

# **NEW** The Heron

Community Magazine

Delivered FREE to the residents of Christchurch, Euximoor and Tipps End - £1 where sold

April 2015

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## **“No to presents” say Diamond Couple, - “Donate to The New Heron please!”**

Joost and Sheila Hoek will celebrate their Diamond Wedding Anniversary on the 11th April this year, but they don't want presents, instead they've asked well wishers to give to a good cause - The New Heron! How generous!

Inside, Joost tells his story of how he came to Christchurch, and how he found his young bride!

See Page 5



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[www.theheron.info](http://www.theheron.info)

# DIARY DATES

In an attempt to get more information about each event (where supplied) we use abbreviations below for commonly used venues:

TS = Townley School, TH = Three Holes Village Hall, UH = Upwell Village Hall,

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

Apr 6 <sup>th</sup>	Pilates for all ages - 6:30pm TS - All Welcome - £5 per session
Apr 7 <sup>th</sup>	Christchurch Craft Club - Fabric Painting - TS - 7:00pm
Apr 9 <sup>th</sup>	Closing date for Parish Council Election nominations
Apr 10 <sup>th</sup>	"Cake, Coffee and Chat" Parish Church 2-3pm - All Welcome
Apr 12 <sup>th</sup>	Welle Film Project Cinema Club - What we did on our Holiday (12) - TH - 2:00pm
<b>Apr 12<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>Christchurch Pre-School - Boot Sale - TS - 9:00am to 1:00pm - All Welcome</b>
Apr 13 <sup>th</sup>	Pilates for all ages - 6:30pm TS - All Welcome - £5 per session
Apr 14 <sup>th</sup>	WI - Open Meeting - Indian Cooking - Veronica Hawkins - TS Dining Hall 7:00pm
Apr 17 <sup>th</sup>	"Cake, Coffee and Chat" Parish Church 2-3pm - All Welcome
Apr 18 <sup>th</sup>	Primrose Event - Goldings - 2:00pm - see page 12
Apr 18 <sup>th</sup>	Pampering Evening - 7:00pm to 10pm - TS - Ladies Only - Pre-book - 638229
Apr 20 <sup>th</sup>	Pilates for all ages - 6:30pm TS - All Welcome - £5 per session
Apr 20 <sup>th</sup>	Christchurch Parish Council Meeting - Sports Pavilion - 7:30pm - All Welcome
Apr 21 <sup>st</sup>	Christchurch Garden Club - 7:00 - TS
Apr 22 <sup>nd</sup>	Christchurch Resident's Association meeting - 7:30pm - The Old School
Apr 24 <sup>th</sup>	"Cake, Coffee and Chat" Parish Church 2-3pm - All Welcome
Apr 24 <sup>th</sup>	Molly Dancing - 6:30pm to 8:00pm - Welney Village Hall - FREE - drinks from 6pm
Apr 27 <sup>th</sup>	Pilates for all ages - 6:30pm TS - All Welcome - £5 per session
May 1 <sup>st</sup>	Molly Dancing - 6:30pm to 8:00pm - Welney Village Hall - FREE - drinks from 6pm
May 6 <sup>th</sup>	Christchurch Book Club - 7:30 at "Glynan" Crown Rd - see page 17 for details

## FINAL NOTICE FOR PARISH COUNCIL CANDIDATES

The New Heron will post candidate details on the website [www.theheron.info](http://www.theheron.info) as soon as candidates provide them. Some are already there.

We will also be putting these details and photographs in print in our May issue.

The closing date for nominations is 9<sup>th</sup> April.

We need copy details by 25<sup>th</sup> April in order to meet our publication deadline.

Candidate packs can be downloaded from the FDC website or collected in person from County Hall.

**We must emphasise that these must be completed and returned by 9<sup>th</sup> April.**

**You MUST return them IN PERSON, and will need to book an appointment time to do so.**

**You CANNOT get someone else to do this on your behalf!**

**GOOD LUCK TO YOU ALL!**

## The New 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 Richard,

I just wanted to say that since moving to the village on 6th February I have found The New Heron invaluable as a source of finding local trades people info on the Post Office and especially the Useful Telephone Numbers. Thank you.

I would also like to thank everyone who has given us such a warm welcome and look forward to having many happy years as a Christchurch resident.

Many thanks

Della Curtis & family

*Thanks you for your kind words. Glad we were of some help - Ed'*

## EDITOR'S NOTE:

*Following our recent reader survey, initially carried out at our CVRC and Constitution launch evening, I thought I had better respond.*

*Several persons have mentioned that they particularly enjoyed our "Letters to the Editor" feature. However, when they went on to say - "We'd like to see more readers letters!" and "We'd like to see more people writing in!" - despite entirely agreeing with the sentiment, I am moved to say - "WELL WHY DON'T YOU PUT PEN TO PAPER THEN???" It doesn't take but a moment to send us an email, and, as you see, our readers are very appreciative of your comments. Let us hope that this simulates some responses. We always print any letters we receive (unless specifically asked not to).*

*Surely you all have an opinion on some topic or other? And we do respond! - Ed'.*



**Alvar and Sheila Smart have asked us to insert this short notice:**

**We wish to thank you all for the cards, flowers and gifts we received on our Golden Wedding Anniversary.**

## EDITORIAL

**Well! Despite an icy blast or two**, could it be that Spring is finally squeezing its way through the clouds? A bit of sunshine and everyone is out tidying up their gardens, planting bulbs etc.

Congratulations to Joost and Sheila Hoek who celebrate their Diamond Wedding Anniversary this month. And we thank them wholeheartedly for their generous suggestion that friends and readers make a donation to The New Heron instead of buying them gifts. As Joost told me when I spoke to him recently - "At our age we've pretty much got everything we need!" So we hope that some of you may take up his suggestion. Please see details of how to donate on page 19.

Also many congratulations to Alvar and Sheila Smart who celebrated their 50th Wedding Anniversary on 20th of last month. See their thank you message below left.

Elections loom on the horizon. Some Parish Council candidates are already posted on our website [www.theheron.info](http://www.theheron.info) Others when received. Please see the important notice on page 2.

It's nice to know that some of you have already found the West Norfolk Dial-a-Ride Bus Service useful. Leaflets on this service and registration forms are now available from our village shop - The Little Local. We've now also included the Community Car Scheme details too! See p4

Alan Russell finishes his first potted history of our local fens this month. Next month he will share his memories of VE Day with us, as we will be celebrating the 70th Anniversary of Victory in Europe on 8th of May. We would welcome any memories some of you may have of VE Day in the village, or indeed wherever you were at the time.

Please send them in for inclusion in our May issue.

'Til then - Enjoy!

### Are you interested in Indian Cooking?

There will be an Indian Cooking Demonstration by Veronica Hawkins at the next WI meeting, which will be an OPEN MEETING for ANYONE to attend. Cost £3. Tuesday April 14th 2015 at 7pm in the Dining Room at Townley School



# Community Information

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## Mobile Library: first Friday each month

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

## Mobile Post Office: visits Mon - Fri

in the Lay-by Upwell Road 16:15 - 17:00

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## Norfolk Dial-a-Ride Bus

EVERY FIRST WEDNESDAY into MARCH

Serving members from the following areas:

Welney, Tipps End, Lakesend, Christchurch, Lotts Bridge, Three Holes

Start 9:30am Return 1:00pm Cost:£6.50

£3 return for members with Concessionary Travel Pass

ALL OTHER WEDNESDAYS into KING'S LYNN

Serving members from: Upwell, Outwell, Welney, Tipps End, Lakesend, Christchurch, Lotts Bridge, Three Holes

Start 9:30am Return 1:00pm Cost:£6.50

£3 return for members with Concessionary Travel Pass

The Dial-A-Bus number is 01553 770310

You need to be a member which is FREE

Information Leaflets and Registration Forms now available in the village shop - The Little Local

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## Reminder

"Ladies Only" Pamper Evening tickets available for Saturday 18th April – 7pm through to 10pm

3 x "taster sessions" – choose from Reiki, Reflexology or Indian Head Massage

£5 each session if booked in advance, or £8 each session on the night

Don't pay any more than you need to – book NOW  
There will also be various pampering stalls also selling items that night

And nibbles and wine to be made available

Book your tickets through the school Reception Office 01354 638229

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## Welle Film Project

The film making aspect of the project is working hard on completing more productions. If you would like to get involved or if you have any suggestions for a community project that would make an interesting production, then please do get in touch with Sue Lowe

4 (susan@slowe9.wanadoo.co.uk).

## The Police Contact Point

Located at TESCO STORE Cromwell Road Wisbech will be manned on the following dates and times during March and April. This is an ideal opportunity for members of the public to come and discuss issues affecting them or their neighbourhoods.

4th April 16.00 - 18.00

10th April 10.00 -12.00

16th April 16.00 - 18.00

22nd April 14.00 - 16.00

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## Type 2 Together – Diabetes UK

A new peer support and education service called Type 2 Together will connect people who have diabetes in their local area. Relaxed and informal group sessions will be led by volunteers who are themselves living with diabetes and who are trained to share their advice and experiences. The free service will provide information leaflets to help people live well with Type 2 diabetes, and is available to anyone living with Type 2 diabetes. Anyone interested in joining a local group should call the Diabetes UK regional co-ordinator on 0345 123 2399 or email

Type2Together@diabetes.org.uk

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## Community Car Scheme

Door-to-door transport for; medical, shopping, or social trips for those who cannot/don't wish to, drive themselves.

Arrange your journey through our trip co-ordinator on 01354 638448 or 01354 638758. This is a 24/7 service.

All the drivers volunteer their own time so please treat them with the courtesy and respect they deserve.

Passengers are asked to contribute 30p per mile towards the cost of their journey and pay this to the driver on the day of travel. There is a minimum charge of £3.00 for any journey. Please ring the above numbers to book or for further details. The scheme is looking for more volunteer drivers. If you would like to help with this service and support your local community, please call on the numbers above.

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## For Dog Lovers

6th April, Easter Monday - **Fun Dog Show** -Emneth Car Boot Field - 9.00am 'til 4.00pm (approx.)



# My Life – From Blooms to Bowls

...from front cover

by Joost Hoek

I was born in July 1933 close to The Hague in Holland on a country estate, which was owned by Baroness V Tuyt v. Seroskerkien. My Dad took over the Nursery for the Baroness and started growing tulips, gladioli, dahlias and chrysanthemums, for some of these we tried to breed new varieties; one of the dahlias we bred is a pink decorative Dahlia called Gerrie Hoek named after my elder sister. It won the cup in 1943 in the Hague and is still well regarded and grown these days. Unfortunately the black and white picture in the printed New Heron does not do it justice, log on to [www.theheron.info](http://www.theheron.info) to see it in full colour.



Following this success we bred a lot of new varieties of dahlia and chrysanthemums. We were mostly taking cuttings from dahlias and chrysanthemums and exporting to Germany and Belgium.

In 1940 the 2<sup>nd</sup> World War came to Holland as we were occupied by Germany. It was a very hard time for us but we continued growing flowers. As a lucrative sideline we grew tobacco plants and made amateur cigarettes.

As it was wartime, food was hard to get, and by the last year of war we were eating sugar beet cookies, and I can tell you, they were very nice when you were hungry!

In 1952 I came to England to work for Mr M Crouch Ltd, at Manea, and to learn the language. I lived in High Street, Manea. I earned £3.00 a week and had to pay £2.00 board and lodgings, so when I wanted a new Raleigh bike which cost £17.00, I had to do overtime to pay for it, helping the lorry driver delivering daffodils to Covent Garden Market in London.

Working at M Crouch Ltd., I met Sheila Tweed, sister of Brian Tweed the butcher. She worked picking and packing the daffodils.

In 1953 I went back to Holland to do my military service for one and a half years so when that finished we got married. It was on Easter Monday, 11<sup>th</sup> April 1955. And now after nearly 60 years, our 60<sup>th</sup> Wedding Anniversary is this year. We will be in Holland for the actual day. We will try to make 70!

After we married we went to work in Cookham Dean, which is close to Marlow, Berkshire. Sheila worked in

the house, being a carer for a lady with a spinal injury, and I was going to do the gardens, but by Christmas we knew that was not what we wanted so we moved to Nottinghamshire, a place called Rampton. I went to work in a nursery, mainly roses. In summer we were budding roses, to produce more, but we also grew other plants.

In 1958 we went back to Holland with our son, born 1956 and I went to work with my dad and my brother in the business, which was mainly growing “outdoor”, and some “year round” chrysanthemums. Lots of them were new varieties and other growers paid us royalties for several of them.

In 1980 we moved back to England.

In 1978 we were over for Christmas and saw a bungalow which Jack Rolfe was selling, with a quarter of and acre of land for sale, so I bought it!

When we moved in, in July 1980, I had a glass house built for me. I grew several types of flowers and plants and somebody sold them for me in March Market and some I took to Wisbech Market.

In 1990 I began bowling outdoor and indoor long mat and short mat. From that day I kept the outdoor Bowling Green nice with flowers. Outdoor bowling was great; and the club was well regarded, we went all over Cambridgeshire and sometimes further. The people liked to come to Christchurch, as they knew they were looked after. Especially when the President's Team came, they all liked to come to Christchurch.

We played Short-Mat as well, travelling over the whole county. The Village Hall at this time was nearing the end of its life and there were plans to build a new ideal village hall. We had a £300,000 grant from the National Lottery to build it but sadly we lost it because of the delay caused by some residents objections. They did not want the development which was tied to the land deal. I was very angry about this.

My best years of bowling were between 1990 and 2010.

Sheila has been connected with Women's Institute, the village church and visiting older ladies, the over 60s. She was also helping with several things done in the village; draws, flower shows in the church and, with Janet Cobb, suppers for outdoor bowlers. With Mary Rolfe, she used to make the tea for indoor short mat bowling sessions.

We do not want any gifts for our Diamond Wedding Anniversary. Instead please make donations to The New Heron (p 19) as I'm sure you'll agree the Editorial Team are doing a wonderful job.



Joost and Sheila - Easter Monday 1955



# Scouts take a hike

- by Lizzy Harvey-Hawes

**It was a two week hike** from Brown Sea Island (Near Bournemouth) to Gilwell Park (The headquarters of the scouting association and on the borders of Essex and London)

We got a ferry to Brown Sea Island (and back) and the island is wonderful. There is a village on one side and on the other is the world famous campsite. There's a massive woods which opens up to reveal campsites and by our campsite we also had the beach. We sat there on our first night watching the stars and flashing lights of the coast opposite us. We were not pained by blisters and our limbs weren't constantly aching, they would be in days to come. Along the way a few tears were shed, many blisters formed and a few buses and trains were taken

(but shh! It was mainly by foot!). A week had passed and my friend's Dad had to leave to return to work, my friends, who had begun to feel ill and tired from constant hiking, decided to leave with their dad. This left me as the only girl again, just like my first camp, I used this to my full advantage - I didn't have to do my washing up for the rest of the week! We stayed in many places, sometimes halls, sometimes in tents. One place

had a small upstairs room with trophies, old books and traditional scouting equipment. The small room also had sofas and a TV and I was given the room to myself, whilst the boys all slept in the hall below. There was a snooker table and a dartboard in the hall below, and the evening was spent watching TV, playing games and eating delivered pizza because the kitchen was next to useless. The next morning we woke up and almost immediately started walking again with new found vigour (it may have been because we found a shop nearby that sold our favourite sweets). Eventually, we made it to Scouting headquarters, Gilwell Park.

Aged 6-8yrs? interested in being a Beaver? Places available now - Ring Fran 07733101368 or email Katie - kj.2ndmarchbeavers@gmail.com



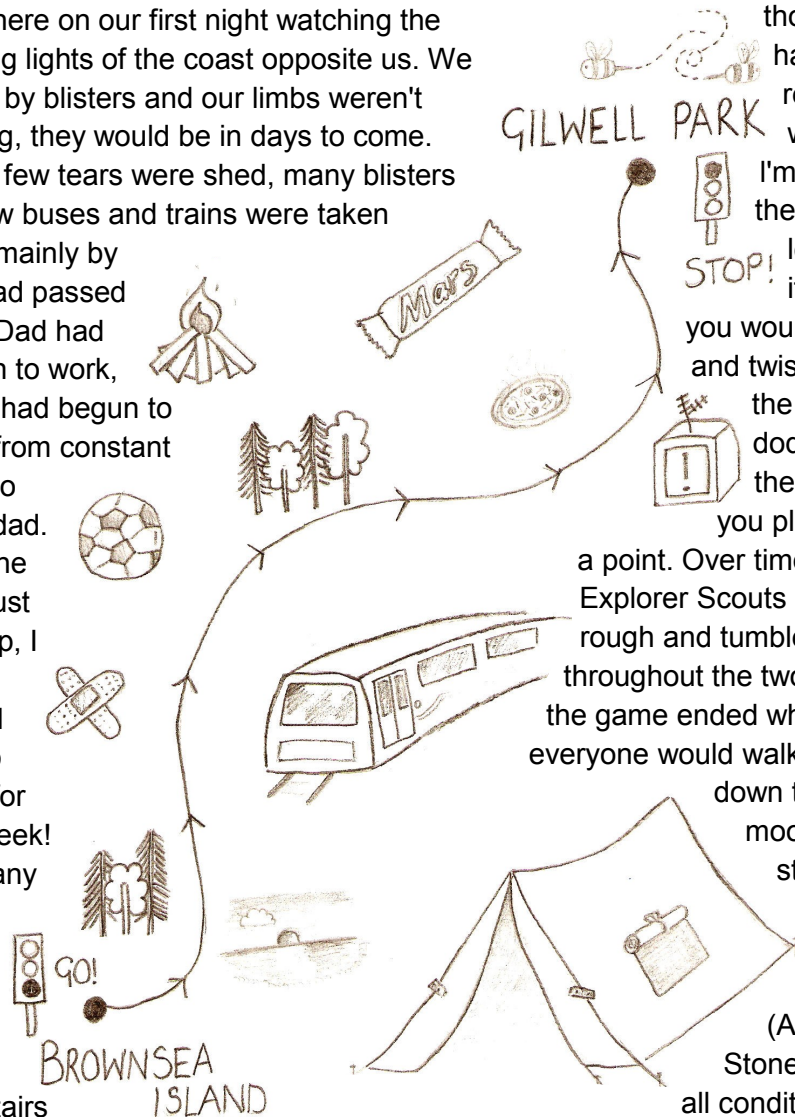
Illustration by Astrid Lea-Mutch -

We were too tired to book amazing activities, so we stuck with aero ball (There are four pods split into sections by netting, you can pass a ball through the top of the net cages and shoot them into hoops in another's net cage. This scores you a point) and enjoyed bouncing around on the trampolines. I had one problem with camping in the summer and it was wasps. I have a massive phobia of them and Gilwell Park was full of them. They went away in the evening

though, and this was when we had eaten, washed up and were ready to muck around. A game we invented was called kill ball. I'm quite sure if we were inspected the leaders would be in trouble for letting us play it, but we played it anyway. There was a ball, and you would have to tackle people, dive and twist to get it, and once you had the ball you would sprint and dodge incoming attacks to get it to the guy in the middle of the field. If you placed it into their hands you got a point. Over time nearby Scout troops and even Explorer Scouts (ages 14-18) joined in with our rough and tumble game. By a miracle, throughout the two weeks, no one got hurt and the game ended when it got too dark to see and everyone would walk off laughing. We put the tents down the next morning in a gloomy mood and walked to the train station to take us home. Our two weeks was up, we had reached our final destination. I am now an Explorer Scout (At a March pack called Stonecross Explorers), we camp in all conditions - my brother even camped

in the snow! And we choose what activities we do. The Duke of Edinburgh award is a focus in my Explorer pack and every explorer is working on Bronze, Silver and some are even aiming for Gold! At the age of 14-18 you have multiple chances to take a young leader course. Once you have taken it you can volunteer to help out at Beavers, Cubs and Scouts. I took it and I am now a young leader at 2nd March Beavers and I enjoy every meeting.

Scouting is an opportunity maker, and has been giving generations the experience of the outdoors for over 100 years.





## Renaming of Crown Road

As most of you already know, Christchurch was originally called Brimstone Hill. It was renamed after the church was built in 1864.

With the forthcoming house move of The New Heron's primary distributor/organiser into Crown Road; coupled together with the fact that our Health expert, our relief distributor, our Technical Support Officer, and his wife, our Chief Administrator and Financial Manager, already live there; it was considered appropriate that an approach be made to Fenland District Council to have the road renamed ~ "New Heron Row".

Any villagers who would either like to support or object to this proposal should contact The New Heron on 01354 638990 before the end of April.

Thanks - Ed'.

*Anagram: Poor Flail - (well known saying!)*

## Beauty Treatments

By  
**Jane**

**N.V.Q. – i.b.d. – Babcac**

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Telephone: 01354 638378**

## New Advertising Rates

As you will have read previously - advertising rates are increasing as of 1st April. Advertisers who already have "block bookings" in place will of course not be liable for this increase until their current block booked ads are due for renewal. The New Heron is a non-profit making community magazine, but the increase in advertising rates has become necessary due to increasing production costs.

### Advertise in THE NEW HERON

FULL PAGE(27.7cm highx19cm wide)  
occasional inclusions by special arrangement

HALF PAGE(19cm h x 13.4cm w)

6 issues £72

12 issues £138

QUARTER PAGE(14cm hx9.4cm w)

6 issues £36

12 issues £72

BUSINESS CARD(5.8cm hx9.4cm w)

6 issues £18, 12 issues £34

DOUBLE BUSINESS CARD(5.8cm hx19cm w)

6 issues £34, 12 issues £68

Single insertions - rates on application

(You should provide your own artwork, but if necessary we can do it for you at extra charge. price on application)

ALL ADS MUST BE RECEIVED AND PAID FOR BY  
25<sup>TH</sup> OF THE MONTH PRECEDING MONTH OF ISSUE

Block booked ads can be changed, but any required changes must meet the above copy date.

Small personal ads - 10p per word, photos extra

Village fundraising events - usually free

Tel: 01354 638381

Email [adverts@theheron.info](mailto:adverts@theheron.info)

It is the responsibility of advertisers to ensure their advert complies with Advertising Standards Authority Codes of Practice.

**There was a cat** that became totally addicted to the 'pucks' they use for playing ice hockey. In the end, he had eaten so many that he became known as - 'a puck filled fatty-puss'.





# Health and Fitness

with - Stephen Aish



## The Good Food Guide

**Food is an extremely important** part of daily life. In fact, so important because millions of people no longer eat real food. Supermarkets are stacked with food substitutes and products loaded with preservatives to increase shelf life, mask chemicals and add taste. Low fat sections have expanded and as a result so have our waistlines because a largely sedentary population are now full of carbs and sugar.

So what can we do about it?

1. Learn to read labels. Avoid foods with high sugar content and those where 30 ingredients are present that you cannot pronounce.
2. Go for single ingredient, whole foods. Broccoli is broccoli, chicken is chicken and an apple is an apple. No additives, no preservatives, no box, tin, or package – just real food.
3. Eat a protein source each meal because the body does not store it like fat and carbohydrate. Protein is especially important if you are exercising regularly in order to help lean muscle mass repair and recover after the stress of training.
4. Time your carb intake. If you exercise then place your main carbs before your training session as a good fuel source. Carb-free is not recommended as your brain functions almost exclusively on glycogen produced from carbohydrates in the form of fruit and veg. Low carb also has an impact on the production of the neurotransmitter serotonin which leads to sleep problems as well as impacting mood, motivation and cognitive function throughout the day.
5. Eat fat! So many people avoid fat and it is the reason behind the low fat food sections. A complete myth that fat is bad for you based on biased research decades ago. Fat is an essential component of a healthy diet and lines every cell in your body. There are good and bad fats though - Cook with these – extra virgin coconut oil, lard, dripping, butter and animal fats.  
Throw these in the bin – vegetable and seed oils – they are high in omega 6, contain hydrogenated oils which are trans-fats that are a poison to the body and can lead to heart disease and cancer.

Olive oil – great on a salad, do not cook with it as, not being heat stable, this kills most of the

8 nutrients.

# Woolly Rhino Skull Unveiling

**Nigel Marven**, star of Prehistoric Park and BBC Walking with Dinosaurs specials, will be unveiling Fossils Galore's 250,000 year old woolly rhino skull at its Ice Age event on **Saturday 11 April 2015** between 10 am and 5 pm at Fossils Galore, 60 High Street, March, PE15 9LD. The skull is an exciting find as it is extremely well preserved and there is an intriguing story about its life and death!



The Woolly Rhino

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Electrical Safety  
Register incorporating



[www.electricalsafetyregister.com](http://www.electricalsafetyregister.com)

## The Friends of Townley Pamper Evening

Saturday 18<sup>th</sup> April 2015 7pm to 10pm

Ladies Only

Limited Numbers – book your space NOW!!



3 “taster” Treatments – Reiki, Reflexology and Indian Head Massage – each lasting 15mins

Book your slot now to avoid disappointment @ £5 per treatment in advance  
or if any spaces on the night at a cost of £8 per treatment

Nibbles and wine also available on the night

Meeting at Townley School hall, with three separate, private treatment rooms.

A brief consultation will take place prior to each treatment.

Please book slot with school reception – payment please on booking.

There will also be a number of stalls selling wonderful, soothing,  
Pampering products on the night!

Also there will be a raffle – tickets will be on sale a week or so before

All monies made to go to the FOTS fund





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Fax: 01945 773159



email: [taglodge@aol.com](mailto:taglodge@aol.com)  
[www.goldingfeedsandnurseryltd.com](http://www.goldingfeedsandnurseryltd.com)

## The Dun Cow

Green Lane, Christchurch, PE14 9PG

Weekdays open from 5.00 pm

Fri, Sat & Sun open from 12.00 noon

Sunday Lunches ~ 12.00 - 2.30



Thursdays - Steak Night

Bookings - 01354 638323 - Bookings

### Upwell Computer Repairs

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Phone - 01945 772717/07849 778525  
E-mail - [upwellcomputerrepairs@gmail.com](mailto:upwellcomputerrepairs@gmail.com)



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# The Steve Waye Column

## Have Banjo will Travel



The famous novelist and not so well known guitarist Mark Twain is quoted as having said "The definition of a gentleman is one who knows how to play the banjo but doesn't." In the case of Sean Moyses however he is a gentleman, can definitely play the banjo, and does so to great effect, as anyone present at the recent over 60's Parish Dinner, I feel sure will agree.

When I caught up with Sean he told me that he was inspired to take up the banjo while still at school after seeing an old black and white George Formby movie on BBC2 in the seventies. His sister's music teacher had an old banjo lying around which he gave to Sean, kick starting his musical journey. Sean has come a long way since then and now owns some fine instruments some of them supplied by his sponsor Pietsch Banjos of Bremen Germany. Perhaps the one he's most proud of was owned and played by one of his heroes Eddie Peabody who also invented the banjoline; a more guitar like instrument though tuned as a Banjo and featured in Sean's act. Since starting in the Moyses Family Band playing locally he has also been featured in The Pasadena Roof Orchestra, Bob Kerr's Whoopee Band, where he spent a happy ten years and can also be found playing Django Reinhardt style rhythm guitar in jazz groups. While Sean may seem busy and much in demand he will still find time to play gigs for the WI or retirement homes and plays many solo shows in the local area. Check out his website [www.SeanMoyes.com](http://www.SeanMoyes.com)

Writing this piece made me think about the tradition of the Parish Dinner and so I went to see the committee Chairman Mick Chamberlin and asked him how it all began. He told me that it started just after the end of world war two. Mick Chamberlin's

grand parents Joe and Violet Frost were on the very first committee. Rationing was very much a part of everyday life and so the "Tea" consisting of a salad was served at the men's institute situated in the village hall. The WI would meet in The Old School

where our Editor now resides. During the 1960s the tea became dinner and changed to hot food. Roy Chamberlin (Mick's Father) became chairman in the 1970s Mick following him onto the committee 19 years ago ably supported by his wife Ruth. While the origins of the event lay in donations, now the dinner is funded by an annual fund raising event known as the Sausage Evening. Live music and hot food is provided. The next one is in October and all are welcome.

Thanks to the Committee for all their hard work.

## Great British Trivia Quiz

1. Which British author wrote 2001 A Space Odyssey?
2. What year was the Battle of Hastings?
3. What was the name of the first qualified female doctor in Britain?
4. Lord Richard Attenborough was once a director of which football club?
5. Where in London is the main entrance to the National Gallery?
6. What was the first British TV series, which starred Leo McKern, to attract sponsorship for the purpose of advertising?
7. Which comic book hero features in a song by Queen?
8. When was the first postage stamp issued?
9. Alderney, Sark, and Herm are members of which island group.
10. How did the owl and the pussycat travel in Edward Lear's children's tale?

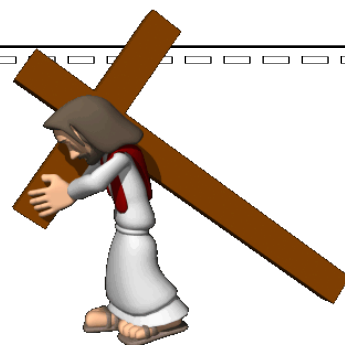
Answers on page 27

## Parish Church Services for Easter

<b>3 Apr</b>	10:00	Rev K Fitzgibbon	Good Friday Service
<b>5 Apr</b>	11:00	Rev K Fitzgibbon	Easter Day Communion
<b>12 Apr</b>	09:30	Rev K Fitzgibbon	Holy Communion
<b>19 Apr</b>	18:30	Rev K Fitzgibbon	Evening Prayer
<b>26 Apr</b>	11:00	Rev K Fitzgibbon	Kevin's final service in the benefice at Manea
<b>3 May</b>	11:00	H Chappell, A Day	All Age Worship

**Every Friday 2-3pm** Coffee, Cake and Chat in the Church building - **Except Good Friday**

We are hoping that the work to restore the lych gate will commence after the Easter holiday



## Film/TV Review

*No room for a review this month but, I feel I must apologise for last months TV review. The Casual Vacancy seemed full of promise and topical. But, I must confess, the third and final episode was dismal, depressing, and extremely disappointing. After the initial character development in episode one, and, the developing intrigues of episode two, episode three, as I'm sure many of you that watched it would agree, was a complete letdown, and just fizzled out to a most unsatisfactory conclusion. My apologies for the recommendation.*

*As a result of our recent reader survey, in future we will review forthcoming films to be shown at Three Holes and/or The Light Cinema in Wisbech (next to new Tesco's) where possible.*

## PRIMULAS – What do we mean? - by Bubbles

**A name covering 1000's of species** yet we think we know this type of plant. When purchasing these, one should stop and think for a moment.

The world of primulas is vast; what time of year are we in? – let's begin with today,



as I write it's the 19th March. Spring growth is pushing through, but our gardens are still looking a little sleepy. Now is the time for our Silver Laced Polyanthus. This is a truly beautiful primula; an ancient plant which aims to please for months on end. A connoisseurs choice, and much older than the Goldlace variety; which is also held in high esteem by many. One can split clumps of either now and watch them progress over the coming months.

Narcissus Rip Van Winkle are beginning to open and these really compliment our adult Silver Laced. Now, 'double-primulas' are in a class of their own; true to type and colour, and very sought after. As a result they can often be difficult to find, but they are truly exquisite, and expensive! Always, but always, there are new varieties vying for popularity. Just recently some most unusual colour shades, blotchy, striped, or just streaked. Too many varieties for my pen to describe!

If I've captured your interest why not come along to the Special Primula Event at Goldings on Saturday 18th April. Primulas will abound, plus many other plants of course.

Bubbles Whiting – Chair of Christchurch Garden Club – will be showing many unusually varieties not normally seen in a slide show running from 2.00pm onwards, with question and answer sessions. A special one-off event for all to enjoy!



Raising funds for Christchurch Preschool.

### Car Boot Sale

It's spring clean time! Put some pennies in your pocket (and maybe pick up a bargain or two)

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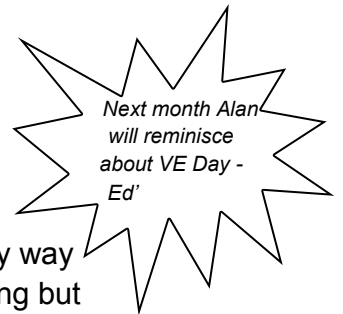
### COME AND LEARN TO MOLLY DANCE

Friday 24<sup>th</sup> April '15, 6.30-8.00pm  
(door opens 6pm for coffee and chat);  
Friday 1<sup>st</sup> May, times as above;  
Saturday 9<sup>th</sup> May, 10.30am-2.30pm -  
incl. Lunch (door opens 10am);  
Friday 15<sup>th</sup> May, 6.30-8.00pm (door  
opens 6pm);



# The Alan Russell Column

## The Fenland Waterways



**The Fens waterways saw much leisure** activity in the form of narrow boating, much from Fox's Marina at March, still regularly seen along the water with several locks having been put back in good working order, allowing all sorts of craft to navigate long distances in the system.

The winter of 1962/3 was one of the very hard frosts when the words of the Christmas Carol came true for this area - "Earth stood hard as Iron Water like a stone" This was the last time I remember the 16 Foot freezing over, it is not allowed today with water continually on the move. Everywhere was frozen solid for 4 months and we enjoyed the true Fenland sport of ice-skating. (See *February's New Heron*).

The ice at Euximoor Bridge and it was 11 inches thick. My cousin Geoffrey Crouch and I, and and literally hundreds of others at one time or another, enjoyed putting their "patters" on. From children learning to skate pushing a chair, to well practiced speed skaters, all had weeks to enjoy the ice. Five of us once decided to skate to Three Holes, cross back onto Popham's Lock - the bottom river at Euximoor and carry on all the way to March. Those of you who have never skated on rivers or lakes cannot imagine the strain it puts on your hips, knees and especially ankles. So by the time we had reached Euximoor bottom we all had to realise our limitations and take our skates off and put our shoes back on, which we were carrying around our necks, and sheepishly walk home.

I know there are some home cine films of this time on the river with many of us cutting a dash but I have not yet seen it. (*Anyone know who's got them?— Ed'.*) I remember taking Beverly, then a year old, on the ice in her pram. Local harness maker Mr Shuttle was kept busy fixing skates to boots and making many new straps to hold old wooden skates on, at Upwell. Over the years since I have bought many second hand skates to sell

when winters allow good ice to form. I am not in any way a believer in global warming but only occasionally does the Welle Creek at Upwell-Outwell freeze sufficiently to allow skating. On flooded Welney Wash where there is a skating club to this day I believe. Farcet Fen, Cowbit Wash and Whittlesey Wash skating matches have been held and the British Championship has been

won by local amateur skaters. Kids today don't seem interested as we were with fishing. It is very rare to see local children fishing in the 16ft and due to a polio scare swimming is ill advised in rivers now. I have enjoyed many hours on the river and banks fishing but something I will not forget is when they maintained



the river a flat floating platform 30 foot long was made. It was moored at the bridge and about a dozen of us thought it would be a good idea to uncouple it and all float along slowly to Three Holes. We were having a really great time when the local bobby came along on his bike and said, "Are you enjoying yourselves?" Not getting a reply he then said, "Well, all get off, take hold of the ropes and pull it back to where it was". Luckily we had only gone about 70 yards and he stood and watched us return it. 'Happy Days', but very hard work. After the river excavations a barrier of earth about 3 foot high was put all the way along the edge of the road from Bedlam Bridge to Cottons Corner but this has gradually sunk down and slippage has occurred along the road side several times, this is how the lay-by came to be there just past Poulter's Drove and as I write this repairs are being made at the Stonea Station area of the Bank. Thankfully our drainage system in the Fens is well maintained; the 16 Foot being no exception, having not being flooded, unlike many parts of the country in recent years. However, the end of fen-skating on the 16 Foot is a sad loss as many Fenmen enjoyed their skating.





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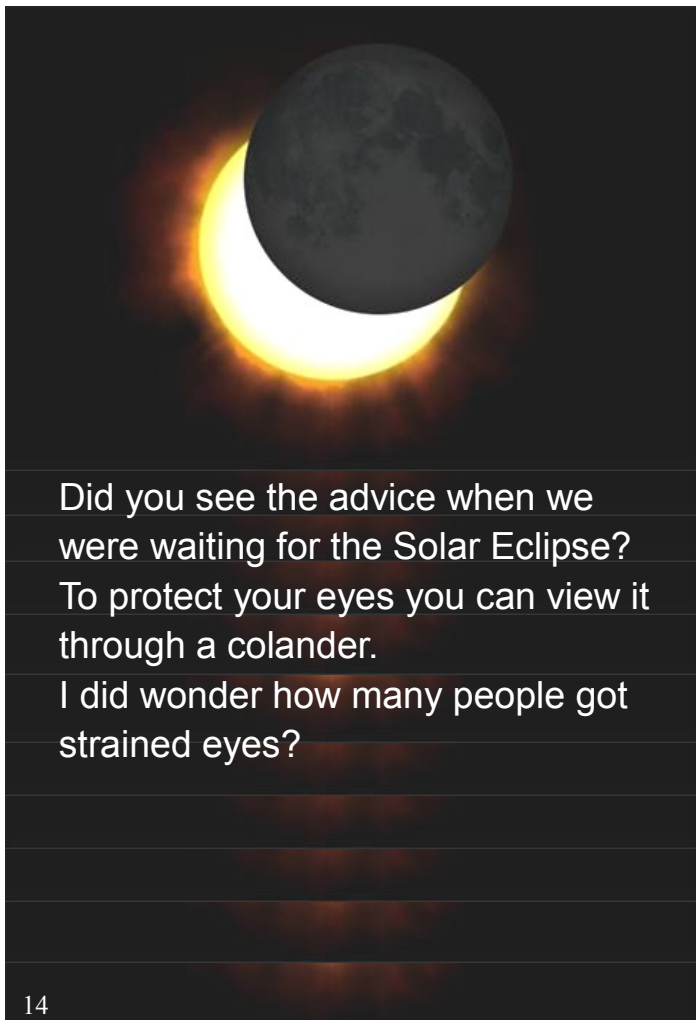
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# Christchurch Residents Association

At our March meeting, residents attention was drawn to the West Norfolk Community Transport Scheme which serves Christchurch every first Wednesday of the month going into March, and on all other Wednesdays going into Kings Lynn. Information leaflets and registration forms are now available at the village shop – The Little Local.

Middle Level has been contacted again regarding the required 6m Access Strip required along dyke edges regarding both current and future planning applications.

The new Dog Fouling Posters have now arrived and will be placed at strategic points around the village to reinforce those already in existence. We are still awaiting a supply of the Day-Glo spray paint cans to back up our campaign.

Parish Council Elections - The New Heron would now be publishing candidate details online at [www.theheron.info](http://www.theheron.info) from April onwards and also in print in the May edition. Candidate packs are now available from FDC and can also be downloaded from their website. Closing date for nominations is April 9th. Closing date for candidates submitting copy for May's New Heron is 25th April.

The New Heron had also been nominated for the 'Pride in Fenland Awards' by Councillor Will Sutton.

The new PCSO who replaced Dave Russ, Andy Bush, is now on long term sick and has been replaced by Sue Clarke & Tessa Morrison. It is hoped that now our area is divided between two personnel that we might actually get a visit! The New Heron is hoping to publish profiles on the two new PCSOs in due course.

Final details are being discussed with potential contractors for the New Village Hall and it is hoped that the final contractor will be decided by the end of March.

The newly widened pavement in Upwell Road is not entirely satisfactory as the entrance/exit by the railings is extremely narrow due to the positions of a drain and sighting of the road sign. This is being looked into by the Parish Council and Josh Widdecombe of Highways. Also the anomaly of the speed signs at the Bottom of Padgetts Road would be looked into by

Planning applications: F/YR15/0104/F, and, F/YR15/0109/F were looked at and there were considered to be no problems with these going ahead.

Following the issue of footpaths being raised last month our Chairman had undertaken considerable research and eventually discovered that the track which originally ran from the top corner of Green Lane towards Chestnut Farm, and the other which ran from the left hand spur, halfway up Green Lane, had only ever been farm access tracks and had never been registered as public rights of way. The footpath which originally ran diagonally through Scott's Farm on the other side of Padgett's Road, had officially been re-routed two years ago to go around the border of the farmyard and linking back to the track leading down towards the 16 foot. Two other footpaths were being looked into.

Potholes up Euximoor Drove had now been satisfactorily repaired. Next meeting Wed April 22nd

*NB It's been reported that Euximoor potholes have been so well filled that some residents can't actually get out of their front doors!*

Last month we had a good turnout for a great craft. We made chair pads, which can fold up small enough for your handbag so you can take them with you and be comfortable on the worst chairs.



We made them by weaving silk ribbons, sewn with wadding between them to make the padding. We were all thrilled by them. Thanks to Beryl Brooke who devised them, with Margaret Sparrow's help.

Thanks also for the raffle prizes supplied. We have a plan to change how the raffle will be done, details at the next meeting.

In the April meeting on the 7th April at 7pm we will be doing fabric painting. Everything will be provided so just bring yourselves. Everyone is welcome, even if you are not a member.

Entrance fee £1.50, raffle 50p per strip, tea/coffee 20p

Any enquiries call Wendy on 01354 638448 or Peggy on 01354 639339.

Hello Darlings!

I feel quite confident when I say that we had another good night on Tuesday 24th March with our visiting speaker John Walker, who is of course from the well known – Taylor's Bulb Company. I did mention Summer bulbs last month. Did any of you wander over to Bay Tree just to see the wonderful selection available? If you did I hope you bought some for your garden 'fantasia' that we all try to achieve. If you missed out for some reason there is always an excuse for some 'garden retail therapy'.

Despite the cold weeks we've had, days are getting longer, and warmer (on and off!). Now we'll have Spring magical moments. Not many leaves just yet but buds are forming, and during these last couple of weeks some trees and bushes are in bloom again. What a difference it makes! Garden Club continues to meet each month at Townley School; every 4th Tuesday. Hope to see you all again soon.

In the meantime, go to page 12 to find out about the Primula Event at Golding's on April 18th. A Saturday afternoon with Bubbles and her slides at 2.00pm and many primulas for you to see or purchase. Hope to see you all, and others who may drop in, for an insight into a truly unique plant species.

Have you got our Club Programme for 2015?  
Enquiries to Marion 01354 638230.

 Bubbles

## Christchurch Book Club

Christchurch Book club met on 25th March. We had been reading 'The Time Traveller's Wife' by Audrey Niffengger. Most members found it a challenging and initially confusing book, but felt it was worth persevering with. The book offers a unique approach to time travel and combines science fiction with romance.

The book club next meets on Wed 6th May at Glynan, Crown Rd (Viv's house) We will discuss this month's book, 'The Nine Taylors', by Dorothy L Sayers.

Minutes of the Monthly WI Meeting held in the dining room of Townley School on March 10th 2015

Peggy welcomed members and a returning member who re-joined this evening.

**Apologies:** Viv, Sandra L, Margaret H, Ann H.

**Correspondence:**

Invitation to the Group Meeting.

Literary Lunch Invite.

Food allergy poster to be displayed if food is prepared and served by the WI.

Lady Denman Cup Competition.

**Speaker:** Barbara Dronfield from March gave an interesting talk about Crystals and Complimentary Medicine. Several members were going to follow this up later.

**AOB:** Choices for the birthday dinner were circulated.

Royal Garden party- each WI was asked to send a member to this event. 4 members wished to go and so a draw was held. Sandra Lloyd was chosen with a reserve being Marion Hawthorn.

**Birthdays:** Sandra Kay, Peggy, Susan Quail, Margaret Sparrow.

**Competition Results:** A spring flower arrangement: Beryl 3, Peggy 5, Sandra K 3, Margaret S 5, Sue Q 3, Val 3, Tracy 4, Doris W 4, Marion 4, Ann A 4.

**Next Month:** Indian Cooking – Veronica Hawkins (Open Meeting)

**Competition** : Name 5 popular Indian spices and their uses.

**Raffle Prize Rota:** Susan Q, Tracy, Sue N, Beryl.

**Flower Rota:** Sandra Kay

**WI stall at forthcoming Car Boot Sale:**

We will be having a stall at this event in early April to raise money for our funds. If you have any appropriate items for sale would you pass them on to Wendy or Peggy as soon as possible.



# Just another brick in the wall

During August this year, the Fenland Archaeological Society ('FenArch') returned to a moated site just inside the Norfolk border, not far from Wisbech.

In 2011 we had put a slot through the eastern side of the moat to confirm the interpretation of a resistivity survey bought-in by the land owners in August 2004, which had indicated that the moat was brick-lined. Looking at the images, it was clear why the originators of the survey had come to that conclusion. The reality of the excavation however proved very different. Instead of a vertical brick structure we found a tumble of brick rubble down the inner side of the moat with the majority of the fragments being of less than half a brick. It has never been clear, from previous research into the site, whether a manor house had ever been built there and some factions had gone so far as to say that it had probably been no more than a defended sheep enclosure. To us it looked as if a nearby medieval building had fallen into disuse, been robbed-out and anything less than half a brick had simply been discarded into the nearby moat.

We had recovered one whole brick which measured 10.5" long, 5.25" wide and 2" thick and this was professionally dated to the late medieval period. Fragments of similar fabric to this brick litter the plough soil, as do shattered peg tiles from a roof. A single, broken, green-black floor tile was also found. Medieval pottery sherds came to light, but to a far lesser extent than expected.

This year we discovered tens of kilos of peg tiles, both whole and shattered but the pottery finds were still disappointing. Another thick, high quality floor tile emerged, this time off-white, giving us the impression that they may have had a black and white checker-board design. Another trench, intended to see if there were foundations just inboard of the southern part of the moat, actually

located more brick rubble dropping away into the moat – only this time we encountered a 'moment in time'.



*The part-played game of 'Nine Men's Morris' - note finger prints lower centre.*

At first, all we could tell was that the brick, or to be more precise - part brick, was scored with lines and while it was still under excavation we misinterpreted these as a 'pre-frog' bonding aid similar to some recovered earlier. These scored lines varied from brick to brick but were often a simple 'cross' diagonally from corner to corner. We soon discovered that this one was different and after Shaun lifted it

from the trench our health and safety buff, Garry recognised it as a part-played game of 'Nine Men's Morris'. The brick was cleaned and it was evident that at some time it had been lifted without ceremony prior to firing, causing four finger prints on one side and a thumb print on the other. As the game was clearly unfinished we can only assume it may have been because the brick maker's boss had turned up unexpectedly and the miscreants had turned it over to prevent discovery. If this was the case, it brings to mind my old Mum's favourite saying... "Be sure your sins will find you out... Eventually!" Andy Ketley  
*I met Andy at the Pride in Fenland Awards - Ed'*



*Shaun Hill, the chap that uncovered the 'find'*

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Class 2 have been looking at different continents and oceans. At the end of the topic they selected one continent to do a presentation about. During half-term many children produced a mini-topic on a continent. Thanks to parents for the support given – the projects were all wonderful. Their presentations were filmed and can be viewed on the Townley Website under Class 2's page.

Finally the children made up a quiz about the oceans and continents, a copy of which can also be found on Class 2's page on our website.



Class 1 and pre-school had a special China day to learn about Chinese New Year.

During the day we enjoyed making dragons, lanterns and masks as well as writing using Chinese characters. We had plenty of practise using chopsticks during our tasting session as well as when we were picking up noodles and jelly cubes! We all took part in dragon dancing and music making during the afternoon. We learnt a Chinese New Year song too.

Take a look at our photos on the website!

## Dates

14th April - Summer term starts

There are lots more photos and information of what our school has been up to on our website.



*The "word on the street" that The New Heron has heard, is that the Friends of Townley have raised over £11000 towards the new swimming pool and that work has begun.*

*It is believed it will be ready for swimming in the Summer Term. If you know different let us know - Ed'*

## How to make donations

**Donations can be made;** in cash, or by cheque, made out to Christchurch Village Resource Centre - please put in a sealed envelope with your name and address on the outside (if you would like a receipt or acknowledgement) and put in the letterbox of: "Glynan" Crown Road, Christchurch,

or

"The Old School" Church Road, Christchurch.

Alternately you could choose to pay directly from your bank online using BACS  
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Please email on [editor@theheron.info](mailto:editor@theheron.info) if you contribute this way to let us know.

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# CHRISTCHURCH PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of a meeting of the Christchurch Parish Council on Monday 9<sup>th</sup> February 2015 in the Sports Pavilion, Christchurch

**Present:** Cllrs: N Russell (Chair); S Freeland; R Gladwin; W Sutton (FDC); M Tanfield (FDC); J Richardson (Clerk); and six members of the public

**161/14** **Apologies for Absence:** Cllrs: W Beswick (Illness), J Bliss (Illness)

**162/14** **Declarations of Interest**

Councillors to declare any interests under the Local Code of Conduct in respect of any item to be discussed at this meeting:-

a) Disclosable Pecuniary Interest )

b) Non-Pecuniary Interest )

Cllrs Russell &  
Gladwin Item  
175/14

c) Sensitive Pecuniary Interest )

**163/14** **PUBLIC TIME**

Peter Hearnshaw previous headmaster at school has passed away

Street light FPC7 Upwell Road, repaired

Street lights on Crown Avenue not working (FPC 1&2 Crown Avenue) requested not to fix

Trees in Crown Road overhanging lights, no further development (Clerk to chase), re blocking of light to footpath **Clerk**

Heron trying to be more democratically controlled and the launch of new constitution will be held on Thursday 7pm in school dining hall.

Dog Fouling still a problem

**163/14** **Confirmation of Minutes**

The Minutes of the Meeting held on 12<sup>th</sup> January 2015 were Proposed for confirmation by Cllr Freeland and AGREED

**Agreed**

**164/14** **Matters Arising**

Ponding outside 54 Church Road reported to Highways 15/01/15

Agreement re Poole Field, signed and returned 15/01/15

Street Lighting response to FDC sent 15/01/15

2015/16 Precept request sent to FDC 15/01/15

**165/14** **Police Matters**

No crime figures received, (Cllr Sutton to email Andy Bowgen's email address to the **Cllr Sutton**

**166/14** **County & District Councillors Reports**

Reports from Cllrs Sutton, Yeulett and Tanfield

Cllr Tanfield reported that there is still £3K available for youth groups in Fenland, up to £1K per group, please apply by 21<sup>st</sup> March 2015, Cllr Tanfield to email Heron. Still awaiting Norfolk CC response on Welney Causeway.

**Cllr Tanfield**

Cllr Sutton reported still getting FDC budgets together. Good reports received regarding The New Heron and Cllr Sutton has proposed that the New Heron team get nominated in the Pride of Fenland Awards.

**167/14** **Recreation Ground**

a) Update on Charity merger Memorial Hall & Recreation Ground email sent to councillors re charities commission Clerk to complete forms etc. re the content of the letter of 2011. **Clerk**

b) Recreation Ground Charity, future membership and obligations, was raised by Cllr Freeland, it was suggested that maybe close both charities but the merger was the way forward advised. Felt that in future the facility needs to be managed better and the new hall managed by a Committee. In the past village organisations have had representatives on the committee. There is to be an Agenda item in March to agree April date of Recreation Ground Charity Annual Meeting. Need to look at business plan re costs of hall, hire charges etc. **Clerk**

c) January Bank balances Current Account £4663.24 Deposit Account £7251.18

168/14	<b>Village Hall Committee</b>		
	<p>a) Clerk explained process to date, and summary of quotes. Richard Guilford suggested that the documents need to be discussed by the village hall committee. Quotes vary from £343K, to £379K, which are just in budget. Richard Guilford will study ahead of the next meeting. Clerk to check if for VAT purposes the building has to be demolished completely (check with HMRC). Working Party to go through the figures in detail. Cllr Gladwin to ask Matthew Hall to attend Tuesday 17<sup>th</sup> or Wednesday 18<sup>th</sup> (at N Russell's) Cllr Russell, Richard Guilford, Cllr Gladwin and Jacquie Richardson to also attend. Village Hall Committee Meeting will be held on Tuesday 24<sup>th</sup> February (to include Bar issue).</p> <p>b) Refund of cheque from FDC via Morton &amp; Hall £97.50 has been received but has to</p>		
169/14	<b>Highways/Street Lighting</b>		
	<b>Highways</b>		
170/14	<p>a) Work on 2014-15 LHI has not started yet</p> <p>b) 2015-16 LHI bid was successful, and Cllr Sutton will discuss with Graham Chappell</p> <p>c) The request re Euximoor Drove signage from Highways will be implemented with 50mph signage of Sixteen Foot Bank</p> <p>d) CCC have introduced a new website reporting system and it was agreed that these items will be sent through the Clerk to enable better tracking.</p> <p>More planings for pot holes on Euximoor Drove has been requested</p>		
	<b>Street Lighting</b>		
171/14	<p>a) Street Lighting repairs and quote (£360) received for FPC7 on Church Road was discussed and it was Proposed by Cllr Russell and AGREED to accept (Post Meeting Note, accepted as CAT1 and FDC will fund)</p>		
	<b>Planning/Development</b>		
172/14	<p>a) Update on investigation relating to "Tourism" Signs given by the Clerk. Initial admin fee is £200 then design and implementation charges. The picnic area was also mentioned. Cllr Tanfield is to discuss with Vicky Whittingstall (FDC)</p> <p>Cllr Tanfield left the room</p>		
	<b>Income &amp; Expenditure</b>		
173/14	<p>a) Rec'd £22.25 refund from Internal Drainage Boards re Plots on Upwell Road</p> <p>b) It was Proposed by Cllr Gladwin and AGREED to approve the following accounts for</p>		
	J Richardson	Clerks Salary	£265.08
	J Richardson	Expenses	£6.20
	Christchurch Village Resource Centre	The Heron	£80.00
	Morton & Hall		
	E Mason & Son	CDM Work (retrospective)	£1020.00
		Grass Cutting	£180.00
	<b>TOTALS</b>		<b>£1551.28</b>
172/14	<p>c) January Bank Balances &amp; reconciliation</p> <p>Current Account £60,884.48</p> <p>Savings Account £146,498.40</p> <p>Earmarked Reserves:-</p> <p>Village Hall £182,194.59</p> <p>Mrs Spall Request £200</p> <p>Recreation Ground 106 monies £75.07</p>		
	<b>Time Banking</b>		
173/14	<p>Discussion on timebanking for Christchurch (info emailed 30/12/14) To be on next</p>		
	<b>Dog Fouling</b>		
173/14	<p>a) Laws keep changing law which this comes under. There are 3 legal options community protection orders etc. Need to engage the Parish in this matter, if majority approval can be taken forward regarding fines etc but need to catch offenders. The Residents Association are working on this subject so this will be discussed at the Residents Association Meeting</p>		



- 174/14 Annual Parish Meeting**  
Date for Annual Parish Meeting Monday 20<sup>th</sup> April 2015 at 7 p.m Clerk
- 175/14 Allotment**  
Determination of annual value of agricultural land notice has been received and it was Proposed to accept this by Cllr Russell and AGREED. This will need to be looked at again in October 2015 Agreed
- 176/14 Correspondence**  
a) Rural Services Network Bulletin (emailed 10/01/15, 13/01/15, 14/01/15, 20/01/15, 26/01/15, 29/01/15, 04/02/15)  
b) WW2 Commemoration Grants information (emailed 10/01/15)  
c) Cambs Acre petition request (emailed 13/01/15)  
d) Police & Crime Commissioner bulletin (emailed 14/01/15)  
e) Neighbourhood Development Plans (emailed 26/01/14)  
f) Rural Affordable Housing Conference invite (emailed 02/02/15)  
g) Connecting Cambridgeshire quarterly briefing (emailed 02/02/15)  
h) Notification of new Monitoring Officer
- 177/14 Agenda Items/Next Meeting**  
The date of the next Parish Council Meeting will be Monday 9<sup>th</sup> March 2015. Items to be included on Agenda should be with the Clerk by Monday 2<sup>nd</sup> March 2015

Meeting Closed at 8.42 pm

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# Well It's Goodnight from Me – And It's Goodnight from Who!

**During my years as a student** at Borough Road College, Isleworth, Middlesex, I studied Art and Biology as part of my 'teacher training' degree. As part of the Art course we had to do a 'special study' each year. In my first year I studied 'The History of Photography', In my second and third years, the subject being so large, I studied 'Special Effects in Film and Television'. It was as a result of the latter that I found myself working at Alexandra Palace, and then BBC Television Centre (as was) during my college vacations.

My first sojourn at the BEEB was at Alexandra Palace working for the Open University, in its very early days; making models of power stations and the like for course programmes. Later, in the summer of 1974, I was in the bowels of BBC Television Centre in the Props Department.

My first claim to fame was putting a blue flashing light atop a policeman's helmet for Ronnie Corbett in the Two Ronnies. You may well have seen that sketch. Another Two Ronnies piece I worked on was a comedy pastiche of 'The Ugly Duckling'. Sadly, this was never aired. The idea was that, at the end of the story, when the magnificent swan swam out onto the lake – it sank! (ha! ha!) For this purpose a camera track was fixed just below the surface of the local duck pond at Iwer, near Pinewood Studios. The track then dipped down at an angle of about 30°.

Everything was set, Tchaikovsky's Swan Lake playing, cue the swan. It swam magnificently out across the surface of the pond, wings puffed out proudly, and then, gradually, disappeared below the surface in a mass of bubbles. "Hold it!" shouted the cameraman, "Sorry folks! I forgot to put the film in the camera. Re-set!" Oh for video in those days! Because as the swan was pulled backwards from beneath the water both of the wings snapped off! That was the end of that day's shoot! I'm not sure that they ever re-shot that piece? I have certainly never seen it on TV. Have any of you?

However, as I mentioned last month, my real claim to fame was making a couple of radio controlled spiders for Dr. Who, when John Pertwee was in charge as the third Doctor. The series

comprising of six episodes was entitled "Planet of the Spiders". The r/c spiders were based on a small wheeled Meccano chassis which then had bent wire coat hangers threaded through the holes which perforated the wheels. Thus, as the

wheels rotated, the legs went up and around mimicking a walking motion. The whole thing, body and legs, was then covered in fur and horse tail hair. They looked quite convincing on screen. But, despite my hours of work creating the two beasts, they only appear for about 30 seconds in Episode 5 of said series.

Before I started my teaching career, I later went for an interview at the BEEB for a proper job (rather than vacation work) as a designer. I was actually at the same interview as Matt Irvine, who later did all the model making for 'Red Dwarf', as well as quite a bit for 'Star Wars'.

Needless to say, he got the

Designer job and I didn't! Ah well! A chap can dream of what might have been...

Richard Guilford



## AFTER THE ECLIPSE

New moon eclipsing the sun.

Equinox restoring equilibrium.

As above, so below.

Feel the stirrings of life in every breath.

See the abundance all around.

Today, Begin anew.

Dream anew.

Allow the forces unseen to do what they will.

For there are great things in store. If only we quietened our minds and let them in.

As the sky darkens, remember the returning of the light.

Rejoice that spring is here.

Balancing blessings one and all.





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We have featured local girl author, Dorothy L Sayers before - but did you know that she was responsible for coming up with the old advertising slogan -

"Guinness is Good for You!"



Answers from Page 11

1. Arthur C. Clarke
2. 1066
3. Elizabeth Garrett Anderson
4. Chelsea
5. Trafalgar Square
6. Rumpole of the Bailey
7. Flash Gordon
8. 1840
9. The Channel Islands
10. The owl and the pussycat went to sea, in a beautiful pea green boat.



# Useful Telephone Numbers

Age UK Cambridgeshire	0300 6669860
Alzheimer's Society (Fenland)	01945 580480
Anglian Water – Susan Bull	08457 145 145 101
Cambs Fire & Rescue	01480 444500
Churchwarden - Mrs. D. Symons	01354 638352
Citizens' Advice Bureau, Wisbech	01945 464367
Community Car Scheme (to book a journey)	07902 316360
Community Fire Safety Officer	07717858166
County Councillor - Fred Yeulett	01354 653763
District Councillor - Will Sutton	01354 638025
District Councillor - Michelle Tanfield	07908 707129
Eastern Electricity	0800 783 8838
FACT	01354 661234
Fenland District Council	01354 654321
Fire Station - March	01354 652349
Floodline	0845 988 1188
Library - March	0354 0455225
National Debtline	0808 808 4000
Parish Clerk - Jacque Richardson	01354 677856
Parish Councillor - Jill Bliss	01354 638343
Parish Councillor - William Beswick	01354 638758
Parish Councillor - Simon Freeland	01354 638802
Parish Councillor - Roger Gladwin	01354 638538
Parish Councillor - Nigel Russell (Chair)	01354 638279
*PCSO - Sue Clarke	101
*PCSO - Tessa Morrison	101
Police (non-emergency)	101
Rector - Rev'd Kevin Fitzgibbon	01354 680969
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
Welle Pharmacy, Upwell Health Centre	01945 774081
<b>Editor's Choice - Best Takeaways</b>	
Chinese - Jade House - Emneth	01945 586955
Indian - Outwell Tandoori - Outwell	01945 773322
Kebabs - Ali's Kebabs - Outwell	01945 773434
Pizzas - Leonardo's - March	01354 661131

## Neighbourhood Watch

Colin Steenson - Church Rd (East)	01354 638664
Sandra Kay - Church Rd (East)	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...

So it's not all doom and gloom then, even if there was an 'eclipse'. In fact, did you know that recently, after much research and investigation, scientists have reduced the speed of light. So now you'll be able to jump into bed before the light goes out!

Conscious that we have an aging population in the village, in due course, our Health & Fitness expert will be targeting some exercises for our elder residents. And don't forget, especially if you keep yourself fit, that you're as old as you feel. Or is it – you're as old as the woman you feel? In which case that makes me 55 instead of 63!

In the light of the recent closing three matches of the Six Nations, and how fantastic they were don't you agree? – one Irish rugby international was heard to comment after their win – "Every rugby international is totally unique – and this one was just the same!"

At some time in the future, we've been considering running a poetry competition. Another local magazine which ran one recently set out three main rules for submissions. The poem had to rhyme, be brief, and appeal to most people. The winning entry was comprised of just two words – "Pay Day!". Appropriate on all three counts, don't you agree?

Any ideas for next month?

'Til then – Ed'

Any views expressed in The New Heron do not necessarily reflect the views of  
The New 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.