

NEW The Heron

Community Magazine

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

August 2015

Canines, Classic Cars and (bouncy) Castles!

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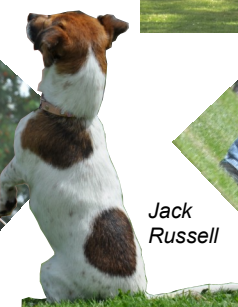


Afpa Pinscher



Irish Wolfhound?

Border Collie



Jack Russell



Full story on page 5

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DIARY DATES

Abbreviations for commonly used venues:

TS = Townley School, 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:

Aug 7 th	"Cake, Coffee and Chat" Parish Church 2-3pm - All Welcome
Aug 7 th	Mobile Library visits - Upwell Rd Lay-by 3-3:40pm - you can join here as well
Aug 10 th	Christchurch Parish Council Meeting - Sports Pavilion - 7:30pm - All Welcome
Aug 11 th	WI - Stories from the Fens and Marshes - Alan Lamb - 7pm - TS
Aug 11 th	Live Acoustic Music at The Globe, Upwell - 8.00pm till late
Aug 12 th	Christchurch Residents Association - 7:30pm - The Old School
Aug 14 th	"Cake, Coffee and Chat" Parish Church 2-3pm - All Welcome
Aug 18 th	Christchurch Garden Club - "Summer Buffet" for members
Aug 18 th	Live Acoustic Music at The Five Bells, Upwell - 8.00pm till late
Aug 19th	New Village Hall Steering Committee - 7:30pm - Sports Pavilion - ALL WELCOME!
Aug 21 st	"Cake, Coffee and Chat" Parish Church 2-3pm - All Welcome
Aug 22 nd	Horse & Pony Show - Upwell Playing Field - 10.00am - 4.00pm
Aug 26 th	Christchurch Book Club - 7:30pm - to be confirmed - 07946 635908
Aug 26 th	Acorn Club Open Meeting - Wisbech Historical Society - Upwell Village Hall 7.00pm
Aug 28 th	"Cake, Coffee and Chat" Parish Church 2-3pm - All Welcome
Sep 5th	Village Yard Sale - raising money for fitting out the Village Hall - see insert
Sep 7 th	Pilates for all ages - BEGINS AGAIN - 6:30pm TS - All Welcome - £5 per session
Sep 7 th	Live Acoustic Music at The Globe, Upwell - 8.00pm till late
Sep 13 th	Christchurch Garden Club - Trip to Cambridge Botanical Gardens
Sep 15 th	Live Acoustic Music at The Five Bells, Upwell - 8.00pm till late
Sep 25 th	MacMillan Coffee Morning - Parish Church - 10am - Please come!
Sep 26th	"Hog Roast" 150th Celebration & Fundraiser at The Old School - All Welcome
Sep 27 th	Upwell Jazz Club - The Alan Norris Big Band - TH - 12.30pm - 2.45pm - £5

Parish Church Services

Aug 2 nd	11:00	H Chappell, A Day	All Age Worship - Townley School
Aug 9 th	09:30	Rev J Webb	Holy Communion
Aug 16 th	18:30	Rev A Chandler	Baptism
Aug 23 rd	11:00	R Holding	Morning Prayer
Aug 16 th	10:00	Rev G Mann	United Morning Service - Manea
Sep 6 th	11:00	H Chappell, A Day	All Age Worship - Townley School

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

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 Editor,

I write in respect to my resignation from the Parish Council. I enjoyed serving the Parish for the last 4 + years and I hope that I had always tried to represent the interests of the whole community, been open and honest, and had followed the '7 Nolan Principles to public service' during this time.

Most will be aware of all the history, plans and proposals for the building of the new village hall. I personally felt that as a Parish we had a once in a lifetime opportunity to design and build a facility that could have been utilised by all interested residents, catering for the majority of activities that can usually be available in Village / Sports Halls, as well as having the opportunity to maximise the potential for team sports and external groups. This would have provided the greatest potential for income thus ensuring the long term sustainability of the facility.

I appreciate that all Councillors have different backgrounds, skill sets, enthusiasms, attitudes and interests and that a good Council will best utilise those attributes to work as a team to ensure that best service is provided for the community. I also respect that previous Council decisions regarding the new hall had been made and agreed by the majority of Councillors who were present and voting. An effective Council is one where all concerned pull together, especially with the building of the new hall. However, for the reasons listed below, I felt I was unable to provide my support to a project that I personally felt is fundamentally flawed.

1) In my opinion the design is poor, uninviting and it reduces future usability and sustainability.

2) With the funding available I felt the Council (with the right advice) should have been able to provide a first class facility.

3) With the budget available I felt the Council should have been able to ensure that the new village hall project was fully funded in both the construction and fit out of the building. If not, then the project should not have started if completion can not be guaranteed.

4) I know that for various reasons previous attempts at building have not come to fruition and Parishioners have waited a long time for something to happen, and some people would rather have the best of a bad job so long as something gets built. Although I sympathised with this, I could not agree to this sentiment as this building needs to meet all Parish requirements for decades to come.

I would like to wish the Council, fundraisers and all concerned success in providing the new fully functioning village hall.

Yours Faithfully, Simon Freeland

I feel the time has now come to draw a line under any historical aggravation and ALL get behind the project in order to achieve the best possible result! Rumours have been rife over the years but as a member of the New Village Hall Committee I can state that, whilst the budget is tight, the project WILL be completed. The Parish Council remains responsible for the BUILDING but funds were always going to need to be raised for much of the fitting out of the interior. – Ed' see page 27

Dear Richard,

Many thanks to those people who rang me regarding the small used flowerpots I requested.

I still require some more if anyone has any? 01354 638391.

Thanks again, Alan Russell

Glad your ad was successful Alan. see page 26 - Ed'.

EDITORIAL

Hello all once again!

We trust you've all been enjoying the typical 'English Summer' we've been having since last month!?!?

Apologies if any readers have been offended by anything written in The New Heron which was intended as humorous comment. However, other than the fact that we no longer publish the Parish Council minutes (at their suggestion) we have not, so far, received any other direct complaints in respect of the content of The New Heron. Our letters page, in part, is there for this purpose. So if you have a 'beef' write to us and we will publish your letter and address the problem, if indeed there is one.

However, as far as club and society reports are concerned they are published as supplied, being (presumably) accurate representations of the content of any meetings held. Free speech and all that! Please note also the Waiver on the back page that has been in place since the current Editorial Team took on your Community Magazine, and the catchall on the bottom of page 2.

We had a fantastic Dog Show & Family Fun Day back on July 18th with a grand total of around £1200 raised. Well done to the FOTS who arranged it all (cover & pgs 5 & 6) So onwards and upwards for - **next years Gala on Saturday 18th June 2016.**

Please put that date as a firm fixture in your diaries. More details to follow soon! Almost an animal special this month with dogs, hedgehogs, a sparrow, and a milkman!!?

Enjoy! Till next time!

Community Information

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

Norfolk Dial-a-Ride Bus

Every first Wednesday into MARCH
All other Wednesdays into KING'S LYNN
The Dial-A-Bus number is 01553 770310
You need to be a member which is FREE. There is
a new supply of leaflets and Registration Forms in
the village shop - The Little Local

Car Boot Sale and Indoor Market

at Welney Village Hall and Car Park on 30th Aug 2015, 7.30am-12 noon. £5 per car/pitch. Contact Heidi - 01354-610633; Holly - 01354-610592 or Pat Rix - 01354-610292

Community Car Scheme

Door-to-door transport for; medical, shopping, or social trips for those who cannot/don't wish to drive themselves. Call the trip co-ordinator on 01354 638448 or 01354 638758.

A contribution towards the cost of the journey is asked and paid to the driver.

The scheme is looking for more volunteer drivers. If you would like to help with this service and support your local community, please call 01354 638448.

Interested in Archaeology?

Cambridgeshire Acre are coordinating the volunteers for two archaeological digs run by one of their programmes – Ouse Washes Landscape Partnership. Residents in the Ouse Washes area have the chance to volunteer with the Cambridge Archaeological Unit on two digs; one at Earith and one at Fen Drayton. They have struggled to get permissions in place so the time scale for asking people to get involved is short – the digs are taking place this August. They are asking any local groups or residents who might be interested in taking part to contact Rachael Brown on 01353 865037 or drop her an email on

Rachael.brown@cambsacre.org.uk for paper copies leaflets and application forms. No

The Silt Road from Lott's Bridge to Nordelph has been closed for 6 weeks on 20th July 2015 for repairs to the surface. This means it probably will not reopen until Monday 31st August 2015.

How can it take that long? They could have turned it into a motorway in that time! - Ed'

Looking for something for the children to do during the holiday? The Welney Wildfowl and Wetland Trust are organising a challenge for children of all ages to become “Nature Explorers”. There will be guided activities including pond dipping, bug hunting and owl pellet dissection. Children collect stickers and work towards the award.

Additionally during the summer period - on Wednesdays children get in free. The challenge does not need to be completed on one day. The centre is open 9:30am to 5pm each day.

www.org.uk/natureexplorers

Community Reuse Centre - parish

councils, community groups and residents have saved thousands of pounds on the cost of paint thanks to Cambridgeshire Community Reuse and Recycling Network – CCORRN, On average paint is £1 a litre and slightly more for bespoke or specialist paint products. Even better is that they hold a monthly draw to give away FREE paint to community groups who are looking to improve their local environment and facilities. You can visit CCORRN's Community Reuse Centre is at: Unit 3 Commercial Road, March. PE15 8QP Monday to Saturday 10am - 4pm



Christchurch Dog Show & Family Fun Day - Friends of Townley

So the morning of Saturday 18th July came, and Sarah & John and their team arrived to finish marking out the show ring, barbeque etc that they had started on the night before, after the school disco. I arrived at about 8.45am as did the bouncy castles and I was immediately roped in to sort out the power supply.

Soon after, various gazebos were going up for registration, music, etc. Stalls began to arrive; preschool toys & books, WI cakes, Garden Club and Greyhound Rescue. There was a tombola, and apart from the barbeque, an entire food hall, jacket potatoes with various fillings, tea, coffee, loads of fizzy pop, and – water. It was going to be a hot day for dogs and people, though, thankfully, there was a bit of a breeze.

By 10.00am the classic cars had arrived, and - lots of people with dogs! Almost immediately the two bouncy castles were full of happy children, watched over by two conscientious young ladies.

The two ladies dealing with registration for the dog show were very efficient and the initial queue didn't last too long. Mr. Peter Knight, who has two Crufts qualifying Borsoi of his own, was the judge.

Judging got underway promptly at 11.30am and the Show was in full swing. Some of the competitors and their handlers



What's that over there?



Yes I know I've got good teeth!



Ooh! I couldn't possibly say!



Oi! Do you fancy me?

are shown on the front cover and on these pages. In total over £1200 was made with all the other stalls also adding to their own funds, having all kindly made donations to the Friends of Townley who organized the show. One little Pug fell in love with a comparative giant - Irish Wolfhound! Sweet!

Rod and Marion Cook kindly supplied the music which people thoroughly enjoyed. Many of them sang along as they went to all the various stalls, and viewed the classic cars. Of course they also admired all the dog owners and their pooches, all of whom were very well behaved!

Five classic vehicles turned up on the day, though more had been expected. Unfortunately the date clashed with Parson's

Drove Classic Car show, a problem with any summer date.

In the show there was an Austin A35 Van conversion, an MGA, totally restored and rebuilt, a 1957 MG Magnette looking splendid in two tone

livery, also a 1971 Triumph Stag Mk1, and lastly a 1965 Lambretta scooter bedecked in 1960s "I'm Backing Britain"



Rod Cook - our musician/singer



A35 Van Conversion, MGA 1600, MG Magnette, and Paul's Triumph Stag Mk1 1971

Cont. over

livery. There was a fun competition where the owners rated the vehicles on display. The MG Magnette owned by Roger Mayes of Doddington drove away with the trophy.

Everyone who attended agreed that it was a thoroughly enjoyable and worthwhile day. All the stallholders were pleased with their success and vowed to put on even bigger and better displays next year with banners showing clearly who they were and what they were doing. Next year we will relaunch **Christchurch Gala**, on **Saturday 18th June 2016**. So please get that date firmly fixed in



A very tired Chihuahua at the end of the day

your diary! We are planning a full parade with various floats, classic cars, our very own Molly Dancers, and others, plus various amusements, as well as a flower festival, scarecrow competition, Gala Queen and of course a Dog Show. We hope you'll all support this event and perhaps even take part. There will be updates throughout the coming year.

RWBG



Christchurch Gala from yesteryear. Were you there?

Jack Sparrow – a Stranger Tale!

One day in early August just three years ago, Dawn walked out of her front door to find a tiny, pink, completely bald, baby bird on her driveway. What should she do she wondered? She couldn't just leave it to die! So she carefully scooped it up



Checking him over before returning to his ice cream tub nest

in her hands and carried it into the house where she found an old ice cream tub, lined it with kitchen towel and popped it in.

Josh Ingram, as many villagers know, has chickens and has hand reared many chicks himself from the moment they came out of their shells. Dawn popped round and asked if she could scrounge

some seed for her baby bird. Josh naturally obliged and suggested she made a mash of it with a little water. This she did and began

feeding the little bird with a small spatula.

At this stage Dawn had no idea what sort of bird it was but thought it was probably a sparrow. Neither did she realize quite what she had taken on! After a week the bird was still going strong and demanding food every time someone passed or it heard a noise. Its first stubby feathers were beginning to form now. For the next five or six weeks Dawn had to feed the bird at least every 20mins. This necessitated her taking it in to work with her, still in the ice cream tub. She was a



First feathers forming

Health Care Manager at the time and had her own office so this made things a bit easier.

As Jack grew and got all his feathers it became obvious he was a male sparrow, because of his black bib. So he became 'Jack' but as he grew the hungrier he got. He would often nestle in the palm of Dawn's hand for warmth and 'cuddles'. Now Jack was almost full grown he'd outgrown his ice cream tub nest. Often perching on the edge, or having a little fly around the room. Dawn decided it was time he had some better accommodation and bought him a large parrot cage, complete with his own nest. Jack really took to this immediately, exploring every corner, including the water and food bowl. Straight away he began drinking and feeding himself. He was obviously happy in his new home.

Then that fatal day came when Dawn thought it was time to give him his freedom. He was now a fully grown male sparrow and regularly flew around the house before returning to his cage. So one morning Dawn took Jack out into the garden in his cage and opened the door....Out he flew, and round and round the garden, enjoying his freedom, sitting up in the trees and bushes surrounding the garden, then flying round and round again. Eventually he flew back into his cage...???...had a drink and some seed and settled down on his perch.... obviously tired from his exertions! So Dawn shut the cage and took him back into the house.

This became the pattern for the next three years and Jack is still going strong. He still has his outings but always flies back home, often perching on Dawn's shoulder. He now lives on mealworms, which he loves, and wild bird seed. He also loves apples, lettuce and other greens and munches on them avidly. Jack regularly flies around inside the house too. On one occasion Stuart, Dawn's husband let him out of his cage and he flew around, in and out of every room, until he finally found his mum, Dawn, sitting reading in the conservatory. Happy that he had found her he settled on her shoulder.

When I visited Dawn and Jack the other day he was singing and chirruping from the moment I went in and was still doing so when I left. He is

obviously extremely happy where he is and is the most beautiful sparrow I have ever seen. Compared to wild sparrows he looks like he's wearing his Sunday best!

One day whilst out flying there was a loud bang and Jack disappeared over the roof of the house. Hours passed and Dawn

thought he had finally flown the nest. She had, disappointedly, left the cage open in the garden when, some hours later, just before dusk, Dawn looked longingly at the cage and there was Jack! Home for supper! Busily feeding and drinking!



The only worry is that Jack has no fear of other animals and used to regularly sit on the dog and would probably do the same with any neighbourhood cat. So Dawn always stays out in the garden with him on his day flights – just in case! Sometimes Dawn takes his cage into the utility room when she is working out there. It was here she discovered that Jack loves a bath. He also loves her flicking water over him and fluffs up his feathers and shakes himself; thoroughly enjoying the experience. Jack is a very happy sparrow, and after three years with Dawn and her family shows no signs of wanting to leave!

I've always thought Christchurch was a wonderful village. Obviously Jack does too!

Yoga for Hedgehogs (??)

No, you didn't mis-read the title! There really is such a thing as Yoga for Hedgehogs, and it's happening in a village near you...

Perhaps I should explain. I became interested in hedgehog rehabilitation some five or six years ago and ever since have been taking care of sick and injured hedgehogs as well as orphans and autumn juveniles. I have up to ten hedgehogs in my care at any one time and work closely with my regular veterinary practice to make sure my hedgehog lodgers get the correct medical care. A number of vets in the area pass on hedgehogs to me as do members of the public.



What a prickly pair of youngsters - getting better

Feeding and medication for any wild animal is critical to get right and can be expensive, so about a year ago I started up a local yoga group - yes, now you see where I am coming from - specifically to raise funds for my hedgehog work. (I also happen to be a qualified yoga teacher).

I am hoping to let more people know about 'Yoga for Hedgehogs', which is a small, friendly group meeting on alternate Saturday mornings. I teach Hatha Yoga for students of beginner and intermediate standard. The group is always open to new members and no previous experience is necessary. You do not have to be fit or flexible as a pre-requisite for yoga! It is suitable for almost anyone to practise, and each individual works at their own level. I am very happy for anyone who is interested to phone or e-mail me first to find out more but it is also fine to turn up on the day. You will be made welcome! There are plenty of yoga mats, cushions, and blankets to borrow if you don't have your own. ALL profits from this group go into my hedgehog fund, so you can enjoy the benefits of stretching and relaxing, while helping local wildlife directly.

The group is held in Welney Parish Hall from 10-00am to 11-30am on alternate Saturdays and

the cost is £5-00 per session. Next session is 8th August, then not until 5th September (due to holidays).

If you have any queries about hedgehogs I will attempt to answer them - whether you want feeding advice for hedgehogs in your garden, or if you have found one that appears to be injured or unwell. My name is on the British Hedgehog Preservation Society list of hedgehog carers so my details can be passed on to anyone who wants advice. My phone number is 01354 610523 and I can be e-mailed on

karen.fleming@mac.com

I look forward to hearing from you!
with best wishes

Karen Fleming



Roland and Mary



Singleterry have lived on
Padgetts Road for the past



64 years and have made
many friends in the village



during this time. They are
downsizing and are moving
to Wisbech.



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Cambs PE13 1RL



They will be missed! - Ed'





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Health and Fitness

with - Stephen Aish



Changing your mind

Last month we discussed the ways in which people suffer, looking at the underlying causes and reactions that our thoughts have on the body for long-term health and well-being.

Now we are aware of how damaging negative thoughts can be, the big question is can anything be done about? And if so, what?

A lot of attempts to change your mind are just surface hopes such as positive thinking,

affirmations and visualisation. While these can be effective over time and when combined, for the beginner you have to understand that you have 5% conscious intention attempting to overhaul and fix 95% unconscious that can be very difficult to access.

Meditation is so popular with reducing stress, increasing awareness and allowing us to gradually change our lives because as we get deeper in to a state of relaxation two very important things happen –

- 1 Silence
- 2 Stillness

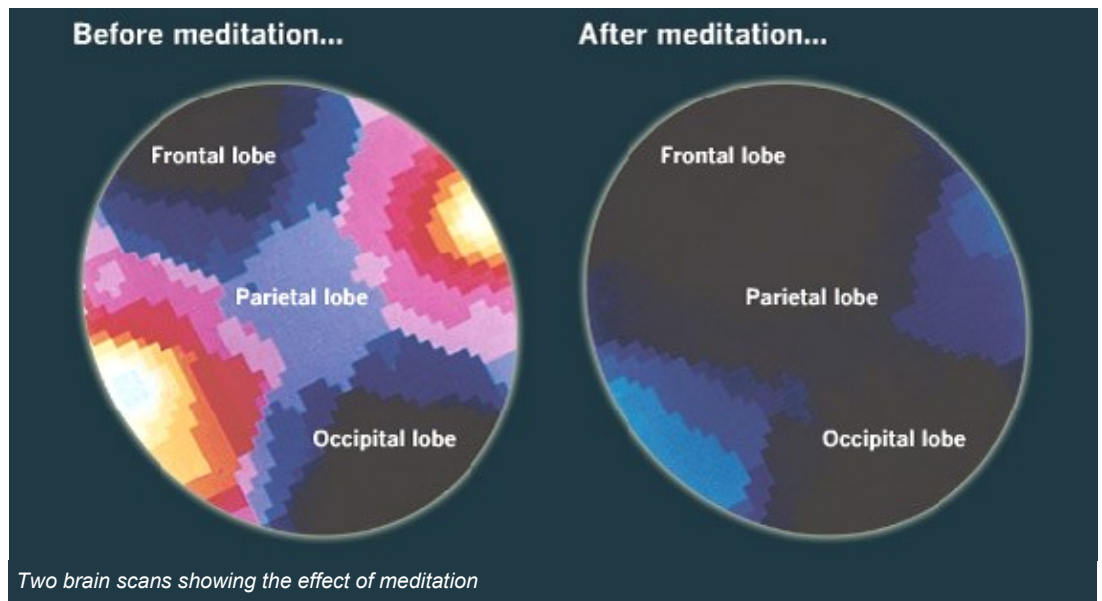
MRI and EEG studies have confirmed that the activity of the brain is greatly reduced during meditation as this allows the conscious to switch off for a while so that we can access the subconscious. It is here that affirmations, visualisation and positivity work best – in a deeply relaxed state when the mental chatter is on pause.

The important thing to understand is that the brain does not distinguish between a real event and one vividly imagined. The subconscious also has no ability to reject information and will process whatever you think about at some level.

Consciously deciding to visualise positive images and movies in your mind, in a relaxed state, will gradually begin to impact your subconscious and shift the balance from negativity, anger, poor health and other issues as many of these are simply the result of bad thoughts that have

been given far too much mental air-time over the years and become a regular part of our mental furniture.

What most people never realise is that they have a choice. Do nothing and society will condition you with trivia, anger and fear. Learn to take back control and you will eventually find inner peace and happiness.



Great British Trivia Quiz

1. Which year was the soap opera Coronation Street first televised?
2. Thomas Edison first recorded the human voice in 1877. Which nursery rhyme did he recite?
3. Who designed the classic trenchcoat?
4. Whom did Alex Ferguson succeed as manager of Manchester United?
5. Which is the longest sea loch in Scotland?
6. What would you do with a Sally Lunn? Eat it or play it?
7. Which of Henry VIII's wives died shortly after giving birth?
8. For which event did Steve Backley win Olympic Bronze and Silver medals?
9. Which channel separates Scotland from Northern Ireland?
10. Which royal said "When a man opens the car door for his wife, it's either a new car or a new wife!"?
11. In the UK members of which profession 'take silk'?
12. Nicole Kidman won an Oscar for portraying Virginia Woolf in which movie?

Answers on Page 27

Townley Headteacher retires

Following a long and successful career in teaching, Rob Glozier is retiring as the Headteacher of Townley School at the end of this term. Rob has spent all of his professional life in Cambridgeshire schools and the last 12 years at Townley. I was privileged to be at his interview and he was by far the best candidate on the day and has been a fantastic Headteacher ever since. During Rob's tenure the school has never been rated less than good by Ofsted and very few Headteachers can claim that record in what has been a constantly changing and increasingly challenging Ofsted landscape. Under Rob's leadership I calculate that in his time at Townley, if you include the pre-school, over 1000 children have benefitted from the excellent education he and all the staff have provided.

Being the Headteacher of a small school carries particular challenges. Rob has been all things to all people. From fixing the plumbing to hiring staff, dealing with various inspectors and rising to the expectations of Governors and that is usually all on a Monday! Throughout, Rob has always remained cheerful and focused on the problems and challenges that occur in any school. I have always admired his, at least outwardly, relaxed style taking everything in his stride. He seemed to make the job of Headteacher seem easy and I can assure all readers whether in education or not - EASY IT AIN'T!

As regular readers will know, the new Headteacher – Maria-Anne Higgins - was introduced to the village in the June issue of The New Heron. I know she would be the first to say that Rob is going to be a hard act to follow.

All the children, parents, staff and Governors owe Rob a huge thank you for all the hard work and success the school has had under his leadership. We all wish him well for the future and hope he has fond memories of Townley to take into his retirement.

John Garlick

Chair of Governors



Rob reading a "Story at Bedtime"

Staff and Pupils say Farewell

Staff old and new assembled to wish Rob Glozier farewell with a splendid tea party in the Dining Hall of Townley School on the last Monday of term.

Mr Glozier thanked everyone for making the day so special, and for all their hard work in making the school so successful.

Each of the children of the school had written, or drawn a picture to wish him well, and these were bound into class volumes by way of a "forget-me-not". I noticed one piece completed by Jamie, which said "I know you like the Posh, but Liverpool are better!". I guess this proves how well the school has been teaching, and what depth of understanding the pupils have!

The tea was put together by Mrs Chappell, Mrs Haylock and Mrs Higgins. Mrs Henson made the cupcakes and also the "Posh" themed bunting and other decorations for the dining room. PVH



Staff enjoying the Buffet Tea with Rob

The Fastest Milkman in the East?

Our older readers will remember the Benny Hill song 'Ernie - the Fastest Milkman in the West'. Many Christchurch residents also have fond memories of Roy, who must have been the Slowest Milkman in the East (Anglia) as he stopped for a chat with everyone, and used to call in at more than one house on the round for a cup of tea! He was greatly missed when he retired a number of years ago.

However, not all of you may know that we still have a door to door delivery of milk (and more) in this area. This week, I was talking to a friend who has lived in the village for a number of years, and she remarked that it was only fairly recently that she found out there was a local



milkman! She just happened to see the milk float one day. (Maybe the dairy should advertise more!) Like many other rural services - it's 'use it or lose it' so why not consider placing an order?

We all appreciate being able to pick things up from the village shop - but a lot of us also find doorstep deliveries very handy, and as well as milk you can order a wide range of groceries. Deliveries are on Tuesdays, Thursdays and Saturdays. Nowadays, you can place or change your order online so no need to leave notes out in

bottles unless you want to do it that way! Check out the website www.milkandmore.co.uk Or phone 0345 606 3606

Our current roundsman is Craig, and here he is with Ian who was helping him when we caught them on camera this week!

VMH

Better tap them up for an Ad - Ed'

S & H

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The Alan Russell Column



Following on from last month, Alan continues a series on village land work, particularly the role of women in the 40s, 50s and 60s

In the spring, potato seed was planted by hand, walking up the narrow bottom of pre-drawn ridges, with one person on each side carrying the tray with one hand and planting the seed 14" apart with the other hand, the other person walking behind planting the middle row. Full trays were supplied by the horse and cart man. The foreman always made sure that the women never ran out of full trays, for more than a minute or two.

Sugar beet was drilled in rows 18" wide. Men would have to chop out the plants into small clumps every 7" with a long hoe leaving as few as possible; women (mainly) either crawling along the rows or bending over, would single these out leaving just the one plant. Later, these would have to be hoed round by hand. Horse hoeing with a horse pulling a set of hoes was also used.

A few acres of daffodils and tulips were grown locally, again all picked piecework. Then started the 'frooten'. Long sleeved women would strip gooseberries from the bushes. Not too many were grown locally and, thankfully, it was a job I never had to do. They were then put in a hand driven winnower to blow the leaves and stalks out.

Strawberry picking had a regular season every year, not like now when strawberries are available all the year round from all over the world. The season usually started about 16th June until about the last week in July. Straw had to be laid in between the rows in the weeks prior to the start of picking. The first time over was called 'shacking' when the first ripe ones were picked and bad ones taken off the trusses to stop others deteriorating.

From 5.30am bicycles from every direction headed to the strawberry fields to pick the crop at prices per pound set at the start of the season. Picking strawberries which were packed into chips or punnets with the stalk left on for market was called 'stalking'. Taking the

stalk and calyx out was 'plugging'. These mainly went for canning, jam making, syrups etc. Up to 16 different merchants collected the fruit every day, sometimes as late as 9pm at night.

Our village fruit agent was Mr. Sidney Symons and later his son, Roger. At Three Holes there was a canning factory and storage depot which took several hundred tons of locally grown fruit; providing a good outlet for local growers and work for mainly foreign students. When this merchant, W. H. Rowe finally closed it was the beginning of the end for strawberry production. This, along with Polish imports that were being brought into the country at less than our cost of production.

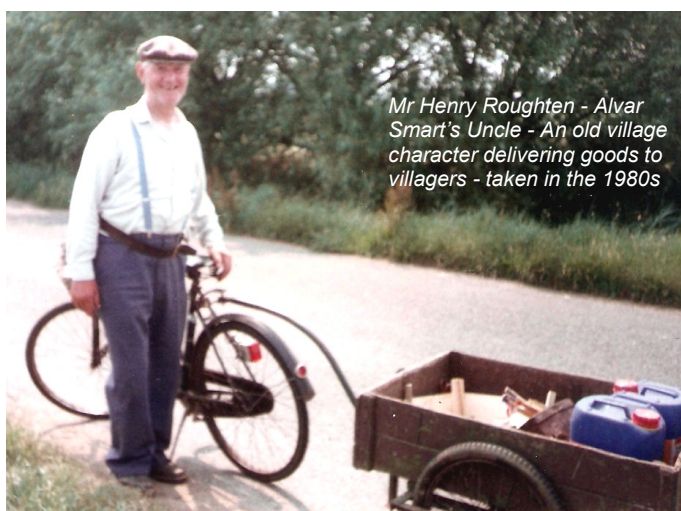
One year a terrible disease called Botrytis wiped out nearly all



*Strawberry pickers
Background: Mary Parkinson and William Russell
Front: Heather Hicks, June Parkinson and Kath Warby*

the strawberry crop. Annette would spend many hours each day trying to get a few punnets instead of the usual hundreds we would normally get, but the scientists came up with a wonderful chemical called Elvaron to spray on the flowers in spring and miraculously eliminated the rotting disease. The first year a few growers used the chemical but after seeing the results, everyone used it from then on. Many pickers, often husband and wife, would set themselves a target each season of a new cooker or fridge etc., so the local suppliers benefitted

greatly as well. Many travellers moved into the Wisbech area swelling the pubs to bursting point at the weekend. As I wrote, nearly everyone from a big garden upwards grew the 'red gold'. Dad had a depot for Berridge and Mason in his yard where 20 – 30 growers would collect their empty trays and bring their picked fruit for collection.



Mr Henry Roughten - Alvar Smart's Uncle - An old village character delivering goods to villagers - taken in the 1980s

Christchurch Residents Association

After apologies for absence and the minutes, from which there were no matters arising, the first item on the agenda was the Dog Poo Spray Day which was to be held tomorrow, 16th July. Gemma Newell of FDC Streetscene would be bringing along the necessary spray cans. Additional volunteers were requested.

An email had been sent to the Parish Council by one reader accusing the Editor of The New Heron of using the magazine for his own political ends and insulting members of the Parish Council. Members present considered this to be completely untrue and felt that The New Heron Editorial Team were doing a fantastic job as borne out by comments from many other villagers.

There was an update on the New Village Hall. So far things were progressing well. The piles were in and the steels and ring beam would be the next items of construction.

The Parish Council had discussed the refurbishment of the various items of play equipment from the old play park. It had been decided that where there was duplication such items would not be reused but that the climbing frame with slide and the bucket seat swings were a priority.

The Steering Committee for the New Village Hall would be making fundraising a priority from now on particularly for internal fixtures and fittings. There would be a stall at the forthcoming Dog Show and Family Fun Day to relaunch the 200 Club. The next meeting will be held on Wednesday 22nd July at the Pavilion.

The problem with the damaged and inadequate slope on the new widened pavement would be dealt with when items on next year's bid came into force. There would be no additional costs attached to this but members were concerned over the protracted delay that this would mean. It was earnestly hoped that no accidents would be caused in the meanwhile.

There had still been no reply from the demolition firm concerned with the damage to various historic buildings in the village. Further letters from members would be going off to FDC Planning about this.

Members were encouraged to attend the Dog Show & Family Fun Day that had been

organized by the Friends of Townley (FOTS) for Saturday 18th July. There would also be a Classic Car display, bouncy castles, barbeque, and many other stalls, including toys, cakes and plants.

There was no other business and the meeting closed at 8.50pm.

Next meeting Wed Aug 12th 7:30 at the Old School.

Shirley Knight (CRA Secretary)

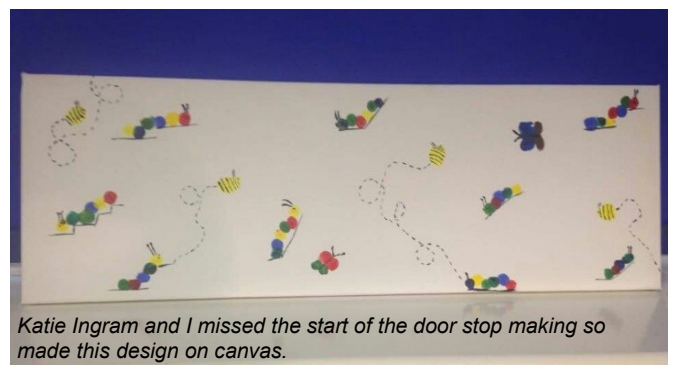


Hello everyone!



Some animal doorstops made over the two months

In July's meeting we enjoyed the completion of our animal doorstops. Each doorstop had its own characteristics. Thank you to everyone who has brought raffle prizes with them, they are truly appreciated. Please remember there isn't a meeting in August, but Craft Club is back in September. Have a happy summer, we look forward to seeing everybody then,



Katie Ingram and I missed the start of the door stop making so made this design on canvas.

Elizabeth Harvey-Hawes.

This past month has been a busy one for the club, first with the monthly meeting and talk given by our guest speaker Tim Jellis, a local expert on Pelargoniums. Many members were surprised to find out that lots of examples known generally as Geraniums are in fact Pelargoniums. In over an hour much more information, methods and tips were forthcoming from Tim as well as seeing first-hand the many plants and cuttings that he brought with him.

Then on Sunday July 5th we boarded a coach from Christchurch to visit the gardens and Rotunda of Ickworth House, a National Trust property dating from 1795 and begun by the 4th Earl of Bristol. The interior of the house was stunning and the volunteers playing the part of cooks and servants from the Victorian era was an eye opener.

In spite of inclement weather conditions for part of the day we all managed to get out into the gardens. Some of us were lucky enough to get a guided tour by the head Gardner.

During an hour and a half he explained the history of the grounds including the Italian inspired areas and the Stump Garden. All in all a wonderful day out.

The 18th July saw the Dog Show at Townley School, where the gardening club had a Raffle Table overseen by our club secretary Marion Hawthorn. The prizes were of high quality and much appreciated by their recipients

Upcoming Events

September 13th a visit by coach to Cambridge Botanical Gardens

I'm sure I speak for all our members in wishing Frank Whiting (the power behind the throne of Bubbles our Chair Person) a continued and speedy recovery Frank. Get well soon!

The trips are open to members and non-members alike and the club always welcomes new members.

For trips or to join call Marion Hawthorn
01354638230

Meetings start at 7:00pm

Minutes of the Monthly WI Meeting held in the Dining Room of Townley School on the 14th July 2015.

Peggy welcomed members.

Apologies: Susan Quail, Beryl and Margaret Hayes.

Correspondence:

Resolution submission form.

Women's Century Book. A copy of which will be purchased for our WI.

All members were given a bookmark to mark the WI Centenary.

Other Matters:

Sandra Lloyd read out an excellent report on the AGM.

Our speaker cancelled at the last moment due to family funeral. Fortunately Margaret Sparrow stood in with a very interesting talk on a memory box which contained a variety of items that were used in days gone by but were unfamiliar with many of the members. A donation of cakes was asked for by Peggy for the WI Cake Stall on Saturday. This will be run by Peggy and Marion. There will be a visit to Caithness crystal on November 17th.

The MADOS summer concert was cancelled due to poor ticket sales.

The WI Quiz sheets were given out to members to try and sell.

The September competition of a knitted square needs to measure 6 inches square.

Suggestions for Speakers for next year were noted.

Birthdays: Val

Next Month:

Stories from the Fens and Marshes – Alan Lamb

Competition : A Fenland Item
Raffle Prize Rota: Sandra Lloyd, Michelle, Margaret H, Doris W.
Competition Results: Anne A (4), Peggy (3), Margaret B (5), Sandra K (3), Wendy (4), Elaine (4), Tracy (4), Val (3), Doris W (4), Marion (3), Michelle (5).

For more marshy stories see page 23 - Ed'



Garden Club Secretary Marion at the Raffle Table

Neighbourhood Watch

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3. To prove their own credentials, they will often ask you to telephone the "fraud" number on the back of your bank card or even ask you to telephone the Police to check that there is an official investigation, or telephone your own bank once the phone call to them is terminated.

Do not be fooled!

Do not telephone anyone at that stage as the phone line remains open and, without realising, you are simply telephoning back to the fraudsters who will then continue, with your assistance, to steal your money.

Protect Yourself

- The bank or the police will never telephone you out of the blue to ask you to transfer money into another account or hand over any of your money or bank cards. It is your money
- The bank or the police will never ask for your personal bank account details, or pin numbers over the phone.
- To check the credentials of a caller, go into your bank and ask to speak to the manager or go to a police station or use another phone to call the bank or police.

Never discuss your banking details with strangers who call you!



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Christchurch Book Club

This month we have been reading 'The Cambridge Curry Club' by Suamya Balsari, and we will be discussing this at our meeting on July 29th. Our book for August is 'Rebecca' by Daphne de Maurier. We now have a group ticket at March library - thanks Alison for organising this - so that we no longer have to source the books ourselves, and it doesn't cost us anything. We just let them know in advance what books we want, and they have them all ready for us - a great service!

New members are always welcome. We are an informal friendly group, at present small enough to meet in each other's houses.

To find out more, you can call Sheila Day on 07946 635908, or just come along to one of our meetings.

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Tel/Fax: 01354 638229



Class 1 and Pre-school children held their annual picnic on Wednesday 15th July. This year there was a bug theme to fit in with the children's current interests and learning. The children all came dressed as their favourite bugs and looked bug-tastic. The children enjoyed bug activities, a bug banquet and disco. A lovely way to end the term! More photos can be seen on our website.

PLEASE HELP!



We would appreciate if you could save your Happy Egg cartons. We need to save 100 to help assist our "residential", next year to be at Kingswood. Please take the complete egg box into school. Thanking you in advance!

Dates

2nd September—Professional Day—no children

3rd September—Autumn term starts



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

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Crows On The Road

The Highways Agency found over 200 dead crows on the A141 recently and there was great concern that they might have died from Avian Flu. Fortunately, an avian pathologist examined the remains of all the crows and was able to confirm that this was NOT the case. Much to everyone's relief.

In every case, the cause of death appeared to be from impacts with vehicles. However, during the analysis it was noted that varying colours of paints appeared on the birds beaks and claws. Further analysis of these paints was able to reveal that 98% of the crows had been killed by impacts with lorries and only 2% were killed by cars.

The Highways Agency then employed an Ornithological Behaviourist to determine if there was a behavioural cause for the disproportionate percentage of lorry kills versus car kills. The behaviourist quickly concluded that;

"When crows eat road kill they always have look-out crows to warn of any oncoming danger! However, we discovered that whilst all the look-out crows could shout 'Cah!' Not a single one could shout 'Lorry!'"

What is it?

Found when cleaning out a friend's father's drawer. Made out of brass - no moving parts. What do you think it is? Answers by email to editor@theheron.info, or post to The Old School Church Road, Christchurch



Hits from the Past!



In 1983, a 10-year-old Andrew Sparrow became the proud owner of a penny farthing made for him, from parts, by his father, John. The front forks were from an ordinary bicycle and the long loop from front to back wheel came from a lady's Raleigh loop frame machine. When asked, Andrew, said he preferred to ride the racing cycle his parents had bought him as a Christmas present!

(thanks to June Russell for the photo from her archive)



Tiddy Mun (literally – Little Man) (anyone know what “witches pink”, or “bible ball” are? – Ed)

Told by an old woman, a life-long dweller of the Carrs who used to carry out the ritual herself though she would “not confess to it within the hearing of her grandchildren, whose indifference and disbelief shocked her greatly”.

Out on the Carrs, boggarts, will o'tha wykes, todlowries dancing on tussocks, witches riding on black snags. People carried witches pink and bible ball for protection. The people suffered with ague at the time and would shake and sup gin or eat opium. They knew that the ague came from the marshes and that they would be drained, but they didn't want the work done as, “bad's bad, but meddling's worse.” Locals would not give 'the Dutchies' bed or board.

Tiddy Mun lived in the water holes and would

come out in the evening. White beard, grey clothes, no bigger than a three year old bairn.

“Tiddy Mun wi'out a name, white heed, walkin' lame; while the watter teems the fen, Tiddy Mun'll harm nane.” He walked limpety-lobelty to the sound of the peewype screech.

When the water came up to the doorsills people would go out at the time of the first New Moon and call out to tiddymun for help, “Tiddy Mun, wi'out a name, tha watters thruff.” By morning the water would be down. People were bothered when the drainage was carried out. Dutchies would disappear. Cows pined, pigs starved, ponies lame, brats sick, lambs dwined, milk craddled. Thatch fell in and walls burst out. All 'arsy-varsy'. The people realised they needed to call for the help of Tiddy Mun and went out at the next new moon. They found that the boggarts and the Jack o' Lanterns had gone with the drainage. They all brought a stoup of fresh water at the dyke edge looking over the new river and called out “Tiddy Mun, wi'out a name, here's watter for thee, tak tha spell undone!” They poured the water out and heard a wailing and a whimpering all around them, and the mothers heard and felt their dead children. Then all went still and quiet and they went home and things got better. But every New Moon they went out again to the nearest dyke-edge and poured water in the dykes. She had seen Tiddy Mun herself, but not for a long time. He's gone now!



Legend - Wikipedia

The belief in Tiddy Mun was first documented in June 1891 in an article by M. C. Balfour in the Folklore Society journal Folklore. In the article she recalls a story, collected in the Ancholme Valley, told to her by an older person who spoke of a curse of pestilence that had been cast upon his village by the Tiddy Mun, who was angered at the draining of the Fens by the Dutch, led by Cornelius Vermuyden, in the seventeenth century.

According to the story the Tiddy Mun was eventually placated after the villagers gathered at twilight at the time of the new moon, poured buckets of water into the dyke and apologised for the damage caused.

He was not exclusively malevolent; if the Fens flooded and the waters reached the villages, people would go out at night and call, “Tiddy Mun wi'out a name, tha watters thruff!” (Tiddy Mun without a name, the water's through!) until they heard the cry of a peewit, and the next morning the waters would have receded. In his 1987 Folklore paper, “Tiddy Mun's Curse and the Ecological Consequences of Land Reclamation”, Darwin Horn argues that all but one of Tiddy Mun's specific curses may be connected to misfortune and disease brought about by the effect of draining the fenland.

Description

The Tiddy Mun was described, by folklorist M.C. Balfour in 1891, as being no bigger than a three-year-old child, but looking like an old man with long, tangled white hair and a matted white beard. He is said to have worn a grey gown so that at dusk he was difficult to see. His laughter was said to resemble the call of the peewit.

Definitions:

Carrs - (usually spelled Cars) an area of marshes in Lindsey, N. Lincs

Boggart – a supernatural being that gives one a start, an unimaginable thing, astonishing and hard to grasp

Will o'tha wykes – corruption of will-o'-the-wisp, something slight or intangible, insubstantial nymph or fairy

Todlowrie – nickname for a fox, or sly person, often associated with faerie folk

Tussock – a clump of grass or rushes

Snag – in this sense a broken branch like a broomstick

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- When out camping or using a tent, never use candles inside or nearby and always discourage smoking nearby. Never cook inside a tent either.
- If cooking outdoors, keep barbeques on level ground, never pour accelerant on it and use it well away from fences, sheds and foliage.
- If you have a bonfire, build it well away from buildings, tents or other flammable objects and make sure it is properly out when you leave.
- When out in the countryside, extinguish cigarettes properly and dispose of them responsibly – never throw a lit cigarette into a field or wooded area.

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01354 638391

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This is the nearest thing we have to a Facebook selling page! Here you can list all your items for sale, or even let the community know what you would like to buy. It really can be very successful. Just what could you turn into cash?

Christchurch Village Yard Sale Saturday 5th September 10.00am to 4.00pm

A large number of houses in the village will be taking part in this large scale event so - **Christchurch will be well worth a visit on the day!** Rather like a **giant boot sale** except villagers will be opening their front gardens and garages!

**Pitch fees to go towards
kitting out our
New Village Hall**

Please register if you wish to sell by
29th August!

**Come and pick up a
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All Types - Houses - Flats - Shops - Offices

CHRISTCHURCH NEW VILLAGE HALL NEW COMMITTEE!

Please get involved!

Willing volunteers are needed to be part of a new group being set up to organise the internal 'fitting out' of our new village hall and to oversee its day to day running once the whole project is complete.

The Parish Council will remain responsible for the completion of the building works but our purpose is to fundraise for and source specific items not included in the cost of the build. These are things like chairs, extra tables and crockery, flooring, cutlery, glasses, signs, fire equipment, a 'loop system' etc and all the necessary 'finishing touches' which will make the hall a functional and welcoming place to be. We will be organising fundraising events and applying for grants to purchase these items so your support would be greatly appreciated. We will then need to organise the day to day management of the hall and decide how it will be run.

We already have representatives from most village groups but we desperately need other people who are willing to give up their time and energy to ensure the new hall is a real asset to our community.

So if you have any fundraising ideas or you're willing to get involved in any way we would really love to hear from you. We meet at the Pavilion on the third Wednesday of each month. Our next meeting will be on Wednesday 19th August at 7.30pm. Everyone welcome If you are unable to make it but wish to be involved please contact - Ruth Ingram on 01354 638419



New Hall foundations waiting for the concrete

Dog Poo Spray Team

The team met up at The Old School at 10.30am and divided up into pairs in order to cover the entire village as efficiently as possible.



A few members of the six man team!

Once again Church Road was almost entirely clear except for two piles at the far end by Padgetts Road. Crown Road was clear apart from one pile outside the double gates of the school. Unfortunately, as Crown Drive had been mowed recently (We are very grateful to Mr Nigel Russell for his goodwill in this matter!) no evidence remained. In Crown Avenue there were a total of thirteen piles; though all but one of these were in two 'hot-spots' which looked as though nearby dog owners regularly let their pooches out onto the grass verge to do their business. Upwell Road was entirely clear, however, Green Lane was disgusting with between 35-40 piles! We lost count! Only three of these were towards the end of the houses; the remainder being along the track and verges in the open field area. This latter area was VERY DISAPPOINTING! It cannot be emphasized too much that it is just as important to 'pick-up-after-your-dog' in these areas as it is on the pavements. However, on balance it was felt that the campaign was beginning to have some impact and things were gradually improving. Only a couple of weeks back one or two 'responsible' dog walkers had commented on how 'clear' Green Lane had become. Sadly, things had reverted recently. Two offenders had been identified and would be receiving letters from FDC. One for the second time!

PLEASE CO-OPERATE

**IN KEEPING OUR VILLAGE CLEAN
- IT'S REALLY NOT THAT DIFFICULT!**

Great British Trivia Quiz - Answers

1. 1960
2. Mary Had a Little Lamb
3. Thomas Burberry
4. Ron Atkinson
5. Loch Fyne
6. Eat it
7. Jane Seymour
8. Javellin
9. The North Channel
10. Prince Philip
11. Barristers
12. The Hours

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
Norfolk Dial-a-Ride	01553 770310
Parish Clerk - Jackie 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 - James Hughes	01354 638310
Parish Councillor - Peter Owen	01354 638847
Parish Councillor - Nigel Russell (Chair)	01354 638279
Police Community Support Officers	} 101
- Sue Clarke & Tessa Morrison	
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

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...

So! We've had dogs, a tame sparrow, hedgehogs that do yoga?, our own version of Ernie the milkman, a retiring Headmaster, a Fenland folktale, all the usual features, and then spoilt all it with more talk of dog poo! – I hear you cry! What a load of crap! Well yes! That is precisely the problem! Especially up Green Lane apparently! Come on folks! Sharpen up! Get your act together! And do the right thing for your very own community!

Sharpen up! ...Hmmm! Makes me think how anomalous the English language can be! For example – We ship by truck, yet we send cargo by ship!? – We have noses that run and feet that smell!? – And how can a slim chance and a fat chance mean the same thing, yet a wise man and a wise guy are opposites??? You fill in a form by filling it out! And, an alarm goes off by going on!??

In what other European language do such anomalies occur? In what other language do people recite a play, yet, play a recital!??? You have to marvel at such lunacy. It's a wonder we don't get totally confused at The New Heron – What's that I hear you say? You think we do!

Oh well! You can't please everybody I suppose, but we do try! Honest! Thanks for reading this far anyway. But, in closing – If Father is Pop, how come Mother isn't Mop? – Ed'.

**Please support the Village Yard Sale
on SEPTEMBER 5th!**

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.