

NEW The Heron

Community Magazine

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

September 2015

70 years of "Thomas the Tank"

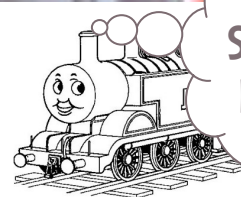


The Rev Awdry and Ringo Starr cut the "Thomas Cake" at the launch of the TV series

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by Rev. W.V.Awdry -
former vicar of Emneth



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Story on
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DIARY DATES

Abbreviations for commonly used venues:

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

UH = Upwell Village Hall, WH = Welney Village Hall

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

Sep 1 st	Christchurch Craft Club - Making Christmas Crackers - TS - 7pm
Sep 3 rd	School term begins for children at Townley
Sep 4 th	"Cake, Coffee and Chat" Parish Church 2-3pm - All Welcome
Sep 4 th	Mobile Library visits - Upwell Rd Lay-by 3-3:40pm - you can join here as well
Sep 5th	Village Yard Sale - raising money for fitting out the Village Hall
Sep 7 th	Pilates for all ages - BEGINS AGAIN - 6:30pm TS - All Welcome - £5 per session
Sep 8 th	WI - Patchwork – Speaker Jenni Townsend - 7pm - TS
Sep 11 th	"Cake, Coffee and Chat" Parish Church 2-3pm - All Welcome
Sep 12th/13th	Welle Film Club Anniversary Weekend - see page 10 for details
Sep 13 th	Christchurch Garden Club - Trip to Cambridge Botanical Gardens
Sep 14 th	Pilates for all ages - 6:30pm TS - All Welcome - £5 per session
Sep 14th	Christchurch Parish Council Meeting - Sports Pavilion - 7:30pm - All Welcome
Sep 15 th	Christchurch Garden Club - "Gardens throughout the Year" - Jenny Windsor - TS
Sep 16 th	Christchurch Residents Association - 7:30pm - The Old School
Sep 18 th	"Cake, Coffee and Chat" Parish Church 2-3pm - All Welcome
Sep 21 st	Pilates for all ages - 6:30pm TS - All Welcome - £5 per session
Sep 23 rd	New Village Hall Steering Committee - 7:30pm - Sports Pavilion - ALL WELCOME!
Sep 25 th	MacMillan Coffee Morning - Parish Church - 10am - Please come!
Sep 26th	"Hog Roast" 150th Celebration & Fundraiser at The Old School - All Welcome
Sep 28 th	Pilates for all ages - 6:30pm TS - All Welcome - £5 per session
Sep 30 th	Christchurch Book Club - 7:30pm - Sue's - 5 Fen View
Oct 2 nd	"Cake, Coffee and Chat" Parish Church 2-3pm - All Welcome
Oct 4 th	Christchurch Harvest Festival Service 11am
Oct 5 th	Pilates for all ages - 6:30pm TS - All Welcome - £5 per session

Parish Church Services

Sep 6 th	11:00	H Chappell, A Day	All Age Worship - Townley School
Sep 13 th	09:30	D Calvert	Holy Communion
Sep 20 th	15:30	V Smith, A Carlin	Evening Prayer
Sep 27 th	11:00	V Smith, A Carlin	Morning Prayer
Oct 4 th	11:00	D Symons, P Aisthorpe	Harvest Festival in Church

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,

Just a quick line to say a big thank you to the mindless idiots who did their best to destroy the plants outside the pub. "I hope you feel really proud of yourselves! Was it really worth it?"

Phil

Sad actions! Sad people! Sad life! Or should I say they need to get a life! Really childish dare I say infantile behaviour! No! Because that would be doing a disservice to all the bright and well behaved infants we have at Townley.

Grow up people! - Ed'.

New Parish Councillor

Following the resignation of Simon Freeland, (see his letter to the New Heron last month), the Parish



Council, having no proposal for a further election, have invited Geoffrey Harper to join the Council as a co-opted member, and following their extra meeting in August, he has agreed. Geoffrey was one of the eight candidates who stood for election in the May 2015

Election. He has lived in Christchurch for 2½ years. Geoffrey is a Senior buyer for Caterpillar in Peterborough and is married to Janet. They have one son, two married daughters and seven grandchildren.

NEW HERON DELIVERIES

We could really do with 2 or 3 more delivery personnel to help out once a month or to just stand in on the odd occasion re illness or holidays.

In particular we could do with someone to do the Tipps End delivery taking about 1 hr and 15 mins to complete.

Any volunteers?

Please contact Sandra Kay -
01354 638478

EDITORIAL

So we look forward to another busy month in the life of Christchurch village. All the usual Club and Church activities of course but in addition we have the **Village Yard Sale on Saturday 5th Sept**, **MacMillan Coffee Morning Friday 25th** in the Church, then the next day at the **Old School 150th Anniversary Celebration "HOGROAST" from 12 noon till 6.00pm on September 26th**. Funds raised from the latter event will go towards supporting **The New Heron**. Plenty to get your teeth into this month then!

We really hope that you can find some time to support these events as, one way or another, directly or indirectly, they all help to support Christchurch village life in some form or other. To use the old adage – "You get out what you put in!"

Of course if any of our readers out there have

any other ideas or suggestions we would love to hear from you. And, perhaps, this is as good a time as any to thank you for your continued support and contributions; be they financial or literary. It is after all YOUR Community Magazine. Enjoy! 'Till next month

Join us to support

MACMILLAN

25th Sep at 10am in

the church.

Contributions of cakes and raffle prizes
welcome

Sandra Kay 01354 638478

WE ARE
MACMILLAN
CANCER SUPPORT



Richard

Community Information

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

Mobile Post Office: visits Mon - Fri
in the Lay-by Upwell Road 16:15 - 17:00

Norfolk Dial-a-Ride Bus

Every first Wednesday into MARCH
All other Wednesdays into KING'S LYNN
The Dial-A-Bus number is 01553 770310
You need to be a member which is FREE. There is a new supply of leaflets and Registration Forms in the village shop - The Little Local

Community Car Scheme

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

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

The scheme is looking for more volunteer drivers.

Seasonal Flu Vaccination Clinics.

This year the Seasonal Flu Vaccination clinics will be held at Upwell Health Centre on Saturdays 19th September, 26th September, and 3rd October. If you are over 65 or in one of the at risk groups (diabetes, COPD, asthma, heart disease, lowered immunity etc) just telephone reception on 01945 773671 to make an appointment. It is also recommended for pregnant women and carers. We will once again be inviting those children aged 2,3 or 4 on the 1st September to have the nasal flu vaccine, these vaccines will be available from the end of October onwards.

Those of you aged 65 or over should also have one pneumococcal vaccination in your life. We usually offer this when you attend for your flu vaccination. Please ask for this if you have not had it, it protects you from pneumococcal pneumonia which can be a very serious disease as we get older.

It is also the third year for the select few who can get shingles vaccine. This year it is for people who are aged 70 and 78 on the 1st September. Please make an appointment if you fit this category.

Snippets from the Parish Council

Overhanging trees and encroaching hedges in Church Road were complained about but the Parish Council can only act if the house numbers involved are reported

The 50 MPH signs on the 16 Foot Bank are being ignored, County Cllr Yeulett would discuss this with the Highways dept. though, he was not optimistic due to details revealed in next item .

Police Absence - if you think we see little enough of our Police in the village, then brace yourselves for even worse! District Councillors Will Sutton and Michelle Tanfield gave a report to the Parish Council on a meeting they had attended with the Police authorities. Unusually, they were offered an honest assessment that there was nowhere near enough money in the system to provide the sort of service which had been promised in the past. Indeed the source stated outright that there would be no further attendance by officers at the PC meetings, nor even any written (or even verbal) report on crime figures or incidents!

The PCSO that we introduced in the New Heron some months ago, Sue Clarke has moved to a new job with the Prince's Trust. Speculation has emerged that she had been reprimanded for handing out her direct phone number, in an effort to be more responsive and to foster community links. It was made clear that the ONLY number to use to contact the police in a non emergency situation is 101.

Street light cost savings are not on the agenda for our village the Parish Council has been informed. So no dimming or switching off for us!

Remains of dead swans and evidence of cooking of fish over a "camp fire" had been seen down Euximoor Drove. Police have been informed.

Highways Improvement scheme bids will be looked at during the next Parish Council meeting. Councillors were asked to consider what might be appropriate areas for action.

Next Parish Council Meeting 14th September at the Pavilion - 7:30 - All Welcome

W.V.Awdry – 70 years of Thomas the Tank Engine

This month sees the 70th Anniversary of the publication of the first of the Railway Series of books in 1945 by the Reverend W V Awdry (15th June, 1911 - 21st March, 1997).

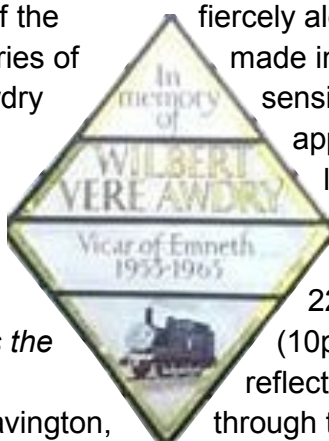
A previous vicar of Emneth, Reverend Wilbert Vere Awdry was born in Romsey, Hampshire. He is best known as the author of The Railway Series of books in which the character of *Thomas the Tank Engine* first appeared. Awdry was educated at Dauntseys School, West Lavington, Wiltshire, St Peter's Hall, Oxford (BA, 1932), and Wycliffe Hall, Oxford. After a spell of teaching at St. George's School, Jerusalem, he was ordained into the Anglican priesthood at Winchester in 1936.

In August 1938, he married Margaret Emily Wale whom he had met in Palestine. Two years later he took a curacy in King's Norton, Birmingham where he lived until 1946. He subsequently moved to Cambridgeshire, serving as Rector of Elsworth with Knapwell, 1946-53, and Vicar of St. Edmund, Emneth, 1953-65, before retiring to Stroud, Gloucestershire. There is a stained glass window at St. Edmund church dedicated to his memory and his 'Thomas' stories. The Old Vicarage, Emneth also bears a commemorative blue plaque as he lived his final years as a vicar there.

Margaret and Wilbert had three children - Christopher, Veronica and Hilary. The characters that would make Awdry famous, and the first stories featuring them, were invented in 1942 to amuse his son Christopher during a bout of measles.

The war against Hitler was still in full spate when Awdry settled down at the bedside of his two-year-old son Christopher to tell him

a story, and drew from his imagination the tales of Edward, Henry and Gordon, three steam engines which, readers were later to learn, hailed from his fantasy 'Island of Sodor'. The stories were written down, simply because the young Christopher demanded to hear them again and again, and was



fiercely alert to any inconsistencies his father made in the re-telling. Awdry's wife Margaret, sensing that the stories could have a wider appeal, sent the scribbled words to a literary agent, and in 1945, the very first book, 'The Three Railway Engines', was published. It had a print run of 22,500 copies, and sold for two shillings (10p) - a quite considerable sum then, but reflecting the problems of paper supply through the war years. 'Thomas the Tank Engine' - the latter-day hero engine - didn't actually make his public debut until the second book.

After Awdry wrote 'Three Railway Engines', son Christopher wanted a model of Gordon, however that was beyond the scarce wartime resources available. Instead Awdry made a model of an 0-6-0 tank engine from odds and ends and painted it blue. Christopher christened the model engine Thomas. Then Christopher requested stories about Thomas and these duly followed and were published in the famous book 'Thomas the Tank Engine'. Awdry wrote other books besides those of The Railway Series, both fiction and non-fiction. Such as the story 'Belinda the Beetle' about a red (Volkswagen) car, and the parenting guide 'Our Child Begins to Pray'. By the time Awdry stopped writing in 1972, The Railway Series numbered 26 books. His son Christopher Awdry subsequently added further books to the 'Thomas' series.

In 1957, Awdry narrated the first two stories from 'The Three Railway Engines' for a vinyl record release. These stories were used as the basis for the first four seasons of Britt Allcroft's television series 'Thomas the Tank Engine and Friends'.



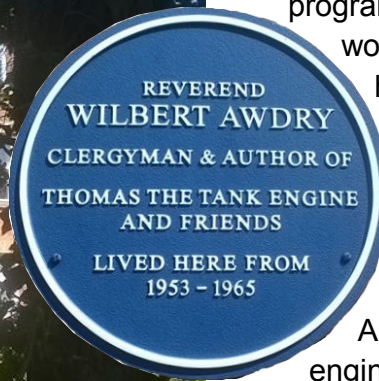
Rev. Awdry, Ringo Starr and the team filming the first series of the TV programme

Awdry worked as Allcroft's technical consultant and Beatle Ringo Starr narrated the episodes.

Although he liked Seasons One and Two, Awdry did not like some of the adaptations from seasons Three and Four, especially 'Henry's Forest' and 'Rusty to the Rescue'.



The Vicarage and (inset) the blue plaque commemorating Rev Awdry and Thomas



later he was profiled in a BBC Radio 4 programme by Brian Sibley, who would eventually go on to write his biography *'The Thomas the Tank Engine Man'*, which was published in 1995. A Class 91 locomotive, 91124, bears his name *The Rev W Awdry*, and a Hunslet Austerity 0-6-0ST (saddle tank) engine on the Dean Forest Railway is also named *'Wilbert'* after him. This latter locomotive was used as the title character in Christopher Awdry's

Awdry's story 'Henry's Sneeze', in the book 'Henry the Green Engine' originally described some soot-covered boys as being "as black as niggers". After complaints were made in 1972, twenty years after first publication, the description was changed to "as black as soot".

Awdry's own railway knowledge was cultivated by his father, who had shown him how to use a telescope to spot trains on the GWR main line from the family home at Box, near Bath. Awdry's enthusiasm for railways did not stop at his publications. He was involved in railway preservation and, in 1952, volunteered as a guard on the Talyllyn Railway in Wales, then in its second

Railway Series book 'Wilbert the Forest Engine'. Rev Awdry's study is now preserved in the Narrow Gauge Railway Museum on the Talyllyn Railway.

Awdry was awarded an OBE in the 1996 New Year's Honours List, but by that time his health had deteriorated and he was unable to travel to London. He died at the age of 85 from bronchial pneumonia at his Rodborough, Stroud home on Friday March 21st 1997. Funeral services were held at Gloucester Crematorium and Rodborough Parish Church on March 26th. Awdry's wife Margaret had pre-deceased him in 1989.



St Edmund Church, Emneth

year of preservation. The railway inspired Awdry to create the Skarloey Railway, based on the Talyllyn, with some of his exploits being written into the stories. He also became renowned for building model railways which he took to exhibitions around the country. He retired from his

fulltime ministry at Emneth in 1965, and moved to Stroud. He was a guest on The Flying Scotsman's 40th Anniversary run and gave a short interview for its BBC documentary in 1968. He was later interviewed along with Ringo Starr, who had narrated the Thomas TV series, on TV-AM on the day of the television series' debut. Two years



Thomas as seen in the TV series

In the second book in the series, *'Thomas the Tank Engine'*, Awdry wrote this letter to his son Christopher as a frontispiece:

Dear Christopher,
Here is your friend Thomas, the Tank Engine.
He wanted to come out of his station-yard and see the world.

These stories tell you how he did it.
I hope you will like them because you helped me to make them.

Your Loving Daddy

Old School's 150th Anniversary

The Old School, Christchurch is 150 years old this year. Built in 1865, a year later it had another classroom extension added. That's the bit that stretches out from the side, towards the graveyard. Before that a house was built for the headmaster on the opposite side. This part of the building is now known as The Old School House, effectively a semi-detached and owned by my new neighbours – Paul and Sarah Ivory. They are both keen to be involved in the celebrations, and Sarah has promised to make a couple of cakes as she is a keen baker.

After the Old School closed, nearly fifty years ago it was used as a school annexe for Townley for a few years, for dance and woodwork classes.

Neville Chamberlain and

Terry Symons will remember this. Don't know about the dancing though!? Around forty or so years ago it was sold by the Upwell School Board who owned it and became a residential property. It has had several owners over the years before I took it on; one of whom even kept a small pony in the main hall for a few years. The

last owners who I purchased it from were Gordon and Margo Taylor who some of you will no doubt remember. Gordon was a master woodcarver and has left his mark on the building, I am pleased to say. During their tenure the house was divided when their daughter Lottie and her husband began

living in the old headmaster's house; now known as the Old School House, whilst Gordon and Margo remained living in the main school building, now The Old School.

In the past, before the old Memorial Hall even existed, the old school hall was used for many village events; children's parties – run by the WI, and other club meetings and activities, including the WI's own. It was in the hall of The Old School that the 'Village Tea' first originated (see photo below) just for the ladies of Christchurch. However, as the years passed they eventually let the men in and it became the 'Village Dinner'. It is now the annual 'Over 60's' dinner which had been held in the old Memorial Hall until recently; and hopefully will take place in the New Village Hall next year.



Past WI tea. The hall is now divided across with a lounge being to the rear of the fireplace. Both the original doors and fireplace remain.

We had hoped to be a lot further on with our restoration and renovation of The Old School than we are. The aim eventually to run a B&B business and monthly 'Gourmet Nights' in the hall. Had a great '60th Birthday Bash' there a few years back, and the hall really has a great atmosphere for such events. Please come along and help Jennie and

myself, and Paul and Sarah to celebrate the 150th Anniversary of the building, by joining us at our "HOGROAST"(details below). If you can't stay for a while we can always do you a 'take-away'. We will be making a nominal charge – All proceeds going to support The New Heron. See you on the day!

The Old School 150th Anniversary

The Old School, Church Road, Christchurch

TAKE-AWAYS AVAILABLE

"HOGROAST"

ALSO- SALADS, CAKE, DRINKS



Saturday 26th September

12 noon till 6.00pm



ALL WELCOME – all proceeds to support THE NEW HERON



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

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Upwell Health Centre

- by Dr Paul Williams

It has been a very busy year. The big news is that we had a Care Quality Commission (CQC) inspection in the spring. We were awarded a grading of GOOD in all areas. This was the first time we had been inspected in this way. However, there were no major issues and I would like to take this opportunity to publicly thank all the staff at the surgery who pulled together to get us through.

In the coming weeks we will be having the builders in! With our list size growing year on year we have been suffering from a lack of space for a while now. We need some extra consulting space. As a result we plan some internal works. The children's waiting room is to become a third treatment area for our nursing team and we are constructing a new corridor off the waiting room which will give access to the new room and allow it to communicate with our existing treatment area. We also plan to create a consulting room opposite the toilets by dividing up the old nursing office; this will give us a smaller office and a consulting room.

We are also investigating the possibility of constructing a new pharmacy separate from the main building. If we do press ahead with this it will mean a bigger pharmacy which, hopefully, will allow it to become more efficient and less congested in busy periods.

While on the subject of pharmacy I would like to tell you about electronic prescribing (EFS). The government, as part of the modernisation of the NHS, has been rolling this out across the country; it will be coming to West Norfolk in the next twelve months. What is it? Well you may have seen signs about it in the surgery and at other pharmacies. At the moment when we issue you a prescription we generate a piece of paper. When EPS is fully rolled out you will have the opportunity to have the prescription transmitted electronically to a pharmacy of your choice, you will no longer have a green prescription. When you go to the pharmacy they will have access to the prescription on something called the NHS spine where the prescription is stored until it is dispensed.

In order for EPS to work you need to nominate a pharmacy to receive that electronic prescription. In order to smoothly carry on providing you with your medications we are trying to get all your nominations set up in advance of the local launch and there are forms in the surgery and in the pharmacy for you to complete.

You can only nominate one pharmacy, so if you wish to get your medications from the pharmacy at the surgery do not register at any other pharmacy in Wisbech or Downham; if you already have, not realising what you had done, you can still nominate



our pharmacy and this will over ride your previous nomination.

The season for flu vaccination is nearly upon us. **Please see Community Information on p4 for details of Flu Clinics - Ed**. The

reason the government pay for all this vaccination isn't just for your individual benefit. It is to help the NHS cope. Preventing a flu epidemic makes the NHS more resilient to cope with the increased demand in winter. There are two other diseases which are more common in winter and which we can do something to prevent. The first is pneumococcal pneumonia. Pneumonia just means a nasty lung infection and it can be caused by a wide variety of bacteria and viruses. Pneumococcus cause a specific type of pneumonia which makes people especially ill and can also turn into septicaemia. For some years now the NHS has been offering anyone 65 or over, or with one of the diseases I mentioned earlier, a one off vaccination against pneumococcus. Surprisingly the take up is not as great as we would expect or like; I suspect this is partly because it is not advertised. In fact, only about 50% of the people of West Norfolk eligible for this vaccine have had it. You can

Preventing a flu epidemic makes the NHS more resilient to cope with the increased demand in winter. .

receive it any time from the surgery but we always offer it to those eligible at the same time as we do a flu vaccination. Please ask about it when you next attend the surgery.

The other disease which causes winter chaos in hospitals is Winter Vomiting Disease caused by the infamous Norovirus. This is actually a disease we initially catch in the community, not hospitals, but it is so infectious that once a case enters the hospital it spreads like wildfire often needing wards to close for deep cleaning. Those of you that have been on a cruise will know the crews are paranoid about this disease; having alcohol gel dispensers in all the restaurant areas for the passengers to clean their hands. **Hand washing is crucial to stopping this spread.** If you have the virus on your hand and touch, for example, a door handle, or some peanuts on a bar, then you will leave that there for the next person to pick up and get infected, and vice versa. If you contract a tummy upset with diarrhoea and vomiting we always ask you not to come to the surgery, we will speak to you on the phone and assess what is needed to be done. When you are recovering don't go back to work too early, your employer will not thank you if two or three other members of staff go off the next day. If you work with food it is even more important you are completely well before you return to work, otherwise colleagues could suffer.

Finally, I just wanted to remind the ladies reading this about having cervical smear tests. Several years ago the recall system for cervical smears was taken away from GPs and is now done centrally. I don't know if this is the cause, or whether it is simply not advertised as much, but the proportion of women having their smear tests when they are due, certainly in our practice, has dropped. Screening for cancer and other diseases is increasingly common. However, cervical smears are the **ONLY** screening test that detects the cancer **BEFORE** it starts and thus allows us to prevent it. All the other screening tests detect early cancers, and we all know that sometimes, no matter how early we catch it, this can be too late. Therefore I would like to encourage you ladies out there to have your smear test when it is due, and, if you are uncertain when it is due, ask us and we will be happy to tell you.

I look forward to meeting you at the forthcoming flu clinics when I would be delighted to stick one or more needles in you to keep you healthy. PW

Welle Film Project – First Anniversary

To celebrate its first anniversary, the Welle Film Project (WFP) will be celebrating its First Anniversary over the weekend on Saturday 12th and Sunday 13th September at Three Holes Village Hall. The Project, which is funded by the People's Health Trust and Creative Arts East, was set up to give people a chance to see films and make films, close to home, in a local community setting.

The First Anniversary celebrations will see the premier of "A Moment in Time" a music video made by WFP members and featuring a new composition by local, jazz guitarist (also a WFP film-maker) Steve Waye. All of the actors and locations in the video are local too!

WFP regularly asks locals for suggestions of movies they would like to see and, due to popular demand "Fifty Shades of Grey" will be screened on Saturday evening and "The Theory of Everything" will be screened on Sunday afternoon.

On Sunday 13th, from 10am to 12.30pm, the WFP film-making team is also inviting people to find out what WFP film-making has to offer. Do come along and see the fantastic range of equipment available to aspiring film-makers, find out about our skills exchange and talk to us about ideas of films that can be made in our local community.

The programme for the First Anniversary Weekend is:

Saturday 12th September:

6.30pm – Doors Open – Admission £2 per person

7.00pm – Premier of "A Moment in Time"

7.20pm – "Fifty Shades of Grey"

(licensed bar and snacks available)

Sunday 13th September:

FREE ENTRY- 10am to 12.30pm - meet WFP film makers and take a look at WFP equipment.

1.30pm – Doors Open - Admission £2 per person

2.00pm - Premier of "A Moment in Time"

2.20pm – "The Theory of Everything"

(licensed bar, fresh rolls and snacks available)

For more details contact Hilary on 01945 773710 or Sue on 01945 772824.

Memorial Hall Charity Statement

The Memorial Hall Charity (1001867) has been disbanded. A final net balance of £127,634.95 has been transferred to the Recreation Ground (New Village Hall) Charity. This was after a final settlement £960 for Memorial Hall Trustees' legal fees.

Christchurch Village Yard Sale Saturday 5th September 10.00am to 4.00pm

A large number of houses in the village will be taking part in this large scale event so - **Christchurch will be well worth a visit on the day!** Rather like a **giant boot sale** except villagers will be opening their front gardens and garages!

**Pitch fees to go towards
kitting out our
New Village Hall**

**Come and pick up a
BARGAIN!**

Health and Fitness

with - Stephen Aish



We are killing ourselves and nobody seems to care!

I rarely rant.

However, now seems like as good a time as any.

I am not calling people out, condemning anyone, or even judging. I just want people to think about important issues instead of working all week, hitting a coma state in front of the TV and then believing the weekend is the only time they have to do anything before depressing Monday sneaks up on them again.

I observe people as a profession, both from movement, performance and injury. I also work with many clients that want to change their life.

What do I see around me – apathy.

Nobody seems to care that 64% of adults in the UK are obese.

Nobody seems to care that childhood obesity is up to 25% as we impact the next generation with our own ignorance of health and nutrition.

Nobody seems to care that keeping the kids quiet with the iPad is now normal and that this leads to huge underperformance in school, social skills and also exploring the world around them in order to develop essential movement, fitness and confidence.

I hear time and again that people simply do not have time.

We have to work.

We have to pay bills.

I urge you to ask yourself one simple question.

If you do not have time for your health and the health of your children then what do you have time for? Because it is going somewhere and clearly not in the right places.

We all have commitments. We also have choice and can prioritise what is important to us.

Imagine telling your dying child that now needs a transplant due to a life of inactivity, excess sugar and junk food that you did not have time for them because your favourite TV soaps were more important than educating them on health, nutrition and actually taking the time to cook healthy meals for them and take them out 3 times a week to play.

Only you can change your future and if there was ever a right time...

Great British Trivia Quiz

1. Which celebrity chef was once a football player?
2. What type of animal was 'World Cup Willie', the mascot for the 1966 World Cup.
3. Which city is home to Anfield & Goodison Park?
4. Which stately home featured in the TV series 'Brideshead Revisited'?
5. Who plays Richard III in the 1995 film version of the Shakespeare play?
6. For which disease did Edward Jenner develop an inoculation?
7. What are the first names of Dr. Jekyll and Mr. Hyde?
8. In medieval Scotland the game of 'hurly-hacket' involved using a deer skull to do what?
9. Which ocean currently raises the winter temperatures in Britain by at least 5°C?
10. In the English language how many letters are there in the longest word? 45 or 48?
11. What is the name of the character played by British actor Anthony Head in the US teen series 'Buffy the Vampire Slayer'?
12. In which century was the first public lottery held in England?

Answers on Page 27

Hits from the Past!

Photo of Mary Rolfe with her Morris Million.
When they reached 1,000,000 production all subsequent models bore this name.



Mechanically a standard 948cc Morris Minor 1000, Mary's was one of this special edition of 350 cars, distinguished by vivid lilac paintwork. Other external features were wheel embellishers and special 1000000 badges on the bonnet and boot lid. The interior sported white leather seats with black piping. The actual millionth car rolled off the production line on 22 December 1960, and earlier this year (55 years later) that particular car sold for £25,750. It had 23,364 miles on the clock!

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The Alan Russell Column



Alan continues his series on village land work, particularly the role of women in the 40s, 50s and 60s

I went from a quarter of an acre to 5 acres employing about 40 pickers of all ages and my wife says we could write a book of stories about 'FROOTEN' and the different characters with ages from 10 to 90, but perhaps another day; Libel laws being what they are rather restricts my stories!!

(We await those further tales with great interest – Ed'.)

Next came the pulling into sacks of green beans, pickers going from one grower to the next; being paid with tokens per bag. Many upsets were caused when pickers lost tokens as these were easily picked up by anyone, but mostly people were honest as you never knew when you might lose your own. Many years ago pea picking took place on the same basis but, like the beans, this too was gradually mechanized. The laughter of friends and the camaraderie helped to shorten the day with all these jobs making a real village community. It's a pity that it's mostly gone now.

There were a few orchards in and around the village; the biggest one was where the whole of Fen View is now. Orchard House reminds us of this. When the land was sold for building on, it was the talk of the locality. About today's price for a half building plot was what was paid for the whole orchard – an immense amount of money for those days (an acre of farmland then, was about £500 compared to £12,000 today).

A good deal of all the fruit was put on the Wisbech – Upwell Tram to the main line station at Wisbech before road haulage took over. The tram ran alongside the road, and the canal. In those days it also carried passengers. The station yard at Upwell, on the site of the New Health Centre would be full of grower's vehicles most afternoons.

Before the introduction of Potato Harvesters all the potatoes were picked by hand by gangs of men and women. A row was marked in equal 'RETCHES' with willow sticks as markers, each picker having their own allotted stretch. Horse drawn diggers and later, tractors

and "hoovers" lifted the crop out of the soil and back onto the land. The pickers picked 'taters' into wicker baskets, and they were collected by horse and cart.

Again before machinery took over sugar beet had to be ploughed out with a special type of plough. Workers held the pulled beet one in each hand and knocked them together forcibly to remove most of the soil. They could then be laid side by side in straight rows to be topped with a special beet hook and then piled into horse carts. Men with specially tined forks and women, by hand used to put them into roadside heaps.

Women helped in all this very hard work along with the lifting of mangolds (swedes) for cattle



food. My mother told me her first job at 14 on leaving school was that she 'singled' one acre of mangels in 5 ¾ days for nineteen shillings and sixpence (97½p) and her employer was so satisfied he gave her a bonus of 2½p. Out of this she paid her first world war widowed mother 75p for her keep!



Christchurch Residents Association

Attendance was down this month due to holidays and illness but we still managed to have a lively meeting. It was felt generally that the Dog Poo Campaign was beginning to have some impact. Controls were now in place to document offenders and issue fines in future.

Peter Owen gave us an update on Monday's PC meeting. Due to police cutbacks there were no longer going to be any PCSOs or police crime updates. Members expressed concern and wondered what they were paying for with that proportion of their rates. A letter of complaint was to be sent to the local Police and Crime Commissioner. Members welcomed the fact that Geoff Harper was to be co-opted onto the Parish Council to replace Simon Freeland who had resigned. There was to be an emergency PC meeting on Wednesday 19th August immediately before the New Village Hall Committee meeting for this reason and also to agree payment of the first instalment of the New Village Hall building costs. The footings had now been poured and Richard had been designated to look into the kitchen and flooring costs. All are welcome to attend these meetings and speak during Public Time if they so wish.

As Editor of The New Heron Richard also said that the team were looking for 2 or 3 more delivery personnel to stand in at holiday times or for illness. They were particularly looking for Tipples End helpers.

There had still been no further response from the demolition contractors of the Old Memorial Hall regarding the recent damage to historic buildings bordering the site. The owner/developer was to be written to again to see if the issue could be resolved with his help as he had the overall responsibility, prior to any legal action being instigated.

As expected the Christchurch Dog Show & Family Fun Day had been a resounding success with all involved being enthused by the public response to pull out all the stops in looking forward to the re-launch of the Christchurch Gala next year on Saturday 18th June 2016.

There would be two fundraising events in September, the Village Yard Sale on Saturday the 5th to raise funds for the New Village Hall 'fit-out', and a "Hogroast" at The Old School on

Saturday 26th to celebrate its 150th Anniversary and to raise some extra funds for The New Heron.

It was also the Welle Film Project Anniversary Weekend on 12th & 13th September (See pg 10 – Ed'.) and it was hoped that as many folks as possible could attend this event as Steve Waye's music video – "A Moment in Time" would be receiving its premier at this event; with local cast members and local locations.

The meeting closed at 10.00pm. Next meeting Wednesday 16th September, 7.30pm at The Old School.

Shirley Knight (CRA Secretary)



Minutes of the Monthly WI Meeting held in the Dining Room of Townley School on the 11th August 2015.

Peggy welcomed members.

Apologies:

Doris W, Michelle, Margaret B, Wendy, Margaret H.

Minutes were signed.

Correspondence:

Letter from Denise Taylor, our proposed speaker from last month, apologising for being unable to attend due to a family funeral. She will be coming next July.

Other Matters:

We made £50 at the cake stall. Viv was thanked for selling quiz sheets at the Dog Show.

There was a reminder about the jewellery collection and knitting for babies to be ready for the Federation meeting in October.

Our Speaker was Alan Lamb who entertained us with stories from the local area and the Lincolnshire marshes. His "tall" stories kept us all amused.

Birthdays: None this month.

Next Month:

Patchwork – Speaker Jenni Townsend

Competition – a knitted square

Raffle Prize Rota: Margaret S, Susan Q, Tracy, Sue N.

Competition Results: Marion(5), Beryl(5), Margaret S(5), Tracy(4), Val(4), Susan Q(4), Anne A(3), Sandra L(3).

Christchurch Garden Club

Wednesday 29th July the club paid a visit to Delamore in Wisbech St Mary. Our guide for the evening, Tina Holmes, gave the members a guided tour of the vast premises, with sixteen huge greenhouses each covering one and a half acres, and 60 million plants grown and dispatched from the site each year.

All plants are grown from cuttings, so the next time you find yourself about to do the same, spare a thought for the 60 fulltime staff (swollen to over 200 at the height of the season) who must plant over 2000 plants per day, supplying most of the major retailers. One of the main plants grown at Delamore are Poinsettias, originating in Mexico. These plants are not partial to our local weather conditions and so a huge biomass boiler has been installed to keep them in the style to which they're accustomed. Burning 20 tons of shredded pallets a day at full power this huge beast generates 2 megawatts of heat per hour.

Delamore was founded 54 years ago by Mr Ron Delamore. Soon to be merged with a ninety year old German company Volmary, the output of the companies is expected to double.

After walking around the one and a half miles of walkways the group arrived back at the retail shop to be greeted by friend of the club and frequent speaker John Pierrpont, who soon helped our weary shoppers to find some bargains. Should you wish to avail yourselves of some beautiful plants at bargain prices you will find John and his team more than happy to help you.

Delamore, Station Road, Wisbech St Mary, PE13 4RY.

Forthcoming Events.

Sunday September 13th Trip by Coach to Cambridge Botanic Gardens.

(Open to non-members)

Tuesday 15th September at Townley School - A talk by Jenny Windsor on "Gardens throughout the Year"

All trips and Talks are open to non- members. The first meeting is free so why not give us a try.

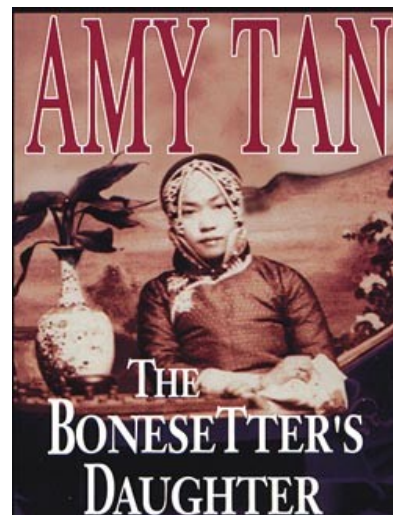
New Members always welcome. Call Marion Hawthorn 01354638230

Christchurch Book Club

Christchurch book club met on 26th August. We had been reading "Rebecca" by Daphne de Maurier. The response was mixed and some members thoroughly enjoyed it whilst others struggled with the dated language and values and slow pace.

We will be meeting again on Wednesday 30th September when we will be discussing "The Bonesetter's Daughter" by Amy Tan. The meeting will be at 7.30pm at Sue's - 5, Fen View.

For more information ring Sheila Day on 07946 635908



The happy Garden Club group ready to begin the tour

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A Moment in Time - by Steve Waye

Several years ago I was sitting in a friend's garden near Montreux Switzerland playing my guitar, although not unusual for me to play guitar in other people's gardens, today was different. We had spent the previous night at the Jazz Festival and had just finished a leisurely breakfast when an improvised tune fell under my fingers. I grabbed some music manuscript paper and a short time later had a finished piece ready to go. As often happens the song laid around for a while, I visited it few times but never really did anything with it. That is until late last year when I decided to record a single for release in the near future. After a couple of sessions the track was completed, now how to promote it?

Things have changed dramatically since last I released any new material, now YouTube is king, so I needed a video. With a limited budget to say the least I was pondering how to get the desired quality out of my rudimentary film equipment and even more rudimentary knowledge of film making, two problems not easily overcome. Then one Sunday I was sitting in Upwell Jazz Club (at Three Holes Village Hall) where Sue Lowe was promoting a new project – 'Welle Film Club'. Now, as well as showing films once a month, they also had a production arm which is meant to teach local people how to shoot video. Without a second thought I signed up for classes.

Once started I realised very quickly that it would take some time to obtain the necessary skills I required. However the club expressed interest in my project and happily liked the track but we needed a script. One of my many incarnations was working as a script writer for major shows such as The Bill and Eastenders so I dusted off my prose and got down to business. Having come up with the initial story line I began working with Dan Lowe, a self-taught but very



able film maker. He had some previous experience having worked on music videos with Architectural Helsinki (yes that is a band) and Julio Bashmore where he contributed animation and visual effects, as well as Brian Ferry and The

National Gallery. Another member of the film club, Ben Diffey, also ran one of the cameras and his experience and advice was instrumental in the finished project likewise John Bradley, a former BBC sound man, whose help was invaluable

Oh What A Cast!

After lots of sessions tweaking the script, for this is not just a music video but a motion picture (well in our minds anyway) Dan and I arrived at a finished product but who to cast? We needed a believable villain. Richard (New Heron Editor) still hasn't forgiven me for casting him as "A large scruffy man," but plays the part well. Thomas, a film club member, is suitably creepy, while the part of a young woman out of her depth in the situation in which she finds herself is played by Lucy Hartley. I play the musician who witnesses most of these moments in time. The filming took place on the weekend of the 23rd/24th May

So we have a little film that features the work of a local musician, local people behind the cameras and in the editing suite, as well as locals who came on board as extras and the brains behind the film club, all of whom I thank for their



efforts. Also I must thank Sheena Hartley for lending us her boat 'Narrow Waters' for the day. Great coffee too! It seems fitting that our film will have its first

airing at the first anniversary of The Welle Film Club - Open Weekend (free admission) on September 12th/13th and then on to the national airwaves!

The single will be available soon for download. Hope you can check it out and hope you enjoy watching and listening.

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Goodbye and Good Luck to our Year 6's, seen here enjoying an evening bowling.



On to pastures new for all these "Legends of Townley"! - Best wishes

the
happy
egg^{co.}

PLEASE HELP!

Dates

2nd September—Professional Day—no children

3rd September—Autumn term starts

We would appreciate if you could save your Happy Egg cartons. We need to save 100 to help assist our "residential", next year to be at Kingswood. Please take the complete egg box into school. Thanking you in advance!



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

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What is it? - (From last month)



Thanks to Robin and Bernice Talbot and Jan Osborne who all contributed to shedding some light on our mystery object.

We genuinely did not have a clue what it was!

According to Robin and Bernice it is Buddhist Dorje. The understanding is that the dorje represents spiritual strength and is mainly associated with Tibetan Buddhism, although it may also be linked with Hinduism and possibly other religions of the Indian region. The Dorje is a symbol of enlightenment, a representation of a thunderbolt, used in Tibetan Buddhism in connection with a bell. The dorje is male the bell female. It is often used to strike a bell to begin or end meditation or prayers.

To compare it to Christian belief one would see it as a secondary symbol to the primary iconic representation of religion, the cross for Christians the eight spoked wheel for Buddhist, secondary symbol for Christians the fish, for Buddhists the Dorje. It can be any size much like a cross and displayed in many different ways.

Jan identified it as a Vajra; a Buddhist symbol for wisdom that cuts through ignorance and delusion. It is often associated with Padmasambhava who brought Buddhism from India to Tibet in the 8th.Century. She has one on her shrine. Dorje is the Tibetan name for Vajra which is a Sanskrit word. Originally a vajra was a Hindu symbol and was based on a weapon; rather like swords are still worn occasionally for ceremonial purposes in many cultures today. Buddhism adopted the vajra as a symbol of power; not of destructive power but of transformative power. Buddhists believe that the Buddha transformed himself at his Enlightenment

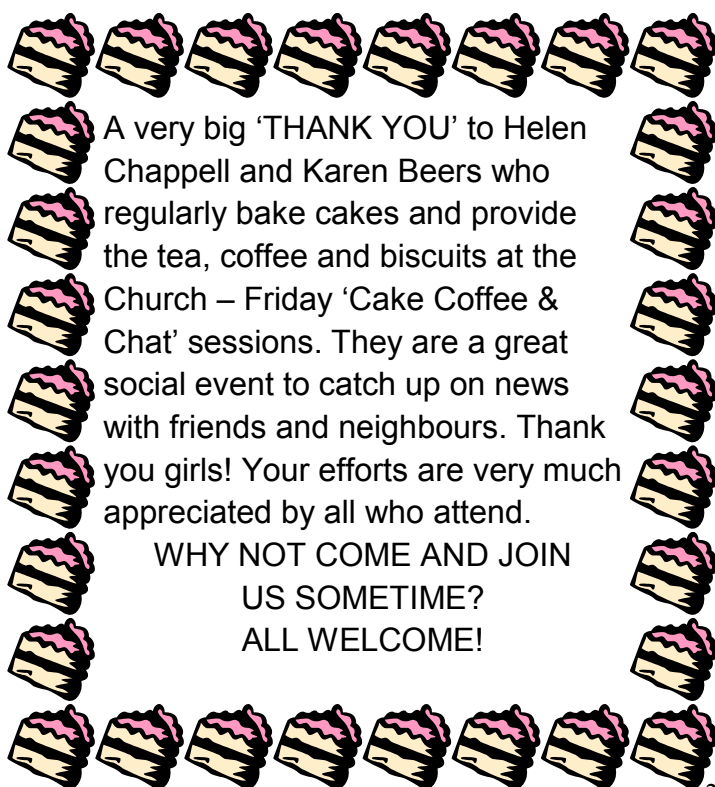
and that this transformative power can be harnessed by all beings. Consequently a Vajra is often seen on a Buddhist shrine as a 'reminder' of the possibility of cutting through delusion and ignorance to awakening or Enlightenment So both answers are in fact correct. Googling each verbal variant generates a similar graphic to the one shown in last months NH. Tibetan Buddhism is different from other forms. The different words relate to a variation in the spelling, or language, as the same object crops up in a variety of Asian texts and cultures. It is also known as



Bajra/बज (Nepali), vajram (Tamil), bojro (Bengali), bajra (Malay), dorje (Tibetan), dorji (Dzongkha), vajra (Indian), wajra (Indonesian), jīngāng, 金剛 (Chinese), geumgangjeo (Korean), kongōsho (Japanese) and Очир ochir / Базар Bazar (Mongolian).

How about that!? Never thought we'd get a whole article out of an intriguing object found in the back of an old drawer!

Very many thanks folks for all your contributions. –Ed'



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So it's not just Christchurch then?

It seems, as we probably already knew, that Dog Poo is not just a burning issue in Christchurch, but is getting hot under the collar, not to say stuck on the shoes of, residents from all over. Here is an article culled from the Sun of 5th August 2015!

A dog poo vigilante who lurks in bushes dressed in camouflage gear is waging a one-man war on pet owners who fail to clean up their hound's mess.

Andrew Hawes — dubbed the “Turdinator” — secretly films the culprits from his hiding place in the undergrowth.



Andrew - unmasked and (above) in disguise

The doo-doo detective has vowed to pass his footage to police and post it on a “name and shame” page on Facebook which now has more than 500 members. He warns dog walkers: “Bin your poo, I’m watching you!” Lorry driver Andrew, 43, is devoting ten days holiday to stepping up his mission — dressing from head to toe in military-style combat gear with a camouflage net over the top. He has been hailed a hero for his crusade against dog dirt in Leiston, Suffolk.

The married father-of-four said: “We spent weeks cleaning up the neighbourhood and removed bucket loads of dog poo. Within seven days it was all back again and we thought, ‘enough is enough’.”

Local police support Andrew’s actions and have vowed to act on information received!

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Stack fires can quickly spread and not only endanger people and livestock, but also life-long work on farms. Stacks burn very slowly meaning crews are committed for long periods of time, making them unavailable for other emergencies. Don't forget, many firefighters attending incidents like these in rural parts of our county are on-call personnel and their retention at a stack fire impacts directly upon business and services in their community.

What can you do? We're urging residents and those passing through rural areas to keep a careful watch. Do you see someone acting suspiciously around stores of hay or straw? Is there an unusual vehicle near farm buildings? Become a community member of Arson Watch and keep an eye on stacks in your area.

Report suspicious activity to police on 101 and dial 999 if you see a stack fire.

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FOR SALE

Lots of stuff - in the
Christchurch **Village
Yard Sale** - stalls all
around the Village,
and in Tipps End and
hopefully Euximoor
Drove.
Sat September 5th



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

Dead Liberty -

When debt collectors started sending threatening letters addressed to her dead father, Clare-Louise Quilty had a brilliant response. The debt collector and a solicitor were threatening legal action if Laurence Quilty didn't pay the €4,806.54 they said he owed - despite his having died in Donegal more than six years ago. They said they planned to obtain a court order to force him to sell his house. But Clare-Louise, had the perfect, withering reply. - "Dear Sirs, Unfortunately my father is no longer contactable at the address in Redcastle, Co. Donegal, as he has actually been residing in Dunboyne Cemetery since January 2008. Attached is a photo of me visiting him at his most recent residence just last week. I don't think he'll be moving elsewhere in the foreseeable future so please feel free to forward any further correspondence there, although I'm not too sure of the quality of his penmanship these days so please be patient when awaiting your response.

If you have any further questions, please feel free to contact me. I expect a rapid response as you have obviously been hot on the case of this issue - sometime in the last decade at least!" Attached to the letter, she sent a picture of herself kneeling next to her father's grave.



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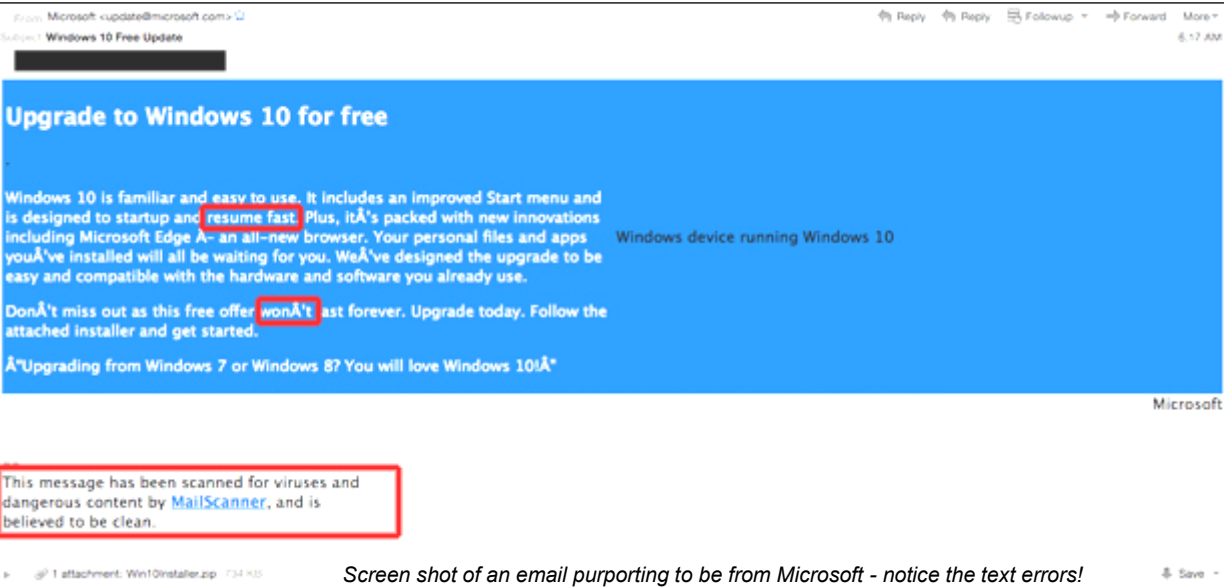


www.electricalsafetyregister.com

Be Smart - Don't Get Scammed! - by Paul Haresnape

Scams are a real worry to us all. At the August Parish Council meeting Fred Yeulett, the County Councillor, reported that this was a particular concern that he had been alerted to. Particularly he had been warned of the “cold calling” variety. The advice is generally do not accept any cold calls – of any kind, be suspicious of all sources.

In an unrelated aside, not occurring in Fred's warning, I was made aware of a very new scam.



Screen shot of an email purporting to be from Microsoft - notice the text errors!

Many of us with computers will be entitled to a FREE upgrade from our Windows 7, 8, or 8.1 to Windows 10. In previous upgrades we were offered free TRIALS of the new Windows, then you'd need to pay to keep it! This time it is free FOREVER! The problem is that the upgrade is delivered by Windows Upgrade itself, downloaded direct. Scammers have got hold of this idea and have begun emailing randomly with a “ransomware” attachment purporting to be the Windows 10



If the ransomware strikes and shows you this screen - call the experts!

upgrade. The email is designed to look very much like an official Microsoft notice. MICROSOFT WILL NEVER send you an email without you emailing them first! If you look at the email picture below, you'll see several errors in it—that also is a clue. However if you fall for it and “install” the download, your computer will be locked and you will asked to pay a “ransom” to get it back. Of course, if you do pay, you cannot expect that a criminal would be honest and release the lock.

Also they will have been given your credit card details! Additionally the victim is put under pressure by threatening complete destruction of the computer file system if payment is not received

within a few days.

The way to avoid this is to remember your upgrade will be notified to you by the Desktop NOT BY EMAIL. Delete any email purporting to be Windows 10 upgrade! Additionally make sure you have copies of your important documents and pictures on memory sticks, or disks so you can at least recover your precious files. PVH

Great British Trivia Quiz - Answers	
1.	Gordon Ramsey
2.	Alton
3.	Liverpool
4.	Castle Howard
5.	Sir Ian McKellan
6.	Smallpox
7.	Henry and Edward
8.	Tobogganing
9.	The North Atlantic Drift
10.	45 – pneunomoultiramicroscopicillco – vol-
11.	Giles
12.	16th - 1569

Useful Telephone Numbers

Age UK Cambridgeshire	0300 6669860
Alzheimer's Society (Fenland)	01945 580480
Anglian Water – Susan Bull	08457 145 145 101
Cambs Fire & Rescue	01480 444500
Churchwarden - Mrs. D. Symons	01354 638352
Citizens' Advice Bureau, Wisbech	01945 464367
Community Car Scheme (to book a journey)	07902 316360
Community Fire Safety Officer	07717858166
County Councillor - Fred Yeulett	01354 653763
District Councillor - Will Sutton	01354 638025
District Councillor - Michelle Tanfield	07908 707129
Eastern Electricity	0800 783 8838
FACT	01354 661234
Fenland District Council	01354 654321
Fire Station - March	01354 652349
Floodline	0845 988 1188
Library - March	0354 0455225
National Debtline	0808 808 4000
Norfolk Dial-a-Ride	01553 770310
Parish Clerk - Jackie Richardson	01354 677856
Parish Councillor - Jill Bliss	01354 638343
Parish Councillor - William Beswick	01354 638758
Parish Councillor - Roger Gladwin	01354 638538
Parish Councillor - Geoff Harper	01354 638681
Parish Councillor - James Hughes	01354 638310
Parish Councillor - Peter Owen	01354 638847
Parish Councillor - Nigel Russell (Chair)	01354 638279
Police - Non Emergency	101
Police - Emergency	999
Telephone Complaints	0345 145000
Townley School	01354 638229
Trading Standards	845040506
Train Information	08457 484950
Upwell Health Centre (and out of hours)	01945 773671
Water Emergencies	08457 145145
Welle Pharmacy, Upwell Health Centre	01945 774081

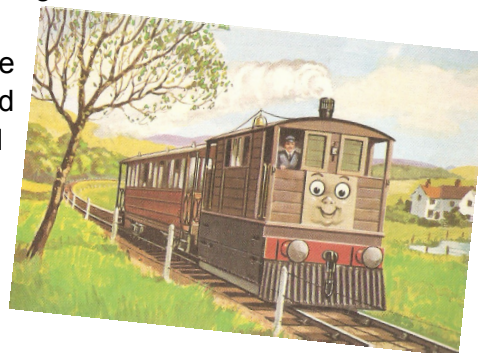
Neighbourhood Watch

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

And Finally...

Following this month's lead article on Thomas the Tank Engine, I thought it only right and proper to show a picture of the 'Toby the Tram Engine' character from the Rev.

Awdry's books. He was based on the old Wisbech Tram shown at the bottom of



Alan Russell's latest missive on page 15, which also features on Upwell's village sign. What a shame we lost that piece of local history!

On the subject of the noticeable 'Police Absence' in our village – I heard a recent story that, as a police officer had pulled over a driver because one of his brake lights was faulty, another man who had been beaten and mugged staggered out of the nearby local park and approached the officer. "Please help me!" He pleaded desperately. The officer turned rather abruptly and annoyed said, "Would you mind waiting your turn sir! Can't you see we're rather short-handed at the moment!?"

We can only hope that such events do not soon become a reality! – Ed'.

**Please support the Village Yard Sale
on SEPTEMBER 5th!**

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