

NEW The Heron

Community Magazine

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

May 2015

In this issue!

Diary Dates	2
Church Services	2
Letters to the Editor	3
Editorial	3
Community Info	4
Alan Russell Memoirs	5
VE Day Memories	7
Health & Fitness	8
NEW Café Church	10
Poll Comparison Apps	10
How to Vote	11
CPC Candidates	12
Survey Feedback	17
Timebanking	18
Out Takes - Left ins	19
Residents Assoc	20
Craft Club	20
Garden Club	21
Women's Institute	21
Book Club	21
The Telephone Box	22
Townley News	23
Council Minutes	26
Pride in Fenland	30
Small Ads	30
Useful Numbers	31
Celebrity Puzzles	32



A Celebration of VE Day 70 years since May 8th 1945

How often do any of us stop and think of the fact that, but for the tremendous sacrifice made by many of our brave boys, on land, sea, and air, in WWII, most of us wouldn't even be here!

Check out pages 5 to 7 for Alan Russell's, and other villagers, memories of that joyous day back in 1945 when Victory in Europe was finally achieved by Britain and her allies.



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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:

May 1 st	"Cake, Coffee and Chat" Parish Church 2-3pm - All Welcome
May 1st	Molly Dancing - 6:30pm to 8pm - WH - FREE - drinks from 6pm
May 4 th	Pilates for all ages - 6:30pm TS - All Welcome - £5 per session
May 5 th	Christchurch Craft Club - Iris Folding - TS - 7pm
May 6 th	Christchurch Book Club - 7:30 at "Glynan" Crown Rd - see page 17 for details
May 7 th	ELECTION DAY - TS - Parliamentary, District and Parish Elections - see pgs 11-13
May 8th	Victory in Europe Day - celebrate at "Cake Coffee and Chat" see below
May 8 th	"Cake, Coffee and Chat" Parish Church 2-3pm - All Welcome
May 9 th	Molly Dancing - 10.30am - 2.30pm - including lunch (doors from 10am) - WH
May 10 th	Three Holes Cinema Club - The Imitation Game (12A) - 2pm - TH
May 11 th -24 th	Wisbech Brinks Festival - www.thebrinksfestival.org to book tickets - see page 17
May 12 th	WI - Scarf Tying – Mary Blackhurst-Hill - TS Dining Hall 7pm
May 15 th	"Cake, Coffee and Chat" Parish Church 2-3pm - All Welcome
May 15th	Molly Dancing - 6:30pm to 8pm - WH - FREE - drinks from 6pm
May 16 th	Garden Club Plant Sale and Cream Teas - TS - 10am - 4pm
May 18 th	Pilates for all ages - 6:30pm TS - All Welcome - £5 per session
May 19 th	Christchurch Parish Council Meeting - Sports Pavilion - 7:30pm - All Welcome
May 19 th	Christchurch Garden Club - 7pm - TS
May 20 th	Christchurch Resident's Association meeting - 7:30pm - The Old School
May 21st	Village Resource Centre AGM - 7pm - All Welcome - "Glynan" Crown Rd
May 22 nd	"Cake, Coffee and Chat" Parish Church 2-3pm - All Welcome
May 25 th	Pilates for all ages - 6:30pm TS - All Welcome - £5 per session
May 27 th	Christchurch Book Club - 7:30 - Pear Tree Farm Padgetts Rd - 07946 635908

Parish Church Services

May 3 rd	11:00	H Chappell, A Day	All Age Worship - Townley School
May 10 th	09:30	Rev J Webb	Holy Communion
May 17 th	18:30	Rev M Jones	Evening Prayer
May 24 th	11:00	Ven H McCurdy	Morning Prayer
May 31 st	11:00	C. Day	United Service at Manea
Jun 7 th	11:00	H Chappell, A Day	All Age Worship - Townley School

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

The New Heron Deadline

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

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

Letters to the Editor



Dear Richard,

I work for the local electricity board, and have done so for more than twenty years. When I moved to Christchurch eight years ago there used to be regular 'power-outs' in the village. The vast majority of these were caused due to the existing HT system within the village then being inadequate to cope with the load placed upon it.

Since then some technical improvements and upgrades have taken place, most notably a new HT cable being lain from the sub-station in The Croft to link to the sub-station in Upwell Road next to the village shop. As a result in recent years any 'power-outs' have been more infrequent and have had a shorter recovery time.

However, with the increased housing developments which are already going on, and others which are anticipated in the near future, there will be further additional loads placed on the current HT system which is now again almost 'maxed out'. So before long we will be plunged back into a time of more frequent 'power-outs' as before due to an insufficient electrical power infrastructure. This is further complicated by the fact that three different companies supply village power not all of whom have undertaken the necessary upgrades.

As the time of election approaches I hope that all future Parish and District Councillors will consider the above points with regard to our very pleasant village of Christchurch being plunged back into the 'dark ages' – literally! And all because of overdevelopment which will also inevitably destroy the character of the village.

(Name and address supplied)

Wow! A very detailed and informed account if I may say so. I am sure that many of us villagers will appreciate your concerns, and be grateful for your insights. Let us hope that the future powers that be, representing village interests, will take note! – 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

EDITORIAL

Hello again!

Bit of a mixed bag this month. Of course we had to honour the memory of the victorious allies 70 years ago with Victory in Europe on the 8th May 1945. What a relief that must have been after six years of war. See Alan Russell's memoirs and those of other villagers on pages 5 to 7.

Then of course this month's New Heron is also a bit of an "Election Special" with a very informative article from Paul on page 11, followed by profiles of all your Parish Council candidates on the following pages 12 and 13.

Finally, we also celebrate the beginning of our second year as the current incumbent custodians of The New Heron. So we thought we just had to do something special this month; a thicker cover page, and in colour, plus a Celebrity Puzzle Page on the back cover, courtesy of The Radio Times. And if you notice it's been trimmed to open up a bit better! Out-Takes and Left-Ins as promised on page 19. Also some very intriguing results from our 'reader survey' undertaken at the CVRC meeting – Thanks to Paul again. Please note our up and coming AGM on the 21st May at 'Glynan' Crown Road. See Diary Dates. Viv has done the end of year accounts and thanks to Jill Bliss they've been audited.

We thank you all for your continued support, and especially those that responded to Joost & Sheila Hoek's appeal last month. To all of you who donated as a result of our "Diamond Couple's" party, raising £520. Alan Russell too, as well as all his hard work on the magazine, donated £50 to help with the extra pages this month. You are all absolutely amazing and THANK YOU all so very, very much!!! Unbelievable!

Then of course there are all the usual features, and a special article from John Sparrow on one of his many hobbies, and we hope to bring you much, much more over the coming year.

Please keep those letters coming in, and any other articles, recipes, quizzes, puzzles etc. that you may wish to contribute.

Enjoy!

'Til next month.

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

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Information Leaflets and Registration Forms now available in the village shop - The Little Local

Play Park Closure

The Play Park will be closed for use from the 2nd week in May to November, during the construction of the New Village Hall.

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.

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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.



Thanks to everyone who helped with our house move - **Sandra and Brian Kay**



Christchurch Recreation Ground

Charity would like to invite all village groups, clubs or associations to send two representatives to a meeting on Monday 22nd June 2015 at 7.30p.m in The Pavilion Hall.

The meeting will be to discuss the formation of a Committee that will manage the New Pavilion Hall and Recreation Ground going forward, and hopefully the building work will have commenced by then.

A Community Oil Buying Scheme

run by Cambridgeshire Acre is now working so you can save money on heating oil. For more information call 01353 860850 or email oil@cambsacre.org.uk

Mike Petty - well known fenman,

author and local historian, will be running a series of FREE talks on the

History and Heritage of the Ouse Wash Areas.

Friday 22 May, 6.30-8.00pm – Welney Village Hall

- Talk about the Old and New Bedford Rivers;

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)

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).

We thank every body for the donations to the New Heron , and to everybody who has sent lovely cards on the occasion of our Diamond Wedding Anniversary . Thank you

Sheila and Joost Hoek

The Alan Russell Column

My VE Day & WWII memories



VE Day was celebrated with relief and joy all over the country from the largest cities to the smallest hamlet, but for many who had lost loved ones, those left with horrific injuries, family members still fighting the Japanese and those that had loved ones Prisoners of War of the latter, must have had very mixed emotions.

I am writing this as a memory of an eight year old child. I think it is fair to say that for many who lived in rural areas away from big convolutions and inland from the coast, apart from those mentioned, and those involved in war work in various occupations, the war in many ways passed them by. Yes, I remember the noise of JUNKERS 88s and Lancaster Bombers and occasionally "Doodlebugs" over head most nights but I never had to go in search of air raid shelters neither at home or at school, apart from practices at school of sheltering and gas mask drill. Occasionally a stray bomb fell or a plane crashed but thankfully we never felt the terror of those trying to live nightly with bombings and shelling. I can remember some of the evacuees arriving. Being an only child I longed for a brother or sister and I had one at last when a very distant relation, a 14-year-old boy called Ron Allen came and lived with us for several years. I wanted him to stay forever but the call of the "East End" was a bigger attraction for him a year or so after the war. Several of the evacuee families came and lived at Euximoor, some in 'Happy Row' and were good pals of mine. The Coombes, Hughes, Daville and Smallwood families must have enjoyed country life as several of them stayed and built a new life amongst us.

Although official rationing was in place, much bartering took place amongst us. One of the evacuee families called to see us only 3 years ago; I had not seen them for over 65 years and we had much to talk over. One of the daughters told me that her mother, although like most people was poor, always very smartly dressed when she went out, because I learned that the farmers wife, where they had a cottage, passed her smart clothes down to them in exchange for their clothing coupons which ideally suited both parties.

The No 364 Eastern Counties bus with seats that ran the length of it with their backs to the window was full on a Saturday mornings. Many of the women who were carrying stout wicker baskets with a cloth over them took dairy butter, vegetables, joints of meat, eggs etc., to be exchanged for a few extra pounds of sugar, tea, candles, matches etc., and items of sought after clothing with certain shops, hotels and the like.

Starting at the infants in the Old School with huge open fires with heavy iron guards around them, Miss Connie Sparrow taught us about "Old Lot" and his dogs and farm, reading, writing and sums. She was a wonderfully talented woman loved and respected by all. Leaving to go up to the "big" school with the dreaded Mr. Evans was something no one looked forward to. Every fine afternoon as infants we had to have "rest" periods where we lay on folding beds or mats looking up at the sky watching for old vapour trails not realizing men were fighting life and death battles in the blue yonder.

An auxiliary Fire Service was organized in the village I believe under Mr. Jack Rolfe the blacksmith, Home Guard with Col M Bernard West, Annette's dad, having fought in the WWI started off as Sergeant and worked his way up through the ranks. Civil Defence Volunteers the A.R.P., under Mr. Herbert Day was formed along with many Special Constables and various women's organisations that did sterling work though the W.I., W.R.V.S., Land Army Girls and others.

Living next to West's Farm I saw a good deal of the Home Guard on exercises. Forgive me but I must tell you of a few light-hearted incidents that occurred. My father-in-law told me on one Sunday H.G. members were supposed to creep along in the bottom of the dykes out of sight of the enemy, a few of the old stagers could not get down in the dyke so they had to walk along the top of the bank and were told if the Germans came they would have to pretend they were scarecrows, not too difficult as they only had hoe handles! No guns then. I mentioned gas masks earlier, LET Smith and James Dolliday went round delivering gas masks, ensuring they fitted properly. One of my great uncles, a staunch Methodist who suffered claustrophobia badly fainted with the gas mask on.

When he came round with his eyes closed he said, "Am I dead? Am I with Jesus??" LET Smith said "No. You're with Moses but you've still got to have this B*****y gas mask fitted!"

Uncle Harry was a Special Constable and he asked granddad if he would billet some engineers who came to take to pieces a crashed aeroplane on Fred Days Farm at Euximoor if he took some in as well. They agreed and as a reward I was taken down to see a "real" aeroplane and sit in the pilots seat, but I can't remember if it was one of ours or not.

Exercises to test emergency services were regularly held with local members of all auxiliary taking part. Uncle Harry, with severe emphysema was naturally a 50 a day Woodbine smoker. His part was of a dead man. Lying propped up on one elbow enjoying a quick drag the Officer in charge of the exercise, a stickler for reality, came along and caught him. He bellowed – "Constable Russell what the hell are you doing smoking ?– you're DEAD!" Came the reply "I know I'm dead Sir, but I've still got to have a Woodbine!!"

Very thankfully these emergency services were very rarely needed locally but I am sure if they were ever called to action, all over the country the would have shown the Bull Dog Spirit the British are known for.

There was a search light battery in the field opposite Mr. Harry Sparrow's shop until later in the war when Italian prisoners of War were held in their old huts when the soldiers left, and I can still smell their strong coffee when they brewed up while working on the field next door to ours. The A.R.P., took part in a supposed attack with many severely wounded to attend to, lying in barns and hedges etc., Uncle George Arthur was lying swathed in bandages, bleeding from head and stomach wounds and was told someone would come and collect him with an improvised ambulance at 2pm. Doing his duty he lay behind a hedge waiting to be picked up, no one came at 2, or 3 or 4, or 5pm so he removed his bandages carefully put them in a neat pile with a note saying "Sorry – no one came to me, so I bled to death, - gone home to milk, be back at 7!"

It was said that Mr. N Poole was asked by an evacuee boy for a job and was taken on to scare pigeons off newly drilled barley and was told to take a stick with him. He was asked if it was to frighten the birds but was told "No, it's so when you

come back after dinner you will know where you left off!"

German P.O.W.s worked on many of the farms around coming from the P.O.W. camp at Friday Bridge. Several different ones came and helped my father on the farm.

One in particular was a carpenter by trade and Dad had managed to get some second hand railway sleepers for building with and I remember Dad saying this giant built man could sharpen a saw expertly and in one day he sawed eleven of them length ways in half - a tremendous feat. Towards the end of the war afterwards they were allowed to live off the camp if they could get accommodation.

Three or four of them lived in converted railway carriages – there are still some of these, still lived in today, locally converted into smart bungalows on Mr. George Smith's farm at Euximoor. One of these - Carl – a cabinetmaker made some excellent small chests for gramma and mum and my aunts to earn extra money and they are still in good order today. As I said at the beginning, the war mainly passed us by but one harvest day a German Fighter plane swooped down and fired at the empty horse and cart, Dad and one of the prisoners were going to get a load of wheat shoves in, and a bullet struck the rear raves on the cart where Hans was sitting. It would certainly have been an unusual war death.

P.O.W.s that worked in the Ely Sugar Beet factory used to get unrefined sugar to barter I remember. I don't remember how their rationing worked out but my mother used to be supplied with some sort of coupon that enabled her to get them specified items and at Christmas in 1945, when the war was over they came to us and brought toys they had made for me and a set of shoe brushes made from packing cases and horse hair for mum to thank her, and I remember her tuning into a German radio station to a carol service so they could hear it, as they weren't allowed radios, and three of them singing Still Nacht with tears streaming down but with one of them, a Hitler youth of 18, cursing them.

Some prisoners married local girls and never went back as their homes were in East Germany. I never knew their surnames or where they lived in Germany, as to an eight year old Germany was to be feared and as far away as the moon.

When touring all over Germany many times since with the motor home I often thought if the owner of the campsite had a relation who was a P.O.W. at Euximoor.

I believe many of our young soldiers whilst prisoners in Germany helped out on farms, not slave labour – but as their P.O.W.s worked for us, in a mostly friendly atmosphere.

We went to visit our evacuee boys family in Forest Gate in 1947 and was taken round to see the terrible devastation of the early forties blitz. It was a miracle so many survived as they did. How fortunate we were.

Having no electricity until the late 1950's, battery and accumulator (which were recharged weekly and returned by the Roundsman from Three Holes - H Purell's) radios were our main entertainment apart from the Chapel and concerts in The Old School Hall (Where our esteemed Editor now lives) by local talent. I can remember Mum and Dad and I spending several hours cutting three inch squares from old coats, jackets etc and them being 'pegged', with a sprung pegger each square sorted into different colours, onto a washed hessian sack to patterns such as diamonds, circles etc of our own design finishing up into our very own hardwearing rug.

Rationing not only applied to humans but to animals also and farmers had to get round feed and meal merchant workers to get extra pig and poultry rations with the usual butter and eggs etc., going the other way.

I remember my grandfather got called over the coals for throwing a lot of rotten onions, without thinking, into the grass field which after Gramma had spent hours churning by hand, the milk, butter and cream, all tasted of onions and so she didn't get her poultry laying meal, which she depended on, for a week or two as

she had the egg money form the firm that came round each week collecting them to pay for her own private extras.

When our prisoners of war started to return they were changed men from the ones that went away. Mr. James West always had eye problems and Mr. Alec Wilson, a Japanese P.O.W., always suffered with a form of worm in his stomach. He would not talk about the war much but being a true son of the soil, enjoying nature in all its glory, said to me that the wonderful trees, plants, animals and birds in the jungle against the terrible BURMA Railway were wonderful to see and he never would have had the chance if had not gone to war. What enjoyment he got from studying these helped to take away the horrors he had endured.

Another man who was still a captive of the Japanese when V.E. Day was celebrated was Mr. Frank Love, a Medic who gave his best for the welfare of others. After the war when he was back home and at work one of his fellow prisoners from Liverpool came to find him, but he was at work. The man, an Ex-Sergeant, said Frank deserved the highest honour he could get for what he had done to save as many of his mates as he had.

No doubt there were many more like him never honoured or recognised by authority, some living to enjoy V.E. Day as we did at Christchurch and Euximoor and on the less recognised but just as important V.J. Day.

Although wars are still raging in many parts of the world, we hope England never has to call on the Australians again as in 1939-45, who all did their part to keep Britain free, we must never forget all their sacrifices.

Next time Alan shows us how Christchurch used to be - complete with pictures - Ed'

VE Day - MEMORIES

"There was a big party in the playground at Townley. I and many others helped serving food, drinks and sandwiches. Lots of games and generally helping the children enjoy their day and the joyous celebrations of the end of the War." - Doris (Wolsey) Rolfe

"In Manea there was a proper street party with tables all down the middle of the road. There were teas, sandwiches, and cakes and lots of music and dancing. A great release!" -Sheila Hoek

"I remember in Wisbech-St -Mary we had a street party with long, long, tables that seemed to go on for ever. I was eight years old when the war started and by the time VE Day came I was already fifteen. There was a big house in Parsons Drove that held a party too." - June Russell

Neville Chamberlain was only seven years old and yet to go to sea in the Merchant Navy, but he and Terry Symons both enjoyed the celebration party at Townley.

"I was still in Germany at the time and apart from a lot of cheering when the peace was signed we didn't have a lot of time then for proper celebrations. Things were still very tight."

- Walter Chamberlain

Health and Fitness

with - Stephen Aish



Falls prevention – strength and balance training

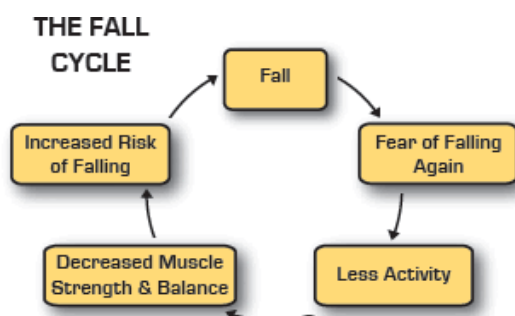
When we are young it is very easy to get up and carry on after we take a fall. In some cases it is almost as if children are made of rubber and seem to bounce. In mid-life, falls can take more of a toll on the body, easily leading to sprains and breaks as we attempt to prevent the impact of the fall. In our later years, these same falls can not only do serious damage, but they can be life-threatening as research has shown.

In adults aged 65+, 50% of all hospital admissions are for falls, and account for 40% of deaths in this age group. While the best time to invest in your health is during your younger years, it is never too late to have a positive impact in this area. Strength and balance training (SBT) is a very effective precaution from the often serious damage caused by falling. While reaction times can get slower, stability becomes an issues and strength fades, it is a very important part of maintaining health and the enjoyment of these important years.

With minimal equipment it is possible to have a significant impact on your confidence to move around the home and outside without the worry of falling over. Simple exercises using a chair, wall, towel, rubber band and light weights can not only help with fall preventions, but also maintain health levels, strength, and mobility and reduce injury and pain over time.

All of these exercises can be done at home and only take around 10-20 minutes each day. They can even be done while you are watching your favourite TV program and setting this time for your activities is a great way to develop and maintain new and healthy habits.

The worst time to decide you are going to do something about your health is when you are on the floor and in pain waiting for assistance.



As they say – prevention is better than cure. If you would like a free consultation and some advice on SBT and falls prevention then please do call and we will be very happy to help you – 01354 638 589

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WHY CHRISTCHURCH DOESN'T HAVE A CRICKET TEAM ANYMORE

Apparently the rules had just become so complicated everyone just became so befuddled. You see.....

You have two sides, one out in the field and one in. Each man that's in the side that's in goes out, and when he's out he comes in and the next man goes in until he's out. When they are all out, the side that's out comes in and the side that's been in goes out and tries to get those coming in, out. Sometimes you get men still in and not out.

When a man goes out to go in, the men who are out try to get him out, and when he is out he goes in and the next man in goes out and goes in. There are two men called umpires who stay out all the time and they decide when the men who are in are out. When both sides have been in and all the men have been out, and both sides have been out twice after all the men have been in, including those who are not out, that is the end of the game.

(Yes Its an oldie but its a goodie!! – Ed')

NEW CAFE-STYLE ALL AGE WORSHIP!

Christchurch Parish Church

invite you to join us
for family friendly worship

in Townley School Hall

on Sunday 3rd May

at 11am

Bible stories

Crafts

Refreshments

Puppets

Songs

Prayers

And then on the first Sunday of each month.

The “Which Party?” Voting Minefield

Worried about who to vote for?

Confused by the range of parties and policies? Then read on because for this General Election there are a number of websites which will help you decide which party best suits your own views.

We are used to using websites when it comes to making difficult choices about our power supplier, or car insurer, so why not our political party?

The way they work is to pose statements which you can support or not. It builds up a picture of what your views are, as it asks you to rate more and more statements. Eventually they

reveal the party that most closely matches your views.

It should be said that it is early days for these apps and more development is likely before the next election. I hope so because I found it frustrating (in one of them) to have to reject whole groups of statements, including some that I agreed with. That said, it did result with the suggestion as to which party most suited to my views and was actually the Party that I intend to vote for.

Pretty surprising!

Apps tried - votematch.org

isidewith.com

voteforpolicies.org.uk PVH

How to vote

Surely we must all be aware of the election coming up on Thursday 7th May 2015!

Had you realised however, that as well as voting for our Member of Parliament, we are also being given the chance to vote for our Fenland District councillors AND our Parish Councillors?

The Polling Station staff are on hand to ensure that you understand what you need to do, and the number of votes you have for each election.

To help you through what might be a confusing visit to our Polling Station - which will be again, if you live in our Parish, be at Townley School - we are going to set out the options below.

By now you should have had a Polling Card, check it to confirm your Polling Station.

When you get into the voting booth put a CLEAR CROSS against the name or names you wish to elect. Do not make any other marks on the paper or it may be counted as "spoiled".



Electing our Parish Councillors

Parish Council elections: (Christchurch Parish - you must be resident in the Parish to vote)

You have up to SEVEN votes to choose from:

William Beswick
Jill Bliss
Simon Freeland
Roger Gladwin
Geoffrey Harper
James Hughes
Peter Owen
Nigel Russell

(no party allegiances have been declared for any candidate) See their election addresses - pg 12 & 13

What if I don't want to vote for any of the Candidates?

Sometimes you may look at the candidates and their policies on offer and you just decide there's not one that adequately represents your views or needs. In elections where there is more than one vote, you may choose not to use all your votes.

If you don't wish to endorse anyone, you may wish to "spoil your ballot". This means that you can write on it something like "None of the Above".

Spoiled ballots are counted just like the votes and are declared when the result is announced. If sufficient people spoil their ballots it can be seen that a part of the electorate took the time to come out to express dissatisfaction at the policies on offer from all the candidates.

This is considered more powerful than just staying away from the Polling Station, which could otherwise be thought of as apathy.

**Please take the time to take part in
this "hard won" right as a
citizen of the United Kingdom
and**

Remember to Vote

Thursday May 7th

Electing our MP

North East Cambridgeshire constituency

You have ONE vote - choose from:

Steve Barclay - Conservative Party
Andrew Charalambous - UK Independence
Party
Lucy Nethsingha - Liberal Democrat Party
Ken Rustidge - Labour Party
Helen Scott-Daniels - Green Party

Electing our District Councillors

Fenland District elections: (Elm and Christchurch ward)

You have up to TWO votes to choose from:

Martin Bower - UK Independence Party
Jane Feaviour-Clarke - Green Party
Tony Feaviour - Green Party
Will Sutton - Conservative Party
Michelle Tanfield - Conservative Party
Phil Webb - UK Independence Party

YOUR 2015 PARISH COUNCIL CANDIDATES

All candidates were offered the opportunity to address the New Heron readers here they are arranged in alphabetic order
(They have not been edited by New Heron Editorial Team)

WILLIAM BESWICK

I have lived in Christchurch for six years now and have served on the Parish Council for the past four.

My wife and I are retired and hence I feel that I now have the time to commit to village affairs if re-elected.

I like to get involved in village life and I am already a volunteer driver for the Community Car Scheme for the elderly and infirm.

Being a dog owner the issue of dog fouling is an on going concern, along with speeding through the village. I would like to see improved amenities hand in hand with the general upkeep of this Fenland village.

William Beswick
The Croft,
Christchurch.



JILL BLISS

Beechwood Farm,
Ha-penny Toll Road.

To the electorate of the parish of Christchurch.

I am seeking re-election as a Parish Councillor at the forthcoming elections on May 7th 2015.

For those of you who do not know me - I have lived at the above address since 1964 and have two daughters and five grandsons. I have served on several village organisations/committees in the capacity of chair, vice chair, secretary and treasurer, I have also been Chair of Governors of Townley School.

I also represent the parish on the Upwell Health Centre Patient Participation Group and am a Trustee of The Upwell (Cambridgeshire) Consolidated Charities.

If I am re-elected, I will serve the parish as I have for many years in an active, honest and loyal manner, for the good of the village.



SIMON FREELAND

For the benefit of those who don't know me personally, or through my business Christchurch Electrical, Townley School (Parent and school Governor) or from reading the Parish Council 'Minutes of Meetings' please see below.

My family and I moved up from Surrey to the village in 2009. After spending 25 years in and around London working within the Construction, Architecture and Civil Engineering industries, redundancy and the chance to escape the rat race before my oldest son reached school age was all the motivation I needed. I became a Parish Councillor in 2010 and successfully pushed for a 30mph speed limit through the village, campaigned against the village being used as a shortcut by HGV's and for other safety measures throughout the Parish. I wish to keep Christchurch as a village and not have it turned into a town. I believe all efforts should be taken to try and ensure that future development is not detrimental, is sustainable and does not end up leaving the problems of the Croft. I believe Parishioners should be consulted as a guide to Parish Council aims, objectives, services and property use. Please use your vote. Thank you.

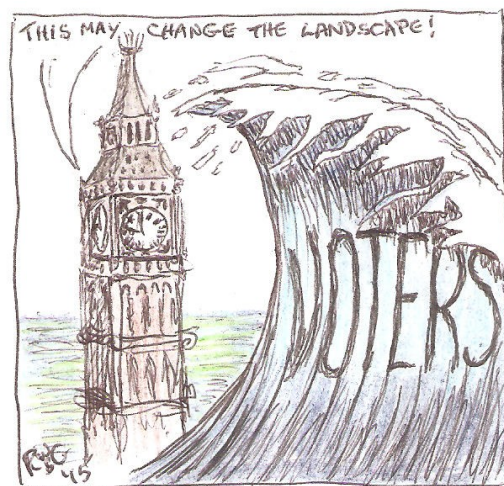


ROGER GLADWIN

I have lived and worked in Christchurch for nearly twenty years. I have been an active member on the Parish Dinner Committee and am also a committee member of Christchurch Bowls Club.

I first joined the Parish Council over a year ago and would like to continue in this role focusing on the New Village Hall, road safety, and finance.

Roger Gladwin



GEOFFREY HARPER

I was raised in Upminster, Essex. I would love to serve my local community and my appointment to the Parish Council would be a great way to do this. I have worked in industry starting my career as an Apprentice Toolmaker at Ford's Dagenham. I then transferred to the Tractor Plant at Basildon, where I spent



34 years with the company. Over the years I have held various positions of responsibility, achieving the position of Senior Buyer. I then joined a logistics company as Procurement Manager. I am now employed at Caterpillar in Peterborough as a Senior Buyer. My work requires worldwide travel and negotiations at all levels. I am married to Janet and have one son, two married daughters, seven grandchildren, and they often come to stay with us in Christchurch. My hobbies include fishing and cycling. I am also an active member of Lions Club International, enjoying the camaraderie of the club and involvement in fundraising for both local and international charities. I have enjoyed living in Christchurch for two and a half years now. I am aware that a vacancy has occurred in Christchurch Parish Council and would like to be considered as I feel that I have much to offer.

PETER OWEN

Having worked in the printing industry for 50 years I am now retired. I have been married to my wife Lindsay since 1972 and we are still together.

My reason for standing for election to the Parish Council is that I believe that Christchurch is a rather special place with a great



community spirit. I would like to see that continue but I would also like to see some improvements for the benefit of the community.

I would work for the reintroduction of a proper bus service. For sustainable development (developers to post a bond so that there is no repeat of the problems experienced by The Croft)

Ideally I would like to see the re-establishment of a youth club once the New Village Hall is built and I would be happy to work for that.

I would also seek to push FDC to resolve the remaining problems in The Croft.

Finally I'd like to thank The New Heron for giving me the opportunity to get my message across. Please use your vote for your favoured candidates. It's your future!

Thank you

JAMES HUGHES

I have lived in Christchurch for 8 years now, with my partner and two children, both whom currently attend Townley School where I am a school governor. I am a Software Engineer by profession, and am currently working in Oakington for a chip design company, on camera and video projects.



Although technically an 'Essex' boy, I have lived in the Fens from the age of 6, growing up in Sutton-in-the-Isle to the west of Ely, and have lived in East Anglia my whole life. I believe that my work experience and my desire to live in a village location will make me a very useful addition to the Parish Council. I'm also of the opinion that villages nowadays must be protected and nurtured, not just for the vitally important farming community, but also for the rapidly increasing 'commuter' and elderly population. Christchurch is now a very diverse village, with residents from all over the country who have come here for the peace and quiet only a rural environment can provide, and the Parish Council must represent all inhabitants of village, no matter where they are from or what they do.

NIGEL RUSSELL

I have lived in the village all of my life and have a farm at Euximoor, being the 5th generation to do so. I attended the village school and also Sunday School at the Church.

Three years ago, with the village shop having been closed for some time, my wife and I purchased and reopened it.



I have been involved with the Parish Council for a number of years and I am at present its Chairman.

I have fought with others to get funding to build a new Village Hall; first via the big lottery but unfortunately we were turned down. I was also involved in the purchase of extra land some years ago where we were successful in getting three plots to sell to make it possible to build a new village hall using the proceeds from the sale of these. The result being that work should finally start on the New Village Hall within the next few weeks.

I will continue to push road safety within our village and connecting roads from Tipps End to the bottom of Euximoor, and hopefully one day get the barn at the Upwell Road junction with the Sixteen Foot removed. Some people have hobbies; e.g. bowls, or golf etc. I have the Parish Council, and hopefully, if re-elected, will continue to do my best for the village and its local community.

There are SEVEN votes available to each voter for this part of the election. You may choose up to SEVEN from the EIGHT candidates to represent you on the Christchurch Parish Council.

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Saturday	11.00am - 1.30pm 4.00pm - 9.00pm
Sunday	Closed

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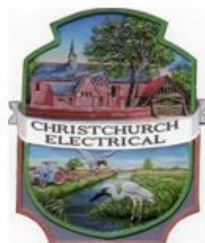
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THE BRINKS

11-24TH MAY 2015

ABOUT THE BRINKS FESTIVAL

The Festival celebrates the unique cultural resources of Wisbech. From 11th - 24th May (Bank Holiday weekend), it will present some of the best talent in many of its historic cultural venues, featuring performing arts, photography, theatre, poetry, art and film. The Festival is organised by Octavia Hill's Birthplace House team of volunteers as an annual fundraising event.

At the core of the Festival is Octavia's quest for social inclusion, expressed in the motto of the National Trust, 'Forever For Everyone'. Entrance fees for the Festival are kept low thanks to the support of all the partners and participants who have given what Octavia Hill called "gifts of money or gifts of time".

EXHIBITIONS 11th – 24th May

Wisbech & District Camera Club 65th Annual Exhibition

Venue: Wisbech & Fenland Museum

Art Start - Exhibition for new artists

Venue: Wisbech Institute

For expression of interest visit: www.thebrinksfestival.org

Wisbech & District Camera Club Panel Photography

Venue: Wisbech Library

History of the Rose & Crown Hotel Exhibition

Venue: Rose & Crown Hotel

The Artwork of Margaret Gillies - Pioneer woman artist

Venue: Octavia Hill's Birthplace House

'Migrant Workers' Exhibition Looking at Migration of People in the Ouse Washes Over 300 Years

Venue: Rosmini Centre, Queens Road

Retro Games Console Exhibition & Prize Competition

Venue: Dawn Til Dusk, 10 Old Market Wisbech PE13 1NJ

Octavia Hill Flower Club decorate The Birthplace House

Venue: Octavia Hill's Birthplace House

Go to our website to book tickets & to find out more information on these & additional events:

www.thebrinksfestival.org



Welney Village Hall.

ALL SESSIONS FREE FOR EVERYONE!!

(Refreshments will be available, with a modest donation requested to cover costs.)

COME AND LEARN TO MOLLY DANCE

Friday 1st May '15, 6.30-8.00pm (door opens 6pm for coffee and chat);

Saturday 9th May, 10.30am-2.30pm - incl. Lunch (door opens 10am);

Friday 15th May, 6.30-8.00pm (door opens 6pm);

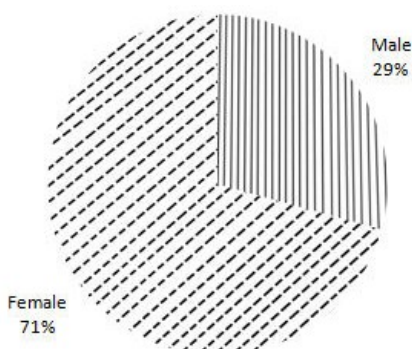


What our Readers think

Those of you who answered our “reader’s survey” following the inaugural meeting of the re-launched Christchurch Village Resource Centre, (the parent body of the “The New Heron”) will be interested to know some of the findings.

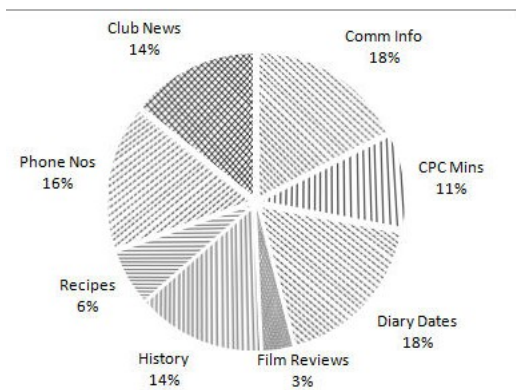
Overall the survey was answered by 42 respondents, 14% lived in Euximoor, 81% in Christchurch and 5% in Tippi's End.

We did try to get a wide range of views from our readers, and we are grateful to Mr Glozier, Townley’s head teacher who sent them out to families who may not otherwise have been surveyed. You can see from the chart however that more than two thirds of those replying were female.



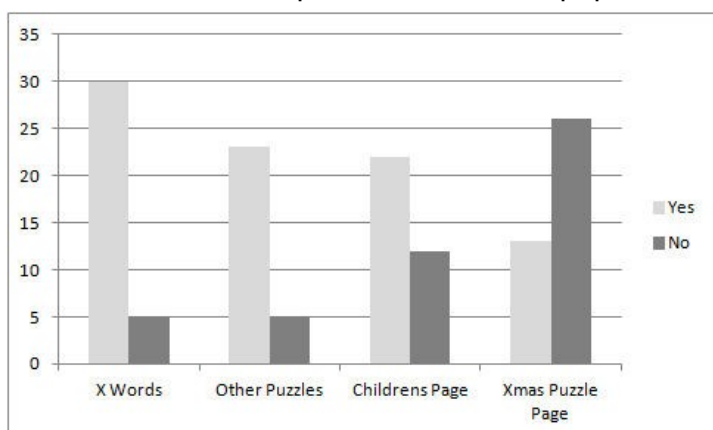
What we asked about

We were interested in what you thought of some of our regular features. The chart shows that you have less regard for the film reviews and the recipes.



The Community Information, Diary Dates, and Useful Numbers seemed to have the most support.

We asked about which of these (below) you liked: and crosswords and puzzles were most popular.

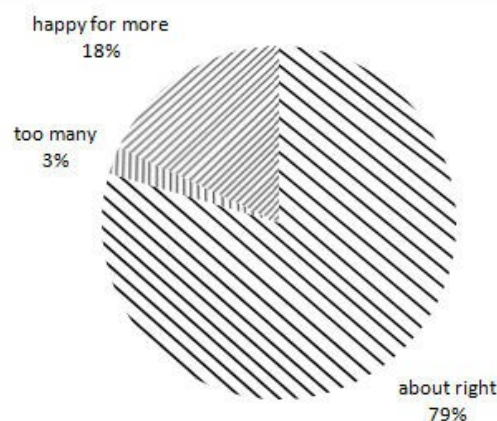


We asked about readability of the typeface - over 55% preferred the style we use; and the sizes of the text - most people would be happy if we reduced the text size a bit. The Editor has decided that in order to achieve worthwhile savings, it would inconvenience our older readers who would find smaller text too difficult.

About Advertising

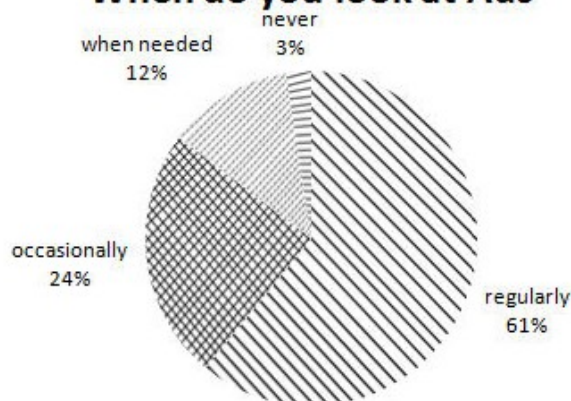
We asked about the balance of Adverts to features. As the chart shows here you seem to think we have got it about right. Though since it is the main way we finance the free delivery of the magazine, it is pleasing to see 18% would be happy to see more, not that we are planning to change the balance.

Those of you who are also advertisers will be encouraged to see the results on what effect the adverts have: 85% of readers regularly or occasionally read the adverts.



One other pleasing finding was that almost 50% of our respondents have used our advertisers.

When do you look at Ads



We would like you to get involved

- so we can take more regard of what our readers say, that is why we have re-established the CRVC - and we NEED more of you to become members - please come to our Annual General Meeting on the 21st May 7:00pm at “Glynan” - opposite the school

Drinks and Biscuits - and none of it will cost you anything but a few hours a year!

Communities coming together to help each other

What is Timebanking?

It's an exciting way for people to come together and help each other by exchanging knowledge, help and skills

Timebanking works by

- People helping others where they live. This could include helping someone with their shopping if they are housebound or helping a community group with an event.
- By giving your time, you can then deposit your help as a 'time credit'.
- You can store further credits and withdraw them by asking for help yourself. This could be by asking for help in writing a CV, baking a cake or something fun like learning to play a new sport.


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

Most Timebanks have a Coordinator who matches people's skills and arranges time exchanges. They keep a record of all the members 'banked' hours.

Further information

To find out more about Timebanking take a look at the Timebanking UK website

www.timebanking.org

 Follow us on Twitter @timebankcams

If you want to find out more about how you can get involved in Timebanking, contact your local coordinator.

Cambridge Tel: 07757 103149
Email: david@freedomclubtimebank.org.uk
www.freedomclubtimebank.org.uk/

Littleport Tel: 07702 517746
Email: Caline.Easey@chsgroup.org.uk

Why Timebanking?

It's a positive way of developing communities

Timebanking is about bringing people together to build a stronger, safer and happier communities. It's an approach that's becoming more and more popular across the UK and is transforming people's lives.

Timebanking values what people CAN do and brings people together to share skills and support. Timebanking,

- Helps reduce isolation
- Improves health and well being
- Connects communities



Timebanks in Cambridgeshire

Timebanks existing across the county

- Cambridge Freedom Club Timebank
- Cambourne
- Littleport
- St Ives
- St Neots
- Somersham

A countywide group has also come together, this group holds occasional workshops so that Timebanks can learn from each other. These are free of charge and anyone interested in Timebanking can attend. Contact Wendy to find out more on 01223 699683 or email wendy.lansdown@cambridgeshire.gov.uk

Our County Councillor, Fred Yeulett raised the new initiative supported by the county at a recent Parish Council Meeting. He supplied the information published here to inspire our villagers to get involved.

Anyone interested in helping by becoming a local co-ordinator should contact Wendy on the telephone number listed left.

It would be great if we could get such a scheme up and running in Christchurch, Tipps End, Euximoor area.

We may publish some case studies if there seems to be interest.

Out-Takes and Left Ins!

A collection of 'typos' and other 'woddled murds' from the last twelve months in celebration of the beginning of our second year of steering The New Heron. Some we accidentally left in, and some we actually spotted and edited out. But we thought that these were amusing enough to bring to your attention. We hope you agree!

1. From WI – an interesting misspelling where they spoke about 'hand sown kilts!'
2. When a certain proposal has to be 'actioned' – we wondered on this occasion when it was apparently 'auktioned' – How important it was? And how much they got for it.
3. We were pleased recently when a reader had her lost cat returned to her, but when she said - "My cat is reunited!" we wondered where all the various bits were found?
4. We asked readers to supply 'typos' etc. they had noticed in The New Heron – But no making any up please! They have to be genuine 'typos', 'misspellins', and the lick! These were actually deliberate by way of example and an attempt at humour!

5. In my editorial one month the mysterious character 'King Lynn' appeared and he apparently had his own bus service too!
6. The opposite of an 'under-active-thyroid' is an 'over-active-knife and fork'. Common sense surely?
7. And.....'a unit of volumetric measurement that we don't use anymore' is a BUSHEL!
8. Is Glen Miler a different person to Glenn Miller I hear you ask? Well yes actually! He is an athlete who runs through Scottish valleys.
9. A Garden Club report read – 'Our Secretary * looks interesting!' Whilst this may well of course be true – we had mistakenly omitted - * 'has been very busy, and our programme for the coming months meetings already ...'

Finally – Did you know that they no longer sell Lucozade in Boots anymore! Apparently it leaks out of the lace holes!

Please let us know if you spot any similar amusing errors in future issues of The New Heron
We will of course do our best to avoid them! -Ed'.



Christchurch Residents Association

Our April meeting should have been attended by Sue Clarke, one of our new PCSO's. She was to have advised us on both dog fouling issues and the use of Speedwatch. Unfortunately she didn't make it. [N.B. She did however email me at 21.57pm to apologise. She'd had a very hectic day and only just got back into the office. She hopes to attend next month.]

There was a brief discussion of the forthcoming Parish Council elections and the new candidates that had come forward. All members confirmed that they would be using all their voting powers.

Richard informed us of the wonderful response that there had been to Joost & Sheila Hoek's appeal in last month's issue. Over £500 had been raised from donations. The New Heron would be sending a letter of thanks to Joost & Sheila.

Planning applications F/YR15/0104/F, and F/YR15/0109/F had both been approved by FDC,

Concerning the New Village Hall – there would be a meeting for all interested parties on Monday 22nd June to establish a Steering Committee to run the new hall. This to be made up from club

representatives, and those from other organizations that would be regularly using this facility; they would also be responsible for overseeing the Recreation Ground. Work should have started on the building by then as there were to be final meetings with contractors this month.

The newly widened pavement in Upwell Road was not entirely satisfactory. Josh Widdecombe from Highways had visited the site and agreed that the slope was too severe, and the width not ideal due to the position of the sign post. Lindsey Owen pointed out the difficulties she had navigating this with her mobility scooter which became very unstable due to the drain position too.

We are still awaiting a response from Middle Level regarding the 6 metre margin required from dykes regarding any building developments.

Local footpath research was continuing, and the proposed closure of Welney Primary School was discussed.

The meeting closed at 8.55pm. Next meeting Wednesday May 20th, 7.30pm, The Old School.

New Pavement Kerbs Enthusiasm

Difficulties with usage by disabled scooters warrant some changes. The slope where it turns the corner towards Crown Road is far too steep, and the access too narrowed due to the positioning of the signpost. These points have been agreed with Josh Widdecombe of Highways. Nigel Russell and Will Sutton had a further meeting about this and other matters with



Highways on Wednesday 22nd April. Other matters under discussion were a sighting mirror for Jackson's Corner, and speed signage in Euximoor Drive. We will report further when we know more.

At our April meeting of the Craft Club, we did fabric painting. It was much enjoyed by everyone. We had a good turn out, including, my granddaughter Tilly,



Peggy's granddaughter Frankie and Sue Quail's two granddaughters from Germany. Penny our local girl managed to do two. Needless to say everyone was pleased with their creations.

As Peggy had a birthday she kindly made cup cakes. (very nice). We sang Happy Birthday to her.

We had our usual raffle. Thank you to those who provided the prizes.

May 5th meeting we will have Rosemary Hicks showing us how we do Iris folding, and getting involved doing it - everything will be provided. 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.

Hoorah! It's Spring at last and soon to be Summer! Snowdrop time dropped by but I still manage to plant more and more each week. It makes my days. Narcissus of many varieties are melting now, but other species type; i.e. 'dwarf blooms' are looking good. All the primulas are good everywhere, and I would mention here that the 'Primula Slide Show' was not supported at all well. Thank you to Peggy and Marion who did make the effort.

Goldings had put on a good selection of many primulas, plus tremendous bedding plants; a selection of many, many, ideas for all kinds of gardens. Now, I promise you, shop locally, come to our very own village GARDEN CLUB - PLANT SALE on Saturday May 16th. This is an event looked forward to. It's only once a year ALL DAY from 10am, with Coffees, Teas, STRAWBERRY CREAM TEAS and our SUPER-DUPER RAFFLE drawn at 4pm. WHERE? – This year we have the use of TOWNLEY SCHOOL Playground and the Dining Hall in case of rain.

Entrance from the Car Park please!

Plants etc. from our generous supporters can be taken in from 8am and we are always ready if you have plants for us at all times before hand, or on the day. Phone Bubbles 01354 638024 any time.



Our speaker this month – Tuesday April 28th – was very, very good and of course enlightening; another excellent rose flowering season that we are all looking forward to. For all other Club enquiries Marion will be pleased to hear from you on 01354 638230.

Bubbles

Christchurch Book Club

There was no meeting of the Book Club during April, but there will be two meetings in May. On Wednesday 6th May, 7:30 pm at Glynan, Crown Rd, we will be discussing last month's book – 'The Nine Tailors' by Dorothy L Sayers. We will also meet on May 27th. Book to be announced. More information from Sheila Day 07946 635908

Minutes of the Monthly WI Meeting held in the dining room of Townley School on April 14th 2015
Peggy welcomed members and guests including members from Welle WI and Welney WI.

Apologies: Hollie (President of Welney WI), Sandra Kay, Wendy, Michelle, Ann H, Margaret H. Minutes were agreed and signed.

Correspondence: Examples of WI Craft at Rose Fair.

Transport Arrangements: These were given out for the birthday dinner, Fed Evening, Resolution Meeting and ACWW lunch.

Demonstrator: Veronica Hewins gave a demonstration of Indian Cooking. She cooked chicken curry and cauliflower and potato bhaji. These were later passed around the audience to be tasted. Before cooking she explained about the many spices that could be used and their medicinal uses as well as their uses in cooking. Whilst cooking she told us about her early life in India. Until the age of five she lived in a railway bungalow with three servants. Her English father was somewhat older than her mother and when he retired, they had to move out of the railway bungalow. The family moved to Bangalore with the promise of a good life. However the good life never materialised. When she was sixteen, salvation came in the form of an arranged marriage for which she came to England. She has been happily married for twenty four years and has been running a small business for several years.

This was a thoroughly entertaining evening.

Next Month

Resolutions: Scarf Tying – Mary Blackhurst-Hill.

Competition: Number of different items in a small matchbox.

Raffle Prize Rota: Marion, Peggy, Wendy, Alma.

Competition Results: 5 popular Indian spices and their uses. Anne A (5), Marion (5), Sandra L (5), Tracy (4), Beryl (4), Peggy (4)

The recent car boot sale made £11-60 for our funds.

The Red Telephone Box

– John Sparrow

Having spent many hours during the winter in my shed, I have finally finished restoring a K6 Telephone Box.

The K1 appeared in 1921(K for Kiosk) K6 is the box that everyone recognizes. It was designed for King George V jubilee, his crown is moulded above the sign.

There were 60,000 K6's produced between 1936 & 1967. Almost all the famous red boxes were manufactured in Scotland. Lion Foundry Co. Kirkintilloch where my box was made in 1936. Two other manufacturers were Carron Company Stirlingshire and Saracen Foundry in Glasgow.

Sir Giles Gilbert Scott was the designer of the K6 box. He was also the architect of Battersea Power Station, The Anglian Cathedral, Liverpool and nearer to home Sir Thomas Clarkson Memorial, Wisbech.

There are now fewer than 10,000 working red kiosks left. The nearest to Christchurch are Outwell & Nordelph. About 2,000 of the original models have been declared listed buildings and preserved for posterity.

At one time 2million calls a day were made from British telephone boxes, but that has dwindled to 60,000.

The K6 has become very collectable. I have come across at least four companies who restore them within a100mile radius. They are exported all over the world including Australia, America & Sweden.

They are converted into showers, cocktail cabinets, greenhouses, lending libraries and tourist information centres, as well as fully working 1960's K6.

Some villages have purchased their red boxes from B.T. for £1, after the phone has been removed. The local people have to keep it in good repair and painted.

The K6 weighs 15cwts (750kg), 72 panes of 4mm toughened glass, 72 cast iron frames to secure the glass, which is held in by 144 brass pins, 18 cast iron pieces including sides-roof & plinth, teak door frame with brass hinges.

My pride and joy has been installed at Highlots Farm, Padgetts Road next to the AA box.

What Next!?



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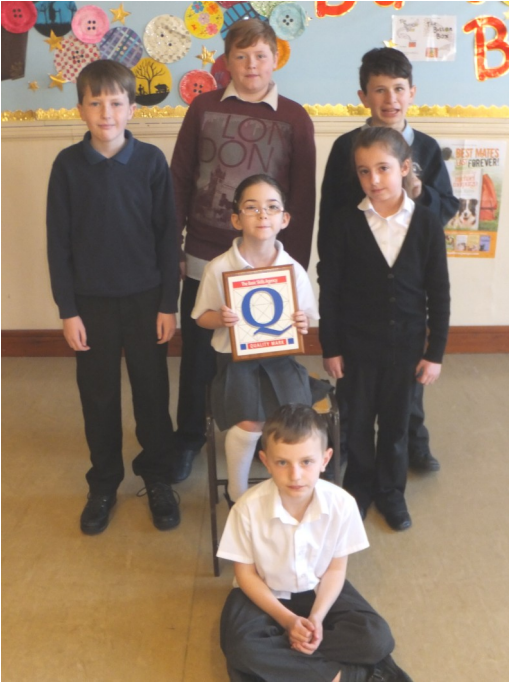
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“Hat Trick” for Townley - another Quality Mark Award!



Townley School has been awarded the basic skills Quality Mark Award for the third time. Headteacher, Robert Glozier, said “The staff and governors were delighted to receive the award again. The Basic Skills Quality Mark promotes, supports and celebrates progress and improvements made by the school in English and Mathematics”.

Pictured here with our shield are the current School Council representatives.

World Book Day was celebrated at Townley by a day of book related activities with children dressing as their favourite characters.



Dates

4 May - School closed - Bank Holiday

11 - 14 May - Key Stage 2 SATS

25 - 29 May - Half Term

1 June - Mrs Higgins to start as Head Teacher - 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).

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



Update on the New Swimming Pool

The new liner has been installed and partly filled with water to help it settle in the correct shape. The contractors are due to finish their installation soon.

Currently the pool roof needs some work and the that hopefully will begin once the installation is finished.

It is hoped that it will all be ready for swimming after half term.



Partners: Alan Mitch (mobile 07738 079804) Mary Larham (mobile 07925 106643)

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village who have shown
us such great support
since we started!
Michael & Michele*



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CHRISTCHURCH PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of a meeting of the Christchurch Parish Council on Monday 9th March 2015 in the Sports Pavilion, Christchurch

Present: Cllrs; N Russell (Chair), J Bliss, S Freeland, R Gladwin, W Beswick, F Yeulett (CCC), J Richardson (Clerk) and 6 members of the public

178/14 Apologies for Absence: M Tanfield (FDC); Cllr Sutton (FDC)

179/14 Declarations of Interest

Councillors to declare any interests in respect of any item to be discussed at this meeting:-

- a) Disclosable Pecuniary Interest) Cllr Gladwin Item 188/14a
- b) Non-Pecuniary Interest)
- c) Sensitive Pecuniary Interest)

180/14 PUBLIC TIME

New pavement on LHI improvement because of where the post is it may be too narrow for wheelchairs etc. It also slopes. Could there be a bollard on the corner. No markings on the road yet either. Is the sign on wrong side of road? The Clerk to email Highways.

The Heron are offering any potential Parish Council candidates 200 words for an election address, this is to be emailed or sent to The Heron, or help to write can be provided if needed. **Clerk**

Is there a footpath continuing through Green Lane. Richard Guilford has details which he will share.

Where is Hereward Way path after Christchurch Farm, no signage. Will explore further following discussion. Advised to look on CCC web site.

No signage of Welney High Street closure by Norfolk County Council. The Clerk to email Norfolk County Council to ask for any items to be sent to Christchurch Parish Council in future.

Public Time Closed at 7.45

Clerk

181/14 Confirmation of Minutes

Proposed by Cllr Russell and AGREED to sign and approve the Minutes of the Meeting held on 9th February 2015. **Agreed**

182/14 Matters Arising

Trees overhanging on Crown Road reported again to Highways (02/03/2015). Now awaiting school to contact Parish Council. Two school governors in attendance will take the matter back to the school.

183/14 Police Matters

Crime figures for February. No report but there now two PCSO's for this area. Cllr Yeulett has spoken to the Inspector regarding lack of attendance. **Post Meeting Note** 1 crime in February Common Assault in Primrose Gardens

184/14 County & District Councillors Reports

Cllr Yeulett reported that 50mph posts now in on 16Foot Bank. Still liaising about other improvements. Recent County and District Council meetings have been about budget setting. Lots of savings to be made at County and District level next year. There is a lack of infrastructure in the area and looking at the rail link from Wisbech to Cambridge, and also A47 improvements to try to sell Fenland to people to attract skills etc to the area.

Attending Children and Young Peoples Committee which is working with schools in March for special education needs of young children. There is a new Head Teacher at Townley School (Maria Higgins) from June.

County Council are now looking at deprivation within the matrix of assessment of projects.

The number of locality managers will remain to work with schools and families with needs.

Home to school transport costs will be looked into by Cllr Yeulett for the 16-18 year olds.

Cllr Yeulett

Cllr Yeulett is to discuss why Padgett's Road and Upwell Road do not have 50mph signs like 16Foot Bank has.

Cllr Yeulett

185/14 Recreation Ground

- a) Update on Charity merger Memorial Hall & Recreation Ground. Emailed and completed forms required on 27/01/15, for changes to objects of charity, no changes yet

185/14 (cont)	<p>to details on line and no further communication received from Charities Commission. Have advised solicitors of actions taken.</p> <p>b) To discuss and agree the date of the AGM in April. 7.30pm Tuesday 14th April 2015</p> <p>c) Report on February Bank balances Cheque Account £4429 Saver Account £7252.01</p>	
186/14	<p>Village Hall Committee</p> <p>a) Four quotes had been received from builders range from (£343K to £379K. In order to analyse the quotes in more detail a working party group consisting of Nigel Russell, Roger Gladwin, Richard Guilford and Matthew Hall was held. At this meeting the 3 quotes were gone through in detail and the group was advised by Matthew Hall to look at certain areas of the quotes which he believed could be reduced significantly. Once all the quotes had been looked at it was agreed that the Clerk would draft a letter to each of the builders which would provide more information on some areas e.g heating specification, and ask for clarification and re quoting in some other areas. Following on from the Village Hall Committee Meeting the letter was sent and all the builders have been asked to respond by 14th March (1 reply to date £10K reduction). Following the receipt of the revised tenders can the Parish Council please agree that the Working Party meets again to look at the quotes in the same way as last time. Proposed by Cllr Russell and AGREED. Date is to be 17th or 18th March (Cllr Gladwin to contact Matthew to get agreement on date) Following that Working Party Meeting can the Parish Council please agree that an interview process be held with the builders. This is in line with the guidance that has been given by Matthew Hall. It was Proposed by Cllr Russell and AGREED that the interviews take place and consists of Cllr Russell, Cllr Gladwin, Cllr Sutton & Matthew Hall (if willing) Received the Fire Safety Order and this has been scanned in and sent to Matthew Hall. Building Regs approval has been received with 7 conditions attached to. Received the request for Morton & Hall to proceed with the request to the drainage board for the consent to discharge surface water at a cost of £679.18 was Proposed by Cllr Russell and AGREED</p> <p>b) Refund of cheque from FDC via Morton & Hall £97.50 paid into bank</p>	<p>Agreed Cllr Gladwin</p> <p>Agreed</p> <p>Agreed</p>
187/14	<p>Highways/Street Lighting</p> <p>Highways</p> <p>a) Update on 2014-15 LHI bid was covered in Public Time</p> <p>b) To raise any other Highways issues in the village, could the sign for Christchurch, only, be put back on Padgetts Road. Clerk to contact Highways</p> <p>Pot holes down Euximoor Drove have been done.</p>	<p>Clerk</p>
188/14	<p>Planning/Development</p> <p>Planning Applications</p> <p>Councillor Gladwin left the room</p> <p>a) F/YR15/0104/F Erection of 4no dwellings comprising of 2x3-storey 5-bed with detached garages and 2x2-storey 4/5-bed with integral garages. Site of former shrub house, 46 Church Road, Christchurch. It was Proposed by Cllr Russell and AGREED no objections Cllr Gladwin returned to the room</p> <p>b) F/YR15/0109/F Erection of a 2x2-storey 3-bed dwellings. Land South West of The Rectory, Church Road, Christchurch. Proposed by Cllr Russell no objections was AGREED</p> <p>Development</p> <p>a) To update on investigation relating to "Tourism" Signs being put up to highlight the village shop and public house. Awaiting further information from Cllr Tanfield.</p>	<p>Agreed Clerk)</p> <p>Agreed (Clerk)</p>
189/14	<p>Information Commissioners Office</p> <p>There is a requirement for registration re Data Protection Act 1998. Proposed by Cllr Russell, and AGREED, to complete the registration and the Clerk to arrange</p>	<p>Agreed Clerk</p>
190/14	<p>Income & Expenditure</p> <p>a) Rec'd £1719.10 VAT reclaim</p> <p>b) Members to consider and approve the following accounts for payment Proposed Cllr Russell and AGREED</p>	

190/14	J Richardson	Clerks Salary	£336.33
(cont.)	J Richardson	Expenses	£7.50
	Christchurch Village Resource Centre	The Heron	£80.00
	Maxey Grounds & Co	Professional Services	£360.00
	Helyg Energy Services	Building Regs Assessment	£400.00
		TOTALS	£1183.83

c) Report on the February Bank Balances

Current Account £ 62,192.05

Deposit Account £146,515.26

Earmarked reserves £182,292.09 Village Hall, £200 Mrs Spalls request, £75.07

Recreation Ground Monies. General Balance £26,140.15

d) Asset Register 2015, to agree and record any disposals or acquisitions

Write off £26K for the small play park, when removed, Add 1 new Dog Bin (bought in 2013), Write off Newsletter printer (sold and proceeds donated to The Heron), 4 acre field reduced to 2.75 acre, building plots sold off, reduced from £16K to £11K

Proposed by Cllr Beswick and AGREED

**Agreed
(Clerk)**

Cllr Freeland left the meeting

191/14 Time Banking

Discussion on timebanking for Christchurch (info emailed 30/12/14). This item will be left until after the Election

192/14 Elections

Cllr Yeulett left the room

Update from Clerk re Elections briefing meeting attended at FDC on 25/02/15.

193/14 Donations

Request for funding received from F.A.C.T Proposed by Cllr Russell that no donation be made AGREED

**Agreed
(Clerk)**

194/14 Correspondence

a) Rural Services Network Bulletin (emailed 11/02/15, 12/02/15, 02/03/15)

b) Police & Crime Commissioner bulletin (emailed 11/02/15, 23/02/15)

c) Election information from FDC (emailed 11/02/15)

d) Cambs Acre Newsletter (emailed 11/02/15)

e) Precept Notification (emailed 12/02/15)

f) Cambridge City Deal Transport update (emailed 23/02/15)

g) Fly a Flag Invite

195/14 Agenda Items/Next Meeting

The date of the next Parish Council Meeting will be Monday 20th April 2015. Items to be included on Agenda should be with the Clerk by Monday 13th April 2015

Meeting Closed at 9.05 pm

Safeguarding Adults Newsletter (Spring 2015)

Cambridgeshire's Safeguarding Adults Board have published the latest issue of their Safeguarding Adults and Mental Capacity Act Newsletter which can be downloaded from the County Council website.

It includes useful information and updates for people who use services, families and carers, the general public, and professionals who work with adults. To download the newsletter go to

www.cambridgeshire.gov.uk/safeguardingmca and follow the link to "Newsletters, fact sheets and resources".

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PRIDE IN FENLAND AWARDS

It was with surprise, and elation, that we found ourselves at *The New Heron* nominated for the recent *Pride in Fenland Awards* for 2015, a few months back, thanks to Will Sutton. So along I went as Editor to the presentation evening at The Boathouse Conference Centre, Wisbech, on Thursday 12 March. There was a very nice buffet spread for nominees and other dignitaries present, as well as a 'classical quartet', providing pleasing background music to the event.



Richard thanks Will Sutton for nominating the New Heron

I must confess, however, to feeling that we didn't quite fit in. Practically all of the other nominees were there due to various good deeds; e.g. being 'good neighbours' and helping those less fortunate than themselves, or very successful 'charity fund raisers' in one form or another. There, amongst all these highly laudable individuals and organizations sat The New Heron. I must confess I felt more than a little out of place, and a bit of a fraud.

We didn't win but were presented with the certificate shown here and it did enable me to do a bit of 'networking' which generated the Fenarch article of last month and others that will be featured in forthcoming issues. It only remains for us to say a big THANK YOU to Will for our nomination. It was a pleasure to be part of such an event. – Ed'



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+ - + - +

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Fenland District Council	01354 654321
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Floodline	0845 988 1188
Library - March	0354 0455225
National Debtline	0808 808 4000
Parish Clerk - Jacquie Richardson	01354 677856
Parish Councillor	Awaiting election
Parish Councillor	
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PCSOs - Sue Clarke & Tessa Morrison	101
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
Editor's Choice - Best Takeaways	
Chinese - Jade House - Emneth	01945 586955
Indian - Outwell Tandoori - Outwell	01945 773322
Kebabs - Ali's Kebabs - Outwell	01945 773434
Pizzas - Leonardo's - March	01354 661131

Neighbourhood Watch

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...

Decisions! Decisions! Decisions!

This 'election fever' has given me a rash! In fact I'm rather **Green** at the moment. But the Doctor has told me that if I **Liberal**ly apply this cream, although somewhat **Labourious**, **Conservative** estimates are that it will be gone by the end of next week! He said that, if you put your feet up and relax, this would help and eventually **U-KIP!** If not, apparently I could get a nasty dose of the **SNP** (severe nauseous palpitations).

Seriously, I'll be glad when it's all over! Though, apparently, things were not that different back in Plato's day – and I quote, *"In politics we presume that everyone who knows how to get votes, knows how to administer a city or state. But when we are ill... we do not ask for the handsomest physician, or the most eloquent one!"*

The well known sci-fi author Isaac Asimov had this to say on the subject, *"Voting is nurtured by the false notion that democracy means that -'my ignorance is just as good as your knowledge!'"*

Theodore Roosevelt was quite concise in his observation that, *"A vote is like a rifle. It's usefulness depends upon the character of the user!"*

Personally, I would leave you with this thought, **"Bad officials are elected by good citizens who do not vote!"**

Think about it! – Ed'.

"IF VOTING CHANGED ANYTHING - THEY'D MAKE IT ILLEGAL!" – Stephen Fry

"I'VE ALWAYS KNOWN THAT THE IDIOTS ARE IN THE MAJORITY, AND ARE, THEREFORE, CERTAIN TO WIN!" – Anon.

"THE BEST ARGUMENT AGAINST DEMOCRACY IS A FIVE MINUTE CONVERSATION WITH THE AVERAGE VOTER!" – Winston Churchill

New Countdown with Rachel Riley



Welcome to our new numbers quiz from *Countdown*. Using addition, subtraction, multiplication and division, try to get as close to the top target number as possible in 30 seconds. You can use each of the six numbers only once, but you don't have to use them all. Rachel's solution on previous page.

699

3	4	5	6	7	8
---	---	---	---	---	---

Pointless

with Richard Osman and Alexander Armstrong

Pointless asks a question of 100 people, the contestants are then asked to choose the answer they think the fewest of those 100 people knew.

How to play Here are the titles of five films and the year each was released. The missing word from each title is the name of a country. Fill in the missing word.

FILMS WITH A COUNTRY IN TITLE

FROM _____ WITH LOVE 1963

IF IT'S TUESDAY, THIS MUST BE _____ 1969

GOOD MORNING _____ 1987

HOTEL _____ 2004

SALMON FISHING IN THE _____ 2011



Only Connect with Victoria Coren Mitchell



The connecting wall from the BBC2 game show *Only Connect* is an inventive combination of general knowledge, word play and lateral thinking to give your brain cells a workout!

How to play Your task is to sort the 16 seemingly random words/phrases below into four groups of four connected words. You may find some clues fall into more than one category, but there is only one complete solution. If you get stuck, have a look at the clues, on the side of the page...

Sherwood	New	Nun	Knockhill
Epping	Donington Park	Allardyce	Friar
Silverstone	Monk	Dean	Thruxton
Abbot	Dornoch	Rockingham	van Gaal

Eggheads

with Jeremy Vine and Dermot Murnaghan

CJ DE MOOI

1 In the game of Monopoly, what colour are Old Kent Road and Whitechapel Road?

a Blue b Yellow c Brown

2 In Greek mythology, who is the messenger of the gods?

a Heracles b Hermes c Perseus

PAT GIBSON

3 Who broke Bob Beamon's 23-year-old long jump record at the 1991 World Championships in Tokyo?

a Mike Conley b Mike Powell c Larry Myricks

4 A representation of which domestic item appears on the flag of Turkmenistan?

a Carpet b Oven c Table

DAVE RAINFORD

5 What is the name of the O'Hara family's home in Margaret Mitchell's novel *Gone with the Wind*?

a Tara b Manderley c Green Gables

6 In Scotland, a jury in a criminal trial has how many members?

a 9 b 18 c 15

BARRY SIMMONS

7 What colour is the kernel of a pistachio nut?

a Pink b Green c White

8 Which catastrophic pandemic killed 20 million people worldwide between 1918 and 1919?

a Spanish flu b Tuberculosis c German measles

LISA THIEL

9 *The Magician's Nephew* and *The Voyage of the Dawn Treader* are titles in which series of books?

a *Lord of the Rings* b *His Dark Materials* c *The Chronicles of Narnia*

10 Who is the only English footballer to win a Golden Boot Award as top scorer in a World Cup?

a Michael Owen b Gary Lineker c Bobby Charlton

★ Celebrating starting our second year of The New Heron ★

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.