

# The Heron

with extra **CHRISTMAS PUZZLES!**

Community Magazine

December 2015

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

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Santa suffered something of an identity crisis when 1,800 lookalikes turned up at a recent charity run in Sydney, Australia. Afterwards they all celebrated the forthcoming festive season with a barbeque on the beach! – Weird!!  
The 'real' Santa is - four rows from the back ninth one in from the left. But you knew that – didn't you?

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# *Celebrating* THE BIRTH OF *Christ*

"About that time Caesar Augustus ordered a census to be taken throughout the Empire. This was the first census when Quirinius was the governor of Syria. Everyone had to travel to his hometown to be accounted for. So Joseph went from the Galilean town of Nazareth up to Bethlehem in Judah, David's hometown, for the census. As a descendant of David he had to go there. He went with Mary, his fiancée, who was pregnant.

While they were there, the time came for her to give birth. She gave birth to a son, her firstborn. She wrapped Him in a blanket and laid Him in a manger, because there was no room for them in the hostel.

There were shepherds camping in the neighbourhood. They had set night watches over their sheep. Suddenly, God's angel stood among them and God's glory blazed around them. They were terrified. The angel said, "Don't be afraid. I'm here to announce a great and joyful event that is meant for everybody worldwide: A Saviour has just been born in David's town, a Saviour who is Messiah and Master. This is what you're to look for: a baby wrapped in a blanket and lying in a manger."

At once the angel was joined by a huge angelic choir singing God's praises: "Glory to God in the heavenly heights; Peace to all men and women on earth who please Him."

As the angel choir withdrew into heaven, the shepherds talked it over. "Let's get over to Bethlehem as fast as we can and see for ourselves what God has revealed to us." They left, running, and found Mary and Joseph, and the baby lying in the manger. Seeing was believing. They told everyone they met what the angels had said about this child. All who heard the shepherds were impressed.

Mary kept all these things to herself, holding them dear, deep within herself. The shepherds returned and let loose, glorifying and praising God for everything they had heard and seen. It turned out exactly the way they'd been told!" (Luke 2:1-20).

## Letters to the Editor



Dear Richard,

This Halloween I have been made to feel totally vulnerable in my own home and experience what I think was my first panic attack. I am so disappointed in the lack of respect shown by the children and adults in Christchurch this Halloween. In most villages they adopt the no outside light/decorations-no trick or treaters approach and I think we should do the same. I had three groups of trick or treaters and the first was when I was feeding my fourteen month old dinner and the shouting scared him to the point where he wouldn't eat a thing, also on no other occasion would you have to leave a child so young eating because of the risk of choking but persistent knocking forced me to. The second knock at the door was followed by a punch to my door and a boy then running off leaving his friends to apologise for his behaviour. By this point my son was terrified. The third trick or treaters were beyond the worst and most terrifying for the wrong reasons. It was 7.30pm and my son was asleep. I had a knock at the door and then I answered and was greeted by three children screaming. I asked them to keep the noise down because I had a baby sleeping upstairs. The male "grown up" with them then started to shout "shush" whilst staring directly at me in all his attire, mask and wig included. I shut the door then went on to shake and struggle to breathe. This is the first time I have regretted moving to Christchurch.

I'd really appreciate you addressing this issue for the future in the Heron as I'm sure there are others much more vulnerable than me in the village. Unfortunately my partner had to work this year but after this experience I've asked him to never work on Halloween again. I do understand Halloween is meant to be scary but I think this is unacceptable.

I'd appreciate you keeping this anonymous and thank you in advance for your help.  
Name and Address Supplied

*I consider 'trick or treat' a totally abhorrent concept. Basically it's "Give me something or I'll annoy you!" It isn't remotely English or even British but another obscene American import. However, that aside, parents always have a responsibility to know where their children are and what they might be up to. Of course, despite the season, one would have hoped that they would have been taught to moderate their behaviour so as not to go 'over the top' and offend or upset people thereby removing the limited 'fun' element of such activity.*

*I am fortunate in that I have both a dark, scary (to some) frontage to my home, live next to the graveyard and have a dog which barks rather loud when the door is knocked. Thus I am never bothered. On a past occasion, before I lived in Christchurch, on several occasions I turned the tables on such visitors - took their goody bags and, out of sight, dropped a few small blocks of wood in. Thus the 'trick' was on them! They never returned.*

*If you could recognise any of the miscreants you mention, might I suggest you have words with their parents at some convenient moment. There is 'nothing' scary about Halloween - such ghouls and ghosties do not exist! Take heart in the fact that you scared at least one 'gutless' youngster off!*

*Hope this helps a little - Ed'*

Letters continued on page 6



## EDITORIAL

In the light of the recent terrorist atrocities in Paris we need to be thankful for our own security services. Our hearts of course go out to families who have lost loved ones, especially at this festive, and what should be joyous, time of year.

It seems to me that if we all understood each other more, at every level, but especially nation to nation, that such antagonisms would be less likely to occur. Respect for each other's beliefs, even if we don't agree with them, goes a long way to promoting peace and harmony. I have several Muslim friends who are absolutely horrified by recent events. That kind of evil is so not what the Koran promotes.

I remember well when working abroad in Oman and running the band for church services we had a Muslim bongo player who was happy to play with us during our Christian services. On one occasion when our priest had forgotten to designate someone to ring the bells at the consecration, Salim stepped forward and rang them at precisely the correct time. If only the world as a whole could be like that!

We had already planned our features on world cuisine, showing what food other countries partake of at Christmas time. Understanding of each other's cultures can only do good, and bring us all together, with a peaceful and common mind. That's how we will defeat the terrorist; by not allowing them to drive a wedge between us by attempting to promote fear and uncertainty.

As Christians, Buddhists, Muslims, Hindus, or whatever other faiths we may be, let us draw together at this festive time of year. Greet each other in peace, and all agree that peace and harmony is the way forward.

We hope that this edition of The New Heron will go some small way to making your Christmas a happy one with close family and friends around you. Be grateful for that, and that you can enjoy it in peace!

Check out the Christmas Manifestos (pg 8) and the 'Twixtmas Initiative' (pg 22).  
Have a good one!

*Richard*

# 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

**The Little Local** village shop is an Amazon 'Pass my Parcel' parcel shop. You can arrange to have your parcels delivered there.

**The Wednesday Meal Deal** is now open to all at the Dun Cow. Two courses for just £5 on alternate Wednesdays at 1pm. (See Ad Pg14)

**Name the Village Hall** - at November's Parish Council meeting it was proposed - that The New Heron ask readers for their suggestions as to a name for the New Village Hall. However, the following was agreed on Wednesday 18th November at a meeting of the Christchurch Recreation Ground Charity Committee and those other Christchurch residents who attended. It was agreed unanimously that the official name for our new village hall should be Christchurch Community Centre - as it hoped that it will serve as many of the community's needs as is reasonably possible. This decision is due to be ratified at the Parish Council Meeting on December 14th. With the increased ceiling height in the main hall, storage facilities, separate small meeting room, fully fitted kitchen, and bar facilities, together with under floor heating throughout, it should meet most needs. However, we still need to continue our fund raising efforts to provide a portable stage area, PA system, some comfortable padded chairs, and a few more small round tables. So after Christmas let's all renew our efforts so we can have the best fit-out possible.

**Flu Jab Take Up Nationally** has been disappointing according to reports in the media. A 6% fall in take up at surgeries has led to serious worries that vulnerable people will not be adequately protected. However at our local surgery they seem less pessimistic! Practice Manager, Stephen Reeves said, "We have around 10,000 people on our books, about 2,000 are entitled to a free vaccination, and we are well on target to meet that number. However if your readers are in any of the groups entitled to get the jab free, and have not had theirs yet, they should call the practice on 01945 773671 to arrange to have it." He went on to say, "It's the first year that the NHS has made the jab available in pharmacies, and it may be that these numbers had given a false impression that people were not getting protected". Vulnerable groups are detailed on their website:

<http://www.upwellhealthcentre.nhs.uk>

**If Dressmaking is your "bag"** then you may be interested in this: - Learn to make beautiful original clothes, from complete beginners to experienced dressmakers; there are a range of courses and workshops, starting on 11 January 2016 in Wisbech St Mary. There are workshops and after school classes from 8 years upwards and adult classes in pattern cutting. Classes include group demonstrations as well as individual guidance and support. There are a maximum of six students per class, so everyone gets lots of attention. Led by Jayne Walpole who has a degree in Fashion and is an experienced teacher. Come and visit the studio - 8th Jan 2 - 8pm or 9th Jan 10am - 4pm. to find out more call - 07584 341160 or email [jayne@stitchstudio.co.uk](mailto:jayne@stitchstudio.co.uk) Website: [www.stitchstudio.co.uk](http://www.stitchstudio.co.uk)

## Village Resource Centre

Members of Christchurch Village Resource Centre met on Thursday November 19th for a consultation evening. This is the group that helps advise the Heron Editorial team, and could potentially also oversee other village projects and events. There was some discussion of ideas for the Gala next summer. Hopefully a committee can be formed to organise this, and a meeting is planned for February 18th 2016. Watch out for details in the New Year.

Regarding the New Heron, it was agreed to change the name back to the Heron as of January as the current team and format are no longer 'new' There was some discussion about the idea of doing another reader survey, but it was agreed to leave this until nearer the time of the AGM next May. There have been a few enquiries about annual subscriptions to The Heron for people now living out of the area who would like to receive it by post, and we will be setting up a scheme to do this starting in January. See information on page 12

We have had some generous donations to The Heron this year. The Hog Roast in September had raised £240 and some people who had been unable to attend had given donations. We are in a healthy financial position at present. There will be a full financial report at the AGM  
Date of AGM - 19th May 2016.



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.



# 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:**

Dec 1 <sup>st</sup>	Christchurch Craft Club - making coconut iced snowmen - TS - 7pm
Dec 4 <sup>th</sup>	"Cake, Coffee and Chat" Parish Church 2-3pm - All Welcome
Dec 4 <sup>th</sup>	Mobile Library visits - Upwell Rd Lay-by 3-3:40pm - you can join here as well
Dec 6 <sup>th</sup>	Christmas Bingo - 6pm for 6:30pm - TH
Dec 7 <sup>th</sup>	Pilates for all ages - 6:30pm TS Dining Hall - All Welcome - £5 per session
Dec 8 <sup>th</sup>	WI - Breckland Bell Ringers - 7pm - TS - All Welcome - £3 non-members
Dec 11 <sup>th</sup>	"Cake, Coffee and Chat" Parish Church 2-3pm - All Welcome
Dec 13 <sup>th</sup>	Senior Citizens Traditional Christmas Lunch followed by a film - "A Royal Night Out!" Royal sisters Elizabeth and Margaret celebrate V.E. out on the town! - 2pm start - TH ALL WELCOME - call Hillary 01945773910
Dec 14 <sup>th</sup>	Christchurch Parish Council Meeting - Sports Pavilion - 7:30pm - All Welcome
Dec 14 <sup>th</sup>	Pilates for all ages - 6:30pm TS - All Welcome - £5 per session
Dec 18 <sup>th</sup>	"Cake, Coffee and Chat" Parish Church 2-3pm - All Welcome
Dec 23 <sup>rd</sup>	Christchurch Book Club - 7:30pm - 5, Fen View
Dec 24 <sup>th</sup>	Christmas Disco 50's, 60's, 70's - Tickets £7 on the door, includes supper - TH

## Parish Church Services

Dec 6 <sup>th</sup>	11am	H Chappell, A Day	All Age Worship in Townley School
Dec 13 <sup>th</sup>	9:30am	Rev J Webb	Holy Communion
Dec 20 <sup>th</sup>	3:30pm	Churchwardens	Carol Service
Dec 24 <sup>th</sup>	8pm	AT MANEA	Christmas Eve Communion
Dec 25 <sup>th</sup>	10am	AT WELNEY	Christmas Day Communion
Dec 27 <sup>th</sup>	11am	Rev A Chandler	Morning Prayer
Jan 3 <sup>rd</sup>	11am	H Chappell, A Day	All Age Worship in Townley School

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

## CHRISTMAS GREETINGS

**Mary Rolfe** wishes her relations and friends a very Happy Christmas and a healthy New Year.

**Walter Chamberlain** - Would like to wish everyone a very happy Christmas and a happy new year.  
best regards

Walter - Now living at Delph House Welney.

We would like to wish everyone a Happy Christmas and a happy new year.  
best wishes from

**Wendy & David Yates**

Happy Christmas to all my friends, and best wishes for the New Year.  
Love from

**Doris Ted Rolfe**



# Health and Fitness

with - Stephen Aish



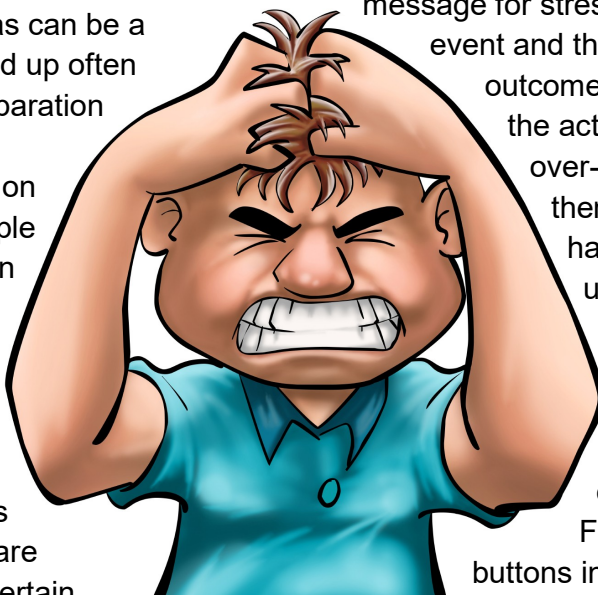
## A new look at stress

As the year comes to a close it is certain there will be quite a bit of panic with last minute shopping, crowds of people and a sense of overwhelm with how much has to be done.

For a lot of people, Christmas can be a stressful time with a huge build up often taking a lot out of them in preparation and organisation.

When looking at stress face on it is safe to say that most people would class the word as bad in some way. We hear that stress can kill us, damage our health and you can even be signed off from work due to stress. However, it is important to realise the virtues hidden in stress and how we are responsible for empowering certain words way beyond our control.

Stress by definition is a natural reaction to a situation, or event. It is important to consider the word "natural" here. Many stress responses are not natural and lead to a lot of pain as the buttons gets pressed too hard, too often and remain partially pressed long after events have happened. By stating we are stressed and having a bad day we strengthen that response and diminish our own level of control over events and outcomes.



Stress is the only way the body can evolve in the gym by both cardio-vascular training and resistance training. Exposure to stress is essential for growth. The same is true for life and learning from events and situations. The important

message for stress is that our reaction to any event and the images we play regarding outcomes are far more important than the actual event itself. As we tend to over-react to small events and keep them alive many hours after they happened we walk along with an un-welcomed burden that we are reluctant to put down for some time.

Emotion is always an effect which is caused by thinking, events and what people do.

Find out what just pushed your buttons in order to take back control!

*Letters continued from page 3*

*We were sorry to hear that we had made a 'typo' when we printed Pauline's letter last month. - Ed'*

Dear Richard,

There is at least one Scotsman in the village, and he must be very puzzled. The other loch said to have a monster in it is Loch MORAR. It lies N.W. of Fort William and just below Knoydart. I remember being told that the animal appeared when a member of an old local family died, but my memory is stretching back 75 years and may be at fault. There is no Loch 'NOVAR', but as if my writing were not bad enough to confuse anybody, there is a Loch MONAR west of Inverness. It has no story attached to it as far as I know.

A. P. Hutchins

## The Heron - "a rose by any other name..."

After nearly eighteen months since Paul, Viv, and I took over the production and publication of your Community Magazine and rebranded it The 'New' Heron we feel we have established ourselves and 'made our mark'. So, effectively, we are now no longer 'new'.

Accordingly, as of January 2016, we have taken the decision to revert to the publication's original title - 'The Heron'; though we will retain the new format, and continue our policy of improvement and innovation to keep it interesting and fresh. We hope that our readers agree with this decision which was ratified at the recent meeting of the Christchurch Village Resources Centre. - Ed'

## 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 for your cooperation.



## The Townley School Near Miss

The Meteor and the Townley School 'near miss', was the topic of the school assembly held on Monday 9th Nov. The children were spellbound as ex RAF engineer Tony Kiddle related the tale of how nearly 50 years ago he had prepared a Meteor, the first fighter aircraft to have a gas turbine, or 'jet' engine, for a flight which was to take it over Christchurch. Unfortunately the pilot, opened the throttle too quickly and it suffered a 'double extinction' in the engine, extinguishing the jet and causing a crash, narrowly missing the roof of the school and landing in a field nearby.

In the visiting party was Doris Rolfe, the Editor of the New Heron, Richard Guilford and Tony Kiddle. Mrs Higgins, the Head Teacher, introduced Richard, who briefly told the story of how a chance meeting at the Cambs Times offices gave the lead to Tony Kiddle and that he was keen to tell the story and make a presentation of a picture of the downed Meteor. Tony then spoke about how when the plane came down the pilot, Sgt. John Atkinson, was rescued by Mr Wolsey Rolfe and taken home, where Wolsey's mum, a trained first aider, gave him tea while waiting for the ambulance to take him to Ely RAF hospital. Thankfully he only suffered minor injuries. Tony did explain that following the crash, he (Tony) was taken into

custody, and held under close arrest until a board of enquiry cleared him of any fault.

During his address Tony presented Kieran, whose birthday it was, with a Haynes Manual of the jet engine, and urged anyone keen on engineering to consider a career in the forces. The assembly concluded when he presented the framed photograph of the downed Meteor to Mrs Higgins, who promised it would be shared between all three classes in turn.



The guests before the ceremony



Some of the children with Tony Kiddle



Mrs Higgins receives the framed picture from Tony



"They didn't have any room either, but I did get you a sandwich..."

# Christmas Manifestos

DON'T LET THE FESTIVE  
SEASON START UNTIL  
DECEMBER



INVEST MORE IN PUBLIC  
CELEBRATIONS &

DECORATIONS



Father Eugene O'Hagan  
of The Priests

Let me make one thing clear: I don't have a problem with the decorations, streetlights and shop displays that come with Christmas. But why do we have to be subject to them from October?

My year has always been shaped by the liturgical calendar, where the lead-up to Christmas begins with Advent. If Christmas kicks off in the autumn, most people are bored by the time we get to December 25 – the day Christians are supposed to be celebrating the birth of Jesus!

I suppose things started to change back in the 80's. When Christmas became an even more commercial enterprise. The earlier we got the decorations up, the earlier we could start shopping and going to parties.

But now it's as if we want to turn Christmas into a massive consumerist theme park where, for most of the autumn and winter, everyone spends loads of money and supposedly has a big smile on their face.

So, yes, put up the displays, go shopping..... but let's start on the first Sunday of Advent. And...most of all.....let's remember the REAL meaning of Christmas... the celebration of the birth of Our Saviour ... Jesus Christ!

The supermarkets would still have time to make their money, but I think many of us would benefit much, much more in the spiritual sense – especially after the financial struggles we've all been through – by shifting the focus from 'buying' and back to Christmas and loving one another, all over the world, in a non-materialistic way. In the long run it would be so much more satisfying and spiritually rewarding.



Bill Bailey - Comedian

In February 2010, my road in West London had a proper snow day. It was completely covered. No one could get to school or work, so everyone just came out into the street. We built snowmen and igloos, drinks were handed round and neighbours

who'd never met before exchanged email addresses and phone numbers. The capital's residents can be very private, but nature had intervened to show we have a human need to connect with those around us and feel a part of something.

At Christmas, such public celebrations and events are particularly important. A few years ago, some friends who lived in Saranac Lake, New York State, invited me to stay. This little town had the most extraordinary Christmas decorations: they'd build an entire palace out of ice, there were animal sculptures and an amazing light show. It was awe-inspiring - a real event that people came to look at. In British town centres, all we usually get are the odd carol service and a few rubbish coloured lights hung from trees.

Now we have a big Winter Wonderland in Hyde Park, with rides and traditional foods and a singing elk that even my ten year old would be happy to watch indefinitely. I'm sure most British town and rural councils could do something similar, with proper decorations, fairs, street parties and large-scale concerts, so that town centres provide a real focal point where people can meet and celebrate. Perhaps villages even more so?

After my road's ad hoc get-together, we all said we should do it again some time. But we never have. People, particularly in dislocated, big-city communities, and indeed isolated villages, need central support from councils to get things organised, Christmas is the perfect excuse. After all - it is a time for giving and expressing love for your fellow man!



# Memories of the Old Post Office (Syringa House)

Going to see the doctor in the 1960's was a chilling experience. It all happened at the Old Post Office now being restored.

The doctors came from the Upwell practice on Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays. People wishing to see the doctor would start queuing outside the post office which was a corrugated iron building added to the house, (near the bus shelter) at 11.45 for the doctor to arrive at 12noon.

The doctors I remember were Dr. Lightbody and Dr. Barroclough.

There was very little shelter on a wet and windy December day, only a brick wall with an apple tree hanging above your head.

On the doctors arrival at 12noon, the first patient in the queue would go into the surgery, which was Mrs. Corke's front room which you entered through a very low door. A square table adorned with a chenille cloth, a chair each side one for the doctor and one for the patient.

Mrs. Corke was Rachael Watson's grandmother and post mistress for Christchurch.

After being examined, the doctor would prescribe our medicine. This would come from Upwell

surgery the following morning by the mail van, with the letters and parcels for the Post Office. All medicines would be put in a cardboard box and placed behind the Post Office counter with your name on it for collection, not forgetting 3d (three old pennies) for the mail man who had delivered it at 6am that morning.

If one was not well enough to stand outside and wait your turn to see the doctor, one would ask for a home visit. This would be

after all the patients had been seen at the post office.

I hope this has set the scene of a time long gone, without computer, email, text or smart phones.

"Doctor, doctor I feel like a pair of curtains – then pull yourself together" - (*I wonder if this historical relic is listed too?* - Ed')

## Now for the Treasures Unearthed at The Post Office

I was asked to identify an old cycle found beneath the rubble. The only thing I could see was a red inner tube made from rubber. After pulling it from the bricks I could see it was a 1940's ladies loop frame, made by Raleigh. The top of the front forks has a dimple each side, unique only to Raleigh. It was a deluxe model because it had

hub brakes front and rear, and a Brooks saddle.

Sadly beyond repair!

Also found was a single furrow pony plough (see *last month's NH* - Ed') made by Howards of Bedford 1920's/30's.

Two very interesting cast iron roof pan tiles each with spaces for three small panes of glass had survived too. (see above)



A tennis court net post, another piece of village history, was found in the rubble. There would have been two posts to hold the net in place, one static, the other had a winder to tighten the net. The village Tennis Club played behind the Post Office or Syringa House as it was known in the 1920s /30s. At one end of the court there were Gooseberry bushes and the story goes that if a ball was hit into the bushes, not only would you collect the ball, but a handful of gooseberries too. That's before my time!



The front of Syringa House which has now been cleared



The tennis net post - picture also showing severely damaged wall



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# Christmas Preparations

Mother's getting ready for Christmas,  
Juggling money as prices rise higher,  
But as she shops, in the rain and cold,  
Father just sleeps by the fire.

Mother's rehearsing for Christmas,  
She's a member of the local choir,  
But as she sings festive carols and songs,  
Father just sleeps by the fire.

Mother puts up Christmas trimmings,  
Struggling with ribbons and wire,  
While she's dressing the Christmas tree,  
Father still sleeps by the fire.

Mother is wrapping the presents,  
Hopes folks will get all they desire,  
And while she is writing the Christmas cards  
Father still sleeps by the fire!

Mother's cooking the Christmas turkey,  
Which all the family will admire,  
And as she is steaming the Christmas pud,  
Father now snores by the fire!!

Now Mother's clearing the table,  
All the hard work has made her perspire,  
Now Father is doing the washing up,  
And Mother's asleep by the fire!

Barbara Wilkinson  
Nordelph



## Beauty Treatments

By  
Jane

**N.V.Q. – i.b.d. – Babtac**

**LCN Microdermabrasion  
Facials**

**St.Tropez Spray tanning  
Gel pedicures  
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eyelashes**

**Rose Cottage,  
Christchurch  
Telephone: 01354 638378**

## CAMBRIDGESHIRE FIRE AND RESCUE SERVICE

It is the time of year when we're enjoying a tipple with friends, cooking heaps of delicious food and decking the halls.

The fire service has these messages to 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!

To find out if you are eligible for a free home fire safety check, call 0800 917 99 94. Find us on Facebook, Twitter and Instagram @cambsfrs. Contact: 01480 444500, [www.cambsfire.gov.uk](http://www.cambsfire.gov.uk)



# Christmas Quiz



1. Which American male comedian plays Kate Winslet's love interest in the film 'The Holiday'?
2. Rudolph the red nosed reindeer had a red nose, but did he have antlers?
3. In which German city would you find the Shrine of The Three Kings?
4. Madonna had a Christmas number one US hit single in 1984 with which song?
5. Which 'Raiders of the Lost Ark' actress plays Bill Murray's love interest in the film 'Scrooged'?
6. Which of Santa's reindeer shares its name with a small solar system body (SSSB)?
7. Szaloncukor is a sweet associated with Christmas in Hungary. Other than fondant, what is the other main ingredient?
8. Which Christmas carol includes the lyrics 'In heaven the bells are ringing'?
9. Which singer of the Eurythmics was born on 25th December in 1954?
10. What word can mean a type of 18th century London dark ale and someone who helps people with their luggage when checking into a hotel?
11. What is the name of the elf played by Will Ferrell in the 2003 film 'Elf'?
12. Which fictional land never has a Christmas but it's always winter?
13. By what means did God warn the Wise Men not to return to Herod?
14. Which characters created by American Greetings, whose insignia were their tummy symbols, were the most popular Christmas presents in 1985?
15. Which capital city of Nicaragua was devastated by an earthquake on Christmas Day in 1972?
16. Who wrote the Christmas carol 'Once in Royal David's City'?
17. Which historic playwright quoted "At Christmas I no more desire a rose, than wish a snow in May's new-fangled shows; but like of each thing that in season grows."
18. The song 'Mary's Boy Child' has reached number one in the UK charts in two different years (in 1957 & 1978). Who sang on each occasion?
19. What type of rodent is hidden in the Christmas tree in the film 'National Lampoons Christmas Vacation'?
20. 'Giddy-yap, giddy-yap, giddy-yap it's grand' are lyrics taken from which Christmas Song?

## Christmas Gift Idea!

The Heron

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NJ Pooley. Clerk to the Trustees

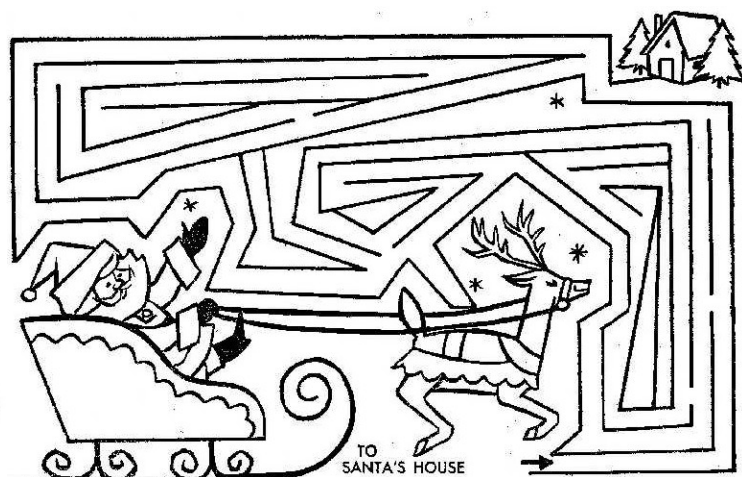


*Merry Christmas*



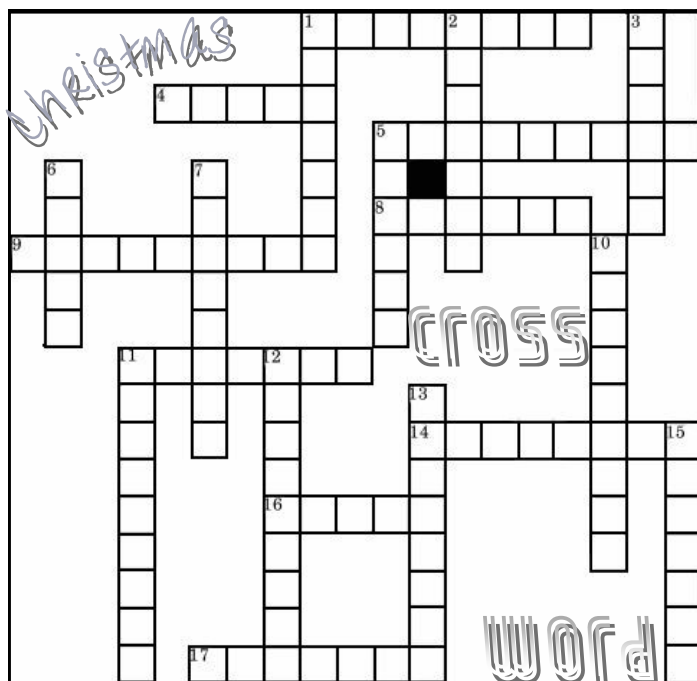
# Christmas Wordsearch

ANTHEM	EXCHANGE	STUFFING
AROMA	GRAVY	SURPRISE
CHOCOLATES	HAPPY	TABLE
CHOIR	NATIVITY	TURKEY
CHURCH	ORANGES	VEGETABLES
CIDER	PLAYS	WARMTH
COAL	PUDDING	
CONCERTS		



Which path leads to Santa's house?

A Z S S M S I Y H T M R A W K  
N S E T A L O C O H C J I I K  
T S G U O M Z L C E P I X N D  
H Y N F L P X K S I M T Y A H  
E A A F D N W I C Y D V E P T  
M L R I W H R O T N A E K L Y  
A P O N G P N K M R F V R P O  
T V H G R C K G G J N F U M V  
O E R U E C P Y T I V I T A N  
B P S R H U A M O R A U K D R  
U O T O D V H C R U H C L Y F  
I S I D N M E X C H A N G E C  
F R I V E G E T A B L E S J O  
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AL BANGE



AL BANGE

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### ACROSS

- 1 Elves are busy there
- 4 He was born on Christmas
- 5 Hung by the chimney
- 8 Festive drink
- 9 Pine tree
- 11 Santa slides down it
- 14 They pull Santa's sleigh
- 16 Religious songs
- 17 Hangs on the door

### DOWN


- 1 Magi
- 2 He was stingy
- 3 Christ was born in one
- 5 Santa's sled
- 6 Santa's helpers
- 7 Singing
- 10 Kiss under it
- 11 December 25th
- 12 Where Santa lives
- 13 Another name for gifts
- 15 Has a shiny red nose



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Last month we let you know about Class 1 designing some beautiful dresses for the Queen to celebrate her achievement of being the longest reigning British monarch. This month we can report we have had not one but two replies from the Palace. We now have them framed in our classroom!



We are delighted to announce that Christchurch Pre-School is now formally part of the school, therefore we will now be known as Townley School and Pre-School.

# All Welcome



## Dates

4th December — Dress rehearsal of our Christmas Play—for Pre-school and families with young children

7<sup>th</sup> / 8<sup>th</sup> December - School Christmas Presentation

16<sup>th</sup> December - Christingle 6.30pm at the church.

17<sup>th</sup> December - whole school visit to the Pantomime

18<sup>th</sup> December - last day of term

If any members of the village would like to see our Christmas Production '**The Donkey Seller**', you would be more than welcome to come along on Friday 4th December at 11am to our dress rehearsal.

All we ask is that you let the Office know by 30th November if you wish to attend so we can keep an eye on numbers for health and safety reasons. You can ring on 01354 638229

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# Christchurch Residents Association

Our meeting on Wednesday 11th November was poorly attended due to a lot of illness. The minutes were approved and there were no matters arising.

A police update received via Neighbourhood Watch told of attempts by a swarthy Greek/Italian looking man who spoke perfect English trying to sell gravel door to door which was supposedly left over from a job in Fenview. However, sales were also attempted in Elm, Emneth, and Upwell. Residents were warned against purchasing from any such 'hawkers' which often increases during the Christmas period.

The New Village Hall is progressing well with the sun tubes now being in place and the roof almost finished. However, there remain viability issues for the current Recreation Ground Charity Committee as the relevant bank account is still held and run by the Parish Council. This is inhibiting the RGC Committee from applying for any grants towards any aspects of the internal fit-out. It is hoped that PC AND RGCC can have a joint meeting to resolve this as applications need to be in by the end of November, otherwise there will be a further six months wait.

The New Heron is to publish a request for suggestions for the name of the new hall. Suggestions so far include; Christchurch Village Hall, Wolsey Rolfe Hall, and Rolfe-Symons Hall. Residents would be invited to contact The New Heron with any other suggestions.

The New Heron was also involved in a presentation by Mr Tony Kiddle re the Meteor Crash reported in their October issue. This was very successful. The children were wide-eyed with enthusiasm and performed some wonderful singing (see page 7).

Members were reminded of a meeting of Christchurch Village Resources Centre at 'Glynan', Crown Road, Christchurch at 7.30pm. It was hoped as many as possible would attend. Next year's Gala planned for 2nd July would be on the agenda with the formation of the Gala Committee.

Members were also encouraged to get involved in the forthcoming FOTS events. A team was formed for the 'Gumbo & Quiz Night' on Friday November 20th, and several members said that they would be supporting the 'Christmas Market' on Friday 11th December.

A letter of support for the planning application on the Old Tollhouse site. It was hoped that the Lawrences would be successful. Two other planning applications were considered and approved without concerns.

Unfortunately, there had been no response so far to the 'fly-tipping' near the sewage treatment plant. Police and FDC have been informed and supplied with photographic evidence by The New Heron.

The meeting closed at 9.20pm, and it was decided that the next CRA meeting would be in February unless anything vital cropped up and needed to be dealt with.



## Minutes of the Monthly WI Meeting held in the Dining Room of Townley School on the 10<sup>th</sup> Nov. 2015.

Peggy welcomed members and 5 visitors.

Minutes were signed.

As an aside the Treasurer mentioned that her husband had found a balloon tag in his field, which was part of a competition to mark the Centenary of the W.I. It had come from Little Bowden WI near Market Harborough.

Correspondence:

Resignation letter from the Treasurer was read out by Peggy. Susan Quail has been treasurer for 4 years and she was thanked by Peggy for all her hard work.

A thank you letter from the charity Water Aid was read out. This was in response to our recent donation in lieu of payment to our previous month's speaker.

National Federation Annual Meeting 2016 will be at Brighton and we are asked to send a delegate.

A campaign letter which is a follow up to the resolution, regarding mentally ill people held in custody. All WI's are urged to send a letter regarding this to their MP.

Isle of Ely 10 week draw tickets are on sale.

Transport Arrangements:

Transport arrangements for Caithness Crystal and Try It Day.

Birthdays: Wendy, Margaret H, Doris T.

The Speaker, Bob Scott, after a late arrival, gave a demonstration of glass blowing. He made a glass owl in the process. He gave a very informative talk about the techniques that he used to make a whole range of lovely items that were on sale.

Competition Results - An item made from glass:  
Anne A (5), Tracy (4), Peggy (4), Sandra K (4),  
Sue N (4), Susan Q (3), Wendy (3), Viv (3), Anne H (3), Marion (2), Beryl (2), Margaret S (2),  
Margaret B (2), Elaine (2), Sandra L (2).

Next Month:

Breckland Bell Ringers

Competition: A homemade Xmas Bell decoration.

Raffle Rota: Doris T, Doris W, Sandra L, Sue N.



## An Evening of History

The guest speaker at the October meeting of the Gardening Club was Jane Sills, who gave a talk on the restoration of Ramsey Abbey Walled Kitchen Garden. Jane is a volunteer for the trust overseeing the renovations. The trust was formed after the gardens were discovered in 1996.

One of the prime movers to get things going was John Drake a well known horticulturist and chair of the Cambridgeshire trust. Mr Drake died in 2012 leaving money from his estate with which to build a large glass house, which should be completed in 2016.

Originally a typical Victorian kitchen garden situated within the walls of Ramsey Abbey, the garden produced vegetables, fruit and flowers for over 100 years, but sadly during the 1960's had fallen into disrepair becoming so overgrown it was difficult to enter. Documents referring to the garden go as far back as 1540 when Sir Richard Cromwell acquired the Abbey after the dissolution of the monasteries.

At the request of Diana Broughton (mother of the present day Lord Fairhaven) Ramsey Grammar School moved to the site on her death in 1938 where they remain to this day. The trust's volunteers have to fit any major projects into the school holidays so as to minimise any disruption to the school day.

One of the major projects has been the establishment of an Apple Tunnel which recreates a Victorian Apple Pergola previously on the site. The tunnel has been planted with pairs of Apple trees which feature twenty varieties bred or connected to Cambridgeshire. Of local interest would be the Emneth Early, the Huntingdon Codlin, Chivers Delight and Barnack Beauty. Snow drops under plant the apple tunnel and include examples originally found at Anglesey Abbey.

Other local connections are found with the Maris Piper potato bred in Cambridge while King Edwards were first commercially grown in Ramsey Heights by Jabez Papworth.

The club would like to thank Jane for an entertaining and enlightening evening. There is so much more to see at the gardens than I have

space to write about, so if you feel inspired to visit here are the contact details.

[www.ramseywalledgarden.org](http://www.ramseywalledgarden.org) or Email [info@ramseywalledgarden.org](mailto:info@ramseywalledgarden.org)

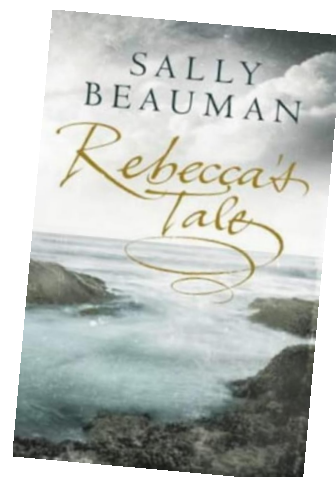
## Christchurch Book Club

The Book Club met on 25th November having read 'the Life of Pi' by Yann Martel. There was a very mixed reaction to this book ranging from delight to boredom.

Our next book is 'Rebecca's Tale' by Sally Beauman.

We shall be discussing it at our next meeting, 7.30pm on Wednesday 23rd December at 5, Fen View.

For more details, call Sheila Day, 07846 635908



Our November meeting, was great! We had a full house, also new members. We welcomed our speaker, Tanya from Manea W.I.

We were shown how to paint a flat wooden shape with our fingers. (Messy but fun). When finished. they were all very different and very nice. The craft was called "Christmas Decoration with Mixed Medium".

We enjoyed our tea and biscuits and a natter. Then the raffle. Marion brought some apples so those that wanted some could take them home.

In our December meeting, Beryl will show us how to make coconut iced snowmen. Everything will be supplied.

PLEASE BRING A CONTAINER TO TAKE THEM HOME IN! Also please bring a few nibbles to have with our tea.

Look forward to seeing you in December.

Wendy.



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## Any Cordwainers Here?

Soon after we moved to Christchurch, a visiting friend asked us where people in the village worked. I had to think about it. I wasn't sure. I said maybe March or Wisbech. I knew some people commuted to London from here, but I didn't know what they all did.

150 years ago, it would have been an easy question to answer as almost everyone would have worked on the land. A quick look through the register of marriages in the Parish Church for the years from 1865 to 1875 shows 'labourer' is by far the most common occupation listed. A few people were servants, there were some farmers, (presumably employing the labourers) and a small number of other occupations, including groom, builder, joiner, dressmaker, a cordwainer (shoemaker) from Sutton Bridge, and, in 1875, a railway porter of Leeds, who married a daughter of the landlord of the Dun Cow! There could be an interesting story of how those two met each other.

Apart from the railway porter, and the cordwainer of Sutton Bridge, most of these people would have worked in or around the village (the cordwainer must have had a bike! – or maybe a horse and cart) Nowadays, most of us have to travel to work. However, when you get to know the area, and of course read the adverts in The Heron, you begin to realise that there are a



“Gold, Frankincense and Whaaat?”



**"Unless we make Christmas an occasion to share our blessings, all the snow in Alaska won't make it 'white'!"**  
**Bing Crosby**

surprising number of people who still work in the village – often from home. The number of people working on the land has declined drastically, but there is a wider variety of occupations now.

I started to make a list of local businesses, and came up with over 20! There are of course the more obvious ones like the shop and pub and the farmers, but we also have builders, a plasterer, carpenter, painter and decorator, electrician, a reclamation yard, fridge recycling depot, gardeners, florists, a company manufacturing playground equipment, a beautician, hairdressers, cleaners, a personal trainer, a recording studio, a mobile fish and chip van, a burger van, and the list goes on! No cordwainers that I know of though. There are also of course, the people who work at the school or preschool. And I'm sure there are any number of businesses that I've missed out.

In our November issue, we wrote about our local pub, the Dun Cow. We've already approached a couple of other people for follow up articles, but we'd love to hear from more. Not all our local businesses have premises with such an interesting history as the pub, but we'd still like to know about you and what you do, and if we can do a feature on your work, how you got started, etc, it will bring you some extra free advertising!

There are also people who have, or have had, interesting or unusual jobs, and we'd like to hear from you too, so please get in touch!

VMH

## The Joan Smith Column



Hello everyone! Last month Richard introduced me to you all, and on Friday 20th November he kindly took me over to see Walter Chamberlain at Delph House, Welney. We were both very impressed by the kind and caring attitude of the staff we met. Walter was very pleased to see us both, looked very well and is obviously well looked after by the very friendly staff. I was able to ask him lots of questions as his memory still seems to be in excellent shape.

I had forgotten the name of the public house that used to be on the corner by the old garage in Tipps End. I used to deliver bread there, after I'd taken a loaf in to my cousin Florrie Dalton, and the other people down The Drove. Walter reminded me that the pub there was The Rutland Arms; now a residential property. He then reminded me of The Dun Cow, in Christchurch, and also The Farmers Boy, as was; both of which I used to serve. Walter certainly knew his local hostelryes! I quite enjoyed going over all the old names with him. It was such a long time ago. Later we watched a short video with Walter of when the local TV interviewed him over his presentation by the Bishop of Ely for his 80 years service as a choirboy at Christchurch.

Mr & Mrs Lunn farmed at March – Riverside, near where I first lived with my parents, but they moved to Belmont House in St. Peter's Road, Upwell, and that is where I worked for them as a home-help. The only reason I began the bread round was that my husband, Frank, had been working for Mr. Johnson's bakery, starting at 4.00am when one of the other roundsmen was taken ill and Frank offered to take it on if someone would show him the round at first, as he originated from Emneth and didn't really know all the other little villages. So, I volunteered to show him as I had friends and relatives in Christchurch, Tipps End, and Welney. So Frank would come home and pick me up about 1.30pm. Mrs Lunn didn't mind me helping out as I used to get home from hers about 3.00pm anyway. Mind you I didn't know all the names in Frank's delivery book. If there were two houses opposite, or near to each other, Frank and I would have a basket each, and take a large loaf, a farmhouse, and a small white, until we knew what to take next time. It was hard work but the next time I took a little note book myself to jot down customers 'likes and dislikes'. I always carried a pencil sharpener in case the pencil broke.

In those days we sold bread, buns, cakes, and both plain and self-raising flour; bagged up by Mr Johnson himself with his name printed on. Christmas and Easter times were always extra busy with Christmas Cakes or Hot Cross Buns. Many people made their own but there were also lots who ordered. We always used to deliver orders a week prior to Christmas.

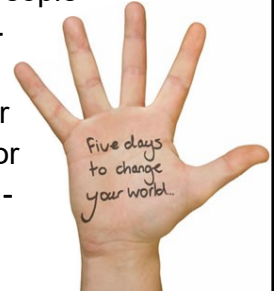
Well, maybe I've scribbled enough for this month!  
A very Merry Christmas to you all – Until next month! -

## Revitalise -

### 5 Days To Change Your World

That strange little period between Christmas and New Year can get a bit boring. There are only so many countryside walks you can cope with after all!

The **'Twixtmas Initiative'** wants to change that. From December 27th to 31st, it's asking people to spruce up their lives by doing something they wouldn't normally do; such as going to the theatre, or trying a new sport. It wants people to perform random acts of kindness, and contact someone they haven't seen for a while, or someone you know is alone. For more details and ideas contact - [twixtmas.com](http://twixtmas.com)



**S & H**

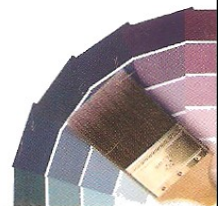
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**Christmas Quiz on Page 12**

**—The Answers**

1. Jack Black
2. Yes, he did
3. Cologne
4. Like A Virgin
5. Karen Allen
6. Comet
7. Chocolate
8. Ding Dong Merrily on High
9. Annie Lennox
10. Porter
11. Buddy Hobbs
12. Narnia
13. In a dream
14. Care Bears
15. Managua
16. Cecil Frances Alexander
17. William Shakespeare
18. Harry Belafonte and Boney M
19. A Squirrel
20. Sleigh Ride



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## A BIG THANK YOU!

To all of you who have  
supported us in one way  
or another throughout the  
year. To the people who  
have donated money -  
either regularly or as a  
'one-off' gift, to those who  
came along to the Hog  
Roast in September, and  
helped or donated food, to  
all our writers, whether  
regular columnists or  
those who write occasional  
feature articles, to the  
club, school and church  
reps who send in their

## Christmas Post Script...

Well? How was it/will it be for you? You know to  
what I refer of course.....That time of year when  
you get yet another pair of dull grey socks from  
grandma, and send those unwanted 'bath salts'  
from last year to a long lost aunt (who,  
unfortunately just happens to be the same long  
lost aunt who sent them to you in the first place!).  
All those pine needles in the carpet, garnished  
with squashed mince pies, and other sundry  
festive food fare, ground in by the family's ankle-  
biters. Family arguments? (Especially about  
exactly whose ankle-biters were grinding food  
into the carpet!). All that over indulgence of the  
falling down juice, which led to Uncle George  
falling asleep with his head down the toilet, just  
like last year. And, of course, all that over  
indulgence of any things that were remotely  
edible (and some that weren't!), and vaguely  
festive, which in turn led to a further layer of food  
(this time regurgitated!!!) being deposited on said  
carpet. Time to make a mental note – Buy a  
beige carpet in time for next year! One with little  
flecks of colour in, so that fallout from any future  
festivities won't notice!

I only hope that your Christmas wasn't/won't be  
like that! Just a peaceful and fun family  
gathering, but, in my experience, one where the  
little ones prefer to play with all that paper and  
string rather than that expensive present you  
bought them that was wrapped up inside!  
Anyway its time for all us adults to party now at  
the – New Year's Celebrations!  
'til next year - Ed'

copy month by month and keep us up to date with  
what's going on, and last but definitely not least,  
to our wonderful team of delivery personnel. You  
are all part of the team, and The Heron would not  
be the community magazine it is without you.

**A VERY MERRY CHRISTMAS  
AND A HAPPY NEW YEAR!**  
from us all!

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.





## Q: What do all of these churches have in common?



### A: None of them are used as churches anymore - most of them are now residential properties.

Having lived in a town for most of my life, when I moved to this wonderful village just over 10 years ago, I have come to appreciate differently the role of the church in the community. Living in a town the church building was one amongst many, whereas here it's one of the larger buildings and is located centrally within the village.

So what's your reaction to the church in the village? For some, it's the focal point where we come to offer thanks to God for his blessings. For a very few (hopefully none here!) it's an anachronism in this modern age where "religion is irrelevant". But for most of you I guess, it's a nice thing to have for baptism, marriages and funerals ("hatching, matching and despatching") and that's fine as far as it goes. This article is aimed mainly at that last group.

I guess that as both a frequenter of the village pub and the church, I see some parallels. A few regulars keep them going and occasional visitors are welcome, and some never rarely set foot in it but would lament it if it closed. I'm not trying to equate the pub with the church but for all of our community buildings, it's becoming a case of "use it or lose it". The Bishop of Ely is launching a wide

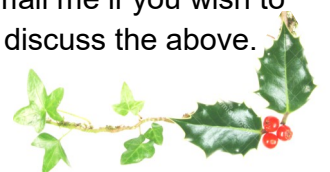
scale review of the diocese and questions are being asked about church buildings that are rarely used. We don't want our parish church to be a candidate for the next picture quiz!

So as we approach the end of another year, please consider coming and supporting us in our/ your local place of Christian worship. We have our annual Christmas Carol Service on 20th December at 3.30pm. The service on Christmas Eve will be at Manea at 8pm and Christmas Day will be at Welney at 10am. (and in case you are wondering, we share the people who take our services between Manea and Welney so we take it in turns each year for Christmas Eve and Day).

If you can't make the above service, we would love to see you at any of the "normal" Sunday services. It would be wonderful to see a full church again. We can guarantee a warm welcome. We would be happy to receive requests and topics for prayer from you. You can email me if you wish to send them, or if you wish to discuss the above.

God bless you,

Andrew Day - Email: [apdayemea@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:apdayemea@yahoo.co.uk)





# Can Santa really be real? - or to be more scientific - "The Scrooge Effect"

In the same way that many scientists refute the existence of God, many also refute the existence of Santa Claus. The main difference between these two arguments being that said scientists believe that they can actually 'prove' that there is no Santa Claus using basic physics and number crunching. Here is their alleged proof.

- 1) No known species of reindeer can fly, BUT there are still 300,000 species of living organisms yet to be classified and, whilst most of these are insects and germs, there are three new species being discovered every month in the forests of Borneo and Cuba. So what of the North Pole? Thus we cannot COMPLETELY rule out the existence of flying reindeer which so far, allegedly, only Santa has ever seen.
- 2) There are 2 billion children (persons under 18) in the world. BUT, since Santa doesn't (appear to) handle the Muslim, Hindu, Jewish or Buddhist children, that reduces the workload to 15% of the total, 378 million according to the Population Reference Bureau. At an average (census) rate of 3.67 children per household, that's 91.8 million homes, and one presumes that there's at least one good child in each.
- 3) Santa has 31 hours of Christmas to work with and, thanks to the different time zones, and the rotation of the earth assuming he travels east to west (which seems the most logical), this works out to 822.6 visits per second. This is to say that for each Christian household with at least one good child in it Santa would have 1/1000th of a second to park, jump out of his sleigh, slip down the chimney (of those homes that still have one!) fill the stockings, distribute the remaining presents under the tree, eat whatever snacks have been left for him and the reindeer, get back up the chimney, get back into his sleigh and move onto the next house; repeating this whole process again and again until all his deliveries were completed. Assuming that each of these 91.8 million stops are evenly distributed around the world (which we know they are not but, for the purposes of our calculations, we will accept), we are now talking about 0.78 miles per (household. A total trip of 75-1/2) million miles, not counting any stops to do what most of us need to do at (least 2 or 3 times in each 31 hour period, plus feeding etc. The above figures dictate that Santa's sleigh (must, therefore, be moving at 650 miles per second; three times the

speed of sound. For the purposes of comparison, the fastest man-made vehicle on earth, the Ulysses space probe, moves at a mere 27.4 miles per second; while a conventional reindeer can only manage 15 miles per hour for limited periods.

- 4) The payload on the sleigh adds a further interesting element. Assuming each child gets nothing more than a medium sized lego set (each 2 pounds in weight), the sleigh would be carrying 321,300 tons, not counting Santa who is invariably described as overweight. On land conventional reindeer can pull no more than 300 pounds each. Even granted that "flying reindeer" (see point 1) could pull TEN TIMES the normal amount of load, it would still require more than 214,200 of the beasts to pull the full sleigh. This would in fact increase the payload (not even counting the weight of the sleigh or Santa) to 353,430 tons. Again, for comparison, this is FOUR TIMES the weight of the Queen Elizabeth II.
- 5) 353,430 tons travelling at 650 miles per second would create enormous air resistance. This means that the reindeer would heat up in the same fashion as a spacecraft re-entering the Earth's atmosphere. The lead pair of reindeer would absorb 14.3 QUINTILLION joules of energy, per second, each. In short, they would, almost instantaneously, burst into flames. This would then expose the reindeer behind them to the same fate. Each pair creating deafening sonic booms in their wakes. The entire reindeer team would be vaporised within 4.26 thousandths of a second.
- 6) Santa, meanwhile, would be subjected to centrifugal forces 17,500.06 times more powerful than the pull of gravity. A 250 pound Santa (which seems ludicrously slim, according to current reports) would be pinned to the back of his sleigh by 4,315,015 pounds of force.

In conclusion: If Santa DID ever attempt to deliver presents in the aforementioned manner on Christmas Eve, he would have died in the act, and before making a single delivery.

[N.B. The above fact sheet may be used and distributed from this year (2015) henceforth, to friends and relations of all ages, in lieu of any presents normally purchased on their behalf, as a cost saving exercise. This, the above proven phenomenon, will henceforth be known as "The Scrooge Effect".]