



NEW The Heron

with **BONUS PUZZLE PAGES!!!**

Community Magazine

December 2014

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

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*Joy
To the
World!*



The Saviour Comes....

Editorial Team:

Richard Guilford – Editor

Paul Haresnape – Technical Support

Vivien Haresnape – Administration

Enquiries:

Advertising:

Web Site:

editor@theheron.info / 01354 638990

adverts@theheron.info / 01354 638381

www.theheron.info

Christmas starts with Christ!

Dear Friends,

The Christmas story has been around for a long time, but today it's being forgotten. Recent research suggests that just 12 per cent of adults know the nativity story, and more than one-third of children don't know whose birthday it is. Meanwhile, 51 per cent of people now say the birth of Jesus is irrelevant to their Christmas. Perhaps it's time to ask some questions: Does Christmas start with telly ads in October? Does Christmas start with a fight on Eastenders? Does Christmas start with the office party?

No! Christmas starts with Christ

Someone has said, 'If we take Christ out of Christmas all we are left with is M and S!' However much you might like a new Onesie or even a romantic Twinsie (a three legged garment to share - really) this great shopping splurge and season of over indulgence has nothing to do with the real meaning of Christmas, and if all we are left with is a hangover, a few extra pounds and a whopping credit card bill then we really have missed the point.

Why not refresh your Christmas this year?

Two thousand years ago God came among us; he became one of us in the person of his Son Jesus Christ. God became our size so that we could get to know him and have a personal relationship with him.

Jesus was born in an occupied country, to a poor couple who were forced to journey from their home just as their baby was due. He was born in an animal shed with no midwife or hygiene. He was laid to rest in an animal feeding trough. Shortly after his birth the local despotic leader tried to kill him with a massive programme of infanticide. His parents had to leave everything and flee as refugees to another country for safety. What a welcome the world gave to the Son of God.

But this was the start of God's amazing plan to restore creation, to really make the world a place of Peace and Love, and when Jesus was grown to a man he taught and demonstrated how life can be for all who choose to be a part of

The Kingdom of God. Here through Jesus the Saviour, all who will, can receive the amazing gift of forgiveness, freedom and fullness of life that will last into eternity.

These events in history continue to affect the lives of people all over the world today. So significant is Jesus Christ that our culture together with the western world started to count time all over again from the time that Christ was born. It's not just Christmas that starts with Christ. The Key to our whole life and destiny is wrapped up with that baby in the manger.

Why not put Christ into your Christmas?

Come along to our special Services, hear again the wondrous story and if you seek in your heart the child in the manger, he will come to your heart and life bringing his blessings and his peace. That's what I call a gift. Service details are listed under the Church information in this New Heron or visit our website www.sixfenchurches.co.uk We look forward to seeing you.



Wishing you Peace and
Joy this Christmas

Kevin Fitzgibbon
Parish Priest.

EDITORIAL



Well we've survived the first eight months of our tenure as custodians of The New Heron! We thought, it being the season of goodwill to all men (Though why we don't do that all year!? – defies us!), that it was an appropriate time to take stock, and thank you all again for the tremendous support you have given us over the last eight months, and for all your kind comments. We hope that your support will continue and that you will enjoy our efforts throughout the coming New Year of 2015.

We would particularly like to thank our regular contributors; our Cub-Reporters Morgan Chappell and Lizzy Harvey-Hawes, a special thank you to Alan Russell for his ongoing 'historical saga' of the local area (special Christmas insert this month), to George Talbot for all his various contributions, and to Steve Waye our latest recruit and local 'muso' for his contribution to 'HeronAid' (it was his idea!) and for his new regular column on Music & The Arts in the local area (again a Christmas Special this month on the history of The Carol!). Thanks to you all, and long may your various missives continue! Thanks also to all the 'Club Secretaries' who continue to update us on all their activities. Also thanks go out to Liz Crinson our volunteer 'copy typist' who has been a tremendous help since she joined the team, often having to 'dash-off' articles at the last minute! (I only use one finger you know!) A big thanks to all of you who trudge the streets in all weathers to ensure the New Heron is delivered on time. Finally we'd like to thank all our benefactors for their donations throughout the year, including the kind soul who paid for this month's Christmas colour pages.

We have seen some successes this year: 'Heronaid' of course, but the FOTS have exceeded all their expectations in raising more than £9,169 towards Townley School's new swimming pool, and all that in just the first six months of their campaign. Well done to them! And a big thank you to all the villagers who supported them in their efforts. Wasn't the 'Dog Show' great back in the Summer? I know that many dog owners in the village are looking forward to next year's. Also there has been considerable progress with the New Village Hall.

Invites to Tender will be advertised in the local press in early January and it is hoped that work can finally start by mid-February. What about some fund raising for that so that we can incorporate some additional facilities? Neighbourhood Watch is now up and running in Church Road and Upwell Road with 'Speedwatch' to follow early in the New Year. We WILL slow those vehicles down some how! Hopefully, with the widening of the pavement in Upwell Road from the bus shelter northwards; making the road single track for a hundred yards or so; and with a give way feature to the south; this will also have a traffic calming effect! The Dun Cow is fully booked for Christmas Dinner, so hard luck to those of you who didn't book in time! Well done to Phil! Keep up the good work mate! And aren't we lucky to have our own 'Fish & Chip' service on a Friday night. Thanks and well done to Michael and Michelle for their efforts, and success! (Not too sure about Captain Pugwash though!?)

So all in all, things are looking up for village life in 2015. It just remains for us to wish you all a VERY MERRY CHRISTMAS & A HAPPY NEW YEAR! See you all on the other side with January's issue!

Best Wishes

The Editorial Team

New Heron Online

Have you had a look at the New Heron Online?

Perhaps you know folk around the world that would like to keep up with what's going on in Cambridgeshire? Or perhaps you yourself would like to see it in full colour.

If so go to www.theheron.info and click on the link "to view the latest Heron online".



The Heron Deadline for JANUARY ONLY

This month we need to go to print EARLY so the 15th of December is the deadline for all adverts and copy. Please don't leave it till then, because we may not have any space left. So AS EARLY AS YOU CAN please.

Anything that we cannot get in will be held over and we'll endeavour to include as soon as practical. Thanks

Community Information

Mobile Library: visits each month

Friday 7th Nov in the Lay-by Upwell Road 15:00

Mobile Post Office: visits Mon - Fri

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

Useful Telephone Numbers:

For the moment these are available by accessing the New Heron Website and check the back page of a recent edition from the archive.

Shop closure threat denied

During "Public time" at the November Parish Council meeting, the Chair, Cllr Nigel Russell was asked if the rumour circulating the village, that Little Local, the Village Shop, was closing, was in fact true.

Cllr Russell stated that it was true that the shop had been struggling and expressed some disappointment that it had not been better supported by the local community, but that there were no plans to close it at all.

He went on to explain that the most trade was in newspapers and cigarettes, neither of which could sustain a viable business since the margins were so small. "That's why sometimes there are empty shelves, we can't always pay the monthly VAT demand and stock the shop at the same time" said Cllr Russell.

A villager from the floor made the point that the maxim "Use it or Lose it" should be applied to both the shop and the Pub who are both working in very difficult economic circumstances.

On another point the Friday Fish and Chip van will also need support especially through the cold winter months when we'd rather stay in!. PVH

Lych Gate Restoration

Due to a delay in obtaining the new roofing for the Lych Gate, the refurbishment will not take place until the Spring as the weather is now too damp for the curing process to work properly.

Skate Park News

You may have noticed that the skate park ramps and equipment have had a few coats of paint recently.

Originally some of the users of the park asked the Parish Council if they (the users) offered to do the painting, would the CPC supply the paint as some graffiti had marred the ramps. The council already had the paint but arranged for "Community Payback" workers to paint it.

The users sent a message to be delivered at the November meeting to thank the Council and Community Payback for doing it.

Letters to the Editor



Dear Richard,

Hi Richard

I needed to make you and the residents in Christchurch and the surrounding area aware, that I noticed a white chalk mark "L" appear within the perimeter of our property yesterday. Either someone is playing a silly prank, or dog owners beware!

You may not be aware, these "signs" indicate people who are noting dogs in the property and could be setting up a plan to take them - not really sure what they do with the dog once they have taken them, but I believe selling them or "training" them to be in illegal dog fights!

If you see one of these "marks", remove it immediately as we did.

Please please please be extra vigilant regarding your dogs in the Christchurch area, and if you spot anybody acting suspiciously no matter how insignificant, then ring 101 (if you can get through!) and report the matter immediately.

(name and address supplied)

Dear Richard

I would like to thank everyone who sent me cards, letters and gifts, when I was taken ill. I was so surprised, I never realised so many people in this village cared about me. I am much better now.

Thank you all.

May Reeder

Village and War Memorial Clean-up

We have been asked by the Parish Council to express their thanks to the two souls who joined Cllr Will Sutton in the village clean-up in October. (modesty forbids naming the two!)

The Steve Waye Christmas Column



In a quiet moment I found myself wondering who it was first came up with the concept of the Christmas song. I knew that the composer of many Christmas hits such as "Rudolph the Red Nosed Reindeer" written in 1949 and based on a poem written by his brother in law, (which was based on a story published in 1939 as a department store promotion) was Johnny Marks, but didn't realise he was Jewish. When you consider however that Christmas began as a pagan festival and that carols were sung at the winter Solstice while people danced around a circle of stones (the word carol means to dance in a circle) this doesn't seem so odd. When the early Christians transformed the pagan festival into Christmas, the songs were changed to reflect the new direction. The first carol may have been a song called "Angels Hymn" sung at a Christmas service in Rome in AD129.

Our near neighbour from Ely, Oliver Cromwell,



banned the singing of carols when he came to power in 1647, but as usual the population went their own way and continued to sing them in secret. However the carol became largely unsung until Victorian times when Christmas as we know it began to be a part of the social calendar.

That popular ditty "Jingle Bells" was never intended to be a Christmas song and was originally composed under the title "One Horse Open Sleigh" for a Sunday School Thanksgiving program by James Pierpoint sometime between 1853 and 1857 and perhaps most memorably performed by astronauts Tom Stafford and Wally Schirra in 1965 aboard the Gemini 6 spacecraft!

The most successful Christmas song to date is, not surprisingly, "White Christmas", first featured in the movie *Holiday Inn* circa 1942 and sung by Bing Crosby, which has so far clocked up in excess of a 100 million sales. The film *Meet me in St Louis* gave Judy Garland a hit in 1944 with "Have Yourself a Merry Little Christmas."

This period in Hollywood seemed to give us many of the tunes we still sing today. In more recent times many artist such as Slade, Roy Wood, George Michael and Cliff have all weighed in with their take on the Christmas song, which form a direct line back thousands of years.

To list all of the composers, songs and carols would take the whole of this magazine which I'm not sure would be appreciated by our esteemed Editor, so I'm sorry if I've missed out your particular favourite but perhaps it may peak your interest enough for you look up the history of which ever song or carol floats your boat.

Let me take this opportunity to wish everybody a safe and Happy Christmas.

'Till next time, Steve Waye



The Joy Of Carols?

One night Freda went carol singing.
She went to the door of the first house
and began to sing. A man with a violin
in his hand came to the door.

Within half a minute tears were streaming
down his face. Freda went on singing for
nearly half an hour; singing all the carols
she knew, and some she didn't!

The more she sang, the more he cried. Until
at last she stopped.

"I understand!" said Freda softly, "You're
remembering your happy childhood days.
You're a sentimentalist!"

"No!" he snivelled distraughtly, "I'm a musician!"

Old Copies of the Heron

We have inherited a box of Herons dating from 1987 to 2011, but with some gaps!

As you probably know, most of the recent few years' issues have been available on the New Heron website, and we would like eventually to put all the old paper copies on the website too. "Why would we want to do that?" you may be asking. Well, strange though it may seem, researchers into social history would be seriously interested in examining what was going on in villages like ours through the ages, and we could provide some of this material if we can get it digitised and upload it to our website to complete the online "set".

We think a pity that we are missing some issues and wondered if there was someone out there who has been storing their Herons and who might be able to fill our gaps. We would only need to borrow them for a short period for scanning, and then return them.

Specifically do you have any issues before 1987, or any from 2001 to April 2003? We will list the others that we need when we've got more space. Call Paul or Viv on 638381 if you can help.

Thanks

PVH



There's no such thing as a free lunch!

Apart from actually producing the New Heron, quite a lot of other things go on behind the scenes, like producing the "new constitution" we mentioned last month.

Recently the Editorial team went to a Lottery Funded event in St Ives about the Ouse Washes. You know - that large expanse of land which when flooded stops us getting through to Littleport!

Well it seems that it's so important that they have got together lots of interested parties in a Partnership to balance the use of the Washes for conservation, wildlife, flood prevention and public access purposes. More on this in January!

During the day they treated us to a delightful buffet lunch, but we were working! Honestly! After several interesting talks, we were asked to "brainstorm" in groups on the relative importance of the competing interests. Results later!

Since then, the organiser has contacted us and asked if they could reproduce one of our articles on their blog - Praise indeed!



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**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.**

Neighbourhood Watch

Finally, after a few months of waiting all things are in place for setting up the first part of the scheme in Church Road. Upwell Road has now come onboard to thanks to Julian Swallow who now lives at Hillboro – Connie’s old house. We will be putting up five “This is a Neighbourhood Watch Area!” signs in Church Road and another five in Upwell Road.



This means that we will now have the village main ‘drag’ covered and can set about working to slow up offending vehicles via “Speedwatch”.

“Speedwatch” employs portable equipment similar to the signs that flash up “30mph” in Outwell; the

main difference being that the “Speedwatch” equipment will actually flash up the speed of the offending vehicle. Together with manual recording of registration plates and photographic evidence, this should enable us to make a difference. Initially drivers will be written to by the police informing them that they were exceeding the speed limit. If the same vehicle is caught three times the driver will be prosecuted.

We will have a purge from time to time in different places along Church Road and Upwell Road. It is hoped that this together with the signage deterring any petty criminal activity that we can make the village a safer and more secure place. Signs will be up, and information leaflets and window stickers will be with residents who have signed up before Christmas. We will carry out the first “Speedwatch” in the New Year.

Your new local Co-Ordinators are as follows should you need to contact them:

Name	Area	Phone No
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-ordinator	01945 870963

How the Angel Came to be On Top of the Christmas Tree!?

There had been no snow in the month of December, and the elves in the bicycle department had been on strike since October. Now there was a strong possibility that the elves in the doll department might join them! Daily life up at the North Pole had become decidedly unpleasant, and Santa Claus was in a pretty foul mood. Mrs. Claus was suffering from severe arthritis and was extremely annoyed because her Christmas Pudding had just exploded in the oven due to a surfeit of brandy! Santa had tried to round up some extra helpers but, with no snow, they hadn’t been able to make it to the workshop by sleigh.

As if that wasn’t enough; Rudolph had a very bad cold in his nose, so it was blue rather than red, and just wouldn’t light up, Blitzen’s foreleg was still in plaster from a nasty skid on the melting icecaps due to global warming, and the vet had said he wouldn’t know until Christmas Eve if he’d be fit to pull the sleigh for the annual festive delivery, and Comet and Prancer were fighting over Vixen who had just come into heat!

Then, suddenly, on top of all that, the electricity went off, and the air turned blue!!! Nothing was going right in Santa’s workshops, even the backup generator was coughing and smoking and just wouldn’t burst into life! Already Santa’s little workers were three weeks behind due to the strike action and the toys would never be ready in time, even if Blitzen was fit for the trip! Poor old Santa’s foul mood was further exacerbated by a bad case of haemorrhoids! So he wasn’t looking forward to a long bumpy ride on Christmas Eve anyway!!

Seeing this terrible state of affairs some kindly angels took up a collection to buy a gift for the Clauses, and their unhappy workers, to try and cheer them up a bit. Something that would brighten their Christmas. They decided on a beautiful tall tree with a lovely pointed top. One brave angel volunteered to deliver it personally. He burst into Santa’s workshop full of happiness and cheer and said:

“WHERE WOULD YOU LIKE ME TO PUT THIS TREE?????????????????”



So Now we Know!

(why Penelope Keith didn't come to Christchurch)

After seeing the front cover picture of last month's New Heron, a few people were jokingly asking when Penelope Keith had come to Christchurch? Well – of course she didn't. It was a bit of clever photoshopping by our Technical department (Paul). But it's a good question. Why didn't she come here? She was making a series of programmes on Britain's villages ('Penelope Keith's Hidden Villages' on More 4) so why not feature this one?

However, as we watched the programmes, all became clear! She was using some guidebooks published in the 1930s – the Batsford 'Face of Britain' series, and it just happens that I have a second hand copy of the one on East Anglia – written in 1939 by Doreen Wallace.

It's an interesting read. Miss Wallace was very complimentary about much of East Anglia, but not all of it! Here is what she wrote about some of our local places.

She liked Wisbech, 'a prosperous town, with one very delightful feature – its waterfront. ...well back from the river on each side is a road of compact, dignified houses of Queen Anne and early Georgian types' However, she was somewhat less complimentary about March, which she said is 'notable for one of the finest church-roofs in England, perhaps the very finest. It is not notable for much else.'

She described Whittlesey as 'an ugly little place with just a few fine ancient buildings', and Peterborough as 'a very disappointing town. Its cathedral is squat and hidden, and the town itself, crowding along one main street, is insignificant.' I think Miss Wallace would notice a bit of a difference if she went to Peterborough today!

Apart from a passing reference to the church at Upwell, our local villages don't get even a mention.



So with a guidebook like that – no wonder Ms Keith didn't come here! Ah well, it's a shame, but there could be one good thing about it. We hear that the price of Bradshaw's Railway

guides have gone through the roof since Michael Portillo began using them on his railway programmes. Maybe if Ms Keith's shows turn out to be equally popular, I could sell my Batsford East Anglia guide for lots of money. Must check it out on ebay!

VMH



Upwell (Cambridge) Consolidated Charities (Former Isle part of the Parish only)

DOLE DISTRIBUTION

The Trustees announce that the dole will be distributed on

FRIDAY DECEMBER 5th 2014

Applicants residing in CHRISTCHURCH to apply at the Townley School Dining Room between the hours of

1.45 and 2.45 pm

- The aged and infirm will receive first consideration
- No able bodied Man and Wife under 65 need apply
- No persons who have not been resident in the Parish for a period of at least five years will be considered
- Personal application to be made
- Illness the only exception

R.W. Stannard. Clerk to the Trustees

DIARY DATES

In an attempt to get more information about each event (where supplied) we are going to try using abbreviations 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:

Dec 1 st	Pilates for all ages - 6:30 TS - All Welcome - £5 per session
Dec 2 nd	Christchurch Craft Club - Christmas Table Decorations & Nibbles - TS - 7:30pm
Dec 7 th	Garden Club - Christmas Shopping Trip - 8:30am - outside Old Village Hall
Dec 8 th	Pilates for all ages - 6:30 TS - All Welcome - £5 per session
Dec 9 th	Christchurch Parish Council Meeting - Sports Pavilion - 7:30pm - All Welcome
Dec 9 th	Christchurch WI - Trekking through South East Asia - TS Dining Hall 7:00pm
Dec 10 th	Christchurch Resident's Association meeting - 7:30pm - The Old School
Dec 14 th	Film "Skyfall" Cert 12a showing TH 2:00pm prompt - £2 per person
Dec 15 th	Pilates for all ages - 6:30 TS - All Welcome - £5 per session

Parish Church Services

7 Dec	11:00	H Chappell/A Day	All Age Worship
14 Dec	09:30	Rev K Fitzgibbon	Holy Communion
21 Dec	15:30	Rev K Fitzgibbon	Carol Service
24 Dec	14:30		Christingle - Manea
24 Dec	23:30		Holy Communion - Manea
25 Dec	10:00	S.E. Tooke	Holy Communion - Christchurch
28 Dec	10:00		United Service at Welney
4 Jan	11:00	Rev K Fitzgibbon	All Age Worship

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Village Hall Bar Bust up

Outrage was expressed at the November Parish Council meeting when a village resident pointed out that the proposals on the design for the new Village Hall included two bar areas! One for the exclusive use of the Christchurch Bowls Club.

"Why was the Parish paying for a facility for the exclusive use of a small minority group?", it was asked. "Surely there was no need for a second bar area, as the Bowls Club should either make 'their' area available to other users of the new hall, or at the very least pay a commercial rent for this degree of privilege" the villager argued.

Council Chairman Nigel Russell ruled that the issue should be raised at the Parish Hall Committee later in the week.

PVH

I would like to wish all my friends
a very merry Christmas
and a happy new year
from Walter Chamberlin

Film Review

Being a confirmed Bondaholic I am well aware how this genre has changed and developed over the years; dare I say matured; from Mr Connery's original, via Moore and others through the well suited Mr Bronson to the latest incarnation via Daniel Craig.

And I do think with Daniel Craig at the helm the genre has matured. Gone are the incessant puns and sexual innuendo replaced, through tremendous scripts, with some intense and much more believable spy thrillers. For me, Skyfall is Bond at its peak with little or no gratuitous sex or action sequences. All those that are included are entirely relevant to the plot, and as I have already said, are believable.

Skyfall is the 23rd installment of the longest-running film franchise in history, yet is fresh and real. Bond's loyalty to M (Judi Dench) is tested, as her past returns to haunt her. 007 must track down and destroy the threat, no matter how high the personal cost.

When Bond's latest assignment goes gravely wrong, and agents around the world are exposed, MI6 is directly attacked forcing M to relocate the agency. These events cause her authority and position to be challenged by Mallory (Ralph Fiennes), the new Chairman of the Intelligence and Security Committee. With MI6 now compromised from both inside and out, M is left with only one ally she can trust: Bond. 007 takes to the shadows – aided only by field agent Eve (Naomi Harris) – following a trail to the mysterious Silva (Javier Bardem), the most threatening Bond villain ever, whose lethal and hidden motives have yet to reveal themselves.

Unlike past Bonds pre-Craig, this movie is most definitely not formulaic and contains some interesting twists and, in one case, an entirely

unexpected outcome. It has been hailed as the 'best Bond film ever', and, I have to admit, I entirely agree! But then again in my opinion and that of many others, Daniel Craig is the 'best James

Bond ever'! For those of you that have perhaps never liked the Bonds characterized in the past, I defy you not to enjoy this movie. It has a solid and believable plot, its twists and turns will keep you guessing, and, I believe, will hold your interest until the end. You'll just have to see how it turns out and how all its intricacies are resolved.

I'm off to watch it again! And I already know what happens!

Showing Dec 14th - Three Holes 2.00pm - £2.00 each (Cert 12A)
RWBG



S & H
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Steven Horne

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The Alan Russell Christmas Column



For the December column I thought I would deviate from the editors original request to write about Euximoor people and places and muse on Christmases past. My late father told me his most enjoyable Christmas present was made by his smallholder father, a knocked up threshing machine drum and elevator, driven by a belt from an upturned bicycle with a belt from a tireless rear wheel to a pulley on the drum, it gave him and his friends endless pleasure. One year when I did not receive the present I hoped for my mother told me this true story. Her father was killed in 1917, with no known grave, or memorial. Consequently her mother was widowed with 3 small children under 5 and existing on a pension of 50p per week and what she could earn herself. When mum was about 7 she dearly wished for a 10p dolls tea service, never having had anything like that, but delving into her hanging stocking on Christmas morning she was heart broken to find a pair of long thick brown woollen socks instead. When she was older her mother told her she had to weigh up whether to get her the tea set or make sure she was warm on her feet and legs during the coming cold winter as she could not afford both. For my best present ever my father cycled to 'Father Christmas's' second hand toy auction in his store at Wisbech and purchased a 500 piece Meccano set, complete with the wind up motors, I don't know how Father Christmas got to place it in my pillow case, but I still have it today. My wife Annette says her best present was a second hand dolls house with battery lights in every room, but I think it was my engagement ring, lucky girl!!

Much is made of obesity today but I am certain no one eats like they did in the past, not burgers and chips, but with the heavy manual labour involved in land work then, many calories were needed but strenuous work soon took them off. We would go to my Grandma's at Victoria House down Euximoor on Christmas Eve when Uncles and Aunts and children all sat down at 5.30pm to plates of Ham, Cheese and pickles etc., and jellies and cakes. Since it was a strict Methodist home, drink was tea, Corona, Best yet (that's got a lot of you wondering), and home made cordials, alcohol never got a look in.

Continued next page

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5 LETTER
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ISAAC
KENGE
MAGGY
PRICE

6 LETTER
BARKIS
GEORGE
JEMIMA
NOAKES
PHOEBE
SLOPPY
SMOUCH
TOM TIX
YAWLER

7 LETTER
AKERMAN
RICHARD
SNAWLEY
TINY TIM
WOBBLER

8 LETTER
BLATHERS
MRS BOKUM
PICKWICK
STIGGINS
TOM SMART
WHIFFERS

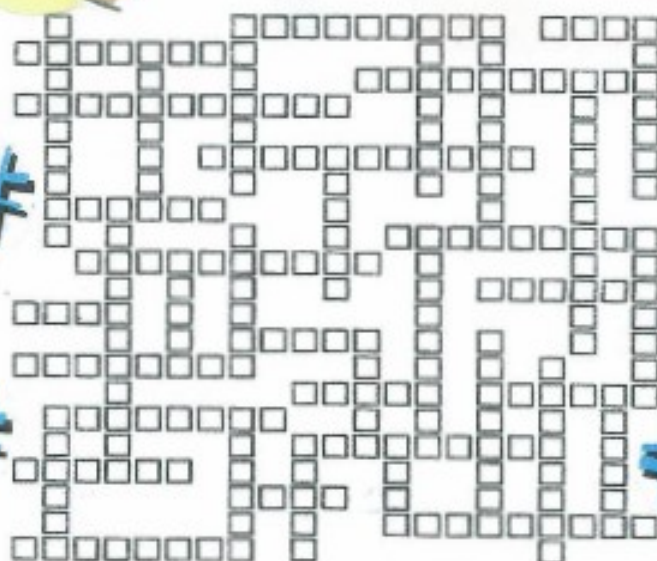
9 LETTER
AMY DORRIT
MISS PROSS
MRS MARKER
PUGSTYLES
SILAS WEGG
TOM CRIPPS
URIAH KEOP

10 LETTER
JACK MALDON
MICK WALKER

11 LETTER
DICK WILKINS
FANNY DORRIT
JACOB MARLEY
OLIVER TWIST

*What
the
Dickens!*

- ☐ BRANDY
- ☐ CANDLES
- ☐ CAROL SINGERS
- ☐ CHIMNEY
- ☐ CHRISTMAS TREE
- ☐ DECORATIONS
- ☐ DONDER
- ☐ ELVES
- ☐ FUN
- ☐ GAMES
- ☐ HOLLY
- ☐ ICE
- ☐ IVY
- ☐ JOY
- ☐ LANTERN
- ☐ LAUGHTER
- ☐ NUTS
- ☐ PARTY
- ☐ PUNCH
- ☐ SNOWBALL
- ☐ SNOWFALL
- ☐ TOYS
- ☐ YULETIDE



Using the telephone keypad, can you work out Santa's message?

4,5,5,5,6 3,3,2,7, 4, 6,2,9,
2,3, 5,2,8,3, 8,6,6,4,4,4,8,
7,5,3,2,7,3, 7,8,8, 3,4,6,6,3,7,
4,6, 8,4,3, 6,8,3,6, 2,7, 4,
4,2,8,3, 7,4,9, 6,6,7,3,
2,6,6,8,4,6,3,6,8,7,
8,6, 2,7,6,7,7,



QZ	ABC	DEF
1	2	3
GHI	JKL	MNO
4	5	6
PRS	TUV	WXY
7	8	9

Happy Christmas

ENHYSEBICNDLEKL
YLOYDSCLYEMSYEF
NLOSENHRCSISLESU
PTLMROAOJOYRNEN
AHAORERRENTNTVL
RGCYHAGNBSEOFLS
TCSVTLRNAECSAEA
YSHISEAMISIFTGN
HUOITETUNSWAUP
RNLNMSLOGOLOOUN
SGAEINWDNHDONLA
OLORTBESNWTCRNO
TYHNAIOYIAHECAL
ECLLADDLTECHRN
ORLLELLELEGREDNOD

And remember to say a very happy Christmas to everyone!
MERRY CHRISTMAS! (P.S. Have a good one!) #





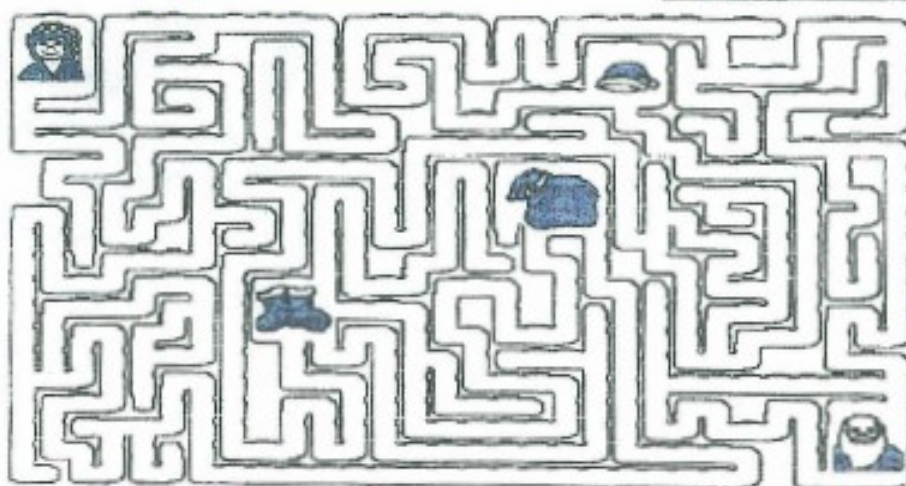
WHO'S BEEN
NAUGHTY
OR NICE...



Christmas Crossword

Make all the words fit into this crossword.
Each word is only used once.

ELF
TOY
GIFT
BELL
TREE
STAR
SANTA
COMET
CUPID
VIXEN
CANDY
FROSTY
WREATH
DASHER
DONNER
SLEIGH
DANCER
CHIMNEY
BLITZEN
RUDOLPH
PRANCER
SNOWMAN
PRESENTS
REINDEER



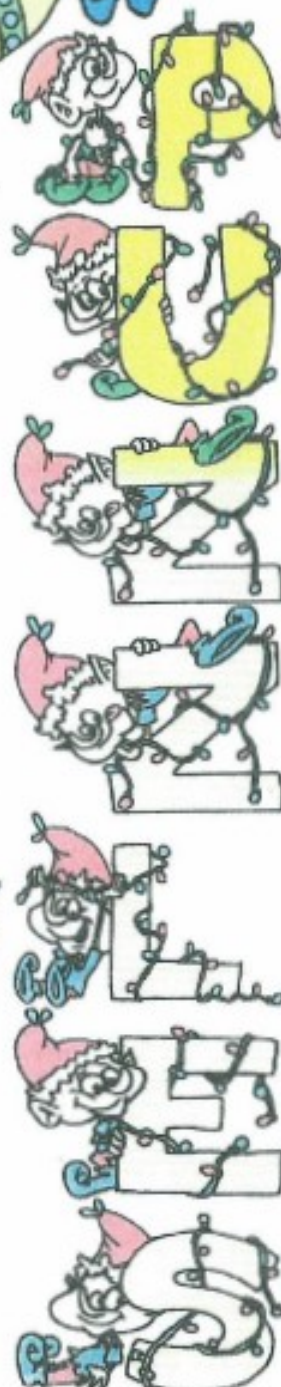
Help the Elf get Santa ready



DO YOU KNOW WHY THE
FESTIVE SEASON IS NAMED
THUS? Because Christmas has -



2.



3. NEW CAROLS FOR COMPUTER ADDICTS



Happily Addicted to the Web (to the tune of "Winter Wonderland")

Doorbell rings, I'm not list'nin',
From my mouth drool is glist'nin',
I'm happy ~ although
My boss let me go ~
Happily addicted to the Web!

All night long I sit clickin',
Unaware time is tickin',
There's beard on my cheek,
Same clothes for a week,
Happily addicted to the Web!

Friends come by; they shake me,
Saying "Whoa man!"
Don'cha know tonight it's caroltime?
With a wistful shrug I mutter,
"No man! ~ I just discovered
Carol is online!"

I don't phone, don't send faxes,
Don't go out, don't pay taxes,
Who cares if someday
They drag me away?
I'm happily addicted to the web!

Violent Night!

(to the tune of "Silent Night")

Silent Mac! Broken Mac!
System bombed, screen went black!
Books suggested stuff; I tried it all:
Shift key, desktop file, clean reinstall.
Now my deadline is tight,
'Cos this Mac's been silent all night!

Violent night! Horrible night!
Lost my cool, filled with spite!
Threw my Mac out the balcony door
Watched it fall from the 20th floor.
Now I'm sleeping in peace;
Thank God I had it on lease!



NAME THAT CHRISTMAS CAROL!

1. Bleached Yule.
2. Castaneous-coloured seed, vesicated in an unrestricted conflagration.
3. Singular festive yearning for the twin anterior incisors.
4. Exclaim at righteous darkness.
5. Subject arrival time 2400 hours weather cloudless.
6. "Loyal followers advance!"
7. Array the corridor.
8. Far off in a livestock feeder.
9. Young bantam male percussionist
10. Us a monarchical triad.
11. Nocturnal noiselessness.
12. Jehovah relaxeth blithe chevaliers
13. Wrapped in scarlet, talons en route to borough.
14. Frozen precipitation commence.
15. Proceed and enlighten at the pinnacle.
16. Valentino a quadruped with a vermillion proboscis?
17. Query regarding identity of infant progeny.
18. Delight for this planet.
19. Give attention to the melodious celestial beings introduction.
20. The dozen festive 24hr. Intervals.

(answers on inside back page)



Solve these Christmas Riddles using the code below

A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	I	J	K	L	M
24	27	28	29	30	31	32	33	34	35	36	37	38

N	O	P	Q	R	S	T	U	V	W	X	Y	Z
39	40	41	42	43	44	45	46	47	48	49	50	51

Why does Santa Claus have three gardens?

84 75 - 20 - 35	61 55 - 28 - 25	40 26 39 - 12 - 0 - 0	55 77 - 22 - 37	48 67 - 15 - 27	50 72 - 17 - 32
--------------------	--------------------	--------------------------	--------------------	--------------------	--------------------

What does a cat on a beach have in common with Christmas?

53 41 73 51 87 - 9 - 15 - 34 - 22 - 37	35 60 43 84 82 - 7 - 23 - 17 - 18 - 38
---	---

What do you get when you cross a snowman with a vampire?

35 68 51 70 88 52 45 73 40 - 4 - 25 - 11 - 26 - 21 - 25 - 11 - 28 - 10

What does Santa clean his Sleigh with?

54 43 48 47 88 - 28 - 3 - 2 - 17 - 23	56 53 - 16 - 22	55 70 81 71 57 30 - 27 - 30 - 45 - 32 - 13 - 0
--	--------------------	---

ANSWERS



1. White Christmas
2. Chestnuts roasting on an open fire
3. All I Want for Christmas is
4. O Holy Night
5. It Came Upon a Midnight Clear
6. O Come All Ye Faithfully
7. Deck the Hall
8. A Way in a Messenger
9. Little Drummer Boy
10. We Three Kings
11. Silent Night
12. God Rest Ye Merry Gentlemen
13. Santa Claus Is Coming To Town
14. Let It Snow
15. Go Tell It On the Mountain
16. Rudolph the Red Nosed Reindeer
17. What Child Is This?
18. Joy To the World
19. Hark! The Herald Angels Sing
20. The Twelve Days of Christmas



Most of us stayed overnight and after presents for the children had been opened, milking the cows, feeding the horses, pigs etc., a large breakfast of fried potatoes, eggs, bacon and sausage meat with plenty of bread and best dairy butter was devoured. We kids would go out to play ready for a 1 o'clock feed again. As it was War time a caponised cockerel was the main meat or occasionally a fattened goose. Christmas puddings cooked in the copper earlier in the year when we all had a stir of the mixture beforehand, was served with the usual silver threepenny bits and custard (war time recipe of course). Although it was in the '40s most people on the land fared reasonably well with portions mostly supplemented by home grown vegetables, bottled and canned fruits and preserves and a back yard pig fed on scraps which a local butcher would come and kill, him taking half for his trouble and the rest of the joints for the owner. Afternoon feeding, milking and racking up finished we would all sit down for tea about 5 o'clock.

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- Poor quality work is visible on the roof, driveway, or property
- Your neighbour appears anxious or distressed
- Your neighbour visits the bank, building society, or post office more frequently, particularly if they are accompanied by a trader

What can I do?

- ✓ Ask your neighbour in private - in person or on the phone - if things are OK
- ✓ If they are displeased, suggest calling a relative or carer on their behalf
- ✓ Note any vehicle registration numbers
- ✓ Keep hold of any flyers you have received through your door
- ✓ Ask if the trader has left any paperwork and put it in a clean food bag
- ✓ If you suspect a crime, call the Citizens Advice consumer helpline on 03454 04 05 06 or your local trading standards office
- ✓ If the situation with the trader becomes volatile, call the police



For more information, contact your local trading standards service or Citizens Advice Bureau or visit www.tradingstandards.gov.uk/nwinfo

#stoproguetraders







A Christmas warning! - From Cambridgeshire Fire and Rescue

IT is the time of year when we're enjoying a tippie with friends, cooking heaps of delicious food and decking the halls. Please make sure your festive cheer doesn't go up in smoke:

- ❄ Kitchens are a fire hotspot, so take care while cooking festive fancies. Never leave cooking unattended and turn off appliances when not in use.
- ❄ Switch off fairy lights and unplug them before you go to bed or leave the house. Make sure they conform to the British Standard and never overload plug sockets.
- ❄ Be careful when drinking alcohol while smoking or cooking.
- ❄ Finally, make sure you have a working smoke alarm which is correctly fitted and works. And NEVER take the batteries out to power presents!

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Minutes of the Monthly
WI Meeting held in the
dining room of Townley
School on
November 11th 2014

theWI
INSPIRING WOMEN



Christchurch
Garden
Club

Peggy welcomed members, guests and the speaker.

A minutes silence was observed.

Apologies: Florrie.

Minutes were signed

Correspondence:

The events arranged by the federation for 2015 were read out.

A letter about the arrangements for the 2015 AGM

AOB:

A reminder about the stamp collection.

Nominations for the committee. Committee agreed to keep same positions for next year.

Birthdays:

Wendy, Doris T, Margaret H.

Speaker:

Peter Clayton MBE gave a very knowledgeable and interesting talk on the author Dorothy L Sayers. At one time she lived in Christchurch where her father was rector. It is thought that she set one of her books "The Nine Taylors" in this area and wrote it while living in the village.

Competition:

Homemade Christmas Bookmark. 5pts. Beryl, Wendy, Anne S, Susan Q, Val, Sue N. 4pts. Sandra L, Margaret S.

Next Month:

Trekking in South East Asia – Holly and Dan Bax.

Competition: A holiday souvenir.

During the evening Peggy gave a brief report on the Baton exchange with Michael Portillo, who as expected, was an excellent speaker,

Well! Well! Well! Darlings!

Another month has gone by. November – was time for our 'Fish Supper' evening on Tuesday the 25th. Always enjoyed by club members, Peggy, bless her, had made up 'mushy peas'; then a special treat from Marion and Peggy – delicious fresh 'home-baked' mince pies. Members brought along their own favourite 'tipple' - to aid the digestion!

Afterwards we engaged in a serious game of 'Card Bingo'. We were very well behaved. After all, there were prizes to be won! Cheating is frowned upon during each game. The 'casino' hour was followed by our raffle. A regular happening each month at our club evenings.

Our 'flower competition' has been rather irregular this year, but a worthy winner was Jean again, who tied with Bubbles.

Now my Darlings – our Coach Trip for December 7th is getting well booked up, but we still have a few seats available and Marion will take your bookings on 01354 638230. This is for our 'Christmas Shopping' event. Pick-up from Christchurch at 8.30am and off we'll go for a really relaxing and happy day to two venues. No hassles with parking, put your shopping on board the coach, and enjoy your lunch and sandwiches when it suits you. Then relax in the coach after a grand day out on the way home to Christchurch.

For any enquiries telephone Marion (Sec) on 01354 638230 or Bubbles (Chair) on 01354 638024.



Bubbles



Our meeting in November was a most enjoyable evening.

Val Ware came and helped us to make sugar freesias.

We had time to paint them and were very pleased with our efforts.

All in all it was a very nice evening.

At our December meeting we will make Christmas baskets. I will bring nearly everything. but if you could all bring wire cutters and artificial greenery holly, ivy, mistletoe it will help.

We will have our usual raffle and Christmas nibbles.

The committee and I would like to wish you all a very merry Christmas and a happy new year.

Harry Sparrow's

Cycle Shop - by John Sparrow

The shop was built in 1934 in Church Road Christchurch, next to the new bungalow built by Mr Harold Means of Upwell, which was to be my mother & fathers home after their marriage. They were



married in 1934 at Christchurch Parish Church in the morning and went to Hunstanton in the afternoon in a Bull Nose

Morris Car kindly loaned by Mr Frank Scott, Harry's employer, then back to work the next morning.

The shop sold new cycles, Raleigh, Phillips, Triumph & Hercules all British made and they were delivered by van from Birmingham & Nottingham. Second hand cycles were also very much part of his business alongside mending punctures, replacing spokes which was a recurring problem, as today, the fenland roads have always had pot holes and hitting one of those on a cycle would break the spokes. Harry could build a cycle wheel with rim, hub, spokes & nipples from memory in 30 minutes.

Brown Bros and Johnson & Burton both of Norwich were trade suppliers of many items that could be purchased for Harry's Cycle shop. Brushes, buckets, wellington boots, spades, 2 tine straw forks, 4 tine muck forks, potato ladles, sugar beet forks, scythes and hoes.

A large wooden box would be delivered prior to November 5th from the Standard Firework Company. Dad had to apply for a Fire Arms Licence to be able to sell rockets, bangers, jumping jacks and roman candles to name just a few. Lads would be queuing outside his shop awaiting opening to buy bangers. (Really a queue in Christchurch to make a purchase)

In the 1930's he mended kettles, pots & pans, also replaced springs in windup gramophones and repaired radios which had valves in. The radios were either powered by batteries or the accumulator which was a rechargeable glass bodied battery.

Torch batteries and bulbs were important because there was no electricity in the village until the 1950's. When electricity arrived there was another trade to go into, electric bulbs, plugs, cable and fuse wire. He started to repair electric fires, flat irons and replace elements in kettles. Paraffin was sold from a 200

used for heating and cooking. Customers would bring their own 1 or 2 gallon cans to be filled. Oh how times have changed!

A tobacco licence was also held, farm workers would call before 7am on their way to work to buy their daily needs, also sold were No 7 razor blades to shave the fenland chins.

The shop was heated by a cast iron stove called a tortoiseshell fuelled by coke. This would be lit by my mother around 3pm so it was warm and ready for the evening trade closing around 9pm.

During the Second World War, the field opposite the shop was owned by Mr Dick Beeston. A search light unit was installed for the early part of the war, looking for those German Aircraft. Later this was replaced with a prisoner of war camp for the Italian Solders. During the day most of the solders worked on local farms. Dad needed a new door on the shop and a prisoner called Puggie who was a skilled carpenter made and fitted the door for him. It remained in the shop until it's demolition in 2010. Most evenings one of the prisoners would bring dad his supper over, they always had plenty of food especially fish and spaghetti. Dad was able to count up to ten in Italian before Puggie returned home.

As a young boy I spent many happy hours in the shop with hammers, spanners and screwdrivers. He



taught me so many skills such as brazing, soldering and welding. Mending punctures was an everyday job. To find where the tube was punctured, we had a small bath filled with water, you put air in the tube placing it in the water and watching for the bubbles to rise, you would put your finger over the hole trying not to lose it and proceed to put a patch on it. In the winter it was a cold job as you would have to break the ice on the water before you could use it. As a boy I repaired the front wheels and dad the rear as they were more difficult because of the chain. Price to repair a puncture was 1shilling & sixpence (7.5p) today.

My Dad left school at the age of 13. He started work on Lavenders Farm in Padgetts Road (now no longer) then moved to J.F. Scott's and became their lorry driver, driving a Morris Commercial. Dad passed so many of his self-taught skills on to me, those skills have been very useful to me through my life and is a constant reminder of dad, and it makes me very proud of him.

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Christchurch Residents Association

Our November meeting was attended by Josh Rutherford of the Local Highways Improvement Initiative. He informed us that our suggested alteration to the proposed 'Give Way' feature in Upwell Road, which linked in with the pavement widening scheme, could not be done at this time, but that an additional 'Give Way' feature could form part of next year's bid if some additional funding (i.e. 10% of the total cost) could be found. Josh was very informative and helpful. He answered many residents questions in great detail. We thanked him very much for coming over all the way from Newmarket in his own time.

Our Chairman informed us that the proposed Neighbourhood Watch scheme would be up and running in Church Road and Upwell Road before Christmas. The signs had been ordered and the first five financed by the Parish Council at a cost of £70. Co-Ordinators were also now in place and it was hoped that other parts of the village would join the scheme in the New Year.

'Speedwatch' equipment would be loaned to us early in the New Year to monitor speeding traffic in Upwell Road and Church Road. Owners of any vehicles over the limit would be written to by the local police once they were informed; that's speed, registration, and photographic evidence. This scheme would be re-run from time to time in different village locations throughout 2015. Owners of any vehicle caught three times would be prosecuted.

Richard updated us on developments via the New Village Hall Committee. He had volunteered to produce a 'Tender Pack' for the project. It was hoped that all the final 't's' could be crossed and 'i's' dotted by a Working Group who would thrash out the final details before Christmas. The project would then be advertised and put out to tender in early January, Constructor/Developer finalized by mid-February, and work would start ASAP thereafter.

Regarding the ongoing problem of 'dog-fouling' in the village, it was made clear that it's the owners, not the dogs, that are the problem. Some new posters had been obtained and would be placed at strategic points around the village. It was hoped that these would have some effect because –

"There's No Such Thing as a Dog-Poo Fairy!"

There had been a request from The New Heron team for Christmas anecdotes, stories, or jokes. And *Penelope Keith's – Hidden Villages* as reported in last months issue could now be seen on *More4 – Tuesdays – 9.00pm.*

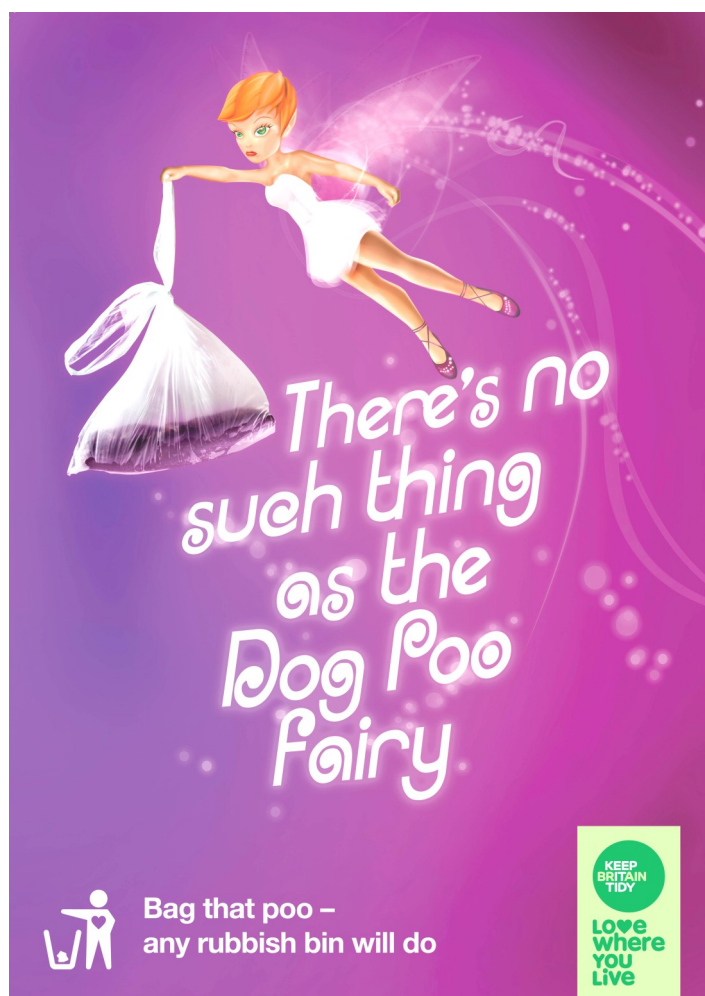
The latest planning application for Plot 1 on Upwell

Road was supported with no objections. However, one resident who had recently purchased a property nearby complained that this development had not been highlighted when the search was done. This was, unfortunately, a problem he needed to take up with FDC.

The Remembrance Day wreath organized by Sarah Craven had been lain at the service by Colin Steenson on behalf of the CRA. Both were thanked for their efforts.

The date of the next meeting would be Wednesday December 9th. There would be no meeting in January 2015.

The meeting closed at 9.45pm after much discussion.



CHRISTCHURCH PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of a meeting of the Christchurch Parish Council on Monday 13th October 2014 in the Sports Pavilion, Christchurch

Present	Cllrs: N Russell (Chair); J Bliss; S Freeland; W Poole; H Poole; R Gladwin; W Sutton (FDC); F Yeulett (CCC); J Richardson (Clerk); and 6 members of the public
Apologies for Absence:	Cllrs: W Beswick; M Tanfield (FDC)
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) c) Sensitive Pecuniary Interest)
	Cllrs Russell, H Poole & W Poole Item 110/14 Cllr Bliss Item 108/14

19.39-19.50 Public Time

Members of the public were interested in the double yellow lines item on the agenda.

Neighborhood Watch is in the process of being set up and Church Road residents would like to make a start, the Parish Council were asked if they could fund the signs. Details to be sent to Clerk and included on next month's agenda.

Clerk

A date is being arranged with Highways to discuss the proposed scheme and the alternative (change of give way priority) suggested by the Residents Association, date of meeting to be passed to Parish Council. Interest in "Drive Slowly" sign in Euximoor Drove and it has been said that "Charlottes Way" Charity are prepared to provide some funds.

Dog fouling on paths is still an issue.

Privet Hedge overhanging footpath, address to be found out.

Gully opposite the Church keeps filling with leaves, report to Highways

The fund for the Pool at the school has gone over £8K.

Clerk

Lorries are still exceeding the speed limit through the village and Cllr

Russell is to speak to local lorry companies

Cllr Russell

The trees at the school are overhanging Crown Road and are a potential safety hazard. Clerk to discuss with Highways

Clerk

096/14 Confirmation of Minutes

The minutes of the meeting held on 8th September 2014 were Proposed for approval by Cllr Russell, AGREED and signed

Agreed

The minutes of the Extra-Ordinary Meeting held on 29th September 2014 were Proposed for approval by Cllr Russell, AGREED and signed

Agreed

097/14 Matters Arising

Playsafety (RoSPA) Inspections cancelled for the future

Letter sent to claim back drainage rates overpaid re Plots of Land sales

Letter sent to Solicitors re Poole Field

098/14 Police Matters

Crimes

March Road, Tipps End, Theft of Cycle stolen from outside front of house

EMERGING ISSUES

There have been a number of thefts of diesel and heating oil across the rural area in the past month. There has also been a theft of motor vehicles stolen which have been left unlocked and with the keys in the ignition.

099/14 County Councillors Report

Cllr Yeulett reported that there is a full council meeting tomorrow at Cambridge County Council with motions to ask the Chief Executive to look at the way that Councils in the area deliver services

There are still savings required at County level to balance the budgets,

and there could be impacts on street lighting, gritting, and asking communities to do more over the next 5-6 years.
 Cllr Sutton echoed the view on savings at District Council level.
 He has spoke to a member of the public who indicates that the tree pruning on Recreation Ground was not done very well (willow tree).
 Cllr Yeulett reported that there is a drop in meeting, regarding the recent flooding, to speak with residents in March Library 14/10/14. Richard (The Heron) will attend to put Christchurch point of view.
 Cllr Sutton reported that consultation is still ongoing for the re-cycling centres.

100/14	Donations Discussion took place re request from Citizens Advice Bureau and it was Proposed by Cllr Russell and AGREED that there would be no donation given	Agreed
101/14	Recreation Ground a) It was Proposed by Cllr Russell and AGREED that the Terms and Conditions, and estimate of costs supplied by Bowers, to deal with the Charities Merger, be signed. b) One quote re the removal of Play equipment has been received and two further quotes are now to be sought c) Metal bin insert quote has been asked for by Councillor Russell from Sharman's and this is still awaited d) The grass cutting of the Recreation Ground has been looked at and members of the public are happy with the latest cut e) Community Payback team are to paint the Skate Park, when there is a dry Monday f) Bank Accounts are:- Current Account £5054.75 Saver Account £7250.28	Agreed Cllr Russell
102/14	Village Hall Committee a) Planning permission has been approved for the building of the new Village Hall b) The work on the new footpath on Upwell Road is still ongoing and more information should be available in the next few days c) Email has been received from FDC to confirm that the Rural Capital Grant from FDC is ring fenced d) It was Proposed by Cllr Russell and AGREED that the next Village Hall Committee Meeting to be held on Monday 20 th October 2014 at 7.30p.m. e) A donation of £100 has been received from "The Little Local" and their customers	Agreed Clerk
103/14	Village Litter Pick The village litter pick will take place in conjunction with the cleaning of the war memorial on 25 th October and equipment for 10 people to be sourced from FDC	Clerk
104/14	The Openness of Local Government Bodies Regulations 2014 The report attached at Appendix 1 was noted and Proposed by Cllr Russell, for adoption, and AGREED. Changes to Standing Orders and future agenda's to be made	Agreed Clerk
105/14	Highways a) Awaiting meeting with Highways re 2014/15 Highways Bid b) Panel Meeting on 24 th October re 2015/16 Highways Bid is to be attended by Clerk c) Meeting on Public Rights of Way and Paths was attended by Cllr Russell and The Clerk. A request to move Pathway 5 has been received and it was Proposed by Cllr Bliss, and AGREED that the Parish Council have no objections.	Clerk Clerk
105/14	Highways a) Awaiting meeting with Highways re 2014/15 Highways Bid b) Panel Meeting on 24 th October re 2015/16 Highways Bid is to be attended by Clerk c) Meeting on Public Rights of Way and Paths was attended by Cllr Russell and The Clerk.	Clerk

A request to move Pathway 5 has been received and it was Proposed by Cllr Bliss, and AGREED that the Parish Council have no objections.

d) A request has been received by the Parish Council to look into a "Drive Slowly" sign at the end of Euximoor Drove. This was discussed and it was Proposed by Cllr Russell and AGREED that the Clerk investigates the possibility of this and also the costs involved.

Clerk

e) A request for double yellow lines on Church Road was discussed and it was decided not to take this forward at this time but it will be kept under review.

Clerk

Street Lighting

a) Email rec'd from Balfour Beatty saying that the street light lantern on Green Lane FPC2 is damaged. Cllr H Poole is to check if the light is damaged and inform the Clerk. If it is working then the Clerk is to inform Balfour Beatty that no quote is required.

**Cllr H Poole
Clerk**

106/14

Income & Expenditure

a) 2nd Inst Precept 14/15 FDC £4473.00 rec'd

b) Members considered and **APPROVED** the following accounts for payment:

APPROVED

J Richardson	Clerks Salary	£289.18
J Richardson	Expenses re Wreath	£25.00
Christchurch Village Resource Centre	The Heron	£80.00
PKF Littlejohn	External Audit	£480.00
J Seaton	Poole Field Rent	£206.25
L Negus	Poole Field Rent	£206.25
	TOTALS	£1286.68

c) Clerk reported on the current bank balances at end September 2014:-

Community Account £56,786.62

Business Bonus £146,481.32

TOTALS: £203,267.94

Current earmarked reserved funds are:-

New Village Hall £187,871.59

Recreation Ground £75.07

Mrs Spall Request £200.00

d) Payment for re-cycling credits are to be paid annually from 2015

e) Budget performance report has been circulated to all Councillors, currently running to budget

107/14

Concurrent Functions Grant

Meeting at Fenland on 16th October 2014 to discuss the Concurrent Functions Grant.

108/14

Cllr Bliss left the room

Planning/Development

a) F/YR14/0786/TRTPO Works to 6no Ash Trees covered by TPO

02/2003. Land South West of Green Lane, Christchurch

It was Proposed by Cllr W Poole, and AGREED, that the Parish Council have no objections to raise.

**Agreed
Clerk**

109/14

Cllr Bliss returned

Correspondence

a) Rural Forum results (emailed 12/09/14)

b) Rural Services Network Bulletin (emailed 12/09/14, 22/09/14, 29/09/14)

c) Police & Crime Commissioner update (emailed 12/09/14, 15/09/14)

d) Invite to Citizens Advice Bureau AGM & Donation request (emailed 15/09/14)

e) Independent Living Fund update (emailed 15/09/14)

f) Cambridgeshire Children's Centres update (emailed 15/09/14)

g) Cambs Acre Invitation, and venue change, to AGM

h) Welney Emergency Plan

i) Ouse Washes Landscape Partnership (OWLP) Annual Conference on Wednesday 19th November 2014 in St Ives

- 111/14 The Chairman brought this item forward
Audit Report
 Audit report received and circulated, notice posted on Notice Board for required timescale. Observations noted for next year, asset register amended for next year
- 110/14 **A Motion to exclude the Press & Public was Proposed by Cllr Russell and AGREED** Agreed
 Cllrs Russell, W Poole and H Poole left the room and Cllr Bliss took over the chair
Allotments Agreed
 Further action authorised was Proposed by Cllr Gladwin and AGREED
- 112/14 Cllr Russell returned to the room and took over the chair
Agenda Items/Next Meeting ALL COUNCILLORS
 The date of the next Parish Council Meeting will be Monday 10 November 2014. Items to be included on the agenda should be with the Clerk by Monday 3 October 2014. Meeting Closed at 9.23pm

The Clerk has prepared an Appendix entitled "The Openness of Local Government Bodies Regulations 2014" which can be seen on the website www.theheron.info - the Parish Council Minutes link and Oct 14 - at the end!



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TOWNLEY SCHOOL

Christchurch, Wisbech, Cambs. PE14 9NA

Email: office@townley.cambs.sch.uk

Website: www.townleyschool.org.uk



Tel/Fax: 01354 638229

Well done to Townley - Winners of 5 a side 'B' Team Football Competition, one of the Village Schools' Sports Association organised events. Congratulations! Team -Captain Ryan, Aaron, Alex, Brandon, Elliot, Frankee and Oliver.



At Townley all pupils took part in the Chitty Chitty Bang Bang reading scheme. Our picture shows all pupils who completed the scheme and obtained certificates of achievement. Well done to all!

We are trying to collect the foils off the Tubs 4 Tablets Flora/Tesco initiative.— any would be greatly appreciated. There is a collection box in reception—next to the Morrisons one!

Dates

8th / 9th December - School Christmas Presentation

16th December—Christingle service—details to follow

17th December—Whole school trip to see Aladdin

19th Dec, Autumn Term Closes

6th Jan Spring Term Opens

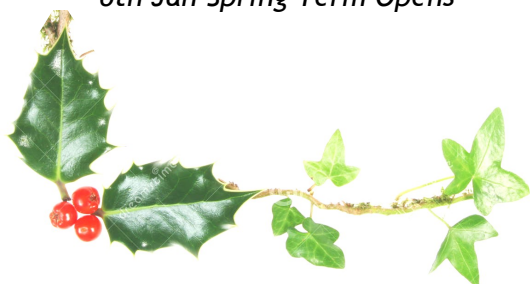
2015 Calendar

On sale from the end of November 2014. £3.50 each

All proceeds to our Swimming Pool Fund



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



CHRISTMAS CROSSWORD

Solution next month as usual.

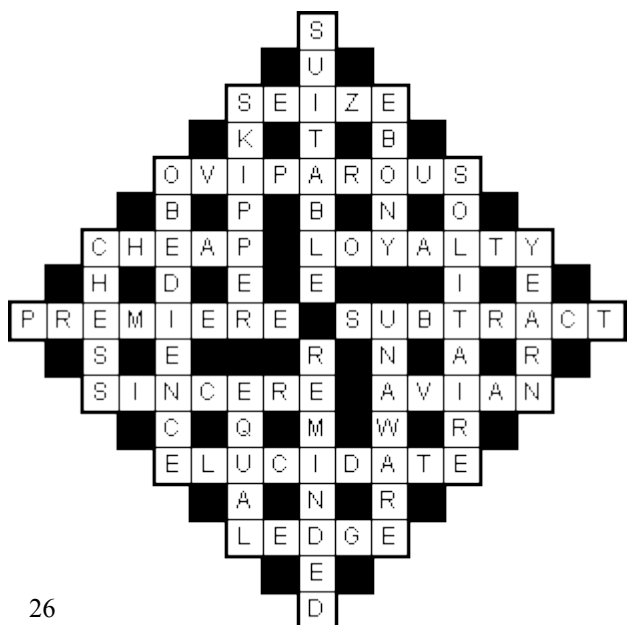
Across

- 2 The fermented juice of apples (5)
- 3 One of the rear quarters of a pig - a Christmas Dinner delicacy (3)
- 5 A fruit that's not given if you don't care (3)
- 6 One who does not behave like a gentleman at the party (3)
- 7 Auld Lang ____ a song traditionally sung on New Years Eve (4)
- 8 see 17 across
- 9 Hebrew judge and priest 1 Sam 1v9 (3)
- 11 Monday to Friday evenings (10)
- 15 The house should be _____ at Christmas (9)
- 17 and 8 Somewhere to hang the baubles (4,4)
- 18 A symbol or adored picture (4)
- 19 Troughs from which cattle eat (7)
- 21 Needed for a white Christmas (4)
- 22 The writer of A Christmas Carol, Charles ... (7)
- 23 A spirit distilled from the fermented juice of grapes (6)

Down

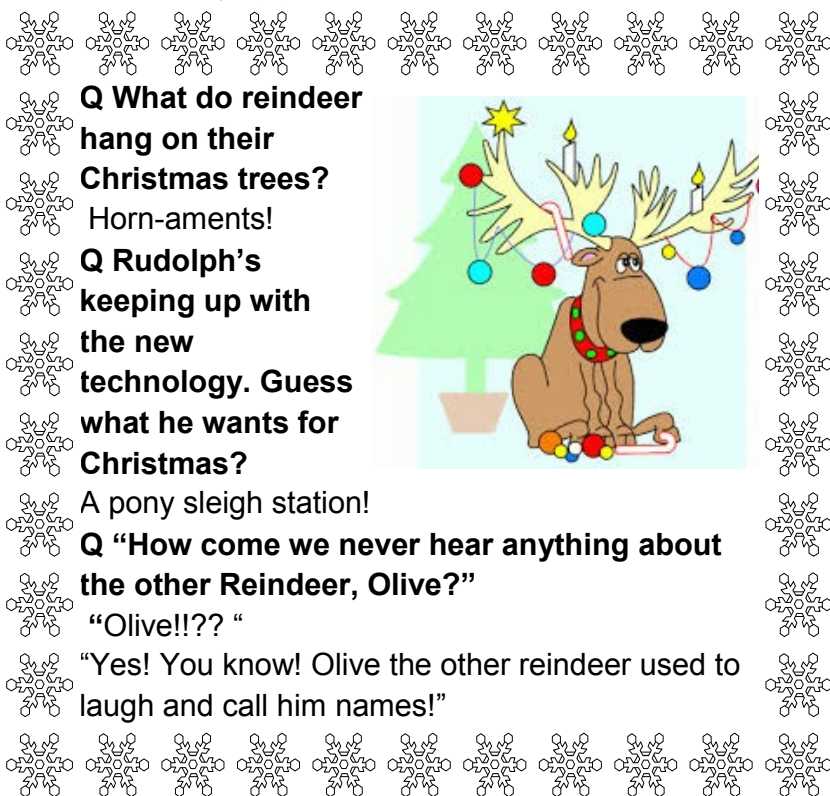
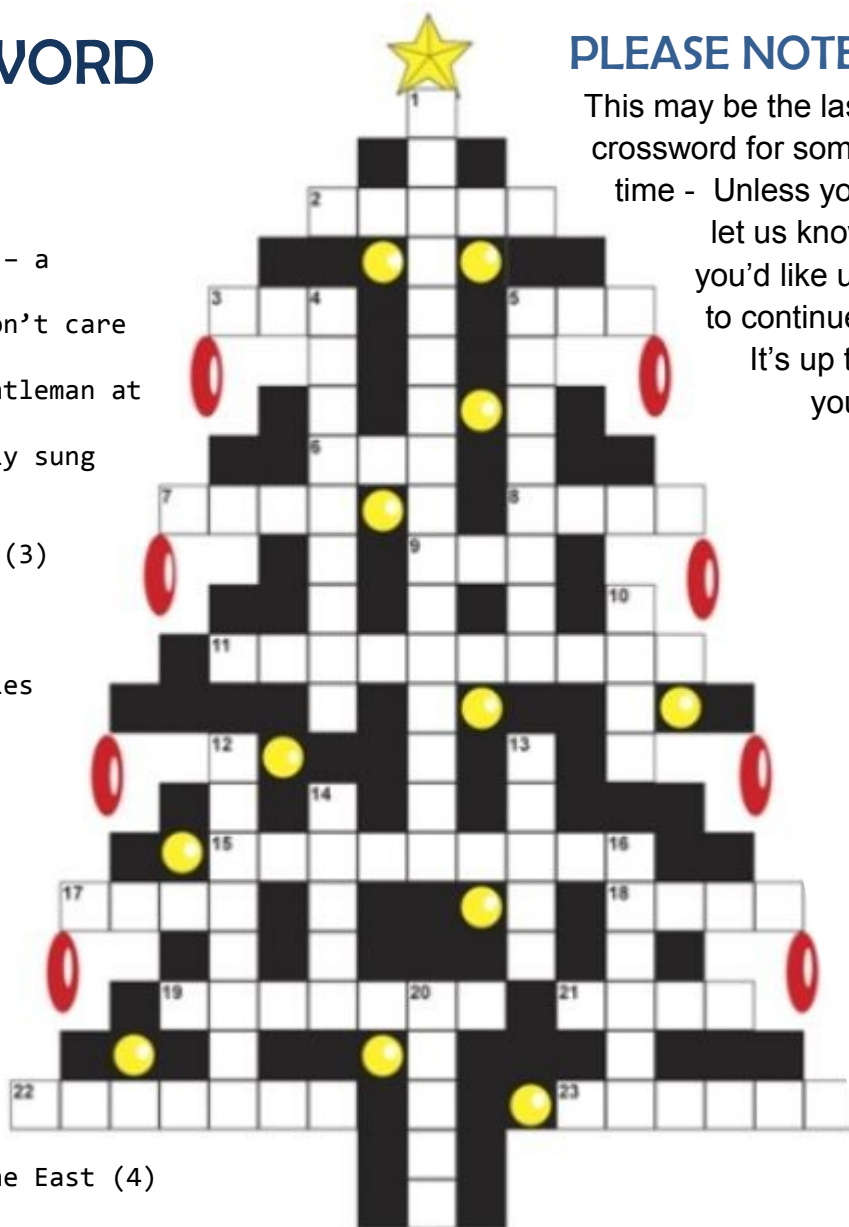
- 1 Rudolph is one (3-5,8)
- 4 Covered tarts, eaten around Christmas (5,4)
- 5 A time of eating and jollity (8)
- 10 What the Three Wise Men saw in the East (4)
- 12 Too young to buy a drink? (5-3)
- 13 What is done eagerly to the Christmas pudding (5)
- 14 That which often covers the Christmas cake (5)
- 16 It mostly takes place in the middle of Christmas Day (6)
- 20 A dinner cooked in the oven (5)

Last Month's Solution



PLEASE NOTE:

This may be the last crossword for some time - Unless you let us know you'd like us to continue. It's up to you!



Q What do reindeer hang on their Christmas trees?
Horn-aments!

Q Rudolph's keeping up with the new technology. Guess what he wants for Christmas?

A pony sleigh station!

Q "How come we never hear anything about the other Reindeer, Olive?"

"Olive!!??"

"Yes! You know! Olive the other reindeer used to laugh and call him names!"

Who pulled Santa's Sleigh?

There are ten subspecies of reindeer. Of these only the Svalbard reindeer (*Rangifer tarandus platyrhynchus*) (below) do both sexes retain their antlers during the winter months.



However, according to bigots in the ADFG (*Alaska Department of Fish & Game*) whilst both male and female reindeer grow antlers in summer each year, male reindeer drop their antlers at the beginning of winter; usually late November to Mid-December; whereas female reindeer retain their antlers until after they give birth in the spring. The raging feminists in the ADFG use this fact to argue that, therefore; according to every historical depiction of Santa's reindeer; every single one of them, from Rudolph to Blitzen, had to be female! The feminist extremists go on to argue that 'only women' would be able to drag a fat arsed man in a red velvet suit all around the world in one night!

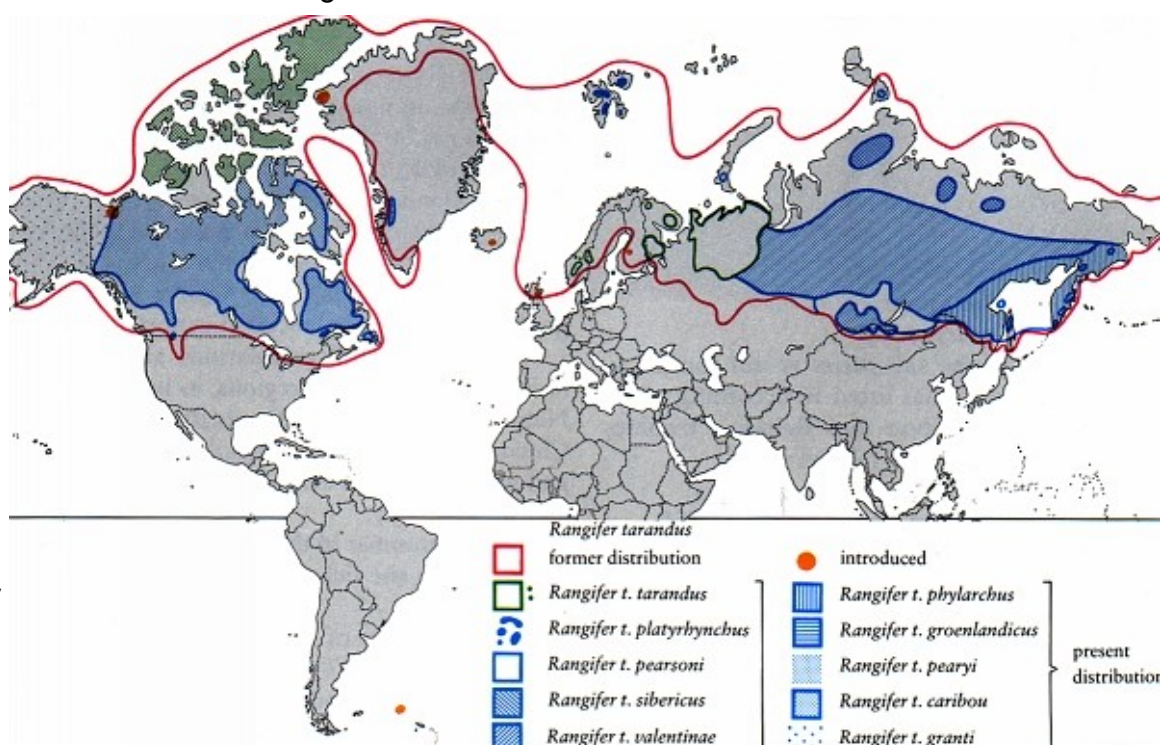
However, this extremist view is based on entirely inaccurate information, relating to the less aerodynamic Norwegian species (*Rangifer tarandus tarandus*) shown above right.

Whilst, superficially at least, this longer legged species may seem more suited to running, this applies only on



'terra firma'. When flying through the thin aired skies of a wintery Christmas Eve, the thicker coat of the Svalbard species offers, not only more protection but also, more aerodynamic lift; each individual coat hair having an aerofoil cross-section. The aerofoil structure of the Svalbard's coat hairs also aids steering as they can 'bristle' them up on one side or the other to suit. This, together with the reduced wind resistance offered by the shorter legs, and smaller antler mass of the Svalbard, make the smaller, plumper species the more likely candidate for pulling Santa's sleigh.

The plumpness of the Svalbard is due to the high energy reserves of fatty deposits needed for their long pre-Christmas flight. Therefore, not only is it the Svalbard that draws Santa's sleigh, but the task was shared equally between genders. Though it is likely that any navigational accuracy was a masculine trait!



"A Merry Christmas!"



The New Heron team consisting of Editorial team, Writers and Distributors

Back Row: Steve Waye, Tony Brown, Richard Guilford, Paul Haresnape, Margaret Beswick

Middle Row: Viv Haresnape, Pauline Hutchins, George Talbot, Sandra Kay, Sheila Smart

Front Row: Alan Russell, Colin Steenson, Anne Atkinson, Alvar Smart

Also on "The Team" but unable to be at the photo shoot:

Peggy Warby, Alma Hughes, Sheila Hoek,

Liz Crinson, Lizzy Harvey-Haws, Morgan Chappell

Photograph by David Yates (weddings and bah mitzvahs by appointment)

From the Team



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.

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