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Editorial Team:

Richard Guilford - Editor Paul Haresnape – Technical Support Vivien Haresnape – Administration

The Heron

Community Magazine

June 2015 Delivered FREE to the residents of Christchurch, Euximoor and Tipps End - £1 where sold

The Tale of the **Ancient Mariner**

Neville Chamberlain

Enquiries: Advertising: Web Site:

editor@theheron.info / 01354 638990 adverts@theheron.info / 01354 638381 www.theheron.info

DIARY DATES

In an attempt to get more information about each event we use 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:

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Jun 1 st	Pilates for all ages - 6:30pm TS - All Welcome - £5 per session
Jun 2 nd	Christchurch Craft Club - Door stop making - TS - 7pm
Jun 5 th	"Cake, Coffee and Chat" Parish Church 2-3pm - All Welcome
Jun 5 th	Mobile Library visits - Upwell Rd Lay-bye 3-3:40pm - you can join here as well
Jun 8 th	Christchurch Parish Council Meeting - Sports Pavilion - 7:30pm - All Welcome
Jun 8 th	Pilates for all ages - 6:30pm TS - All Welcome - £5 per session
Jun 9 th	History and Heritage of the Ouse Wash Areas - Mike Petty - 7pm - TH - workshop
Jun 9 th	WI - Outing to "Fossils Galore" - 7pm
Jun 10 th	Christchurch Residents Association - 7:30pm - The Old School
Jun 12 th	"Cake, Coffee and Chat" Parish Church 2-3pm - All Welcome
Jun 15 th	Pilates for all ages - 6:30pm TS - All Welcome - £5 per session
Jun 19 th	"Cake, Coffee and Chat" Parish Church 2-3pm - All Welcome
Jun 22 nd	New Village Hall Steering Committee - 7:30pm - Sports Pavilion - ALL WELCOME
Jun 22 nd	Pilates for all ages - 6:30pm TS - All Welcome - £5 per session
Jun 23 rd	Christchurch Garden Club - 7pm - TS
Jun 24 th	Christchurch Book Club - 7:30pm - Pear Tree Farm Padgetts Rd - 07946 635908
Jun 26 th	"Cake, Coffee and Chat" Parish Church 2-3pm - All Welcome
Jun 26 th	History and Heritage of the Ouse Wash Areas - Mike Petty 6:30pm WH - FREE TALK
Jun 29 th	Pilates for all ages - 6:30pm TS - All Welcome - £5 per session
Jul 7 th	Christchurch Craft Club - Door stop making (continued) - TS - 7pm
Jul 14 th	WI - Hearing Dogs for the Deaf - 7pm - TS
Jul 18 th	Dog Show and Family Fun Day - TS - Booking from 10am
Jul 28 th	Christchurch Garden Club - 7pm - TS

______ **Parish Church Services**

Jun 7 th Jun 14 th	11:00	H Chappell, A Day	All Age Worship - Townley School
Jun 14 th	09:30	R Holding	Morning Prayer
Jun 21 st	18:30	Rev M Jones	Holy Communion
] Jun 28 th	11:00	R Brown	Morning Prayer
[□] Jul 5 th	11:00	H Chappell, A Day	All Age Worship - Townley School

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

The New Heron Deadline

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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. Change; and update; may be published subsequently. All information contributed by outside agencies, including dates etc., will be assumed to be correct.

Letters to the Editor



Hello Richard,

Feel free to precis the [following] waffle and rant!!! The Schools` Molly Dancing should be interesting to your readers and a reminder to come along and have some energetic fun on Fridays (and the odd Saturday) Molly Dancing in Welney Village Hall, from 6.30pm - 8pm should suffice for the rest.

You would enjoy it - the music and story if not the dancing ... come and see for yourself. We have a film crew from the Three Holes-based Welle Film Group coming this next Friday, to produce a short filmette to go before their next Sunday feature film so you could be a filmstar soon!!!! They want to speak to people as well as film the dancing, and you have a valuable view as Ed of the Heron and local arts enthusiast, so it would be good if you are willing to say your piece.

Thanks again for all the support you and your team have given our village projects. I sneak a peak at Morgan Chappell's family's New Heron and am impressed by the content each time - well done! All the best to you and your crew, Holly [Trundle]

Well! I am shortly to become a film star (sort of!) having been involved in a music video for Steve Waye. Keep an eye on YouTube. Sorry I couldn't make it but would like to be involved, perhaps as the Fool! There we go - typecast again - Ed!

Don't forget that we always publish any letters received. We like to hear your views on any matters concerning the village. You can send them to Richard at the Old School, Church Rd, or email them to editor@theheron.info

Lychgate Update

Now that the work on the lychgate is completed, we would like to once again gratefully acknowledge the late Ron Osler for his legacy which has enabled the renovation of the wall and lychgate. Andy & Daphne



EDITORIAL

Good heavens! It's June already and Summer's here at last – I think?

So time for holidays and cruises perhaps? But you'll never catch up with Neville Chamberlain and all the places he's visited. What a great life he's had, and still very active too! (See cover and pages 6 & 7)

We got something of a 'scoop' this month with our story and photos of the Euximoor scrap yard fire (p. 5), which were also featured in the Cambs Times. Could have been much worse but thankfully no one was hurt.

We've an update on the New Village Hall and access to the play park throughout the summer. Also some great things happening next month; with Christchurch Dog Show, & Family Funday. The Dog Show was such a success last year the Friends of Townley (FOTS) are hoping to build on that this year.

There's a report on The New Heron's finances for our first year of production, as well as some new up and coming features; 'June's Archive' and 'Then & Now'. Also profiles on Townley School's new Headteacher, and our two new PCSO's who are already making their presence felt.

Christchurch Cottage has had a major restoration which took eight months, but, sadly, there has been damage caused to some of the village's historic buildings due to demolition work to the rear of the old Memorial Hall site. They need protecting due to only having 'step footings' and several cracks have already appeared.

There are of course all the usual Club Reports including an update on the Molly Dancing classes that have been taking place in and around the village.

The 'Welle Film Project' is going from strength to strength with video shoots for Steve Waye's latest composition – 'A Moment in time' - having taken place in Upwell, and aboard Sheena's 'Narrow Waters' narrow boat; more on both projects over the coming months.

'Till then start enjoying the summer weather as you browse through your New Heron.

Kature

Community Information

Mobile Library: first Friday each month in the Lay-by Upwell Road 15:00 - 15:40

Mobile Post Office: visits Mon - Fri

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

Norfolk Dial-a-Ride Bus

EVERY FIRST WEDNESDAY into MARCH ALL OTHER WEDNESDAYS into KING'S LYNN Serving members from: Upwell, Outwell, Welney, Tipps End, Lakesend, Christchurch, Lotts Bridge, Three Holes

Start 9:30am Return 1:00pm Cost:£6.50 £3 return for members with Concessionary Travel Pass

The Dial-A-Bus number is 01553 770310 You need to be a member which is FREE Information Leaflets and Registration Forms now available in the village shop - The Little Local

Car Boot Sale and Indoor Market

at Welney Village Hall and Car Park on the LAST SUNDAY OF JUNE, JULY AND AUGUST 2015, from 7.30am-12 noon. All comers welcome, payment

5 pounds per car/pitch. Refreshments will be available. Contact Heidi - tel. 01354-610633; Holly - tel. 610592 or Pat Rix - tel. 610292 for further details.

Welney Water Gala - is wanting 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, WELNEY WATER GALA (with Molly Dancing, raft races, history displays and much more).

Parish Council Minutes - rules on

publication of documents have changed and from now on the "draft" minutes of Parish Council Meetings will be displayed on their own website and on the Village Notice Board. So now it will only be a month out of date, rather than nearly two months. Links from the New Heron site or www.christchurchpc.btck.co.uk. Following the PC Meeting in May, we will no longer be required to 4 publish the Minutes in the New Heron.

Community Car Scheme

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

Arrange your journey through our trip co-ordinator on 01354 638448 or 01354 638758.

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

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

Mike Petty - well known fenman,

author and local historian, continues his series of FREE talks on the **History and Heritage of the Ouse Wash Areas.**

Tuesday 9 June at THREE HOLES VILLAGE HALL, 7.00-8.30pm

– Workshop on Researching the History of the Bedford Rivers' communities;

Friday 26 June, 6.30-8.00pm – Welney Village Hall – Talk about Bedford Rivers' communities, incl. local people's input (follow up from the Three Holes' workshop)

Use the Bottle Bank!

No 'money back on the bottle' these days - but recycling is more important than ever. We can put glass bottles and jars into our 'blue bins' OR we can take them to the village bottle bank for any glass items. It's in the Bowls club car park. If you use the bottle bank, and the paper and clothes banks, there, **it brings in some income for the Parish Council, and so benefits the village.**



Fire Damages Euximoor Business

A huge fire broke out up Euximoor Drove on Thursday 14th May at a scrap yard/recycling centre. The smoke was visible from Littleport.



Flames were above the tops of the poplar trees at first. Fire crews were called out by the owners and arrived at about 4.45pm. They immediately attempted to extinguish the fire as well as began damping down surrounding buildings. Two caravans full of stock were lost in the fire as well as several outbuildings and items in the vard. Estimated losses run into tens of thousands of pounds. (pictures look better on the website - Ed')

Nigel Russell (our Parish Council Chairman) spotted it from the Littleport area and, worried that it might be his own farm, quickly sped home.

Eight fire crews and a command unit turned out for the blaze. Police also attended and closed Euximoor Drove from the T-junction at around 6.00pm. The fire was under control shortly after this but fire crews were still damping down at 7.30pm with flames still 3 to 4 feet high.

Speaking to the owner, Sydney John Carman, he said, "We were working up at the yard till about three o'clock; but we'd had no naked flames, grinders or electrical equipment. Nothing that made a spark! We can't understand it?" Sydney is known as 'Sydie' or 'Steptoe' by his friends and neighbours. His work colleague, Marvin Smart

said, "We finished work just after three and I was off home and spotted the flames from the 16 foot at about 4.30. I rang the fire people straight away!" Another





neighbour, Nigel Russell's sister, Jane, said that she had first spotted the flames about 3.30pm and called the fire brigade then.

Fire crews were non-committal about the cause of the fire, or where the seat of the fire was. Twenty years ago the owners had lost their house to a fire at Roots Cottage, the scene of the latest fire. They have since lived at Pear Tree Farm where I spoke to Sydney's partner Gill Smalley, "I was so worried when Sydney and Marvin were



trying to move the trailer. It was far too heavy and already on fire! I daren't look anymore! It's brought it all back how we lost the house and everything."

Fire crews ferried water from the hydrant near Jackson's Corner even though there was a hydrant at the scrap yard - there had been no water pressure there. Thankfully there were no strong

winds at the time though the fire was, somehow, spread over a wide area.



e aftermath - picture: Cambs Fire and Rescue

Caribbean, Egypt, Eire, Falkland Islands, Fiji, Finland, Gibraltar, Greece, Hong Kong, India,

The Tale of the Ancient Mariner

Orient Lines) on the "Iberia"; just 20 days before his 21st birthday was due. However, he was desperately hoping that he would be able to

Editors Interview with Neville Chamberlain

Born in the village of Christchurch in 1938 at No.7 Council House in Crown Road, Neville Chamberlain was a Merchant Seaman for over 30 years. Neville's grandfather was Walter Chamberlain's dad's brother. Neville served firstly as a pastry chef, then, gradually rising up the ranks to master baker; all that after his two years National Service in the RAF.



Neville went to Townley School along with Terry

Symons (Connie's nephew). Later they took woodwork classes together at The Old School, where I now live, when Townley was still operating it as an annexe for occasional classes like, woodwork, crafts and dancing. Neville left Townley at the age of 15yrs and went on to study for three years to be a baker/confectioner at Cambridgeshire



Technical College. At the age of around eighteen and a half years old Neville began his National Service with the RAF still on the catering side.

On completing his National Service Neville managed to secure a job as a pastry chef with the East India Company (later P&O celebrate his 21st birthday with friends and family before he sailed. His birthday was on the 25th February and the "Iberia" was sailing from Tilbury on the 5th March 1959. So he just made it! He held his 21st birthday celebrations at The Dun Cow with a huge send-off as he would be away for six months on his first sea trip.

Whilst we would probably have got around to telling Neville's story eventually anyway, it was prompted by a conversation I had with him in Church Road one day, outside the village shop. At the time of my conversation with Neville the people of Vanuatu were

reeling with shock after Cyclone Pam brought mayhem and destruction to their South Pacific nation. Winds of up to 180mph had slammed into the 65 islands making up the archipelago, flattening homes, crops and knocking out bridges and roads. Up to half of Vanuatu's 277,000 population were estimated to have been affected by the disaster. Vanuatu is one of the world's least developed countries. Subsistence farming is the main way of making a living for 80 per cent of the population. Neville knew the islands well from his merchant navy days and had been involved in charity work there, including donating a table tennis, or 'ping-pong' table as they chose to call it. Contrary to present day practices any used or useless equipment were 'chucked over the side'. Eventually, thinking of the poor people of Vanuatu, Neville, and a few other shipmates, often asked the captain if they might store some of the more serviceable items in an unused hold space so that when they next visited Vanuatu they could pass them on to the inhabitants. This was agreed, however, the ship was far too big to dock at Vanuatu and all the salvaged items had to be ferried ashore via launches and lifeboats. The crew were always given a fantastic welcome by the grateful natives. The ship visited Vanuatu usually two or three times a year. Neville had known the islands well and explained to me that he had been

55. Helena, Sweden, Tahiti. Tanzania. Tonga. Trinidad & Tobago. Tunisia. Turkey. USA.

Indonesia, Isle of Man, Israel, Italy, Jamaica, Jersey, Kenya, Japan, Malaysia, Malta, Mauritius

reminiscing about all the places he had recognized on the news after the cyclone struck. This had prompted me to chat with him further about his life and maritime experiences.



It would be easier to list the places that Merchant Navy Pastry Cook Neville Chamberlain hasn't visited than those he has; many of which can be seen around the margins of this article. For each

country he visited he always made a point of collecting two pristine, unused, banknotes, with consecutive numbers. (see opposite) He now has these all together in two ring binders;



a prized

possession. He also has his Seaman's Record Books and Certificates of Discharge of all his postings and the ships he's been on (see left).

His first posting was as 3rd baker on

the "Iberia". By 1960 he was aboard the "SS Oriana" when she was launched by Princess Alexandra in Southampton. She was with the ship again for its 25th Anniversary in Hong Kong (see pg 6 bottom left). Just one year later the ship was scrapped in Sydney, Australia. Neville quickly rose to the position of Second Baker. By '66 he was Assistant Pastry Cook, and by '68 he was the man in charge as Pastry Chef. During the early to mid seventies he served aboard the School Ships "Navassa" and "Uganda", and later "Sun Princess" from the USA, based in the Caribbean. In his years as a Pastry Cook Neville has made some fantastic cakes, with a lot of very detailed icing work.



Towards the end of his career as a merchant seaman Neville found himself working as Assistant Cook on the "Baltic Princess"; a roll-on roll -off ferry. This sailed

frequently from Felixstowe to Finland; ten days there and ten days back, with forty ton rolls of newsprint (*That's quite a lot of New Heron's* – *Ed'.*) Neville was five years at sea with the "Baltic Princess". At the time of the Gulf War he was shipping tanks and other British military equipment down to the war zone; often with 'scuds' and other ordnance flying over their heads.

During his time in the merchant navy Neville was on his feet for eleven



Neville delivering tanks for the troops

hours a day. He had several operations for bad circulation in his legs before joining up. In all he had seven operations; the last two at the Merchant Seaman's Hospital, Greenwich; before it closed in 1986. Nicknamed 'The Dreadnought' its name is preserved in the Seaman's Hospital Society under the Dreadnought Medical Service.

It was cheaper to invalid men out of the services rather than flying out replacements if they became ill. In 1992 Neville had to take early retirement, aged 54, due to continuing problems with his legs but with fond memories of his life as a merchant seaman. But he has seen enough of the sea and now always takes his holidays on land. You will always see him taking walks around the village as a means of maintaining his leg circulation and general health. Now 77, Neville has truly led a fascinating and interesting life. Very well travelled, as truly an old man of the sea.

CVRC - Annual General Meeting

Several villagers, members of the Christchurch Village Resource Centre, gathered at the home of Paul and Viv Haresnape, for the first Annual General Meeting of the recently re-launched Christchurch Village Resource Centre. This is the umbrella organisation which oversees The New Heron, and will, over time, hope to facilitate more village activities.

Activities during the first year were outlined from the New Heron sub committee members. Our Editor laid out a range of ideas for the future including a hope that the Gala, might be relaunched, with the Dog Show expanding its activities to "grow into" a new Gala

During the evening the Treasurer (Vivien) gave an account of the CRVC finances.

Accounts had been made up to December 2013 by the previous team, but we had started our financial year on 9th April 2014 which is when the current team took over. The period from January to April 2014 was summarised as follows:- In February 2014, a letter had been circulated to say that, because of problems which had occurred, The Heron would no longer be published, and that the monies in its bank accounts would be donated to the new Village Hall fund. However, £500 would be available until August 2014 for anyone who wished to resurrect the magazine. Richard Guilford and Paul and Vivien Haresnape relaunched the magazine as the New Heron in May 2014, and the £500 was made available to them as a 'start up fund'

At this stage, there had been a total of £3460.09 in the accounts, and so after deducting the £500, £2798.34 was transferred to the Village Hall Fund. This money would otherwise have been kept in reserve for any extra expenses or capital expenditure which was needed, such as buying or replacing computers, as had been done at various times in the past. The £500 gave us enough funding to get off the ground, but did not provide for expenses such as equipment or consumables.

CVRC Finances for period 9th April 2014 – 10th April 2015

Expenditure		
Printing costs	3919.39	IT and Sundries, 2%
IT costs & stationery sundries	125.49	stationery, 3%
Crossword prize	20.00	
Change for overpaid advert	3.00	
Catering for constitution launch	38.28	
Total expenditure	4106.16	4106.16
Income		
Parish Council grants	940.00	Printing costs ,
Donations	653.33	95%
Business adverts	2268.25	
Private adverts	32.45	Expenditure
Magazine sales	226.00	
Fundraising (inc. HeronAid)	386.00 +	Fundraising ,
Total income	4506.03	4506.03 Mag sales, 5%
		21%
Opening balance	500.00	Private adverts,
Income	4506.03	1%
Total	5006.03	
Expenditure	4106.16 -	Donations, 14%
	899.87	Business
		adverts, 50%
Balance at 10/4/15	899.87	Income



Health and Fitness

with - Stephen Aish

Hydration

When we consider health and fitness there are not many things that have as profound an impact on so many aspects of our life as hydration. Sufficient water intake is essential for long term health and has numerous benefits.

One of the biggest problems we face as a society across the globe is the rapid increase in obesity and the implications it has for health. Often the thirst mechanism is so weak that many people actually mistake it for hunger and eat when they are actually partially dehydrated. Not only does this add to the daily calories consumed, it rarely addresses the underlying problem of thirst properly.

Think of it like the oil lamp on your car. It is safe to say that if you let it run low enough to flash, you could have already done some damage to the engine. The same is true of the thirst mechanism. When we are dehydrated it is essential to meet this demand, or face the consequences that can arise.

Simply increasing your daily water intake to around 1 litre per 20kg of body mass can help to reduce fat and lower your weight as you will suppress what was previously thought to be hunger – especially if you need to eat before bed, or during the night. A glass of water will stop hunger pangs in 90% of cases.

Dehydration can cause cramps in the muscles when exercising and also leads to fatigue and fogginess when trying to focus on mental tasks. Dehydration has also been shown to play a role in depression in some cases. Water retention is often caused by dehydrations and so drinking can eliminate it.

A glass of water 30 minutes before a meal can aid with digestion and the ability to use most of the nutrients from the food before they pass through the digestive system. The best way to increase



your daily water intake is gradually, by increasing the glasses per day until you reach around 2-3 litres which should avoid dehydration in most instances. Also increase for intense exercise and very high temperature and humidity if travelling.

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Townley - New Head

Starts this month

Firstly I would like to thank The New Heron team for providing me with this opportunity to introduce myself to you all as the new Headteacher at Townley.

My name is Maria-Anne Higgins and I have taught across Essex and Norfolk for a number of years. My most recent post has been Senior Teacher and Special Needs Coordinator at Ten Mile Bank School, Norfolk, part of the Riverside Federation. For the past six years I also worked for Norfolk Local Authority as an adviser which has prepared me well for this post. I have a wonderful family who will be supporting me in my new post. I have three young sons and husband who are also looking forward to getting to know you all!

During my time at Ten Mile Bank I have undertaken specific Headteacher training and attended a significant number of appropriate courses to prepare me for this role. This has confirmed my belief that I am well equipped for the post of head teacher. I have a real passion for rural schools, their unique nature and the importance



they hold in the community they serve. I want to ensure that Townley School and Christchurch Pre-School remain at the heart of the community developing links in the coming months. To this end I will be looking to parents, governors and the

people of Christchurch and its local community, to support us as we strive for the very best for our children.

I am really looking forward to becoming the new Headteacher of Townley School and continuing the excellent work of Rob Glozier. I will be working alongside Rob and getting to know the staff, children, their families and the local community between now and September when I take up the headship. I am looking forward to my new role and supporting the school and pre-school, as well as meeting as many of you as possible in the next few months. Maria-Anne Higgins

Hits from the Past (June Russell's Archive)

June Russell (Nigel's Mum) has the most fantastic archive of photographs and newspaper cuttings going back to the year dot. Having met her recently for over an hour and a half (there was so much to

absorb and write down); she telephoned me the following weekend to say - "I've found another twelve scrapbooks!" She really is a lovely lady and a real mine of information.

The following Monday I paid her a second visit,

along with Paul, and we were there for nearly two and a half hours; ploughing through the huge volume of newspaper cuttings and photographs. Fascinating! That's where we unearthed the gem opposite. We wonder how many of you remember this Gala float and who is on board in the photo? (answer page 27) We hope to feature more gems from -"June's Archive" in future issues of The New Heron. Have you got any 'historical gems' of your own that you would like to contribute? Either in their own right or for the – "Then & Now" section? 11











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Email: buildingdeconstruction@yahoo.com

Alan Russell is taking a break this month but will be back with a look at how land work has developed in the area.



<u>Christchurch Book</u> Club

This month, we will be reading 'Silent Scream' by Angela Marsons, and the next meeting will be on 24th June at 7.30pm at Sue's - 5, Fen View. New members always welcome.

General feeling about 'The Nine Taylors' by Dorothy L Sayers, which we discussed at our May 6th meeting, was that after a slow beginning, the book built up to a satisfying ending. The local detail about the Fens was interesting, although sometimes out of date values and language were somewhat frustrating.

On May 27th, we discussed 'One Fine day in the Middle of the Night' by Christopher Brookmyer. All members found it an enjoyable, humorous and farcical read. There was general interest in reading another book by this author.

Sheila Day 07946 635908

Great British Trivia Quiz

- 1. Which novel ends with the words "He loved Big Brother?"
- 2. Britain set the first speed limit in 1903 What was it?
- 3. Which 18th Century portrait painter was the first president of the Royal Academy?
- 4. How many times did Gary Lineker get cautioned in his career?
- 5. On January 20th 2006, a juvenile bottlenose whale swam up which river?
- 6. How many ghosts did Scrooge see in A Christmas Carol by Charles Dickens?
- 7. Who was Horatio Nelson's mistress?
- 8. In which month is the Henley Royal Regatta held?
- 9. What was so special about this year's University Boat Race?
- 10. Who was the British Prime Minister at the start of The Second World War?

Answers on Page 27

Christchurch Cottage - iconic cottage gets some TLC

An eight month marathon came to an end recently as Jan and Cliff Clifford "topped out" the ridge tiles of their village centre picturesque cottage.

This stage of the restoration was carried out by local builder Paul Parker *(see ad on page 12)* and their son Stephen who has taken on some of Cliff's Landscape clients during his illness. Below they can be seen here completing the roof retiling.



Toasting the work, from the safety of the nearby brick bus shelter, Jan said, "it's been a long eight months, not counting the winter break, we started in August! - next stop - the garage!"

During the work several clues were revealed to a past history of work. Below is a picture of some marks placed there during original construction in 1789 by the carpenter, perhaps to ensure it was

erected correctly. Below you can see the extent of the rot and the repair completed by Mr Parker.





The Cottage had been much altered over the years, with a significant annex removed. It was for this reason, according to Cliff, that the Cottage had never been listed, and the reason why Jan and Cliff could not apply for grants to help preserve this "link to the past"

Looking Back

In the past the cottage was a shop. Here it is in one of various guises - as Jordan's Shop, that's Mr and Mrs Jim Jordan and their daughter Ada - the picture was printed in the papers, lent from the collection of Mrs V Parker of Walpole St Peter



Around the1930s - B.W. Easy & Sons' ran Easy's shop. The picture below was posted on Flickr by Bill Peachy, to whom

we express our thanks.

Finally, Cliff has undergone some serious surgery recently and both Cliff and Jan asked us to express their thanks to all those who have sent their good wishes for a swift recovery. He is convalescing nicely now.



Christchurch Residents Association

Our May meeting on the 20th was well attended with apologies received from three absentees. One of our two new PCSOs, Sue Clarke, attended and imparted her pearls of wisdom on several subjects. In particular she informed us that Anne Marshall was no longer in charge of the dog fouling initiative at FDC. The new person responsible for this issue is Gemma Newell. [We had an email from Sue the following day to say that she had made contact with Gemma and arranged for them both to visit the village on Thursday 11th June at 10.30am to walk around the village and specifically look at the dog fouling problem. Peter Owen and our Chairman Richard Guilford would also be in attendance. Hopefully with some Dayglo spray paint cans] There had been a delay in progressing Neighbourhood Watch and therefore Speedwatch. Sue Clarke was also going to help us with this and be a 'police presence' on speed monitoring days; together with identifying target areas.

Richard informed us about the recent Parish Council and District Election results. Two of our members – Peter Owen and James Hughes were congratulated at successfully taking up their new Parish Council positions.

The New Heron would be publishing a detailed map of the field playpark, together with the new access point to be used during the construction of the New Village Hall. The small enclosed playpark would be closed during this period. Much of the old playpark equipment is to be reused: some of which would be installed out on the playing field alongside the new equipment; this includes the climbing frame and slide, and the two sets of swings. The accounts for the first year of the New Heron under its new tenure would also be published. The Parish Council minutes would no longer be published in the New Heron as the PC now has its own website, and the rules have been changed to allow minutes to be displayed immediately after each meeting instead of there being a six week delay. There would be a link to the PC website from The New Heron website.

The contractor for the New Village Hall has been decided upon and it is hoped that the new build will be completed by Christmas. Members were

also encouraged to attend the meeting to be

held on Monday 22nd June, 7.30pm at the Pavillion where the new Steering Committee to run the New Village Hall will be decided upon. Current existing clubs were invited to send two representatives along, but all interested parties are welcome to attend.

The new widened pavement in Upwell Road, which had already proved to be unsatisfactory, had been made worse by recent excavations by the electricity board. Their 'making good' was very poor as the slope is now convex. The Parish Council were looking into this problem.

Richard was having a meeting on 21st May with a gentleman from the Middle Level Drainage Board about the presence of Japanese Knotweed on the northern side of the dyke which crosses under Church Road. [This has now been sprayed, is dying back and will be resprayed again early next week]

Damage has been caused to three historic buildings in the village due to recent demolition works to the rear of the Old Memorial Hall; these are The Old School, The Old School House, and Hill Farm. The Parish council is sending a letter of support to FDC residents will be taking up the matter with the developer.

It is hoped that Christchurch Dog Show, scheduled for the 18th July, could be expanded into a larger fund raising event to become a Fun Day for all. Richard was to attend a meeting with the Friends of Townley (FOTS) about this on Friday 22nd May.

Our very lively meeting closed at 9.50pm after much additional discussion.

Next meeting 10th June 7:30pm



At our club's night in May we had Rosemary Higgs showing us how to do Iris folding. It seemed difficult at first but once we got the gist of it we were OK. When finished it is put in a card.

Rosemary has kindly offered to come next year to show us something else.

We had our tea and biscuit, then the raffle. It was a good evening. Who are we?



month because our free time is spent enjoying our hobbies which are many! But, for us, gardens and plants are our source of pleasure. It's a very pleasant way of enjoying ourselves and, for many folks, feeding the family. Where does it all stem from we ask ourselves?

Why not come and join in with a really friendly group of people. See our 2015 programme, look at our village notice board, or of course check out the Diary Dates in our village magazine, The New Heron. You can also contact Marion our secretary on 01354 638230.

Did you visit our yearly "Plant Sale" held this year at Townley School on Saturday May 16th? We had a most wonderful day with Strawberry Cream Teas, lots and lots of different plants, and of course our Super Raffle. [Despite being poorly, Bubbles husband Frank still managed to create his spectacular Vegetable, and Fruit Baskets. We wish him well and a speedy recovery – Ed'.] Yes it truly was a very successful day, and what a way to finish and count our takings. We have our plant sale once a year to raise funds to enable us to plan our programme for the following year (2016). We have a Garden Club evening every 4th Tuesday of the month. Hope to see some of you 'new faces' at our next meeting. Do pay us a visit at Townley School, car park entrance. Don't forget you can contact Marion with any queries or for further details, 01354 638230.

, Bubbles

I have been asked by a few members if they can pay for what ever they take home. It has not been our policy to charge. Members agreed that a donation box would be ideal for those that wish to give. I need to emphasise that this is not compulsory.

The 2nd June meeting, and the 7th July meeting will be making a doorstop, all you need to bring is a needle kit and scissors.

The doorstop will take us the two months to finish.

It's a 7pm start. Everyone is welcome, even if you are not a member.

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

Minutes of the Monthly WI Meeting held in the dining room of Townley School on May 12th 2015



Peggy welcomed members and two new members.

Apologies:

Susan Q., Anne H., Beryl, Marion, Margaret H. Minutes were agreed and signed.

Correspondence:

A letter of thanks from Welle W.I.

W.I. survey that Sandra Lloyd has completed. Baby knitting patterns for Addenbrookes Hospital were available.

Envelopes for jewellery for the Treasure Chest Appeal were available.

Transport Arrangements:

These were given out for Norwich and names were taken for a visit to Fossils Galore.

Peggy gave us a detailed report from the recent Federation Evening.

We were then shown a variety of different ways of tying scarves and how to wear them. Peggy thanked our demonstrator Mary Blackhurst-Hill who gave a very lively talk and demonstration.

After refreshments Peggy led us through a discussion about this year's resolution:

"This meeting calls on H.M.Government to remove the distinction between nursing care and personal care in assessment of the needs of individuals in order to advance health and wellbeing."

Initially this seemed to be straightforward but, after further discussion, it was difficult to make a decision. When it came to the vote it was split 50/50 into members who disagreed with the motion and those who abstained. The President had the casting vote on the side of abstention. This meant that our delegate will decide on the day when she attends the A.G.M. when further arguments, for and against, will be heard.

Next Month:

A visit to Fossils Galore

Competition: none

Raffle Prize Rota: none. W.I.raffle tickets and Magpas tickets will be on sale instead.

Competition Results:

Number of items in a small matchbox

Wendy (5), Peggy, Ann A, Sandra L, Val, Tracy (4), Doris T., Alma (3)

Competition vouchers were awarded to Doris W.,Sandra L. and Tracy for achieving 50 points in,7 competitions.

Molly Dancing from Welney to Christchurch

I thought I`d feedback on our first Molly Dancing session(s) on the 24th April.

Our Welney School children travelled (thanks to William Marshall's Charity Trust full-funding for the coach) to Christchurch School to join their colleagues for the first time in the series of Molly Dancing and story sessions which are being hosted at Townley (thanks to grant funding from Cambs. Heritage Fund).

It was the first time many of the children had met and there was shyness in some quarters, but others were known to each other already and were enthusiastic in their welcomes.

The children were introduced to what Molly Dancing is and its origins, which the Christchurch Children had been taught in their first session last week, so they were able to help the teacher, Gordon, to pull out the details of the history, including remembering elements of the story he had told last time. Then the dancing began. By the end of the session a full dance had been completed and a group of talented individuals learned and executed a second dance which involved wielding and twisting brooms - a scarylooking venture!

The children seemed to enjoy their afternoon and when I spoke to some of the Welney crew they responded enthusiastically about coming again next week. I met one of the lads, Alfie, later by the Village Hall when I was setting up for the evening general public Molly Dancing session. He was still buzzing after the afternoon's fun and told me that he'd been practising with a broom at home! After he, his sister Elle and their friend Poppy had gone home for tea, they returned and joined the rest of the evening revellers for the tail-end of the session, with an extra run-through of the now-familiar dance especially for them to have a go.



Held over from

last Month

Molly Dancers Chris Partington, Phil Utting-Brown, and Matt Simons. At the annual Mark Jones Day of Dance in Ely early this year

The evening session was attended, by 12 revellers. I must report, that those who came enjoyed it and said they are keen to return and will bring more folk with them next time.

I hadn't realised how good a workout it would be, but I was a little breathless by the end of each full dance run-through and my legs were aching when I went to bed (although I had done two sessions, of course, because I'd danced with the children too!) It was good enough for burly farmers and their families of old, so should be butch enough for modern cricketers and farmers and energetic enough for fitness enthusiasts!!!

Get off your sofas, bar-stools, dinner chairs and computer chairs and come and give it a go, and encourage your family and friends to do so too!!! We`ve been given the money for the project so the whole thing is FREE, and it`s a chance to relax and have some fun within your own friends and neighbours. The old-timers (our 18-year olds who did it at Welney School ten years ago) were pleasantly surprised by how much they enjoyed themselves and will be coming back with other young folk to stomp and strut their stuff again!!



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Christchurch, Wisbech, Cambs. PE14 9NA

Email: office@townley.cambs.sch.uk

Website: www.townleyschool.org.uk

Tel/Fax: 01354 638229

In ICT, year ones have been working with beebops and programming them to successfully reach the finish line.







Dates

1 June - Mrs Higgins to start as Headteacher Mr Glozier to work along side until end of term.

8–9 June Mepal residential visit (Year 4/5/6)

10 June—'Read it again' festival - details to follow

16 June School sports day-reserve 17 June

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

2 July–Area Athletics at Wimblington Parkfield

6th July-School reports out to parents

Class1's tell the story of 'The Very Hungry Caterpillar.' The video can be found on our website, along with pictures of their Easter Dance.

[see pg 11 for profile on the new Headteacher]



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



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Film Review

The Blues Brothers (1980)

The Welle Film Project have their next presentation on Sunday 14th June. Doors open at 1.30pm for a 2.00pm start, and it's the 80's classic - "The Blues Brothers" - This riotous musical comedy probably

needs no introduction, or indeed review, but just in case it somehow managed to escape your notice I'll give it a brief mention.

Billed as one of the best musical comedies of modern times, this wonderful sprawling mass of a movie stars John Belushi and Dan Aykroyd as Jake and Elwood Blues who are about to 'get the band back together' after Jake's recent release from prison. The amoral, somewhat criminally minded brothers set out on a 'mission from God' to raise funds for their old orphanage. The simple plot is far from straightforward and provides the excuse for a series of musical cameos from the likes of; Ray Charles, Aretha Franklin, and Cab Calloway. The wonderful Battle of the Bands finale features a host of musical stars, (including Eric Clapton), too numerous to mention. The plot includes a spectacular car chase that ultimately held the record for the most vehicles crashed on film; that was until Blues Brothers 2000 was released when they beat their own record. If you missed this marvellous piece of escapist cinema don't miss it this time! If you have seen it before here's a chance for you to enjoy it all over again on the (relatively) big screen! RWBG



Councillors return to serve again

In the shadow of the ructions which was the General Election last month, you may have overlooked the local Election Results.

Unlike the National Results which were a huge surprise, given the false expectations of the "opinion polls", the District (Fenland) and the Parish Council results went very much as expected.

Your Fenland District Councillors are again, our local man Will Sutton, and his Conservative colleague Michelle Tanfield. Indeed the Conservative Party has tightened its grip on the Council winning 34 of the 39 seats. The votes cast for Elm and Christchurch were:

Michelle Tanfield (Conservative) 1047 Will Sutton (Conservative) 1034 Martin Bower (UKIP) 749 Phil Webb (UKIP) 739 Jane Feaviour-Clarke (Green) 356 Tony Feaviour (Green) 278 **Spoiled Papers 24** Turnout was 62% 22



Vill Sutto

Nearer to home, the Christchurch Parish Council elections were contested by eight candidates for seven seats - the first time a contested election has happened electing all seven Parish Councillors. -

The votes cast were: Nigel Russell 258 Jill Bliss 254 William Beswick 248 Simon Freeland 244 Roger Gladwin 234 Peter Owen 201 James Hughes 197 Geoffrey Harper 168 **Spoiled Papers 15**

Accordingly the elected councillors for the Christchurch Parish are Wiliam Beswick, Jill Bliss, Simon Freeland, Roger Gladwin, James Hughes, Peter Owen and Nigel Russell PVH

The Timebanking Initiative - Two Case Studies

Last month we published information about Timebanking - an initiative backed by the County Council. This month two studies of people who really found it worked for them. The idea in brief:

Timebanking is an exciting way for people to come together and help each other by exchanging knowledge, help and skills. It works by:

• You giving help to others in your community e.g. dog walking or helping an elderly neighbour with their shopping.

• This is recorded as a 'time credit'.

• You can then withdraw credits by asking for help yourself. This could be; help in writing a CV, baking a cake or something fun like learning to play a new sport. (see last month's NH for details)

Everyone's time is equal: whatever is exchanged, one hour equals one hour

Introducing Pat from Somersham



Pat, 82, was unsure whether she had anything to offer the Time Bank. She certainly does! Everyone has something to offer.

Pat has on enormous garden which she loves to spend time in and over time if had become difficult to control. One Sunday morning Timebankers loin and Dave went to her house and spent two hours ridding her front garden of 6 foot nettles and brambles and clearing the pathway to her front door. Two weeks later Pat was chatting about her garden and said, "I've been pottering in my front garden and got it just how I want it. I'm really rather pleased with myself". In return, Pat has wonderful social skills and a great knowledge of the local area especially in transport links. She also provides rides to other Timebankers to the shops, railway station and hospital. At a recent coffee morning, she befriended a new couple to the village and gave them information on buses and village life.

And here's Kelly's story

Mum of two Kelly Lindsay's beauty business has benefited hugely thanks to Cambourne Timebank. Kelly, 3I, recently trained as a beauty therapist and has earned Time credits by giving Timebank members hand massages and other beauty treatments. Previously a carer, Kelly wanted to start her own business now her two children are settled at school. With previous training in bridal make-up and skincare she thought it was a good opportunity to set up a small business.

Kelly said, "My nan always used to speak about the way people used to help each other out and Timebanking is just like that. I'm not one for sitting about doing nothing and this is a good idea. The Timebank has given me the chance to perfect my skills and spread the word about my business. I have also been able to spend the time credits I earned on developing my business and gaining help with designing business cards and IT skills."

Kelly has been able to promote her business through Cambourne Timebank and was featured in a newspaper article on how the Timebank supports local businesses.

Kelly added, "The press release has helped raise the profile of my business. A lady stopped me in the street the other day to ask me about the treatments I offer. I've had a lot of interest and enquiries through Facebook and business is really picking up."



"Timebanking has helped me perfect my skills and promote my new business "

Play Park Update

Whilst the small playpark to the rear of the Sports Pavilion will remain closed until the New Village Hall is completed (hopefully by November), the swings and new climbing and play equipment will continue to be available for use. This may be accessed via the enclosed corridor alongside the wooden fence to the left of where the old playpark used to be. It is hoped that some of the old play equipment can be added to the small play park, and the large climbing frame erected, on the field alongside the newer equipment, in due course.

AsFlorals



Ormiston Chatteris, March & Whittlesey **Children's centres**

Chatteris Ormiston Children's Centres provide activities for families with a child (ren) under 5 Children's Centre Larham Way, Play & Learning activities A range of parenting programmes PE16 6PH Speech & Language Drop-ins 01354 697739 Access to Midwives and Health Visitors Adult Learning courses (up to NVQ level 2 or equivalent in Childcare, Maths & English) English as an additional Language March Dad's Groups Children's Centre Young Parents Groups (under 23's) Job Centre Plus & National Careers Service advisors March Smoking Cessation **PE15 9EO** Support with housing, money management and employment 01354 656581And much more Currently running from Christchurch Whittlesey **Children's Centre** Little Learners structured play sessions aim to provide opportunities for parents to New Road, work with their child/children and share new experiences together. Sessions include Whittlesey. activities all planned to the Early Years Foundation Stage and are designed to aid; PE7 1SZ 01354 750185 Personal, Social and Emotional development (PSED) Physical development (PD) Find us on Communication, literacy and language (CLL) Facebook Townley Primary School— 10th, 17th & 24th June + 1st, 8th & 15th July (£2 per family) No need to book, just drop in Registered Charity No: 1015716

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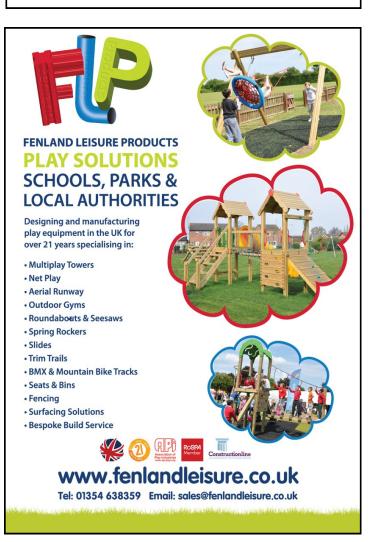
Your fire service has pledged to deliver water safety education to every school in Cambridgeshire following the tragic death of a teenage boy last summer.

But there is only so much we can do and we're calling on parents, carers and peers to talk each other about water safety.

Some things to remember:

- You do not know what hazards lie beneath the surface of rivers, lakes, canals, etc.
- Strong undercurrents can be tough to conquer, even if you know how to swim
- Cambridgeshire's waterways are cold even on the hottest days of the year – and this has a dramatic effect on your body's ability to swim and get yourself out of trouble, should you get stuck.
- If someone is in trouble, call 999 immediately. Do not hesitate to call the emergency services and give clear details of your location.

For the latest news, incidents and safety advice, or to contact us, log on to www.cambsfire.gov.uk . Find us on Twitter, Instagram and Facebook. Call 01480 444500 for enquiries.



26

"Key the Rey" and Ann retire

April 26th saw the final services with Rev Kevin Fitzgibbon in the Christchurch, Manea and Welney Benefice, along with Wimblington,

Doddington and Benwick. He and his wife Ann were given a farewell send off at both Manea and Wimblington as they packed their bags for a life of retirement in Peterborough.

States &

HAPPY





Great British Trivia Quiz - Answers

- 1. 1984
- 2. 20mph
- 3. Joshua Reynolds
- 4. Zero
- 5. TheThames
- 6. Four: Jacob Marley, plus the ghosts of Christmas Past, Present, and Yet to Come!
- 7. Lady Emma Hamilton
- 8. July
- 9. The women's teams rowed the same course as the men for the first time.
- 10. Neville Chamberlain (No not that one!)

Hits from The Past

Believe it or not this features Roland Singleterry and June Russell! They were depicting the "Profumo Affair"!

Sue & Tessa take the Village Beat

Our new Village Bobbies are Sue and Tessa, they kindly sent in these brief profiles: - Ed'

Sue

I am Sue Clarke one of the Rural PCSOs working alongside Tess Morrison.

I have been with Cambridgeshire Constabulary for 17 years. I started off many years ago working part-time in the Enquiry Office. Whilst I was working there I actually joined the Special Constables and made the rank of Sqt. before leaving 8 years later. Then I was offered a full time post as a Community Contact Officer and now I am a Police Community Support Officer, a role which I really enjoy.

Tessa and I work opposite shifts but sometimes we do spend time in the area together.

As we cover 15 villages you no doubt don't see us as much as you would like and that's why we really rely on people to calls us, email us etc. You know better than anyone what's happening in your area so don't be afraid to let us know.



Tessa

Hello, my name is Tess Morrison and I am a Rural PCSO, working alongside my colleague Sue. I've been employed by the Constabulary for approximately four years and have been stationed at Wisbech for a year. Sue and I police approximately fifteen villages and all the schools within, which as you can imagine, keeps us incredibly busy!

We both look forward to meeting you all soon! Sue Clarke, Tess Morrison

Useful Telephone Numbers

-		reignibe
Age UK Cambridgeshire	0300 6669860	Colin Ste
Alzheimer's Society (Fenland)	01945 580480	Sandra k
Anglian Water – Susan Bull	08457 145 145 101	Peter Kn
Cambs Fire & Rescue	01480 444500	David Ya
Churchwarden - Mrs. D. Symons	01354 638352	Julian Sv
Citizens' Advice Bureau, Wisbech	01945 464367	Jackie W
Community Car Scheme (to book a journey)	07902 316360	Simon Fr
Community Fire Safety Officer	07717858166	Richard (
County Councillor - Fred Yeulett	01354 653763	David Ha
District Councillor - Will Sutton	01354 638025	And
District Councillor - Michelle Tanfield	07908 707129	
Eastern Electricity	0800 783 8838	A star is often has
FACT	01354 661234	nailed it
Fenland District Council	01354 654321	granted
Fire Station - March	01354 652349	been cas
Floodline	0845 988 1188	any 'tale
Library - March	0354 0455225	bloke, I g
National Debtline	0808 808 4000	Busy w Editorial
Parish Clerk - Jacquie Richardson	01354 677856	Parish C
Parish Councillor - Jill Bliss	01354 638343	Residen
Parish Councillor - William Beswick	01354 638758	Village F
Parish Councillor - Simon Freeland	01354 638802	rounding
Parish Councillor - Roger Gladwin	01354 638538	 Friday at Family F
Parish Councillor - James Hughes	01354 638310	Christch
Parish Councillor - Peter Owen	01354 638847	of all tha
Parish Councillor - Nigel Russell (Chair)	01354 638279	Clarke P
PCSOs - Sue Clarke & Tessa Morrison	01945 473760	⁻ "DOG P(
Police (non-emergency)	101	 feather in suggesti
Telephone Complaints	0345 145000	Great t
Townley School	01354 638229	the reno
Trading Standards	845040506	to be the
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Upwell Health Centre (and out of hours)	01945 773671	having n haven't d
Water Emergencies	08457 145145	on my ov
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Chinese - Jade House - Emneth	01945 586955	time per
Indian - Outwell Tandoori - Outwell	01945 773322	people d buildings
Kebabs - Ali's Kebabs - Outwell	01945 773434	– Ed'.
Pizzas - Leonardo's - March	01354 661131	

Neig	hboi	urho	w bc	atch

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

And Finally...

A star is born! At a recent film project where one often has to repeat a shot for a number of takes – I nailed it in one! Twice! This resulted in my being granted the epithet – 'One take Rich!' Shame I'd been cast as a large scruffy man! Still if there are any 'talent scouts' about looking for a fat, scruffy bloke, I guess I've got that nailed too!

Busy week for me this week – five meetings! Editorial Team on Tuesday morning as per normal, Parish Council (unusually) Tuesday evening, Residents Association on Wednesday, Christchurch Village Resources Centre AGM on Thursday; then, rounding it all off, a meeting with the FOTS on Friday afternoon re expanding the Dog Show into a Family Fun Day as a prequel to relaunching the Christchurch Gala next year. However, the highlight of all that has to be that Gemma Newell FDC, Sue Clarke PCSO, Peter Owen and myself will be out on 'DOG POO PATROL" on Tuesday 11th June. A real feather in our cap! Guess I 'put my foot in it' suggesting it in the first place – LOL!

Great to see Jan and Cliff have finally completed the renovations to their lovely old cottage; believed to be the oldest in the village. My own home, The Old School is 150 years old this year and, despite having moved into the village in April 2008 I still haven't completed the renovations and restorations on my own property. What has been done has been done in sympathy with the age of the building; e.g. reclaimed architectural salvage of the appropriate time period and style. What a shame some other people don't respect the uniqueness of such historic buildings and help to protect their future!

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.