

NEW The Heron

Community Magazine

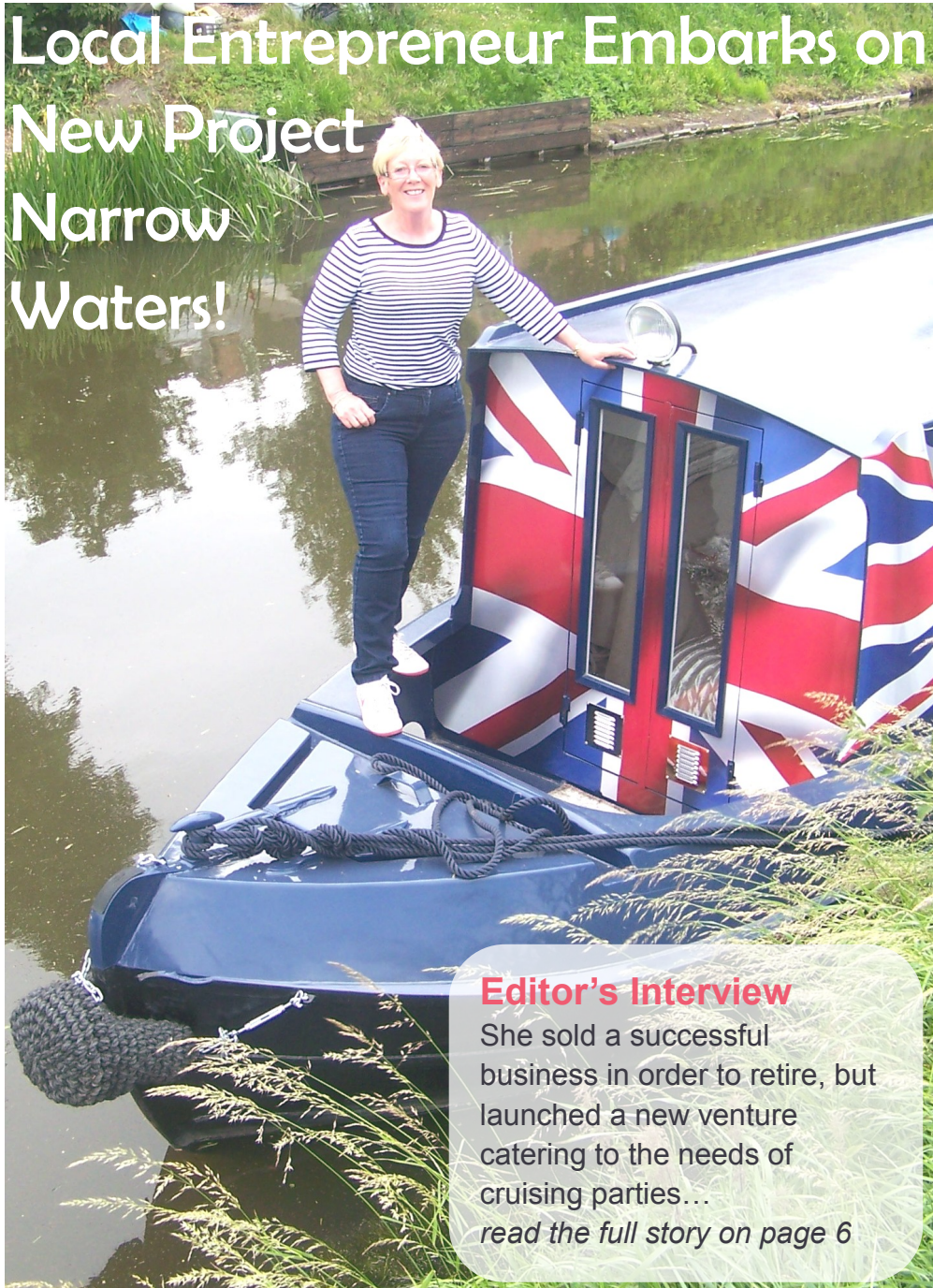
Delivered FREE to the residents of Christchurch, Euximoor and Tipps End - £1 where sold

July 2015

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Local Entrepreneur Embarks on New Project Narrow Waters!



Editor's Interview

She sold a successful business in order to retire, but launched a new venture catering to the needs of cruising parties...

read the full story on page 6

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DIARY DATES

Abbreviations for commonly used venues:

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

UH = Upwell Village Hall, WH = Welney Village Hall

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

Jul 1 st	New Village Hall Steering Committee - 7:30pm - Sports Pavilion - ALL WELCOME
Jul 3 rd	"Cake, Coffee and Chat" Parish Church 2-3pm - All Welcome
Jul 3 rd	Mobile Library visits - Upwell Rd Lay-by 3-3:40pm - you can join here as well
Jul 5 th	Christchurch Garden Club - 9am - Coach Trip to Ikworth House - Please Book
Jul 6 th	Pilates for all ages - 6:30pm TS - All Welcome - £5 per session
Jul 7 th	Christchurch Craft Club - - TS - 7pm
Jul 10 th	"Cake, Coffee and Chat" Parish Church 2-3pm - All Welcome
Jul 11 th	St Clement's Church Outwell – Diverse Voices Concert & Strawberry Cream Teas
Jul 12 th	Upwell Playing Field Summer Fayre – 10.00am till 4.00pm
Jul 12 th	Welle Film Project screening "Fury" 1.30 for 2.00pm start Three Holes
Jul 13 th	Pilates for all ages - 6:30pm TS - All Welcome - £5 per session
Jul 13 th	Christchurch Parish Council Meeting - Sports Pavilion - 7:30pm - All Welcome
Jul 14 th	WI - Hearing Dogs for the Deaf - 7pm - TS
Jul 15 th	Christchurch Residents Association - 7:30pm - The Old School
Jul 17 th	"Cake, Coffee and Chat" Parish Church 2-3pm - All Welcome
Jul 18 th	Dog Show and Family Fun Day - TS - Booking from 10am
Jul 20 th	Pilates for all ages - 6:30pm TS - All Welcome - £5 per session
Jul 21 st	Live Acoustic Music – 5 Bells, Upwell – 8.00pm till late
Jul 24 th	"Cake, Coffee and Chat" Parish Church 2-3pm - All Welcome
Jul 25 th	St. Andrew's Church Car Boot – 8.30 till 11.30am
Jul 29 th	Christchurch Garden Club - 6pm - meeting/trip to Delamore
Jul 29 th	Christchurch Book Club - 7:30pm - "Glynan" Crown Rd - 07946 635908
Jul 31 st	"Cake, Coffee and Chat" Parish Church 2-3pm - All Welcome

Parish Church Services

Jul 5 th	11:00	H Chappell, A Day	All Age Worship - Townley School
Jul 12 th	09:30	Rev J Webb	Holy Communion
Jul 19 th	18:30	Rev G Mann	Evening Prayer
Jul 26 th	11:00	V Smith	Morning Prayer
Aug 2 nd	11:00	H Chappell, A Day	All Age Worship - Townley School

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

The New Heron Deadline

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

At the time of going to press, all information is as accurate and up to date as we can make it. Changes and updates may be published subsequently. All information contributed by outside agencies, including dates etc., will be assumed to be correct.

Letters to the Editor



Dear Richard,

I am disappointed that the Parish Council minutes are no longer published in The New Heron. Many folks of my age group do not have access to computers, or do not have the skills.

Though I understand that the minutes are displayed on the village notice board I, and many others, are not mobile enough to get there, and in any case others have told me that they are far too difficult to read, and need to be in larger print.

I hope that you may be able to consider re-introducing them again in the near future for the sake of us older folk.

Despite my moan, I do thoroughly enjoy reading The New Heron, but I do miss the minutes. Please ensure I get a copy every month.

Many thanks

June Russell

Point taken - What do other readers think? - Ed'

Dear Editor,

I'd like to recommend a cafe that I have been to twice recently and which was a new discovery to my friend and me.

Sharman's Coffee Shop is located at Sharman's Garden Centre, on Camel Road in Littleport (just off the A10 on the Downham side of the Welney/Littleport roundabout with the petrol station).

The Garden Centre is a basic gardening shop, without the fancy gifts that you find at many garden centres these days. The Coffee Shop is clean and bright and offers a good range of homemade, good value food, including delicious cakes and traditional meals. We had their 2-course meal deal of main course and pudding or cake for £6.50 on our 2nd visit.

They have a variety of herbal teas and the popular Italian style coffees (Latte, Cappuccino, etc. made using a proper barista coffee machine like the bigger High Street coffee shops). They have a range of tables for 2, 4, 6 and 8, plus outside seating and a corner with comfy sofas and a coffee table for a less formal cuppa. There are also children's toys and some paperback books and newspapers to keep customers occupied while they relax during their visit.

Sharman's has been open for about a year and is only just starting to become more known about, so can be very quiet or, like our most recent visit, have a burst of customers which rather out-stripped the staff on duty. Be patient though - it is worth the wait and

this young business needs support to get going properly.

Try a visit yourself and spread the word to others to go along for plants, food and drink and a bit of time to yourself.

June Smith

Sounds interesting, thanks June! - Ed'

Dear Richard

I would like to thank the New Heron for allowing me space in your May issue, also my thanks to all the people who voted for me. I assure you I will do my utmost to support the village and villagers to the best of my ability.

Once again thank you.

Peter Owen

You're welcome! Congrats - Ed'

EDITORIAL

Well here we are again! It's past the longest day and of course now we're heading for winter. You know how much we like an anniversary and I had hoped that we'd be able to put together a bumper edition centred around the anniversary of the signing of the Magna Carta in 1215. We were hoping to have an interview with Baron Russell of Brimstone the sole descendant of King John's squire at Runnymede. As well as this of course it is the 200th anniversary of the Battle of Waterloo. For this we hoped to interview some of the older village residents who might actually remember it.

What you may not have known, is that it is also the anniversary of the passing of the Corn Laws and the Apothecaries Act both of 1815 and the Papists Act of 1715; all of which demand to be celebrated!

However none of that was possible as we could not afford a 64 page issue! Instead we've got an interview with a lady with a new boat and a story about a Norfolk ogre who managed to find a cave on the Smeeth – remarkable considering the geology!

The Preschool have created a clearing in Townley Forest, and we dip into Christchurch's own Historical Archive again. Do you recognise those faces on page 8 and 11. 'Then and Now' seems to be a bit of a theme this issue, even with the new "Dog Poo Patrol"! The new school pool though is very new and up-to-date! Great job FOTs and all who supported the project!

Enjoy! Till the next time!!

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

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Play park refurbishment

It is hoped that work will start on this very shortly. A quote from Fenland Leisure Products has already been received for the work required. All equipment on the sports field should be available for use during the school summer break.

New pavement slope

Following the reshaping of the Upwell Road traffic calming feature, the pavement outside Christchurch Cottage was left in a very unsatisfactory state. Discussions with Josh Widdecombe of "Highways" have taken place and it is now hoped that the current situation of the slope being 'not fit for purpose' will be resolved as a matter of urgency!

New Village Hall update

For those of us that had expected work to have started on the demolition of the old Pavilion prior to building work starting on the New Village Hall; we have been waiting for Van Ell, the company dealing with the piling, to sink a borehole to explore the substrata. This was finally carried out on Thursday 11th June, and a mobile office unit was delivered to the site on Monday 15th June. So work is now imminent!

(Work has now started - Ed')

Car Boot Sale and Indoor Market

at Welney Village Hall and Car Park on 26th July and 30th Aug 2015, 7.30am-12 noon. £5 per car/pitch. Contact Heidi - 01354-610633; Holly - 01354-610592 or Pat Rix - 01354-610292

Community Car Scheme

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

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

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

The No. 65 bus route

serving Christchurch and Downham Market has been withdrawn by Norfolk County Council as it was already heavily subsidized and was now considered to be no longer viable due to lack of passenger uptake. Cambridgeshire County Council have also emphasized that, particularly in the current financial squeeze and cut-backs, they are in no position to subsidize this route either. The only viable alternative would be to approach FACT. They have said that they would be prepared to run a service if enough villagers were interested, even if it was on an "as and when required" basis. This would, however, need somebody to take the responsibility of organizing such a service by canvassing villagers to see how many would be interested and on what dates and times. Initial enquiries please to 01354 661234.

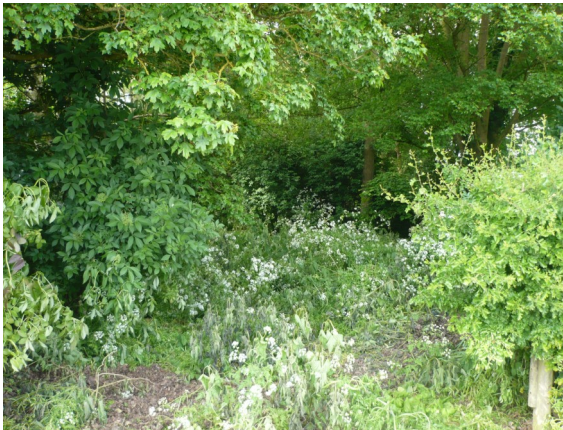
(It may be that some Three Holes villagers would also be interested?-Ed')

Welney Water Gala - is inviting entries for their Raft Race - the New Heron office has entry forms - email the Editor for one and get it filled in and back soon. Saturday 18th July, (with Molly Dancing, raft races, history displays and much more).

East Cambs Police currently have one person in custody for theft of vehicle batteries. A quantity were found both in a car and during the subsequent searches of two address. Ds Scott Houghton is asking for anyone to come forward who may have had batteries stolen recently or may have any information relating to this enquiry. DS Houghton can be contacted at Ely Police Station on 101

Preschool Parent Power in Clean-up Plea by Natalie Paine

Parents and staff from Christchurch Preschool gathered to clear an overgrown area of woodland on Wednesday 27th May. They were working hard at the Townley School site in order to enable it to be used by children from the Preschool.



Before the big tidy-up

In March this year, approaches were made to local businesses asking for help with materials to develop much needed additional outdoor space for the preschool children. They will use it for learning about local wildlife and their surroundings in an outside environment, and to experience new sights and sounds.

There was a great response from local businesses and when village residents were approached they were also keen to support us. From donations of materials to building bird boxes as well as getting stuck in with rakes and shears to clear the area, the support has been fantastic.

Following donations from Ridgeons in March, Skylarks Garden Centre, West End DIY March, CGM Downham Market, Christchurch Garden Club and village residents {you know who you are!}; parents and staff were keen to make a start on this project during the half term break.

A spokesperson said, “We worked hard clearing weeds, rubbish and rubble before getting started on trimming hedges. We were lucky enough to have the kind offer of help from Acacia Tree Surgery Ltd, who were working in the village, who made short work of the pile of cleared vegetation and overhanging branches using their chipper and chain saws”. She continued, “All we can say is “Thank you! Your efforts made a tough job a lot easier!””

There is still have a long way to go before the children can have full use of this brilliant resource

but they’ve made a huge step in the right direction. Next tasks include ensuring the site is securely fenced and laying weed suppression membrane and wood chip. “After that we will be installing bird boxes kindly made by village residents, planting the herb garden and vegetable bed, adding a few logs for children to sit on – the list goes on!

This is a great project and we want to say a big thank you to everyone who has helped so far. We’ll write again when we complete this mammoth task”.

A final plea...

We have made a great start but are keen to get our project finished as soon as possible. If you have any skills that you think would benefit us we would be very grateful. We specifically need someone to help build wooden items such as insect/hedgehog/bat boxes, bird tables and seating for the children. Also we need to complete the



And now cleared ready for completion

fencing and path edging for which we will need materials and muscles to install it! Lastly a plea for wooden spoons and other wooden/metal utensils for use in the preschool mud kitchen.

If you can help with any of these requests, however small, please pop into Preschool and speak to Kerry, the more the merrier!

Dear Friends and Neighbours,
I would like to say a very big thank you to all of you who kindly helped and assisted Bubbles whilst I have been in hospital. As regards myself I am now home, and being treated at home. It will be a slow job but all the kind wishes from everyone has helped enormously. We live in a wonderful village.
Frank Whiting

Narrow Waters!

Editor's
Interview



Sheena with hand firmly on the tiller - great boating

Sheena Hartley is a local entrepreneur who formerly owned 'Top to Toe' Health & Beauty Salon in Wisbech. During her tenure, the Salon won multiple awards and expanded in 1988, taking over the old Wisbech Standard offices in Hill Street. She developed the business to include a hair dressing salon and gift shop, in all employing 25 staff. Sheena sold the business four years ago when she retired; though she still owns the building.

Sheena was born in Glen Artney, Scotland, in 1951. Her father was a shepherd. She had a very frugal and rural childhood, her nearest neighbour being more than three miles away. Her childhood was quite a lonely one, and she had to walk three miles before picking up a taxi which took her to school. Later Sheena trained as a State Registered Nurse in Edinburgh before taking up a post as District Nurse.

While taking a holiday job for a change of scene at The Rose & Crown, Wisbech, in 1974 she met her husband Joe. They married in 1975. She never

returned to Edinburgh making her home in the Fens at Upwell. She became the factory nurse at Metal Box, Beauthorpe & Clarkson, and also Occupational Health & Relief Sister at North Cambs. Hospital, Wisbech. In 1986 she bought 'Top to Toe', her first business enterprise.

After she retired, four years ago, having done a lot of interior design over the years and renovating cottages, she took on and refurbished The Old Coach House at March Riverside, Upwell; now called "Narrow Waters". It was sitting on her newly built window seat in her bay window at Narrow Waters, whilst reading, that she watched the river traffic flowing to and fro and thought to herself "That's seems like a nice life! I could do that!"

Following a trip on a narrow boat, which she thoroughly enjoyed, when some friends came over

"That's seems like a nice life! I could do that ..."

from Canada, it was decided! She ordered a 60 foot steel narrowboat hull from a manufacturer's in Stoke, which was then shipped to a company in Pendle for fitting out. Ironically, for boatfitters, the yard was at the top

of a hill serviced by only a single track road. Quite a spectacle as boats were ferried up the hill on low loaders to be fitted out, and then brought back down again.

Sheena only received her fully fitted narrowboat a

month ago but has already had several groups of paying clients; including an 18th birthday party group all kitted out in sailor suits as fancy dress. They left her all their hats when they disembarked. Sheena even had her boat used as a location for a music video with the Welle Film Project Group. The boat, like Sheena's home, is also called 'Narrow Waters', as is her new business. She runs catered day cruises, with round trips to March,



Sheena and the newly fitted-out boat - What a wonderful kitchen!



18th Birthday Party Crew

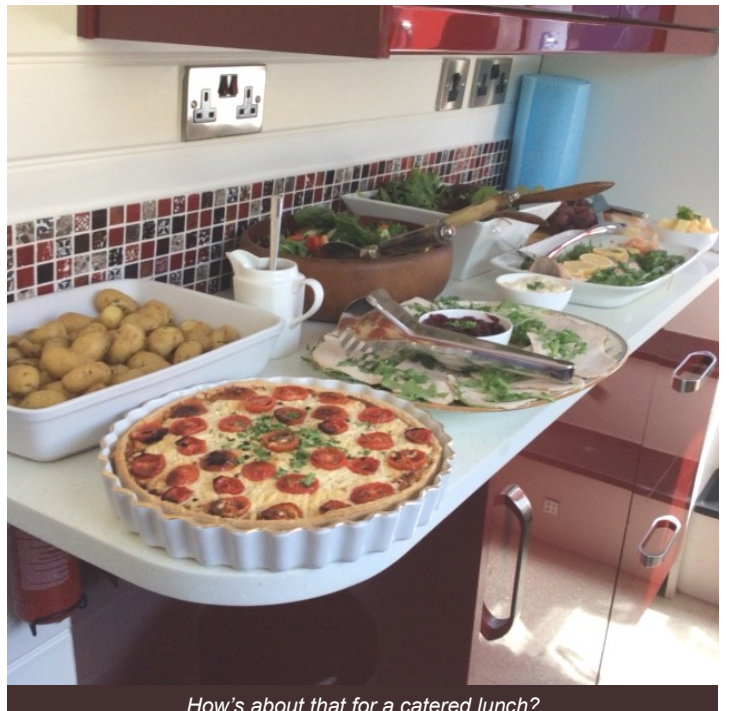
Salter's Lode, or Three Holes. Clients are treated to coffee and a safety talk in the newly converted barn before embarking on their trips. There is parking at Sheena's home for six cars, two of which could be undercover of a beautiful newly constructed open barn. The boat is finished in bright royal blue with Union Jack decals tastefully painted to the front and the rear. Sheena also flies a Union Jack from a flagpole at the entrance to the front garden of her home; so she can be easily



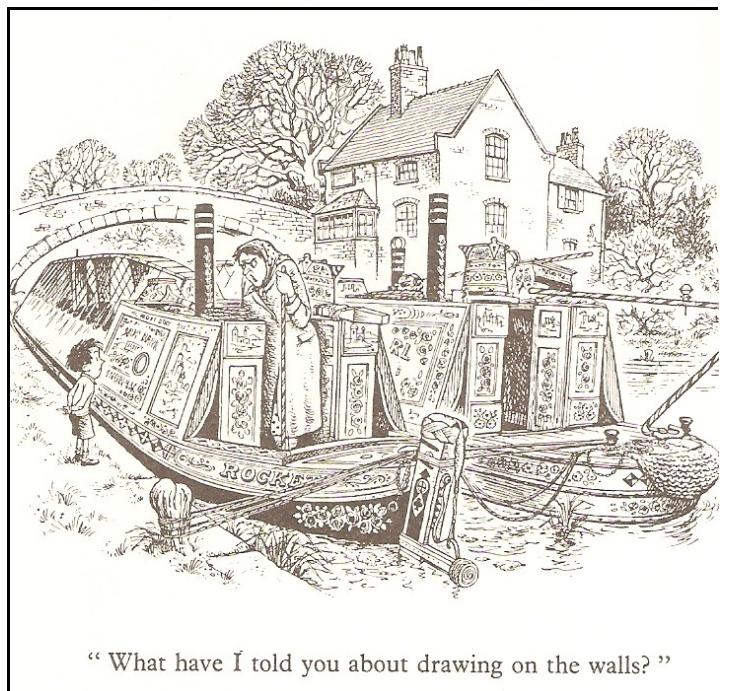
These musicians get in everywhere! - Ed'

located. She's at the last house in the village along March Riverside, before the 30mph sign. After a fully catered lunch at the halfway point, clients are later treated to tea and cakes on the journey back home to Narrow Waters, on board 'Narrow Waters'. I'm sure Sheena's new business will be both enjoyable and successful, especially with all the entrepreneurial skills she has gained in her 42 years around Wisbech. She hopes to attract such groups as Weddings, Birthdays, Film and Photography Clubs, other celebrations, or people who would just enjoy a catered luxury cruise on a truly beautiful narrowboat. (see Ad on Page 26)

Thanks Sheena - Ed'.



How's about that for a catered lunch?



"What have I told you about drawing on the walls?"

Thanks to Thelwell from "Angels on Horseback"

“June’s Archive!”

June Russell (nee Humphry), Nigel’s Mum, was born in 1931 at Wisbech St. Mary. She went to Wisbech High School for Girls, and her brother Hugh, three years her senior, went to Wisbech Grammar School for Boys. June left school at fifteen to work on the family farm, then still in



A young Nigel Russell



A young Jane Russell

Wisbech St. Mary. In 1951 June married Raymond Russell and moved to Willow Farm down Euximoor Drove. They were there for 12 years before moving to Bridge Farm, where her son Nigel still lives and farms. This had previously been the in-laws house and had to be moved several yards back from the river’s edge when the Sixteen Foot was widened a few years earlier. The road along the Sixteen Foot from the farm to the T-junction had also once belonged to Bridge Farm too. Ray’s mum and dad, Francis and Ivy, had a bungalow built in

Upwell in 1964 called ‘Ni-Jan’ where they lived for over thirty years. The bungalow was so named after their grandchildren, Nigel and Jane. Nigel was born in 1952 and Jane in 1956.

Ray and June retired in 75/76 and moved to Oakdean; the house next door to ‘Ni-Jan’. After Ray’s parents died Ray and June moved into ‘Ni-Jan’. Finally, after a very full life, Ray died in 2000 but June still lives at the house surrounded by memories and the hundreds of photo albums and scrapbooks full of newspaper cuttings going back many years.

When Jane was seven or eight and Nigel about ten or eleven the family were keeping pigs and cows. On one occasion all the pigs had to be slaughtered due to a disease they had contracted. They were taken away to make lipstick. Over the years June’s husband Ray had received several bravery awards for getting people out



of the Sixteen Foot when there had been accidents. A proud legacy. (see photo below) One time a young lad – Paul Parish – fell into the Sixteen Foot whilst fishing under the old bridge. Ray was called and immediately dived in still wearing his wellies!

We will be featuring more gems from ‘June’s Archive’ (which she continues to expand) over the coming months. This archive definitely needs to be preserved for future generations as it is a valuable historic record of life in the Fens.



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Health and Fitness

with - Stephen Aish



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2. Exercise
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I have read numerous books on this subject and in order to give you the full spotlight version of just how damaging a simple negative thought can be and what it can lead to, world renowned neuroscience expert Dr. Joe Dispenza has done all of the work for me in his ground-breaking text – “Evolve your Brain”.—

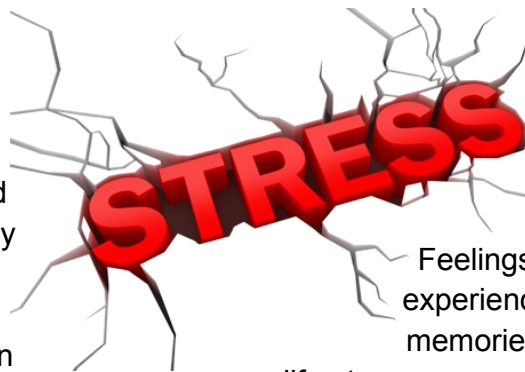
“Humans can turn the stress response on by thinking about a past or future stressful situation, and that can be a physiological stress response as if we were confronting a real- life circumstance. It takes only one stray thought about the possibility of a stressor in our future to change the degree of acidity in our stomach’s secretions. Without ever moving a muscle, we can cause our pancreas to make hormones, alter our adrenal glands hormones, get our heart to pump faster, direct our blood flow to our legs, change our rate of respiration, and even make ourselves more prone to infection. Humans are powerful entities in this regard. We can simply entertain a thought about that stressor and become physiologically prepared for it, as if the event were actually taking place.”

Joe then goes on to mention the damaging effects of chronic stress –

“Being constantly vigilant, always directed outward toward the environment, can take its toll. Chronic stress, the repeated process of keeping the stress response activated all the time, is what really does the damage. Our bodies are not designed for long- term stress. When the stress response is constantly activated, we are headed for disease.”

Joe then gives us the lowdown on why we keep doing what makes us feel bad –

“By the time we are thirty- five, then, we are thinking almost exclusively based on feelings. Feelings become the means of thinking. The two are nearly inseparable. Most of us cannot think greater than how we feel. The feedback loop of



thoughts and feelings that are intrinsically connected to the body becomes complete right around this point in our life, because we spend more time feeling than learning.

Feelings are the past memories of experiences; learning is making new memories that have new feelings. At this life stage, we are forced to stop focusing primarily on growing and learning, and start surviving. Jobs, homes, cars, mortgages, finances, investments, kids, colleges, extracurricular activities, and maintaining a relationship or marriage are just the right ingredients to begin living in survival instead of expansion.”

As doom and gloom as this can read, the key thing is it makes you aware of why you feel the way you feel each day. The next stage is how you begin to take action to change it. Next edition we will have part 2 – “How to change your mind”.

Great British Trivia Quiz

1. Which comic book hero features in a song by Queen?
2. Which radio DJ had the catchphrase “Not ‘arf pop pickers”?
3. Which Grandstand presenter appeared on TV in a turquoise tracksuit claiming to be the Son of God?
4. Alderney, Sark, and Herm are part of which island group?
5. How did the owl and the pussy cat travel in Edward Lear’s children’s tale?
6. In which city does the film train spotting begin?
7. In what year did the world’s first underground train system open in London?
8. What is David Beckham’s full name?
9. The satellites of which planet are named after Shakespearian characters?
10. On which island would you find the castle of Beaumaris?
11. What is the name of the Welsh National Anthem heard before every rugby match?
12. On which heritage railway was The Railway Children filmed?

Answers on Page 27

Then and Now!



Check this picture of Churchill Road, Wisbech. Without knowing, you'd never guess that the Wisbech Canal used to pass this way. We had long heard of this canal, and many years before we lived in this area, we drove down to Norfolk from our North Yorkshire home and passed the canal being filled in at Outwell. It seemed such a shame. At that time canals all over the country were just becoming popular and being renovated. And so we continued to think until we heard a lecture by Bill Smith, a local historian, of Outwell.

In the talk he outlined the idea behind building the canal (authorised by Parliament in 1794). In the first place it was a way of bringing back some prosperity to Wisbech. However it was an unmitigated failure. Not that there was not demand, but engineering wise, it never could work properly. Bill reminded us that canals need a flow of water to make the locks work. All successful ones have an abundant supply of water from some high ground, flowing down through the locks eventually to be discharged to



The same area of the actual canal showing how it really was

the sea, or river where they connected. The Wisbech canal never had that. The only source of the water was at the lower end of the canal, at the River Nene in Wisbech. They allowed water to flow in when it was high tide, but it brought in silt, and eventually it was the lack of water and the amount of silt that caused the abandonment in 1926 and the filling in in the 1970s.

Some people retained the nostalgic idea of restoring it, and the artist (Andrew Wegg) who created the composite picture (below) which was published in the Cambs Times, was also at the meeting with Bill Smith but seemed to have missed the point that the romantic idea of restoring the Wisbech canal could never be a success.

His idea is that the town could be improved by rebuilding the canal. Just compare this romantic view below, with the horror of the reality at the bottom of the left column!

PVH



Hits from the Past!



From 1970 - any ideas who? Answers on Page 27



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Church Road, Christchurch.



The Care Act - in Cambridgeshire

Many of us don't think about care and support until we or someone we know need it, then find we are unsure where to find information and how to access the support we need. A new online resource is providing people in Cambridgeshire with this information.

Care and support is the help some adults need to live their life as well as possible with any illness or disability they may have. It could include things like washing, dressing, eating, getting out and about, and keeping in touch with friends and family. People may need help because of their age, a physical disability, sensory impairment, a learning disability or a mental health issue.

If you are planning ahead for the future – whether for yourself, your family or someone you care for, and need information to continue to live independently and safely at home, make life



easier, get support after a stay in hospital, or find out about care home and housing options and paying for care and support, you can use the online resource to find the information you need.

You can find out more by visiting www.cambridgeshire.gov.uk/careandsupport

If you do not have access to the Internet, haven't found what you need online, or want more information, you can phone 0345 045 5202 or visit any Cambridgeshire Library (also known as community hubs).

The new information and advice resource is part of changes in response to the Care Act and to Transforming Lives, Cambridgeshire's new approach to providing support to individuals, carers, families and communities. For more information see www.cambridgeshire.gov.uk/careact

S & H

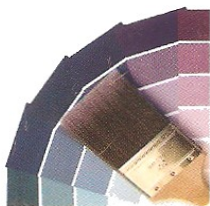
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The Alan Russell Column



This month, Alan begins a series on village land work, particularly the role of women in the 40s, 50s and 60s

According to the song "Time and Love Changes Everything", it is certainly true of the UK and our Fenland in particular. The main farming occupation in the 18th Century in this area was sheep with the meat and particularly wool providing the main income. Except for a few 'holidaying' flocks clearing the residue of crops they are rarely seen here now as drainage of the Fens became more successful so more arable crops appeared. Giant Bog Oaks up to 75ft appear in the black peat land from time to time, pointing to huge forestation areas from thousands of years ago. In this area, more recently when world wars threatened to cut our island off from imported food, farmers were instructed to remove scrubland, woods and hedges to provide more acres for food production. With ever larger machinery taking the place of hand labour, this was inevitable.

To take things to a smaller scale I am writing how food production of all sorts provided a different way of life for our local villages in the past. Those who have lived here for less than 35 years will have no idea how the village and incomes differ from today. I will probably use words that have no meaning to them such as 'frooten' etc. After the First World War returning soldiers were encouraged to start up their own smallholdings and County Council and Parish Councils provided fields and allotments for this purpose.

Unfortunately dreadful times for farming in the 20's and early 30's meant that even the large farms (for those times) of 150-200 acres went bankrupt or had to have a much poorer state of living. My father working for one of these farmers told me his employer had to put his car up on blocks for a few years because he could not afford to run it. When war came, all crops were then desperately needed. The change in our villages from 50's and 60's to now are unimaginable. Then

nearly all employment was farm work. Workers would try to get an allotment of one or two acres and hopefully use the farmers horses and equipment or get their ploughing, seeding and harvesting done by "higglers" such as the Chamberlains or my father and me. Nearly everyone with a parcel of land grew at least a half-acre of strawberries. Nearly all women went to work on the land and much was done as piecework. There was continuous work for them

most of the year - a vital contribution to the household income for the low paid farm labourer.

Starting in November grading of potatoes, not in a heated store as today, but done in the fields with an old hastily erected frame and lorry sheet hung up to stop, if possible, the coldest winds. This was a

winter time job, along with the digging of strawberry plants, at a price per thousand, sometimes having to wait until the frost had eased and the sun came out. Strawberry plants from the runners planted the previous year have always been sold in lots of a thousand.



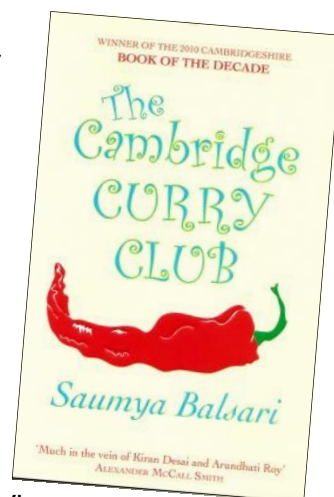
A Bog Oak being excavated in 2012

Christchurch Book Club

Christchurch Book Club met on 24th June. We had been reading 'Silent Scream' by Angela Marsons. This suspense crime thriller was popular among members who all reported that they 'couldn't put it down'. A definite recommended read!

This month we are reading 'The Cambridge Curry Club' by Saumya Balsari. Our next meeting is on

Wednesday 29th July at Viv Haresnape's, Glynan, Crown Rd, Christchurch. For more details ring Sheila day 07946 635908



Christchurch Residents Association

It was with great regret that we were informed of the death of Kevin Sweeney following a long period of illness due to a brain tumour. His wife Veronica will miss him greatly as he has cared for her for very many years due to her having MS. Our heart goes out to her and the family at the loss of this lovely, friendly Irishman.

On Thursday 11th June, Sue Clarke PCSO, Gemma Newell FDC Streetscene, Richard our Chairman & Peter Owen CRA Member and Parish Councillor will be carrying out a 'Dog Poo Survey' in the hope of improving the current situation. Letters to offenders and fixed penalty fines may well be applied.

The New Heron would publish a report on the above and an update on the New Village Hall which is awaiting the sinking of a borehole to check the subterranean geology before the initial piles are sunk. Members and other villagers had been grateful for the update on the Playpark published last month and the clarification on access over the Summer. Installation of refurbished equipment would be happening soon. There were mixed views expressed on the lack of Parish Council Minutes in last month's New Heron. Some didn't miss them and appreciated the other additional content; others expressed concern over many villagers no longer having access to them, many not having computer access to the PC website. They are, however, also displayed on the Parish Notice board outside the village shop. It was suggested that these needed to be in a larger format as many villagers found them to be unreadable.

Members were encouraged to attend the inaugural meeting of the New Village Hall Steering Committee which was to be held on the 22nd June at the Pavilion at 7.30pm. Peter and Jerry would be representing the CRA at this meeting. It was hoped that all the village clubs would send two representatives as well as others attending for future potential activities; e.g. Beavers, Football, Amateur Dramatics, etc.

It was pointed out again that the newly widened pavement had not been 'fit for purpose' prior to the disturbance by the electricity board. Any improvements should be carried out by Highways as a matter of urgency ASAP. The Parish

The concern that planning conditions relating to the Old Rectory/Conference Centre had not been met was being looked into by the Parish Council. CRA would also be checking this out. Letters had also been sent out by those residents whose properties had been damaged recently by demolition work to the rear of the old Memorial Hall. Both the Developer/Owner and the demolition firm involved had been contacted. The developer has tried to 'pass the buck' onto the demolition firm. However, as the developer employed the demolition firm in the first place, all members present considered that the primary responsibility remained with him.

Our Chairman informed us that plans for the Christchurch Dog Show and Family Funday were progressing well. There would be various stalls of interest, bouncy castles for the children and hopefully a display of Classic vehicles. Plans for a 'ride on' model steam train had, unfortunately, fallen through.

The meeting closed at 9.10pm. Next meeting - Wednesday July 15th 7.30pm at The Old School.



Peggy, Beryl and myself spent a couple of hours cutting out the felt, for the doorstoppers.

At the meeting, members were keen to get started.

Once they got the bits and pieces they needed, they settled down and got going.

By the end of the evening they had completed half.

They will be finished in our July meeting.

We finished off with tea and biscuits, and a good natter.


We also had the raffle.

We look forward to seeing you all on July 7th.

Wendy

Another month gone and Bubbles has to recap for our May meeting. It was a very interesting and informative talk. Many shrubs were introduced, lots of questions asked; enjoyed wholly by everybody who came along to our Club evening.

In future we will keep you informed of all our goings on through The New Heron after each meeting as not everyone can make it each and every month. Some of the dates on our programme for the year have had to be changed. So get the updated info from Marion 01354 638230, on the village notice board, check your diaries, or better still come along to our next meeting.

Regrettably I had to miss our May meeting and all those shrubs. There are so many which suit our gardens all through the year. Whatever is the flavour of the month. Roses and Clematis make a good combination and that reminds me, don't be shy if you need a 'snipper' for your flower arrangements in July etc. Just call Bubbles on 01354 638024. For all other Garden Club enquiries, trips etc. please contact our Club Secretary Marion - 01354 638230.  Bubbles

"NEWS FLASH"

Don't forget to book your seat for a Super Coach Trip to 'ICKWORTH HOUSE' on Sunday 5th July 9.00am pick up, returning 4.00pm, home about 6.00pm



Minutes of the Monthly WI Meeting held at Fossils Galore March on Tuesday 9th June 2015

Apologies: Margaret H, Anne H, Susan Q, Jackie.

This month's meeting was held at Fossils Galore in March. The owner gave us a short talk about his interest in fossils since the age of four and how this led to him finally opening the museum with the help of his parents and sponsor. He showed a video of a fossil dig where he found the remains of a big fish. We then went and looked at the museum and handled some of the finds. We also saw the preparation room and he explained how lengthy the process was, from the fossil coming out of the ground to being prepared to go on show. A very worthwhile visit.

Because of our visit, our business was kept very short with the report on the AGM being held over until next meeting.

Those members who went to the Royal Garden Party thought that it was a wonderful experience but the lack of enough seating meant that they had to stand up for the whole afternoon and the awful weather did not help.

Members agreed to run a cake stall at the Dog Show.

The WI Summer Quiz will be ready to be distributed at the July meeting with each member being given 5 copies each (at £1-00 a copy) to sell. Proceeds for WI funds.

Birthdays: Doris W Rolfe, Michelle, Anne A.



Next Month: Hearing Dogs for the Deaf – Mrs Denise Taylor.



Competition: A Dog Ornament



Used stamps are needed to be handed over at this meeting.



Big Thanks

 A huge "thank you" for the kind soul who has cut the grass down Green Lane. 

 I was walking down a few days ago thinking, "This is going to get difficult soon". Only to find on my return it was all cut. 

 Bordering on a miracle I'd say! PVH 



More doggy tales from - The Dog Poo Patrol!



On Thursday 11th July a team patrolled the village checking for uncollected piles of dog excrement. It would appear that, because they knew we were coming, the usual miscreants had actually been picking up as Church Road was entirely clear! It just goes to show that it's really not that difficult when you make the effort! Eight piles remained up Green Lane; from outside the pub to where the trees start on the open fields. There was a large Husky sized pile on the corner of Crown Avenue. Crown Road had five piles where the houses were but none on the open grass track beyond. This is because what had been there ended up on Nigel Russell's machine after he'd mowed it! It took him nearly an hour to pressure wash it clean! If things don't soon change we will lose his goodwill and Crown Drove won't get mown anymore! Wise up you people! You know who you are! And so do we now! Offenders will be receiving warning letters from FDC Streetscene pending fines being issued!

One of the problems seems to be that some dog owners seem to think that it doesn't matter if they don't 'pick up' after their dogs on open grassy tracks. THIS IS NOT THE CASE! These are public rights of way and should be treated as such, just

like the village pavements. A 'spray day' is to be arranged in the near future where 'piles' will be highlighted with dayglo paints. Fixed penalty fines are to be issued followed by 'naming and shaming' should this become necessary.

Whilst some villagers may not be able to identify dog owners directly, they can identify the pooch in question from which others with the knowledge will be able to identify the owners in most cases. We shouldn't even have to be doing this but until certain people learn how to become 'responsible dog owners -

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Years 4, 5 and 6 spent a few days at Mepal Outdoor Centre, taking part in lots of activities, including kayaking, archery, wall climbing and trying out the trust trail. We also took along our new Headteacher, Mrs Higgins, who managed to stay drier than we did!

There are lots more photos on our website, and year 5 and 6 are currently creating a leaflet to explain what else they got up too!



REDS WIN SPORTS DAY!



Well done to everyone who took part and to parents for coming to cheer us along.

Dates

29 June–10 July Year 6 induction at Neale Wade (details to follow).

2 July–Area Athletics at Wimblington Parkfield

7th July–School reports out to parents

20th July–Year 6 leavers assembly

21st July–whole school activity - last day of term

2nd September–Professional Day–no children

3rd September–Autumn term starts



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

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Film Review

Fury - Sony 2hrs 15mins



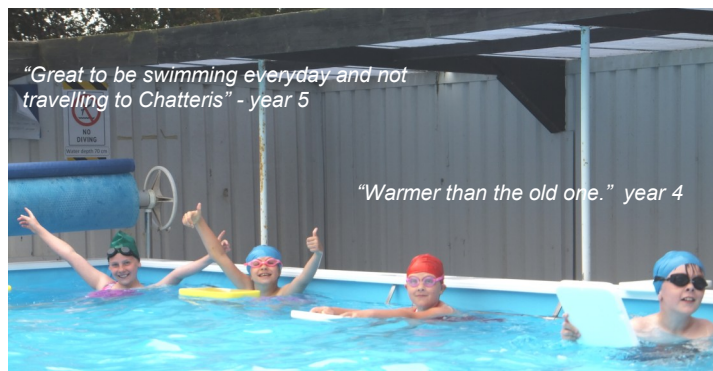
The latest screening by the Welle Film Project is on Sunday 12th July. Doors open 1.30pm for a 2.00pm screening. Bar and refreshments are available as always. This months screening is Brad Pitt's latest epic – "Fury". This movie comes just about as close as you can get to the realities of a five man crew squeezed together within the confines of a Sherman tank in World War II. I must confess to a particular personal interest in this movie as my father, Roy, drove Shermans, DKWs, and other military vehicles during that war. He was mentioned in dispatches twice for getting all his men out when they were 'brewed up'. I have sat in a Sherman at Duxford when my kids were young. They were thrilled at sitting in 'granddad's tank'. But it beggars belief how five men worked and fought in such a confined space. This movie really gets this across and the 'camaraderie' of a tank family; for that is how it is.

It's April, 1945. As the Allies make their final push in the European Theatre, a battle-hardened army sergeant named Wardaddy (Brad Pitt) commands a Sherman tank and her five-man crew on a deadly mission behind enemy lines. Outnumbered and outgunned, and with a rookie soldier thrust into their platoon, Wardaddy and his men face overwhelming odds in their heroic attempts to strike at the heart of Nazi Germany. But this is no ordinary war movie especially with the few twists towards the end of the movie and an unexpected ending. You will live the horrors of the tank crew as they become embattled by overwhelming odds. You will experience the 'sharp' emotions of men working so closely together in the arena of war. Riveting!

I don't know why I never thought of it before; but I'm now determined to go on a Tank Driving Experience Day, perhaps for my 65th birthday. But it has to be a Sherman because that's what Dad drove.

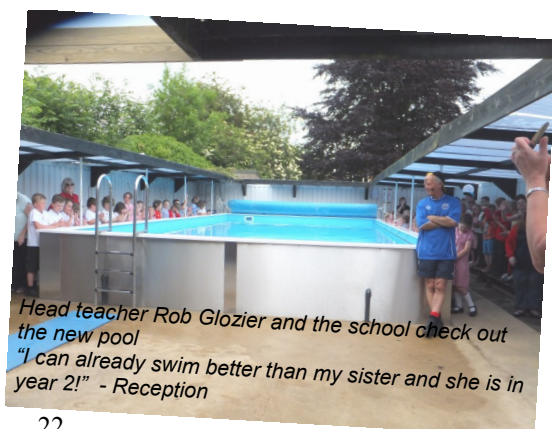
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New Pool get's thumbs up!



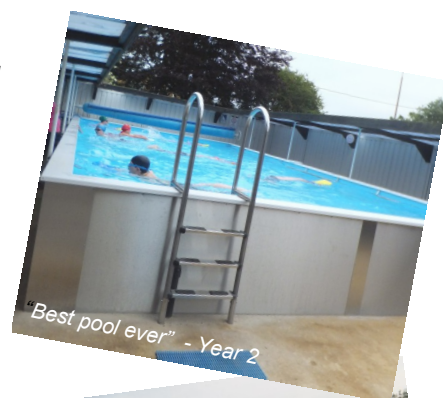
Townley's new swimming pool had the official opening on Friday 12 June. The children have

been using the pool for several weeks now and are enjoying it, as you can see from the pics and their comments.



A big **THANK YOU** to the Friends of Townley for organising so many fund raising events and to all parents and villagers of Christchurch for supporting us so well. In total £13,200 was raised, this included £2,500 already in the account, meaning a staggering £10,700 was raised specifically for the pool.

However, our fund raising doesn't stop there and our next event is a Fun Dog Show taking place on 18th July 2015 - all details can be found on the Townley website. www.townleyschool.org.uk



Tom Hickathrift and the Ogre of the Smeeth

The Smeeth is an area of land between Wisbech and King's Lynn. At the time of the story, it was a wild area made up of 1572 acres of boggy marshland. To the south, Fenland surrounded it with reeds and large pools of water. From very early times, the area



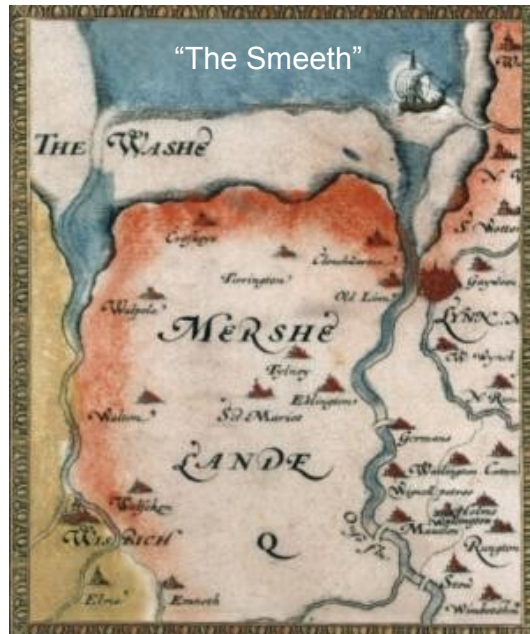
was common land and belonged to the Seven Towns of the Marshland: Emneth, Walsoken, West Walton, Walpole, Terrington, Tilney and Clenchwarton. The legend says that the Smeeth was once an area where you did not dare to go. This legend probably comes from very old times, before people wrote things down, when the boggy Smeeth would have been a dangerous area to travel in.

However true the story is, we know that the villagers kept their rights to the area of the Smeeth for many years and the area became a famous summer grazing ground. In the time of James I, a courtier told the king, 'that if overnight a rod was laid on the ground, by the morning it would be covered with grass of that night's growth'.

The area, however, still had its dangers. It had a lot of bad flooding and several times (in 1613, 1614 and 1617) the sea flowed over the Marshland, putting people's lives and property into danger. After the enclosure laws of 1796, in the early to mid 1800's, the Smeeth, and the fen around it, was drained and divided up between the people who owned the common-rights. From this time, the Smeeth changed into what we see now. Today the Smeeth is an area of good arable land.

Tom Hickathrift – Did he really exist? Tom may have been based on a real person. Locals believe that the story happened before the Norman Invasion. The local people had an argument with some new lords of the manors who were coming in, and who were not respecting the rights of the people to use the common land. During the fight,

Tom Hickifric, a local person, who was very, very big, took a cart-wheel for a shield and an axle for a sword and helped fight off the overlords or invaders. Over time, as with many stories, the story grew and took some ideas from folk tales and Tom became a giant and the invaders became an "ogre" living in a cave in the dangerous marshland. However, parts of the legend could be very old as his name could have been a corruption of Haccafrith, a deity worshiped by the Iceni. In real life, Tom was probably not a giant - just very tall. There is a rumour that he is buried in the churchyard at Tilney All Saints



(although there is no proof that the grave is Tom's). The stone covering the grave is about 8 feet long and, although the story says Tom had to be bent double to fit in, he was probably about 7 feet tall.

This story is just one of many told about Tom. It is one of the few English folktales to live on past the Puritan times, when some people thought it was wrong to tell stories. It was first written down between 1700-1800, along with other English folktales, such as Jack the Giant

-Killer, in what were known as Chapbooks - little paper books sold by people called chapmen, or travelling peddlers, who went from village to village. These little storybooks were usually sold for a penny or sixpence. They were very popular until the mid 19th century. Then lots more books were published. Some of these were English translations of European fairy stories, which became more popular than the British folk tales. Another version of Tom Hickathrift was printed in 1847 and Joseph Jacobs also included the story in his book, *More English Fairy Tales*, published in the early 20th Century.

(So is it true or not? – Up to you! – Ed')

You can google Tom Hickathrift or type in the link below

listen to the whole story at: (type it carefully)

<http://myths.e2bn.org/mythsandlegends/playstory15-tom-hickathrift-and-the-ogre-of-the-smeeth.html>

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Mobile Clinic Tel: 07949 052635 or 01945 774581

The Dun Cow

Green Lane, Christchurch, FE14 9PG



Weekdays open from 5.00 pm
Fri, Sat & Sun open from 12.00 noon
Sunday Lunches ~ 12.00 – 2.30



Thursdays - Steak Night

Bookings - 01354 638323 - Bookings

Upwell Computer Repairs

Virus Removal - Upgrades - System Service -
New Machine setups - Wireless setups -
Printer setups - Call out repairs

Phone - 01945 772717/07849 778525

E-mail - upwellcomputerrepairs@gmail.com

A JONES & SON

TELEVISION SALES/REPAIRS/INSTALLATION

FREE LOCAL DELIVERY

FIRST CLASS AERIAL INSTALLATIONS/ADDITIONAL POINTS

26 March Road, Wimblington, March, Cambs PE15 ORN

Tel: 01354 740320

CLOSED ALL DAY TUESDAYS

BRIAN TWEED & SON LTD

Family Butcher
Town Street, Upwell.

Tel: 01945 773248

Fresh beef, pork, lamb and poultry.
Our specialities are home made
sausages and burgers.
Home cooked ham, roast beef,
roast pork and haslets.

A's Florals

Funerals, Weddings & Special Occasion Flowers

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Email: angelamayes21@yahoo.co.uk

J. Mallett Carpentry

All types of carpentry work undertaken including
doors, laminate flooring, kitchens.

Contact Jonathan Mallett

t. 01354 638656

m. 07581 368725

jmallettcarpentry@hotmail.co.uk

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Learner driver and Refresher Lessons
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EMAIL: highburysom@gmail.com

Small Personal Ads

For Sale or
Wanted

Small personal ads-Now just 10p per word photos extra

WANTED

3"-3½" PLANT POTS

If you have any that you were about to throw away I would be happy to come and collect them and make a small donation to the church.

Tel: Alan Russell -
01354 638391

WANTED

Second hand petrol trimmer at a reasonable price. Please contact Melvin on 01354 638745

FOR SALE



SunnCamp
Platinum 800
8 berth tent with 4 double bedrooms and large living area
As new - never used
£220 o.n.o.
Please telephone 01354 638339

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

CAMBRIDGESHIRE FIRE AND RESCUE SERVICE

FREE - Alarms 4 Life for Landlords

LANDLORDS of privately rented properties in Cambridgeshire can pick up free smoke and carbon monoxide alarms at upcoming distribution events.

New safety laws make it compulsory for all landlords to fit smoke alarms in rented homes and are expected to come into effect from October 2015, subject to Parliamentary approval. Under the new laws smoke alarms must be fitted on every floor of the property as well as carbon monoxide alarms in properties which burn solid fuels.

Cambridgeshire Fire and Rescue Service has a limited number of free alarms to give out to relevant landlords and will be doing so at distribution events at its fire stations on the first Monday of July, August and September.

For the full details, dates and where you can collect alarms, log on to

www.cambsfire.gov.uk/firesafety/alarms4life.php

Follow us on Facebook, Twitter and Instagram for the latest news and updates

Narrow Waters Luxury Cruises

Enjoy a relaxing and fun day out in the Fen Waterways Commencing your travel from Upwell The boat is skippered and catered. Narrow Waters is a new Narrowboat and is luxurious and modern Morning coffee, lunch and tea and cakes are served during the day We cater for groups of adults, up to 10 people.

For more information,
email Sheena.hartley@btinternet.com
or call 07881942460



Follow us, Narrow Waters Luxury Skippered Cruises



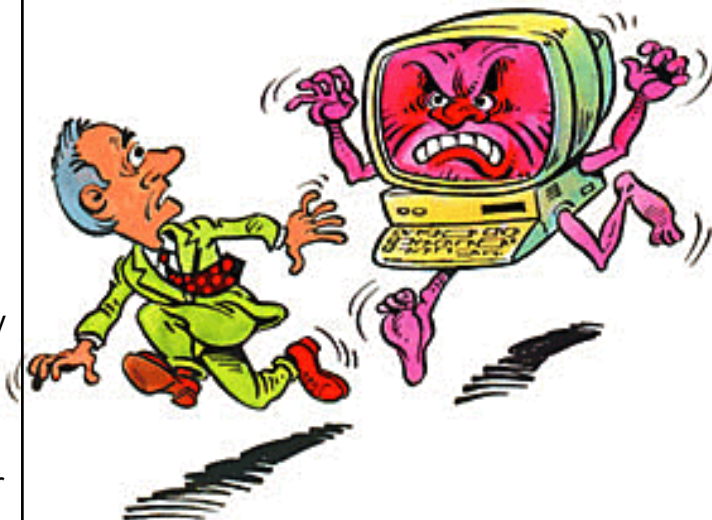
Mollies continue to Dance

Our young Molly Dancers, victorious, as they complete the complex dance 'Mississippi' at one of our Friday night Molly Dancing sessions at Welney Village Hall.

Dancers are Sam, son of our Melodeon player, Nicky; Annabelle, former 'Cape of Rushes', a.k.a. Cinderella in William Marshall School Welney's play 10 years ago when our children last learned Molly Dancing (and the play that our current Welney School children have chosen to perform for their parents); David, former 'Prince Charming' character at the age of 8 (now 18 and 6ft 2in tall!); and Fraser, grandson of June who has been accompanying the Welney School children to Christchurch's Townley School throughout the Summer Term.



Hollie Trundle



Could this be the answer to why some people, especially the older generations, don't appear to access either The New Heron or Parish Council websites?

*The computer swallowed Grandma,
Yes, honestly! – It's true!
She pressed 'control' and 'enter'
Then disappeared from view!*

*It devoured her completely!
The thought just makes me squirm.
She must have caught a virus,
Or, been eaten by a worm!*

*I've searched through the recycle bin,
And files of every kind;
I've even used the Internet,
But no Grandma could I find!*

*So, desperate I asked Google
My searches to refine,
But the reply from there was negative,
Not a thing was found 'online'!*

*So, if inside your 'inbox'
A Grandma you should see,
Please 'copy', 'scan', and 'paste' her,
And send her back to me!*

This is a tribute to all Grandmas and Grandpas, Nannas and Pops, who have been fearless and learned to battle the ethers and Querty keys to learn the Computer!

*They are the greatest! For –
We do not stop playing because we grow old;
We grow old because we stop playing!*

Great British Trivia Quiz - Answers

1. Flash Gordon
2. Alan Freeman
3. David Icke
4. The Channel Islands
5. The owl and the pussycat went to sea - in a beautiful pea green boat!
6. Edinburgh
7. 1863
8. David Robert Joseph Beckham
9. Uranus
10. Anglesey
11. Land of My Fathers
12. The Bluebell Line

Hits from The Past

The Gala Queen is Jane Green (nee Judd. With her to the left are Ann Gilbert (nee Judd) and Jane Henson (nee Russell)

Useful Telephone Numbers

Age UK Cambridgeshire	0300 6669860
Alzheimer's Society (Fenland)	01945 580480
Anglian Water – Susan Bull	08457 145 145 101
Cambs Fire & Rescue	01480 444500
Churchwarden - Mrs. D. Symons	01354 638352
Citizens' Advice Bureau, Wisbech	01945 464367
Community Car Scheme (to book a journey)	07902 316360
Community Fire Safety Officer	07717858166
County Councillor - Fred Yeulett	01354 653763
District Councillor - Will Sutton	01354 638025
District Councillor - Michelle Tanfield	07908 707129
Eastern Electricity	0800 783 8838
FACT	01354 661234
Fenland District Council	01354 654321
Fire Station - March	01354 652349
Floodline	0845 988 1188
Library - March	0354 0455225
National Debtline	0808 808 4000
Norfolk Dial-a-Ride	01553 770310
Parish Clerk - Jackie Richardson	01354 677856
Parish Councillor - Jill Bliss	01354 638343
Parish Councillor - William Beswick	01354 638758
Parish Councillor - Simon Freeland	01354 638802
Parish Councillor - Roger Gladwin	01354 638538
Parish Councillor - James Hughes	01354 638310
Parish Councillor - Peter Owen	01354 638847
Parish Councillor - Nigel Russell (Chair)	01354 638279
PCSOs - Sue Clarke & Tessa Morrison	01945 473760
Police (non-emergency)	101
Telephone Complaints	0345 145000
Townley School	01354 638229
Trading Standards	845040506
Train Information	08457 484950
Upwell Health Centre (and out of hours)	01945 773671
Water Emergencies	08457 145145
Welle Pharmacy, Upwell Health Centre	01945 774081

Neighbourhood Watch

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

And Finally...

Hope you'll all come along to the **Christchurch Dog Show & Family Fun Day** on the 16th of this month. There will also be a range of Classic Vehicles, two different bouncy castles for the kids as well as face painting; plus various other stalls including cakes, and plants, and as usual, Garf's gargantuan barbeque.

With all these things going on, as well as putting together the New Heron each month, sometimes I have senior moments of memory loss. Confused, after a brilliant day, when the heavens opened, I ended up, staying up all night, wondering how to explain where the sun had disappeared to – then it dawned on me!

Light travels faster than sound. This is why some people appear bright until you hear them speak!

Give a man a fish and he will eat for a day. Teach a man to fish and he will then sit in a boat all day drinking beer!

So life goes on with all its little foibles, but life is what you make it. The more you give the more you get! So come on folks! Support your village! It's where you live after all! Come along to all these fund raising events! You'll enjoy yourselves and – directly or indirectly – benefit from the funds raised, because they all benefit the village in some form or other! See you there! – Ed'.

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

The team aim to provide a balanced view of village opinions where such views are expressed. We reserve the right to edit any submissions where we feel this is appropriate.