (find out next time). Most of us never having had a holiday with or without our parents and the destination of the holiday excited us as we only heard of it in geography lessons! That, and the distance involved from our little village school at Christchurch, had us all reaching for our atlases of Great Britain.

For me, William Pennary Evans was viewed in a different light from then onwards.

But where was it to be to? All will be revealed.....

To be continued

A Russell – July 2016

My First Car - Jan Clifford

Well, my first driving experience. The car belonged to my Mum. It was a 1950's black Morris Minor, similar to the one in the picture. Ours had a red grill.

Mum bought it in the 1960's; she hadn't driven since the war, when she used to drive in the black-out, delivering shoes for my Grandfather's shoe business. She never gave up the hope that one day she could afford to buy her own car again. I can remember she always chose to sit on the top of the bus in the position over the driver downstairs and tried to 'practice' her driving skills!

When Mum bought the car my Dad used to work out routes where she didn't have any difficult right turns, such confidence! Well Mum was a bit 'scatty'. However she did take driving lessons to update her skills. The roads had changed a bit in the previous 20 years!

My sister and I tried out our driving practice in this car. It didn't have synchromesh on all the gears and I remember I became quite a dab hand at double de-clutching. The indicators were a little orange flag that popped out of the

Let us know what your first car was, and some of your memories of it - we'll help with writing and photos if needed!

side of the car, most times! We lived near the South Downs and the car needed some persuasion to tackle a hill. We went on holiday to Devon, three adults and three children, plus the luggage. We all loved this little car, I wonder what has happened to it now. I did pass my test on a more modern car, first time too, so I must have learned from the experience!

Jan's our first woman contributor to this particular feature, there must be others of you out there who could tell us about their first car - Ed'



The Waste less, Live more Week Challenge is back!



Like you, we believe that we can all live healthier, happier lives at the same time as reducing our impact on the environment. So this year, as part of **Waste less, Live more Week 2016 (19-25 September)**, we have come up with 101 ways you can waste less and live more and we're challenging you to do as many as you can.

Sign up here to download your challenge pack and get started

www.wastelesslivemore.com/challenge

Waste less live more week

19-25 September 2016



Exciting events and inspiring blogs

As part of the week there are exciting events being held up and down the country to get involved with. Visit our Events page to find out what's going on near you.

Our News and Views page is also full of ideas, opinions and stories to inform, inspire and create discussion around wasting less and living more. If you have an interesting tale or valuable top tip about wasting less and living more why not share it on Facebook or get in touch and become a guest blogger?

Let us know what you get up to for Waste less, Live more Week 2016 via [Twitter](#), [Facebook](#) and [Instagram](#) (#WasteLessLiveMore) - we can't wait to see how you get on!

If you do take the challenge - let us know, at the Heron what you did - Ed'

An Unlikely Exchange of Rectories - Part 1

Foreword - Vivien Haresnape

It is well known that the writer Dorothy L Sayers (creator of the famous fictional detective Lord Peter Wimsey) has a connection to Christchurch. She often spent time in the village while her father Rev Henry Sayers, was Rector here between 1917 and 1928.

The story of how the family came to live here is quite interesting, and was the subject of a recent article written by Martin Gibson (who used to live in the Old Vicarage in Elm), and published in the Rectory Society newsletter. He kindly sent a copy of his article to our Churchwarden, Daphne Symons, who passed it on to us.

This is the first part of it:

In 1917, Sayers was living in a large and very fine Rectory in Bluntisham, but he voluntarily agreed to exchange livings with the Rector of Christchurch, and move to a smaller Rectory here. Mr Gibson writes that it was this that aroused his curiosity

He writes 'By then Sayers was in his sixties and had notched up twenty years as Rector of Bluntisham. Furthermore, the First World War was raging and putting the Victorian social order severely under threat. What a curious point for any mature and established clergyman to seek the challenges of a new and unknown parish.

The upheaval caused by the move is reflected in a notice in the Huntingdonshire Post that

announces that Cyril Watts was to auction the Sayers' poultry and garden effects at Bluntisham. These included 6 fowl houses, 30 fowls, a 60-egg incubator and a donkey and cart.

I investigated the background of the prior incumbent at Christchurch, who now swapped his living for that of Bluntisham. He was an aristocratic younger son, Grey Neville, second son of the 6th Baron Braybrooke of Audley End, Essex. Neville, ordained in 1882, had been at Christchurch since 1912 and it turned out that also living there were his wife and five unmarried daughters. Neville's two sons were away serving the country in 1917 but nonetheless the Christchurch Rectory was considerably over-crowded. This factor triggered the exchange of livings. Exchanging livings was not uncommon at this time, and unhappy incumbents, desiring a new parish, regularly advertised in both The Church Times and its rival The Guardian (not to be confused with the modern newspaper of that name). As well as more space, and in particular more bedrooms, Bluntisham had the secondary attraction of being far closer to the Neville family's great house and estate at Audley End. But why did Sayers even consider Neville's request let alone agree to it?

To be continued ...

Reproduce by kind permission of Martin Gibson



Bluntisham Rectory taken in 2010 by CP Miller

Minutes of the Monthly WI Meeting held in the Christchurch Community Centre on August 9th 2016

Apologies:

Sandra K, Margaret B, Michelle, Anne H, Beryl.

Correspondence:

Letter from Denise Taylor.

Susan Quail has offered to be the co-ordinator for anyone who would like to continue collecting stamps.

An invitation from Wimblington WI to a flower arranging evening.

Speaker :

Lee and Ian from the Emmaus community gave us some information on this charity. It was founded 67 years ago by a French priest. In 1991 it came to England and now has 28 communities worldwide. Homeless people, with a variety of backgrounds, live together as a community. They each have a job to do, mostly in connection with the shop, which sells donated goods. Our nearest branch is six miles north of Cambridge at Landbeach. On September 10th they will be having an open day to celebrate twenty five years of their opening.

Competition Results:

A buttonhole from your garden.

Val (5), Anne A (4), Peggy (3), Doris T (3), Sue N (3), Sandra L (4),
Joan (a visitor 4), Margaret S (5), Doris W (5), Wendy (3), Susan Q (3), Viv (3).

September meeting:

Cheese – speaker Karen Brammer.

Competition – a savoury scone.

Raffle Rota – Margaret B, Sue N, Beryl, Margaret S.



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Art Club

The Art Club has been meeting for some time now at the Community Centre on the 2nd and 4th Tuesday of the month 10am - 12noon in the (term time)

Led by Jan Clifford who is experienced in a wide range of media, their aims are: To explore and experiment with the various painting and drawing media; To enable participants to develop their own style; Above all to have fun and enjoy the sessions.

The sessions are planned and adjusted to suit, depending on the experience and interests of the group. So far they have looked at the colour wheel and colour mixing and then painting a still life.

Future sessions will be exploring textures, plus other painting and drawing media.

Jan has some art materials for the group to try out if they are unfamiliar, and brings suitable paper for a reasonable cost for members to purchase.

For more information call:

Sandra on 638478 or Jan on 638217

Christchurch Book Club

The book club are due to meet on August 31st (after the deadline date for this issue) This month, we have been reading 'The Nemesis Program' by Scott Mariani, one of the 'Ben Hope' series about a 'James Bond type' character.

The book for September will be 'The Eyre Affair' by Jasper Ffrford, and the next meeting will probably be on Wednesday September 28th - date and venue to be confirmed at our August meeting. Please call Sheila Day for more information.

We normally meet on the last Wednesday of each month. New members are always welcome. We borrow our books from March Library, which has a dedicated service for book clubs, so there is no cost involved.

For more information call:

Sheila Day 07946 635908

Christchurch Garden Club

So you really can eat flowers!

After all the activity and travelling of the previous month it felt good to settle back into the club's normal routine, when the club played host on Tuesday 16th August to our guest speaker Alison Sloan, in the familiar surroundings of the community centre.

Alison is now head of nutrition at Wisbech Grammar School but has previously worked at Peckover house, as a food stylist for Waitrose, as well as appearing in BBC2's the Super Sizers Go Restoration and with Gordon Ramsey at the good food show in Birmingham. For well over an hour Alison cooked and decorated dishes in front of the members all the while explaining the history of edible flowers. A fascinating subject made real by the tasty samples that the members were able to try.

Edible flowers have been used in food as far back as records go. The ancient Greeks, Romans and Chinese all used them in one way or another, while the Victorians were partial to candied flowers.

In Tudor times they were used fresh in salads which would contain up to thirty five ingredients, which I think you'll agree makes our efforts with Ice berg lettuce look a little plain. Saffron used widely in Asian cooking comes from the Crocus. Others that can be used include Pot Marigold, Chrysanthemum petals, Lavender, Jasmine, Lawn daisy and Nasturtium (flowers, leaves and seeds.) The Strawberry and Elderflower Cheese cake Alison cooked was delicious. Bee Balm was used as a tea substitute due to the unavailability of black tea after the Boston Tea party. The list is literally endless. A fascinating and tasty evening for the well fed members.



Members form a line



A veritable feast

Our club secretary Marion has now booked the annual Christmas trip which will be to Bury St Edmonds Christmas Market on the 27th November 2016. The market runs from the Abbey to the new shopping centre and joins with the regular market giving over 300 stalls in total. It's also very near the town centre so should provide enough to keep everyone busy for the day.



David Yates gets stuck in

We are pleased to welcome more new members this month in Duncan and his sister Dianne from Chatteris. New members are always welcome, so if you'd like to join us or would like to come

on the Christmas trip, please call 01354 638 230

Next month our guest speaker is Johan from Tamar, who will be talking on Autumn Gardens and planting in windy conditions, that ought to be helpful in this neck of the woods.

Raffle prizes in September are Ian Roberts, Alva Smart, Wendy Yates, Graham Warby.

Have a great Month till next time.

Steve.

Geranium Syllabub (from the session)

8 Geranium leaves

Juice of 1 lemon

6tbsp white wine

3tbsp caster sugar

250ml (1/2 pint) double cream

Zest of lemon and geranium leaves to garnish

Bruise the leaves and infuse them in the lemon juice, white wine and sugar. Chill for 30 minutes. Strain out the leaves. Whisk until thick. Pile into glasses. Decorate with leaves and lemon zest.

Enjoy!



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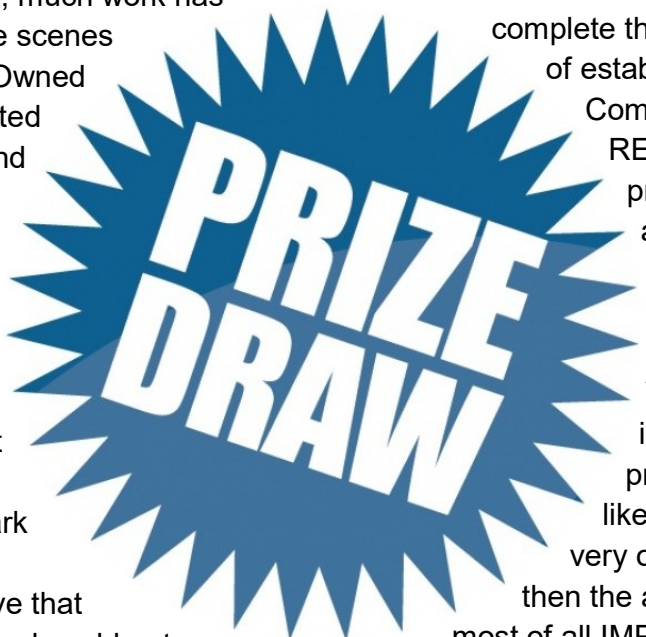
As you may have gathered, much work has already gone on behind the scenes regarding the Community Owned Shop project. We have visited several similar shops around our region to see how they have tackled all the various issues involved and gathered a lot of very useful information. Initially, we were looking at three sites; one at Albert House, one on the school site and a site in the car park of The Dun Cow. We had originally been led to believe that the old shop - The Little Local could not be an option but subsequently we have been made aware that it IS available to rent, and we are now seeking clarification of the details.

At the same time we are also investigating the Dun Cow option with Elgoods, who have been very helpful. Some initial funding is looking promising though we would need to raise more in order to fully fund the purchase of any portable building, possibly connection of utilities, and of course stock. Sponsors are also being sought. We will also need a group of willing volunteers to help staff and run the shop.

We are wanting to do this for YOU the villagers of Christchurch, Euximoor and Tipps End, but we can't do it without you

In this month's Heron, there's a Community Shop Survey form. (You can also get it online at <https://www.surveymonkey.co.uk/r/QKN9JPG> or by going to the Facebook page - see the survey form). This is a very important part of a feasibility study we are currently carrying out in order to confirm/or not, the project's viability, and to prove to prospective funders that the community is backing this. We need to find out what you all THINK, what you all WANT, what you will do to see it happen! - as a family or household group not an individual, NB one entry allowed per household!

We are offering entry into a £50 PRIZE DRAW for those that are completed and returned, before the closing date 31st October 2016. (If you are unable to get it back to us normally, please ring 638990 and we'll arrange to pick it up.)



So! PLEASE take the few minutes needed to complete this survey about the possibility of establishing your very own Community Owned Shop. We REALLY NEED YOUR HELP in providing some feedback and answers to these very important questions which are vital to creating a Community Owned Shop. Your answers are very important to us in keeping the project on track. If you would like to see Christchurch with its very own Community Owned Shop, then the answers to the survey are most of all IMPORTANT TO YOU!

There are over 300 successful Community Owned Shops across the UK. 95 out of every 100 are successful, whereas only 46 out of 100 average small businesses are successful. Community ownership is helping to preserve vital outlets and services in rural communities. The past five years have seen an average of 22 shops open under community ownership each year. - source Plunkett Foundation.

Brave Dave - did Brave the Shave

You may have seen Dave Litton, Christchurch boy, and character, walking around the streets of the village sporting a new hairstyle—actually no hairstyle.

Dave "Braved the Shave" and raised money for Macmillan Cancer Care. In fact he raised £362.43 thanks to many of you!



Dave before he "Braved the Shave"

WELL DONE!

Treezilla - Monster Tree Map of UK

"Do you think you can help us map the Trees of your area?" So asks Jessica Goodenough - Treeconomics Associate and Treezilla Project Manager, If so read on:

We hope that the recent warm weather has allowed you to enjoy the health benefits of being outside – one of the topics we have been sharing on the Treeconomics Facebook page.

Among the current developments we are involved in is the evolution of Treezilla.

Treezilla is The Monster Map of Trees

Treezilla is the evolving result of a collaboration between Treeconomics, The Open University and Forest Research. It is part of project VITAL (Valuing green Infrastructure through Tree Assessment tooLS), funded by the Natural Environment Research Council.

This aims to bring nature to people's fingertips – literally – by allowing users to input information in the website or the app about trees they encounter: in their backyard, their street or anywhere in the UK! The goal is to create a monster map of the trees in the UK; more than 50,000 trees have already been mapped and the benefits they provide identified, for instance those trees take almost 10,000 tonnes of carbon dioxide out of the atmosphere every year.

Treezilla provides information on the eco impact of the trees added to the database, and how much these benefits are worth. The Treezilla platform is searchable: the tree information and their benefits can be viewed at the national scale, at the city scale or even for an individual tree.

The VITAL project team is currently working on making Treezilla more engaging for users and on improving the data generated. The team has also established partnerships with the Parks Trust, the Tree Council and Natural Resources Wales to explore uptake and learning opportunities.

Trees provide many benefits and that is represented by the diversity of actors interested in them.



If you want to help us paint the country with little green dots, please add your favourite local trees at: <http://www.treezilla.org> or follow the project on Twitter at @Treezilla_org.

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What can you do? We're urging residents and those passing through rural areas to keep a careful watch. Do you see someone acting suspiciously around stores of hay or straw? Is there an unusual vehicle near farm buildings? Become a community member of Arson Watch and keep an eye on stacks in your area.

Report suspicious activity to police on 101 and dial 999 if you see a stack fire.

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Your Voice

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Improvements needed in local wheelchair services

The wheelchair service is often poorly co-ordinated, with people waiting too long for wheelchairs and repairs says **Sitting Comfortably**, our new report published today.

This report tells the stories of more than 80 local people who use wheelchair services in Cambridgeshire and Peterborough. The service provides chairs to meet the often complex individual needs of adults and children who are

unable to walk, or who have a long term disability that makes walking difficult.

Sitting Comfortably is a result of joint work with Pinpoint, Cambridgeshire Alliance for Independent Living, Healthwatch Peterborough and Family Voice.

Together, we found a high level of dissatisfaction with the service, with 40% of people saying care was poor or very poor. Half of all people we spoke to as part of our survey waited more than 18 weeks for their wheelchair, with less than a quarter getting their chairs in under a month.



Ding-Dong!

Fred was in the fertilized egg business. He had several hundred young pullets, and ten roosters to fertilize the eggs.

He kept records, and any rooster not performing went into the soup pot and was replaced.

This took a lot of time, so he bought some tiny bells and attached them to his roosters.

Each bell had a different tone, so he could tell from a distance, which rooster was performing.

Now, he could sit on the porch and fill out an efficiency report by just listening to the bells.

Fred's favourite rooster, old Butch, was a very fine specimen, but this morning he noticed old Butch's bell hadn't rung at all!

When he went to investigate, he saw the other roosters

were busy chasing pullets, bells-a-ringing, but the pullets, hearing the roosters coming, would run for cover.

To Fred's amazement, old Butch had his bell in his beak, so it couldn't ring. He'd sneak up on a pullet, do his job and walk on to the next one.

Fred was so proud of old Butch, he entered him in the Local Farm Show and he became an overnight sensation among the judges. The result was the judges not only awarded old Butch the "No Bell Piece Prize," but they also awarded him the "Pulletsurprise" as well. Clearly old Butch was a politician in the making. Who else but a politician could figure out how to win two of the most coveted awards on our planet by being the best at sneaking up on the unsuspecting populace and screwing them when they weren't paying attention?

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Term Dates for 2016/17

Half term starts 3pm Thursday 20th October, Return Monday 31st October 2016

Break up for Xmas 3pm Tuesday 20th December, Return Thursday 5th January 2017

Half Term starts 3pm Friday 10th February, Return Monday 20th February 2017

Break up for Easter 3pm Friday 31st March, Return Wednesday 19th April 2017

Half Term starts 3pm 26th Friday May, Return Monday 5th June 2017

Break up for Summer 3pm Friday 21st July 2017

Housing Development & the Local Plan by Linda Webster

Looking online at planning applications with Fenland District Council, and letters written by other residents that are affected by these applications, I realise I am not on my own with concerns over excess development and the sites chosen.

Recently I have received letter from Fenland DC refusing the outline planning application next to my property on Padgetts Road. I do not believe this will be the end of the issue as the applicant can appeal.

My objections were based on the Local Plan (LP) and that the proposed development was not infill as outlined in the LP. Policy LP12 (E) states that any development would be supported if it did not extend linear features of the settlement or result in ribbon development. The decision notice also states that the proposed development would conflict with policy LP3 of the Fenland Local Plan 2014 as it would not result in residential infilling given the lack of any existing development to the north. LP16 states, amongst other things, that it would unacceptably harm the rural character of the area as it would unnecessarily extend the village into the open countryside.

All the above refers to my case and I was pleased to see that objections I raised formed a basis on which it has been refused.

I would draw the attention of other residents to the Local Plan which, although long, is detailed on FDC's website. This could help them with their own objections. I would recommend them to look at The Village Thresholds Evidence Report 2013. This can be found under 'Planning' the 'Planning Policy and Local Plan'. Scroll down to the bottom of the list on the left hand side and click into Planning Policy Library. Lots of documents listed but look under reference number CD033. This gives a list of villages and the recommended numbers for development.

Christchurch.
Look at all the documents relating to the application online. Just stating your objection is fine as if there are six objections it has to go to Planning Committee but if you have other valid reasons to back it up, say from the Local Plan, it will give weight to the objection. Go to the Parish Council meeting when it is discussed as I did. It was passed by them but refused by FDC. Even

so you need to make your voice heard. Take friends/other objectors with you.

I moved to this village for a quiet retirement and chose to be in a village where there are not many facilities. If you, like me, are content with the quiet life afforded by Christchurch and do not want it overdeveloped then you need to step up and meet the challenge of people who want to overdevelop for financial gain. We can always improve on what we have, say by having a community shop, without having the development that is proposed at the moment. If I had wanted to be surrounded by houses and in the thick of things I would have relocated to a town.

CLARIFICATION

By way of a little clarification to the above the LP codes simply refer to the 'Local Plan' which came into force on April 1st 2011 and which is largely mandatory. At the time of the plan coming into force there were 228 homes listed in Christchurch. Under the Local Plan it was recommended that any property development in small villages like Christchurch should not exceed 10%. This plan lasts for 20 years from April 2011 and has already been breached. A total of 4 homes have already been built since the 2011 LP came into force. In addition to this there are currently a total of 51 potential building plots in process. These are all listed on the FDC website which can be accessed via fenland.gov.uk/publicaccess then follow the on screen details.

It doesn't take an Einstein to work out that with upwards of 51 new homes planned the LP's 10% ceiling has been severely breached by more than 'double'. Just 23 are permitted under the LP 10% rule this being exceeded by an additional 32 with 4 of these already completed. In order to force any such developments before the Planning Committee, where you would have a voice being entitled to speak for five minutes to put your views forward, at least six letters of concern/complaint from local residents and/or other concerned parties must have been submitted to FDC Planning after plans have been submitted for approval.

Ribbon development, backfill (building behind existing properties), and factors relating to historical and listed buildings have their own particular planning concerns. FDC Conservation may well be

on your side regarding any of these concerns; the notion being to conserve any village's uniqueness and protect it from overdevelopment in any form. Public community consultations too are a mandatory requirement. And a Village Threshold Evidence Report is also required to take account of the views of affected parties. If there is a lack of evidence to show that any development scheme would generate community support this is also contrary to LP12 of the Fenland Plan of 2014. LP3 of the 2014 plan also clearly states that – "any development in Christchurch should be of a very limited nature". So if you have concerns over any developments listed in Christchurch you need to put pen to paper. FDC Planning are duty bound to reply to you. RWBG

Christchurch - Football Club revived!

After a break of many years

AFC Christchurch played their first friendly match on 30th July at the Thomas Clarkson Community School. Their opponents were Outwell Swifts.



After a period of 8 minutes Outwell Swifts scored their first goal. Followed by another on the hour. AFC Christchurch pulled one back a few minutes later and went in 2-1 down at half time. During the second half they had many shots on goal, but it was suspected Swifts fielded 6 of their first team players. Outwell scored their 5th goal about ten minutes before the end. As always with any match the linesmen offside decisions caused a lot of questions.

Playing their first match as a new team, and after only three months following the decision to revive a village team, they can be very proud as they were playing against a team that have been together for a few seasons.

Much of the credit for getting the team going, the organising and corresponding with the authorities, arranging sponsorship for kits and liaising with the village hall for use of match pitch, must go to Peter Chenery (manager). He has emailed, phoned and even been for an interview with the Football Association at Histon to register the team!

The FA were eager to have a village team again. Lots of memories of the late Wolsey Rolfe were

shared and the FA felt he would be proud and happy to once again have a village team. The team, in the future, hope to obtain a trophy in memory of Wolsey.

AFC Christchurch have signed to play and two more players are showing an interest. Six of the players, including the youngest Josh Ingram, have strong family links with the village, having played for the village or school team or having lived in the village.

AFC Christchurch would like to thank Ruth Ingram for organising access to the field and facilities. Also for her letter of support on behalf of the Community Centre and helping set up sponsorship for kit. Thanks also to Donna of Cox's Taxis for sponsorship of home kit and letter of support to the FA also Russell's Farm Produce for sponsoring the away kit. Finally we would like to thank the Dun Cow for offering to cater for home games.

Results

5th Aug - Upwell Town Res 2 AFC Christchurch 6 (Keith Harris 2, Gareth Stacey 1, Lee Redhead 1, Luke Mclean 1, Jimmy Boxall 1)

Unfortunately the midweek match against Wisbech Acorns had to be cancelled due to their club house being broken into and equipment being stolen

13th Aug - Benwick Res 4 AFC Christchurch 2
AFC Christchurch played well but conceded 4 easy goals. They played four new players.

23rd Aug evening kick off at Chatteris Fen
Tigers v AFC Christchurch

We look forward to hearing and seeing your support at our home matches.

on behalf of AFC Christchurch

Yvonne Chenery

Football Fixtures (home team first)

3rd Sep 3pm - League match

Coldham v AFC Christchurch

17th Sep 3pm - League match (first home game)

AFC Christchurch v Fenstanton Res

24th Sep 3pm - Cup match

AFC Christchurch v Cottenham Res

1st Oct 3pm - League match

AFC Christchurch v Cottenham United Res

Let's see if we can't get a crowd out to support - Ed'

Useful Telephone Numbers

Age UK Cambridgeshire	0300 6669860
Alzheimer's Society (Fenland)	01945 580480
Anglian Water – Susan Bull	08457 145 145 101
Christchurch Resident's Association	01354 638990
Churchwarden - Mrs. D. Symons	01354 638352
Citizens' Advice Bureau, Wisbech	01945 464367
Community Car Scheme (to book a journey)	07902 316360
Community Centre bookings	01354 638478
Community Fire Safety Officer	07717858166
County Councillor - Fred Yeulett	01354 653763
District Councillor - Will Sutton	01354 638025
District Councillor - Michelle Tanfield	07908 707129
*Electricity Faults - UK Power Networks	105
FACT	01354 661234
Fenland District Council	01354 654321
Floodline	0845 988 1188
Library - March	0354 0455225
National Debtline	0808 808 4000
Norfolk Dial-a-Ride	01553 770310
Parish Clerk - Jane Rees	01354 638131
Parish Councillor - Jill Bliss	01354 638343
Parish Councillor - William Beswick	01354 638758
Parish Councillor - Roger Gladwin	01354 638538
Parish Councillor - Geoff Harper	01354 638681
Parish Councillor - James Hughes	01354 638310
Parish Councillor - Peter Owen (Chair)	01354 638847
Parish Councillor - Nigel Russell	01354 638279
Pharmacy at Upwell Health Centre	01945 774934
Police - PCSO Sue Clarke	07738025220
Police - Emergency	999
Police - Non Emergency	101
Telephone Complaints	0345 145000
Townley School	01354 638229
Trading Standards	845040506
Train Information	08457 484950
Upwell Health Centre (and out of hours)	01945 773671
Water Emergencies	08457 145145

Club Contacts	
Book Club - Sheila Day	07946 635908
Craft Club - Wendy Yates	01354 638448
Garden Club - Marion Hawthorne	01354 638230
Short Mat Bowls Club - Wendy	01945 772732
WI - Peggy Warby	01354 638339

***Please note new number for
Electrical faults—for all providers!**

Neighbourhood Watch	
Colin Steenson - Church Rd (East)	01354 638664
Sandra Kay - Crown Rd	01354 638478
Peter Knight - Church Rd (West)	01354 638779
David Yates - Church Rd (West)	01354 638448
Julian Swallow - Upwell Rd (North)	01354 638679
Jackie Wood - Upwell Rd (North)	01354 638679
Simon Freeland - Upwell Rd (South)	01354 638802
Richard Guilford - Area Co-ordinator	01354 638990
David Harrowing - District Co-ord.	01945 870963

And Finally...

Well I say! It's September already and Summer's only just arrived. I guess we'd better enjoy it while we can because Autumn will soon be here I'm afraid. Yes I know we've had a few sunny days here and there but nothing like those last few! Phew!

Is our village really going to become cluttered and crammed with all those new houses? Things will certainly not be the same and I can't see things improving for the better; unless of course we manage to create our new village Community Shop. That will go at least some way to sweeten the bitter pill of all those extra houses. Let us hope they might also convince Highways to finally take The Croft road onboard and sort out the road surfaces in Crown Road and Crown Avenue!? Well! One can dream!

At least some villagers are making the effort to keep life sweet with some beautiful front garden displays. 'Redbricks' is one of note but there are many others. Also our Clubs are thriving with a couple of new ones too! The Art Club and now at long last a village football team again. So plenty of interesting things to keep you occupied.

Sadly, the dog poo issue is rearing its ugly head again despite that wonderful campaign by Townley School. A particular problem area, ironically, seems to be from the top of Crown Road and all the way down past the school. Come on folks – pick up please!

Till next month enjoy the best of our British weather while you can. Gardening, barbequing, or just enjoying soaking up those rays.

Cheers for now! I'm off for a Pimms! – Ed'.



THURSDAY

8th Sept

2016

10:30am—3pm

Wisbech Council
Chambers
1 North Brink
Wisbech
PE13 1JR

**No Booking
Required**

For more
information

☎ 01223 464696



enquiries@cambridgecvs.org.uk



www.cambridgecvs.org.uk



CCVS

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Getting Support & Funding

For small community groups & charities

This event is an opportunity for those running small groups or charities to find out about funding and support for clubs, sports groups, community groups and charities.

There will also be a chance to hear several presentations, to talk with funders and to carry out a health check on your group, club or charity.



Wisbech Town Council
Serving the people of Wisbech



Presentations

11 am	Sports & Club Funding
12 noon	The new Healthy Fenland Fund
1 pm	Being Funding Ready briefing
2 pm	Funder's Question time!

Each presentation will be about 20 minutes long.

Between presentations funders are available to give informal advice & information.

Light refreshments available throughout event.

Our thanks to Wisbech Town Council for supporting this event



Cambridgeshire
County Council



Have you checked when your concessionary **BUS PASS** runs out?

**It's up to you to check when it does
and get it renewed.**

If you don't and your pass has expired you will be refused free travel.

Passes can be renewed up to 6 weeks before their expiry date.

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If you can't get your renewal done online then call the number printed
on the back of your pass.

www.cambridgeshire.gov.uk/concessionary

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.