

# The Heron

Community Magazine

Delivered to homes in Christchurch, Euximoor and Tipps End - £1 where sold

June 2016

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Please join us for

**CHRISTCHURCH**  
**Picnic in the Park**  
**& Village Sports Day**

to celebrate the Queen's 90<sup>th</sup> Birthday

**Saturday 25<sup>th</sup> June 2016 14.00-18.00**

**Races, competitions and fun for all ages**

**Bring a picnic & blanket (& brolly if it's raining!)**

**Tables and chairs available for older people**

**Bouncy castle      Barbeque and bar**

**Everyone welcome**



**Enquiries to: Ruth Ingram on 01354 638419**



# Community Information

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

**Mobile Post Office:** visits Mon - Thu

in the Lay-by Upwell Road

Monday and Thursday 16:30 to 17:00

Tuesday and Wednesday 16:10 to 17:00

Fridays - no service

**The Little Local** village shop opening hours

- ♦ Monday to Saturday 8am to 5pm
- ♦ Sunday 9:30 to 11:30

**Community Centre Bookings** are

being taken by Sandra Kay on 01354 638478.

There is a large hall with bar facilities, a smaller meeting room, a large kitchen accessible from both the above. It is equipped with sports changing rooms with showers and is available for private or village functions

**BodyCare Conditioning classes** begin

June 6th - Mondays, 7:30pm at Townley School Hall. It will help improve posture, builds strength & safely reshapes the entire body. SUITABLE FOR ALL AGES. For more details please ring Jane on 01354 638378

**Jill Bliss has been busy** archiving the

Minute books and the financial records of two of the village's oldest institutions, the Memorial Hall and the Good Companions.

Records go back to 1912 and are mostly intact. Villagers, or other interested parties, can access them now in the Wisbech Museum. Thanks Jill!

**Sheila Day's phone number** has been printed wrongly both in the Book Club report and in Useful Numbers in the last few Herons - we have now corrected it. Apologies!

**Dun Cow Meal Deal** on alternate Wednesday lunchtimes - 2 courses for £5.50 - Pre-Booked places ONLY. This Month's dates are 8th and 22nd June

**The country votes again** this month - on 23 June - this time on if we should LEAVE the European Union or REMAIN. By the time you read this you should have had your Poll card. If you have not, it probably means you have not registered and you only have until 7th June to

register to vote. You can register online [www.gov.uk/register-to-vote](http://www.gov.uk/register-to-vote) or call 0800 3280280, but do it soon because the forms must be at the office by midnight 7th June. You can read the arguments at the Remain camp's website: [www.strongerin.co.uk/voteremain](http://www.strongerin.co.uk/voteremain) and for the Leave camp at: [www.voteleavetakecontrol.org/yourchoice](http://www.voteleavetakecontrol.org/yourchoice)

## EDITORIAL

Well! Looks like being another busy month for the village. We've just had the FOTS Auction and we have the EU Vote on the 23<sup>rd</sup> (I still haven't finally made up my mind but definitely leaning towards – Out!), "Picnic in the Park" & "Village Sports Day" on the 25<sup>th</sup> (Please note we actually managed to get the poster to the Queen – see cover photo). There are supposed to be some adult events too! So don't forget your 'plimmies'! Then of course there's the famous FOTS Fun Dog Show & Family Fun Day at the beginning of next month on the 2<sup>nd</sup> of July (back page) always a popular summer event!

Nice to have a response (see page 5) from Parish Councillor James Hughes to the letter from the young folk of a couple of months back. He apologised for the delay but he was busy getting married and then on honeymoon for a fortnight. So as a thank you we've done a wedding feature for James & Elaine on page 27.

There's a thank you from retiring Parish Council Chairman Nigel Russell on page 6, and also a response from him to some rather costly advice on page 8; though I must make clear that this is in no way connected with his resignation as Chair. He had always planned to stand down once the Community Centre was finally completed.

Lucy our shopkeeper was busy earlier last month with her two friends raising money in the "Race for Life" for the breast cancer charity – see page 16, and on the same page you can see more muntjac sightings in the village.

Then of course there's all the usual features, plus one or two other articles we hope you'll find interesting, including an update on The Heron finances on page 20.

So enjoy till next month!



# DIARY DATES

Abbreviations for commonly used venues:

TS = Townley School, CCC = Christchurch Community Centre, (new Hall)

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:**

Jun 3 <sup>rd</sup>	"Cake, Coffee and Chat" Parish Church 2-3pm - All Welcome
Jun 3 <sup>rd</sup>	Mobile Library visits - Upwell Rd Lay-by 3-3:40pm
Jun 6 <sup>th</sup>	Pilates - 6:30-7:30pm - £5 per session, BodyCare conditioning 7:30-8:00pm - TS
Jun 7 <sup>th</sup>	Deadline for Registering to Vote on Britain's future - Remain or Leave the EU
Jun 7 <sup>th</sup>	Christchurch Craft Club - Patchwork - CCC - 7pm
Jun 10 <sup>th</sup>	"Cake, Coffee and Chat" Parish Church 2-3pm - All Welcome
Jun 12 <sup>th</sup>	Welle Film Project presents "Dad's Army" Cert PG - £2 - doors open 1.30 - TH
Jun 13 <sup>th</sup>	Pilates - 6:30-7:30pm - £5 per session, BodyCare conditioning 7:30-8:00pm - TS
Jun 13 <sup>th</sup>	Christchurch Parish Council Meeting - 7:30pm - CCC
Jun 14 <sup>th</sup>	WI - Hypnosis - Ms Bernice Hardwick - 7pm - CCC
Jun 15 <sup>th</sup>	Christchurch Community Centre Committee meeting - 7:30pm - CCC
Jun 17 <sup>th</sup>	"Cake, Coffee and Chat" Parish Church 2-3pm - All Welcome
Jun 20 <sup>th</sup>	Pilates - 6:30-7:30pm - £5 per session, BodyCare conditioning 7:30-8:00pm - TS
Jun 21 <sup>st</sup>	Garden Club - Summer Buffet 7.00pm - CCC
Jun 22 <sup>nd</sup>	Christchurch Residents Association - 7:30pm - The Old School
Jun 23 <sup>rd</sup>	The EU Referendum - from 7am-10pm - CCC
Jun 24 <sup>th</sup>	"Cake, Coffee and Chat" Parish Church 2-3pm - All Welcome
Jun 25 <sup>th</sup>	"Picnic in the Park" - 2pm to 6pm - recreation ground and CCC
Jun 26 <sup>th</sup>	Christchurch Horse Show - for Air Ambulance - Horse Creek Farm - PE15 0BS
Jun 26 <sup>th</sup>	Wisbech St Mary Open Gardens - for Cystic Fibrosis - 10am-5pm - £4 entrance
Jun 27 <sup>th</sup>	Pilates - 6:30-7:30pm - £5 per session, BodyCare conditioning 7:30-8:00pm - TS
Jun 29 <sup>th</sup>	Christchurch Book Club - 7:30pm - 5 Fen View
Jul 2 <sup>nd</sup>	Dog Show - Friends of Townley - 10am - TS Playing Field

## Parish Church Services

Jun 5 <sup>th</sup>	11am	H Chappell, A Day	All Age Worship in Townley School
Jun 12 <sup>th</sup>	9:30am	Rev J Webb	Holy Communion
Jun 19 <sup>th</sup>	6:30pm	V Smith	Evening Prayer
Jun 26 <sup>th</sup>	11am	V Smith	Morning Prayer
Jul 3 <sup>th</sup>	11am	H Chappell, A Day	All Age Worship in Townley School

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

## The 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



I am writing on behalf of the Parish Council to respond to the letter posted in the Heron regarding the facilities on the playing field.

Firstly, how delighted I was to hear that the young people in the village care so much about the playing field, the play areas and the skate park. It's very refreshing to see that our young village community are still interested in playing outside rather than inside on their computers, consoles and tablets!

Now, to answer the questions posed in the letter.

Skate Park: It's great that the young people in the village use the skate park, I know my own children enjoy it. It would be great to update it, but unfortunately, that would be a very expensive proposition, the last quote the Council received was for over £30,000 to improve it. We could smarten up the skate parks as the PC do have some paint specifically for it. I will bring this subject up at a future PC meeting, and perhaps could organise a work party and get advice on how we could improve the skate park with our limited budget. Any volunteers?

However, one subject brought up in the last PC meeting was about the amount of litter that builds up in the area. Although a bin would be useful, there are issues with getting it emptied (the refuse lorries do not venture that far up Crown Drove). The nearest bin is, I believe, at the kissing gate at the end of the field, so in order to keep the park tidy, it would be great if we could encourage everyone to remove any rubbish and dispose of it in the bin at the kissing gate.

Play Areas: The newer area was specifically aimed at older children, with the older play areas for toddlers. Some of the play equipment from the area which is now the new hall car park will be refurbished and installed between the new and old areas. Now that the village hall is pretty much complete, the PC will be able to spend time on arranging this. We will also discuss the aging equipment in the older area at a future meeting of the PC, to see what can be done to improve it.

As with any projects like this, the major problem is finding the money to do it. The Parish Council is responsible for many repair activities around the village (grass cutting, tree maintenance, village hall, streetlights etc) and all these take money.

A Parish Council gets its funding by receiving a small amount of the local Council Tax. This is referred to as a 'The Parish Precept'. It's not a huge amount of money, and has to be spent carefully. However, there is some money already set aside for the play park improvements, and the PC will be using it this year to improve the facilities as much as possible.

I hope that has answered some of your questions.

James Hughes

*Many thanks James - we look forward to the improvements - Ed'.*

Hi

Having just gone to the community centre to vote, I was surprised and disappointed that there was no real access to the centre for prams, pushchairs or wheelchairs. I had to drag my granddaughter in her buggy the length of the car park. It seems very odd to me that this was not picked up at an earlier stage during the planning of the centre. There is hard standing at the entrance to the car park and hard standing around the building itself, but if on foot you need to get to the building first. Not everyone coming to the centre will be dropped off by car if disabled and if there are any child centred activities taking place, obviously there will be buggies and prams. Are there any plans to put in a path through the centre of the drive? If not then I would suggest that this was a matter for urgent discussion. I am sure that with the voting taking place today there will be many more residence fall foul to this oversight.

Angela Mayes

*This is already being actioned by the Parish Council.*

*A 3 ft wide paved path down the side of the Bowls club on the edge of the car park for disabled and prams etc should be completed by "Picnic in the Park" - Ed'*

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# A Thank You from our Parish Council Chairman

The day came and the weather was with us, over 16 years of waiting to get the funds available and a lot of people thought it would never happen, twice tried for lottery money and refused.

Thanks to Fenland District Council for giving one hundred thousand pounds, with Will's help!

To the Memorial Hall for one hundred thousand pounds from its sale.

The sale of the three plots brought the remainder. This was helped by Cambs County Council relaxing the covenant on the land.

Thanks to Steve Count chairman of CCC and Fred Yeulett our County Councillor.

I am sad that Wosley Rolfe and Mac Cotterell weren't here to see the opening day, but it was nice to see Doris and Madge here.

With all funds available, Morton & Hall from March were instructed to draw up the plans, thanks also must go to Richard Guilford for putting the tender packs together to go to the builders.

John Cook from Wisbech was chosen and personally I don't think we could have made a better choice as he did an excellent job. His work force brick layers, ground works, plumber, electrician & decorators have all been top quality. John has been very easy to work with to the point that he completed work, which was not included in the original quote e.g finished the changing room & kitchen at his own expense.

Thanks to the Quail family, John Batt-Rawden and Walter Chamberlin for donations and to Peter Owen and family for the large fridge and to ALL that have put their change in the jar at the village shop which raised nearly £300 also to Geoff Harper for getting the quotes for the chairs, tables and flooring.

A big thank you must go to the other members of the New Village Hall Committee for all their input, to Richard Vice Chairman, Ruth our Secretary, Peter



*Councillor Nigel Russell addresses the assembled crowd at the opening of the Community Centre in May*

Owen our Treasurer, Geoff Harper and to Sandra Kay our Bookings Secretary.

Thanks also to Phil at the Dun Cow for all his help with the bar.

Thank you all  
Nigel Russell

## All Change at the Top

It's all change at the top of the Christchurch Parish Council.

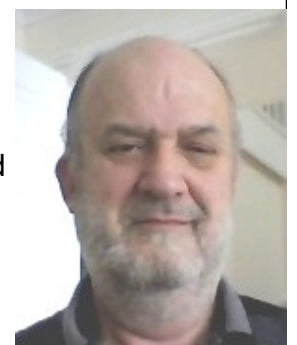
At the start of May's meeting Nigel Russell stood down as Chairman.

Councillor Peter Owen was nominated and was elected unopposed. Geoff Harper was elected vice chair.

Councillor Russell had had a very busy, and no doubt stressful, few years overseeing the instigation and completion of the new community centre. It was always his avowed intention to step down at the completion of the project.



*Cllr Owen the new Chairman*



*Cllr Harper now the new Vice Chair*





Paul Braybrooke

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# Retiring Chair slams Clerk for costly advice! by Paul Haresnape

Councillors and members of the public were stunned to hear a statement from Cllr Nigel Russell at the May Parish Council. After some opening remarks where he thanked those who had supported him through his tenure as Chairman, he went on to express upset at wrong and very costly advice given to the Council by the Clerk to the Council, Jacquie Richardson.



Councillor Russell

The problem arose over a plot of land, known as Poole field, which the Council had rented at a nominal rent for many years, to provide allotments for the community. Over time, as allotments became vacant, local farmer Rodger Symons took the plots from the council, until he retired when the whole field was then advertised for sub-let by sealed bid tender. In the event Cllr Russell (also a farmer) won the bid. A few years ago, the then owners, descendants of Mr Poole, decided they wanted to sell the land, but the Council had 'sitting tenant rights' to remain. Cllr Russell was given notice to vacate by the Council, which he did as the sub tenant. As Chair of the Council he took advice from a land agent and was told it was worth possibly £25,000 to the Council to be bought out of the sitting tenancy.

When the Parish Council discussed this Cllr Russell was advised by the clerk that he had 'an interest' (so did two of the Poole family who were also councillors at that time) and must leave the room and not be involved. Cllr Russell maintained that as he had relinquished his tenancy he no longer had any 'financial interest' and so he should not be excluded. The Clerk disagreed with him. In the event Cllr Russell accepted her professional opinion. He was therefore unable to press the case for obtaining the true worth of that sitting tenancy. Another councillor was in hospital and the three remaining did not obtain solicitor's opinion and, under pressure from the Poole family's solicitors, settled at only £5000.

Subsequently Cllr Russell had been challenged by two members of the public as to why the council

had settled at so low a figure given the value of farmland. He took the chance, in the May meeting, to state that he would not accept any blame for the loss of assets and very much regretted having taken the wrong advice of the Parish Clerk.

During a closed part of the meeting the Clerk's position was discussed and her intention to resign was restated. Accordingly a new Clerk will be sought.

Jacquie Richardson was approached for a statement but she declined saying, "I think I'd better offer no comment for now."

## Christchurch Parish Council

### Vacancy for Clerk to the Parish Council/ Responsible Financial Officer

Applications are invited for this part time position (normally up to 6 hours a week home based) also to include attendance at evening council meetings on the second Monday evening of the month

The salary scale is LC2 points 26-29 (£11.922 per hour - £13.222 per hour)

Please apply with C.V. & references to:

Peter Owen

Chairman Christchurch Parish Council

Jacaranda

Upwell Road

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Wisbech

Cambridgeshire PE14 9LF

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## My First Car by Geoff Cochrane

Let us know what your first car was, and some of your memories of it - we'll help with writing and photos if needed!

In 1969 I left school at 16 years old to commence a five year engineering apprenticeship with the Cambridge Instrument Company.

I had been mad on cars since childhood and had even learned to drive at eleven years old on a quiet and secluded beach at Allonby on the Solway coast in Cumberland where I was born. The car was my Dad's new Goodwood Green MkIII Zephyr Six, almost identical to the one currently in my possession which can be seen driving around the village occasionally.

Whilst at the Instrument Company's training school in Cambridge we attended Young Street Technical College on one day a week, which was situated close to a car sales lot in Occupation Road called "Fulgar Car Sales". It was here that I purchased my first car, a black 1947 Ford Anglia FOT675 for the princely sum of £20.00 including delivery, as at the time I was too young to drive it on public roads. Mr Fulgar was very keen to point out that when I passed my test that I needed to drive carefully as the car had been fitted with a 1200cc engine out of a later Ford Prefect and was quite a quick machine!

The car certainly performed well, but with its transverse leaf springs mounted across the width of the car and not mounted in line with the chassis members as on most vehicles, it tended to roll dramatically on the corners and whilst my Mum called the car "Blossom" my fellow apprentices affectionately christened it "Rubber Kingpins".

I kept the car for about eighteen months and sold it to a Swiss student who was at University In Cambridge and intended to take the car home with him. He also doubled my investment paying me £40.00 for it which was very soon reinvested in a Warwick Green 1957 MkII Consul and to my continuing lifetime love of cars and vehicles of every sort.



Geoff with his 1947 Ford Anglia

## Views from the Farm Gate

- Sue Fletcher



**At Fendale Farm** it has been a busy few months. We started lambing on the 1st April with 3015 lambs due over the following four weeks. At our peak we were lambing 200 lambs over a 24 hour period. The weather was a battle at times, with the cold rain hitting us mid-April, causing extra work with hypothermic lambs to attend to. We lambed 600 ewes outside in their lambing paddocks and 1000 in yards. We were all kept very busy, and had help from local friends and family.

All the lambs are currently being wormed, mineral drenched, vaccinated and sprayed for flies. This will keep them happy whilst we're sheep shearing over the next month.

The weather still seems to be unpredictable, but with

the hot days now causing a fly population explosion, shearing is on the cards to control fly strike on the ewes. We started with our shearing (12 month old) ewes on the 17th May, shearing 370 in three days. We had eight beginner shearers to help train for two days, which we love to do. To see the young keen youngsters go through the pain over two days to leave as capable shearers at the end is a great feeling.

We are hoping for a better run of weather so we can get through the 4000 sheep we have to shear. Marketing wool 10 years ago was difficult with 3kg

fleeces being worth less than £1. Reassuringly over the past few years there has been a boom in wool sales worldwide as a natural sustainable fibre. Fleeces can now be worth £3 each, a needed boost for the sheep sector. Wool is flame resistant, fully decomposable, lanolin



In the shearing shed

Continued next page



Cont... (the oil in the wool) is used for cosmetics and hand creams, wool can be used for many more things such as insulation, body armour and coffins.

The recent news about increasing the amount of fat we are all eating, makes me wonder what the government will change next? But for now fill your baskets with English lamb and enjoy the sunshine.

Well our May meeting was bring and make. There was a lot of variety some sewing, crocheting, colouring, and not forgetting the nattering. Sandra Lloyd and I tidied the Craft cupboard. A good job done, thank you Sandra (you've got the job!!)

Sandra Kay and Peggy were in the kitchen, making tea and coffee, and I had help with the raffle. Thank you girls.

Our June Meeting will be a quilted scissor keeper. You only need to bring your sewing kit and yourself of course.

I will see you at Christchurch Community Centre at seven on June 7th.

- Contact info: Wendy Yates 01354 638448



## Would you be interested in joining a midweek walking group?

Care Network has helped a number of villages in Fenland to establish monthly walking groups which offer a gentle stroll in the company of others. The groups vary slightly in the length and pace of the walk but all end up in the local village hall or pub for morning coffee or afternoon tea and cakes afterwards. The aim is some good exercise in the fresh air as well as the opportunity for a nice chat. And because the pace is gentle the other groups have attracted people with reduced mobility.

I'd like to find out if there are people in Christchurch who would be interested in joining a similar group. Maybe the walk could be timed to end up at the church for 'Cake, Coffee and Chat' on a Friday afternoon or something going on at the Community Centre.

If you are interested and would like to discuss this idea further please contact me, Sue Beel, at Care Network on 01945 589953 or email [sue.b@care-network.org.uk](mailto:sue.b@care-network.org.uk)

## Health and Fitness

with - Stephen Aish



So where has Steve been?

Good question!

I am taking a step back from the world of health and fitness in terms of gym, food, coaching and even competing. My main focus now is on mindset – helping people move beyond their reactions, habits and suffering in order to find inner peace.

I have just joined one of the biggest nutrition training providers in the UK as their mindset coach. They have a huge reach and work with thousands of trainers. This is a perfect target market for me to implement change and allow people to realise that the mind is the first point of change before nutrition and exercise for weight loss, health, performance and whatever your goal is.

I will be posting less frequently in The Heron, but still available should anyone want to reach out for some advice.

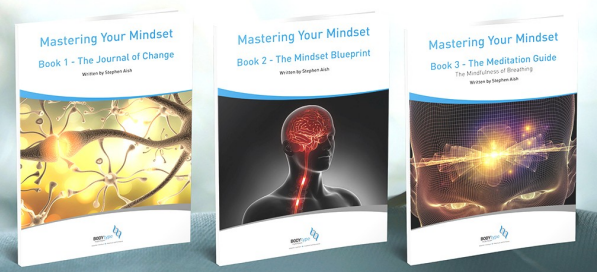
I have the crazy idea of changing the health and fitness industry for the better and it is well underway. So far people have travelled all over the UK to see me based on the results I get and in most cases they never need to see me again. They take back control, know how to self manage and live their gifts and talents instead of settling for an easy distraction and living in discomfort for many decades.

As well as writing a book on mindset, I am also creating several online courses and a mentorship program for coaches to have a bigger impact on their clients.

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### MASTERING YOUR MINDSET - THE INNER PEACE GUIDES

STEPHEN AISH - BTN MINDSET COACH



In the link below you can access three free mindset guides that have had a huge impact on helping people to manage their mind better by understanding why they suffer and what to do about it. I also teach you how to meditate in order to change.

<https://thestrengthacademy.leadpages.co/mindsetbooks/>

Saturday 14th  
May saw the  
club's annual plant  
sale take place.



This is the only fundraising that we undertake and so is of major importance to the club. The day started bright but a little chilly. However, we and our supporters felt warm and snug inside the new Community Centre. The plants were showcased on tables to the rear of the hall, while the area near the entrance was set aside as a little café. The event was well attended and Peggy Warby's Bacon Butties proved so popular the kitchen struggled at times to keep up. During the afternoon the cream teas featuring home-made scones and clotted cream also proved a hit. Jenny Farnsworth and helpers worked tirelessly through the day and most of the plants had been sold by the end of the day, there really were some bargains this year. The remainder were auctioned to the members at our regular monthly meeting, just a few days later. May I take this opportunity to thank all those who donated plants, as well as the committee and club members for their contributions, support and hard work in staging this event. Without you there would be no club.

Our regular monthly meeting followed on Tuesday 17th May at the hall, featuring Charles Nelson speaking on Heathers. Dr Nelson is a passionate advocate for growing these plants with their flower and foliage providing brilliant colour throughout the year. These plants are very hardy and easy to look after, however you do need to check your soil to ascertain whether it is Alkaline or Acid in nature. A testing kit is available from local gardening centres although Agricultural colleges will test samples for a small fee. As long as you choose the correct variety for your soil there should be no problem in cultivating Heathers in your very own outside space. It seems it's advisable to purchase plants from a specialist Heather nursery. The Heather Society lists about fifteen of these nurseries in their "Handy Guide to Heathers" the R.H.S. Plant Finder is another useful source of information. The Heather Society can be found at [www.heathersociety.org.uk](http://www.heathersociety.org.uk)

If on the other hand you wish to join the Heather society then Email them at the following address, - [admin@heathersociety.org](mailto:admin@heathersociety.org)

The next meeting will be on Tuesday the 21st June 2016 when the club will host another annual event the Summer Buffet. The Buffet is a very sociable event and I'm sure all the members look forward to it. New members are always welcome so please call 01354 638 230 for details.

The raffle prizes will be donated by Sue Norman, Doris Pawlik and Val Parker.

So believe it or not the summer is just around the corner, so enjoy your gardens. Steve.



#### Minutes of the Monthly WI

#### Meeting held in the Christchurch Community Centre on May 10th 2016

We observed a minutes silence in memory of Elaine Butcher, a previous member who died.

Apologies: Susan Q, Doris W Rolfe, Michelle, Margaret H, Sandra L.

Minutes were signed.

Correspondence: Daffs for Denman,

Quiz Night,

National Arboretum Trip,

Upwood Ukulele band,

Elizabeth Bell Challenge,

Tydd St. Giles Invite,

Thankyou card for attending group meeting,

An afternoon with Julia Summer,

Ian Cumming evening,

Wisley garden trip spare places,

Transport arrangements clarified for Literary lunch and opium in the Fens talk.

Other Matters: A WI member is required to judge flower arrangement and Victoria sponge for the children's competition at the Dog Show on July 2nd. The WI have agreed to run a cake stall.

Resolutions: The two resolutions proposed were both unanimously supported by members.

1) The government is urged to require supermarkets to cut down on food waste by giving it to charities.

2) The government is urged to require the NHS to provide flexible visiting times and accommodation for carers when a dementia patient is admitted to hospital.

After refreshments members enjoyed a Beetle Drive, the winners being Viv and Belinda.

Peggy gave a brief report on the recent Federation meeting.

Competition Results: a mini maypole. Val(5), Anne A (4).

June Meeting: Hypnosis Ms Bernice Hardwick.

Competition: A flower arrangement in a teacup.

Raffle Rota: Margaret H, Margaret S, Susan Q, Tracy.

Poster: Margaret S.

- Contact info: Peggy Warby 01354 638339



# Christchurch Residents Association

Our May meeting was not well attended with several members on holiday, some illness and a band practice. The minutes were agreed and there were no matters arising. Members were informed of the recent changes on the Parish Council. Nigel Russell had stood down and Peter Owen became Chairman with Geoff Harper taking on the post of Vice-Chairman.

All were pleased with the recent road resurfacing in the village and the new chequerboard at Jackson's Corner. Whilst members felt this was a great improvement it was still thought that an appropriately angled mirror would be of greater benefit. However, we all wondered when the disastrous slope on the widened pavement in Upwell Road would finally be corrected?

Members were encouraged to support "Picnic in the Park" on 25th June and also the FOTS Auction this coming weekend on the 28th, and Dog Show and Family Funday on July 2nd.

Richard was still disappointed to have had no reply from PCSO Sue Clarke re Speedwatch Training. He would try other avenues to get hold of her.

There had been some usefully Neighbourhood Alerts which Richard shared with us concerning Home Security and also that of associated outbuildings. Although much of this was common sense members did find the information helpful.

Peggy Warby informed us of the success of the recent Garden Club Plant Sale, but Christchurch Horse Show was considered to be being held too far away to bear the Christchurch name and also because the village gained no benefit from it!

The new Community Centre Caretakers were due to take up their posts next week, with a Youth Club being set up again in the not too distant future, probably after the school summer holidays.

Some progress had been made with the hoped for village bus service but nothing 100% concrete yet.

Richard informed us that if any villagers spotted a swarm of bees in or around the village that he and a colleague from Manea could deal with them and put them to good use as honey-makers.

Lynda informed us that there was a large amount of litter around the skatepark end of the

playing field, but there was still no bin in place there. Richard was to contact Jill Bliss about this. Also some older youths seem to be parking up there for nefarious activities. Richard would look into this and inform the Parish Council.

The meeting closed at 8.50pm but members continued chatting till much later. Next meeting June 22nd at The Old School, 7.30pm.

Shirley Knight (CRA Secretary)

## Christchurch Book Club

Book club met on Wednesday 25th May.

We had been reading 'Northern Lights' by Philip Pullman. This was almost a 'Marmite' book with fairly even love/hate opinions. The book is set in a parallel universe, which some found intriguing, and others frankly weird!

This month we will be reading 'Lovely Bones' by Alice Sebold.

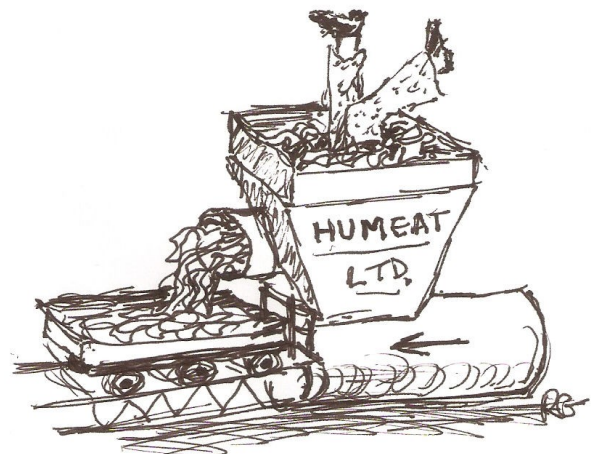
We shall be meeting at 7.30pm 29th June at Sue's, 5, Fen View, to discuss 'Lovely Bones'

info: Sheila Day 07946 635908

We were startled to read the following in a recent copy of 'your local paper', West Norfolk's Community newspaper. The article concerned a local food factory, Tulip Ltd, where there are to be 100 new jobs, but then went on to explain that there had been job losses at some of their other sites around the country.

'Further jobs were lost at Bromborough on the Wirral, after an unnamed customer was lost by the sausage production plant.'

We think we should avoid their sausages!



# The Alan Russell Column



## Holiday in London - entertainment in the capital

*We were on holiday in London at Uncle Bill and Aunt Rose's house in late 1946, and we had a surprise in store...*

One Friday night Uncle Bill gave us a lovely surprise when he told us that he had been able to obtain seats at the London Coliseum Theatre, on the Saturday night, for both our families.

I don't recall all the acts but the leading ones were Vic Oliver and his Orchestra, as star singer Two Ton Tesse O' Shea (a rather non petite lady) and I believe Jewell and Harris as the comedy act.

They used to have Saturday morning cinema shows for children and I went along with cousin Jack. Up to then I had only been to the pictures at Wisbech twice to see Roy Rogers and enjoyed this new experience but half of the programme was taken up with two serials which carried on every week, so I never knew how "Deadly Dick the Detective" got away from his pursuers!!

As it was nearly Christmas I was allowed to choose my main Christmas present in a huge department store, which I believe, if memory is correct, was Selfridges. Still in the process of re-building, but you could still spend a few hours on all the different floors looking at the things we perhaps couldn't afford but which we had never seen the like of locally at Wisbech or March. Going round the toy department taking it all in, I chose a 30" long tin plate wind up motor lorry.

This had to be wrapped up securely for Father Christmas to deliver on the 25th. As I said it was made of thin tin plate riveted together and after a few years of play it started to come apart. Dad tried to mend it but then noticed my pride and joy, all tin plates were stamped Californian Peaches or Baked Beans on the under side and it never really was looked upon as my favourite toy again.

Things in life I have learned are not always what they seem to be at first and closer inspection is sometimes needed with most things!

(to be continued)



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# Excitement at new Muntjac sightings in the Village

There was great excitement in Michael and Angela Sadler's house when, from her bedroom window Angela spotted a rarely seen visitor to our village, a Muntjac deer!

It was late morning, and she was getting ready to go out when the sighting was first made. She hurriedly got hold of her mobile phone and made her way downstairs to the kitchen, where she snapped the flighty visitor in her back garden through the kitchen window. The deer looked very



comfortable and did not seem too worried so she decided to try and get a more close shot so she went stealthily outside, by which time it had moved over her fence to the next garden.

She was so chuffed she rang Michael at work and told him.

The deer has visited a few times since.

## Lucy and friends get muddy!

**When Lizie** suggested the Race for Life Pretty Muddy run - in aid of Breast Cancer, Tina and myself jumped at the chance. Why not? Getting muddy and raising money for a good cause that has hit Lizie's family hard lately and many other who have been affected. It was a no brainer. We all prepared ourselves for the event in different ways and when the day came there were a flood of emotions, from nerves to excitement to, "Oh God



what have we let ourselves in for?" But we were there and we were going to complete it. And so it was on 14th May , Lucy (Craddock) Lizie (Cooling) and Tina (Manning) lined up for the challenge. There was a lot of waiting around at all 14 obstacles but that didn't put a dampener on it and we completed it

within the hour. We laughed and maybe even wanted to cry at times from how cold the muddy water was, but we did it. We started as a team and we finished as a team. Just went to say a huge thank you to all that have sponsored us, we raised an amazing total of £966.97. Thank you!







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# Heron Finances

For the second year running, the Heron finances were published at the Christchurch Village Resource Centre Annual General Meeting on 19th May.

We publish the figures below alongside last years by way of comparison. The figures show the organisation is doing quite nicely thanks to generous donations from the general public of the Village, the Parish Council and the sales of business adverts. Other income comes from sales in the following outlets: Skylark, Three Holes shop, Upwell Surgery, Joanne's Pantry, M&B's farm shop and Bloom & Wake garage, also the postal subscriptions scheme launched this year.

As any good organisation should, costs have been kept in check whilst good relations with the printer have led to an enhanced magazine with colour pages at very little increase in cost. We owe thanks to Steve at March Stationery and Print for this, and all his help throughout the year.

## With Green Lane, Scott's Road

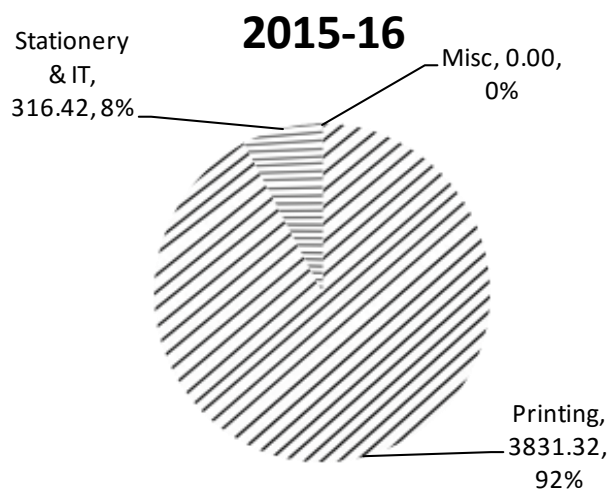
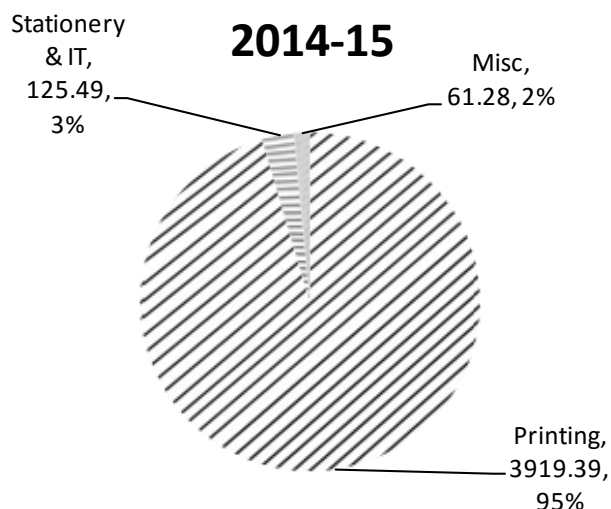
and Church Road recently resurfaced things are much improved.

The loose chippings even served to slow traffic through the village; in the short term at least! Work is also due to start down Crown Road in the near future, hopefully sorting out the various potholes at the same time! Because for some reason they didn't address the potholes up Green Lane before they put down the new road surface.

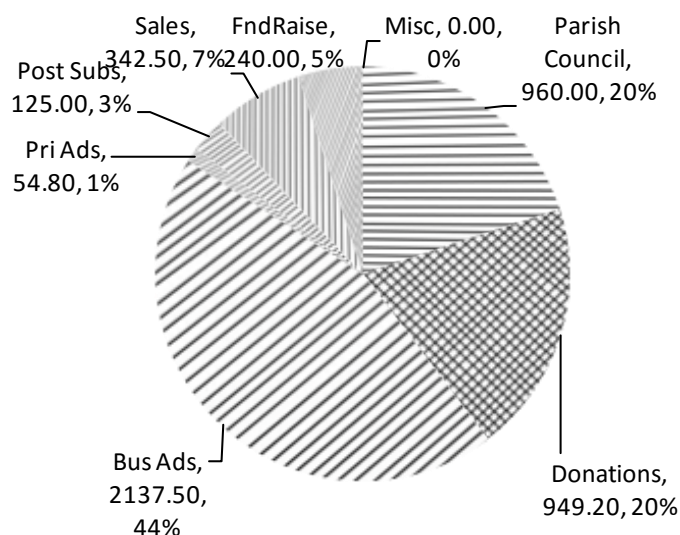
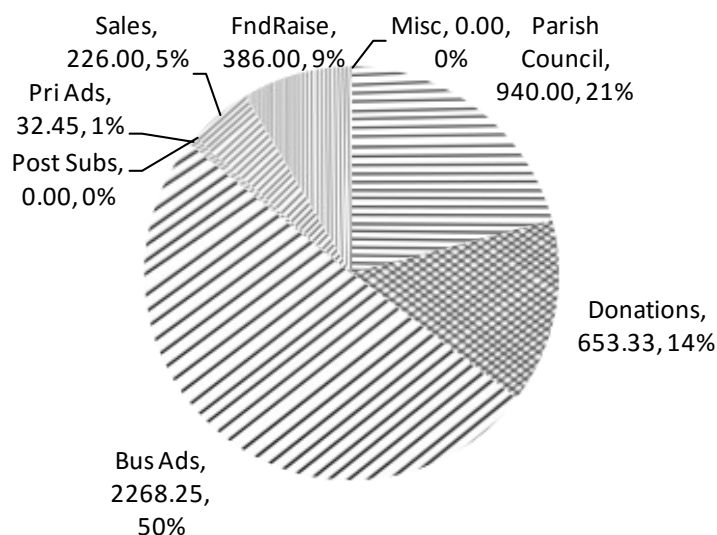
A checker board has been added on the 16 foot bank opposite Padgett's Road exit. Work, in the form of test posts, has begun on the 16 foot opposite Jackson's Corner. They are testing which type of post and ground fixing will be most appropriate there. Hopefully we might have a checkerboard there in due course.

*Whoopee they've put one up - Ed'.*

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## The Rayner family – the story goes on! by Vivien Haresnape.

In our May issue, we published a letter from Heather Hannan (nee Rayner) whose family came from around here. They are related to Joan Smith, who writes for us. She was hoping to find out more about her family, and to get in touch with people who may have known them. Although Heather herself was born after her parents moved away from the village, she has a much older sister, Margaret, who remembers living in Carol House, Crown Rd. Margaret is now in poor health, and they say that the search has been therapeutic for them all as it has given them something positive to focus on.

Heather and Margaret, along with Margaret's daughter, son, and daughter in law, visited Christchurch over the May Day bank holiday. They met up with Richard, and also came to us for a cup of tea and a 'comfort break'. They are lovely people, and we enjoyed meeting them.

Heather writes, 'This journey all started with us seeing in the Heron, a photo of Mr K Rayner celebrating his 50th wedding anniversary at the Dun Cow, Dad's favourite watering hole. Yes, we met up with Ken and Jean at their home, strangers at first but within minutes we felt like the family we were, first cousins, Margaret remembered Ken from childhood. We had a great time laughing about family, finding out new things that had gone on, and for Margaret 70 years of holding memories. Never ever did she think she would be able to go back to where she was born.

I was so thrilled to see the piece I wrote last month in print, a first for me. I would like to thank all at the Heron for giving me this privilege. I should like to say thank you to Richard for his help, Vivien and Paul for having all of the family to their home and making us so welcome on Tuesday, Daphne for opening the church so we could not only see our family records but had them so helpfully laid out, along with the letter from the sweet lady from Carol House who left in the church photos of her house before they altered it. This meant so much as my siblings were born there, and had their photo taken outside. My sister

Margaret said the weekend we had in Christchurch meant more to her than her holiday cruises. I have never been on cruise but felt the warmth of the Village.

I'm sure there are more Rayners out there, maybe your readers could help us with finding more.

One other thing we found out, and I know I said I



*Heather and Margaret (front) daughter-in-law Christine, daughter Barbara and son Richard*

would leave the Woolners to Joan, I was asked to find my Grandad Woolner's grave in the church yard, but alas we could not, My husband, who I have recently lost, tried, last time up, but Richard found out for us that he is in a pauper's grave by a wall, known only by a number. How I should like to know how he came to be in such a place. My mother never spoke of him or my Gran. Noone ever mentioned Grandad Woolner, though they had seven children and he died young. I should like to know how he came to be in a pauper's grave. Why was he never moved? The money was in the family to give him a plaque.

Thank you again, from all of us. Margaret's not too good at the moment but would like to make it here again. She now has something to keep her mind on for her will power.

Heather.'

If anyone would like to be put in touch with Heather, or can tell her more about her family history, please contact us at The Heron, and we will pass you details on to her. She would love to hear from you.





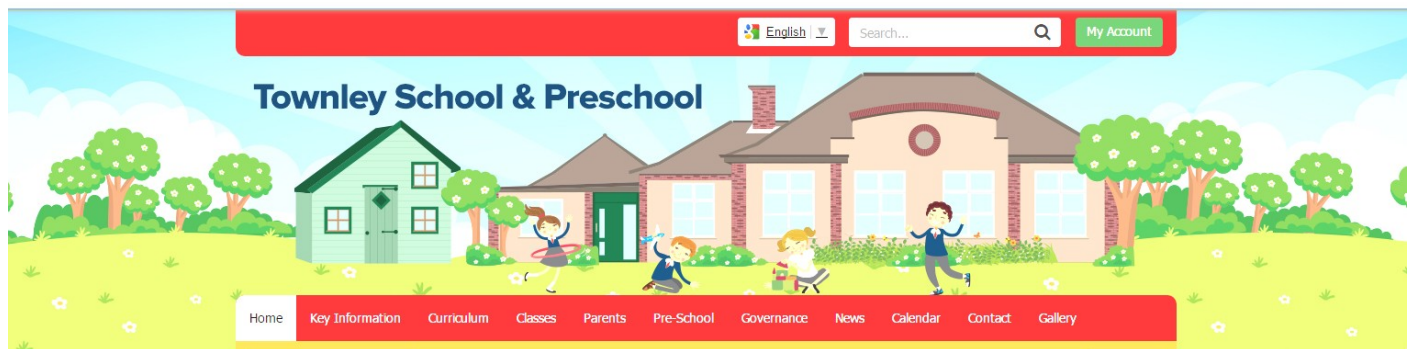
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## Dates

27th May—Break up for half term  
28th May -Townley Auction  
7th June—Children back to school.  
20th June—Life Bus Visit  
2nd July—Fun Dog Show  
23rd June—Prickwillow Visit Class 2 /3  
21st July—Break up for Summer Holidays

# The Joan Smith Column



*Joan had applied for a job promoting Customagic chair covers ...*

Hello again!

Well another month has gone by and it seems only last week that I was applying for a vacancy at Jermyn's in King's Lynn. Each day I eagerly awaited the post and after a week or so I finally received the letter I had been waiting for inviting me for an interview at 10.30am the following week. I thought this a little odd as, in those days, most shops were closed on a Wednesday.

The next week off I went still wondering if, with no experience of the trade, I was doing the right thing. I went in through the back of the store, as I had been told, where the delivery men were loading up one of the big vans. I bid them good morning and asked if this was the right entrance to Mr & Mrs Customagic? Yes I was in the right place.

As I entered a gentleman introduced himself as Bernard, and the lady with him was called Primrose. I'd never heard of a girl by that name before, though my own mother was Violet and two aunts Rose and Ivy, so I guess it was just another flowery name. They had actually come down the night before and were staying at The Globe Hotel.

They explained that they needed to show me the covers and demonstrate how to fit them correctly. They had apparently already spoken to the warehousemen in the second-hand furniture department so that they could use suitable chairs

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for demonstration purposes. Amongst their stock was a Club three-piece suite. Primrose indicated this to me and asked if I would like to begin?

There was a picture on the front of the packet of covers, and inside instructions as to how to fit them. Would I pass the test? Find out next month as I continue my story.... Regards Joan



Jermyn and Perry - Department store last century



# Mr Bass Man by Steve Wayne

## The life and times of a Travelling Musician

Some demand the spotlight while claiming to be musicians, while others follow the well travelled road of the journeyman musician. Honing their craft and building their technique as they go, helping to create the household names who, without the endeavours of the session player, would struggle to attain the stardom that they crave. One such musician is Len Skeat.

Len began by playing Clarinet aged twelve, taught by his older brother Bill who later became a top studio player and who was featured on many tracks including notably the Bond themes. Bill would wail away on the clarinet while a young Len would pluck the bass line on an old Cello. It was then that Len realised he loved playing Bass and wanted to take it further.

While toiling away in his first job in a man's outfitters and tailors in Chadwell Heath, Len bought his first proper instrument from his teacher Bernie Woods for £25.00, a lot of money back then.

Len began the usual round of weddings and bar gigs, slowly becoming known in the business eventually picking up the better jobs that would become available, culminating in his playing his first professional gig in the circus band at Yarmouth which Len remembers as "one of the hardest jobs I've ever done".

After numerous summer seasons he landed a regular job playing Bass with Phil Tate at the Ilford Palais and it was here that he began his broadcasting career. This led onto more job offers one of which featured Len as the bass player in the band for the BBC's very first Come Dancing, the forerunner of Strictly. There followed a veritable who's who of band leaders including Ted Heath, Cyril Stapleton, Tommy Whittle, the late great Kenny Baker, plus early recording sessions with Tony Hatch (The man responsible for the theme from Neighbours, Crossroads, Jackie Trent and Petula Clark)

One night in Edinburgh while playing with the famed jazz violinist Stephan Grappelli a young eleven year old violinist was called to the stage by Grappelli and while Stephan looked on proudly proceeded to blow

the roof off. It was Nigel Kennedy. Other Jazz notables taking advantage of Len's considerable talent on bass were good friends Cleo Laine and John Dankworth on the Spring Collection Tours. Peggy Lee famous for the song Fever which heavily featured the upright Bass, was so enamoured with Len's playing that she placed him front and centre on the stage at the London Palladium, even sitting at his feet while she sang, as Len remembers "it was a bit nerve-racking."

Once again with Grappelli while playing a concert with Ella Fitzgerald, One of the most famous jazz guitarists of all time Joe Pass sat in on guitar, replacing at a moment's notice Grappelli's errant guitar player. The German Bass that Len has played all over the world since he was twenty five has an autograph scratched into the shoulder by Tony Bennet, with whom Len played in New York while on a world tour with Stefan Grappelli. Yet another memorable night occurred when Len was booked to play at a large old country house, to his surprise he found the audience consisted of virtually the whole Royal Family. Lady

Diana Princess of Wales was not present as the very next day it was announced that she was pregnant with William.

But, I hear you ask, what of the present day? Well Len who has recently set up house in this part of the world will be playing at **Upwell Jazz Club at Three Holes Village Hall on Sunday 25th September 2016**, with his quartet consisting of Mike Smith Drums (BBC Radio Big Band, National Youth Jazz Orchestra) Brian Dee, Piano (Elton John, Peggy Lee) Bruce Adams Trumpet ("He's a big man, with a big sound") and of course Len himself. This is a coup for the club, a not to be missed gig if ever there was one. The band will hit the stage about 12.30 pm.

**For tickets call Nigel Smith 01945 773121**

As my conversation with Len came to a close, I couldn't help but ask him if he had any advice for young musicians just starting out. This is what he said, "While playing always know what to leave out, work on timing. Listen to good music, preferably on headphones. Then listen to it again, so as to hear what you missed the first time. And remember, all music must swing!" That sounds like good advice to me.



*Len Skeat and Ray Brown (sadly deceased)*

# Useful Telephone Numbers

Age UK Cambridgeshire	0300 6669860
Alzheimer's Society (Fenland)	01945 580480
Anglian Water – Susan Bull	08457 145 145 101
Christchurch Resident's Association	01354 638990
Churchwarden - Mrs. D. Symons	01354 638352
Citizens' Advice Bureau, Wisbech	01945 464367
Community Car Scheme (to book a journey)	07902 316360
*Community Centre bookings	01354 638478
Community Fire Safety Officer	07717858166
County Councillor - Fred Yeulett	01354 653763
District Councillor - Will Sutton	01354 638025
District Councillor - Michelle Tanfield	07908 707129
Electricity Faults - UK Power Networks	0800 783 8838
FACT	01354 661234
Fenland District Council	01354 654321
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 (Chair)	01354 638847
Parish Councillor - Nigel Russell	01354 638279
Pharmacy at Upwell Health Centre	01945 774934
Police - PCSO Sue Clarke	07738025220
Police - Emergency	999
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

## Club Contacts

Book Club - Sheila Day	07946 635908
Craft Club - Wendy Yates	01354 638448
Garden Club - Marion Hawthorne	01354 638230
*Short Mat Bowls Club - Wendy	01945 772732
WI - Peggy Warby	01354 638339
* new entries	

## STOP PRESS

We've just been told of the death of Mr Alec Cornwell, long time resident of Christchurch. We hope to have a more comprehensive notice in next month's Heron as well as an interview with his son Martin, who has received many of Alec's recollections of the village.

## 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...

It's bee swarm season! Managed to get one for my new Flow Hive on Saturday 21st of May; sadly they all 'buzzed off' again the very next day! Think they must have been a swarm of racists who were averse to the Australian hive I'd ushered them into. Fortunately I managed to get hold of a second swarm the following Tuesday afternoon 24th May and they are still with me – so far! They were much easier to wrangle into the hive, and much calmer, and larger than the original swarm so – fingers crossed! I will definitely be harvesting my first batch of honey from my original hive the first week of June. So if you fancy a jar watch out for a sign outside The Old School. Got eggs too!

So HONEY and HONEYMOONS!

Congratulations to James & Elaine Hughes on their recent nuptials. And from what I've heard, a honeymoon to be envied. I refer to the locations – of course! Lots of long term happy memories there then! Though Elaine had had to wait 14 years for the moment – Guess that's why she turned up early for the ceremony!!!

Just to make sure it WAS finally really happening!



*Do you Elaine promise not to share your password with anyone but James?*

'Till next time! – Ed'



# Elaine and James tie the knot



**They say it is lucky** if it rains on your wedding day so Christchurch residents Elaine Reed and James Hughes should have a long marriage ahead of them because the sun certainly wasn't shining on them when they left Christchurch for their wedding at The Maltings in Ely on 16th April!

James and his Ushers (his son Arun, 14 and their son Elliot, 10) looking smart in their matching navy suits and lavender ties waited for Elaine at the Maltings for their mid-day ceremony. The bride turned up early(!) for the small ceremony (well she has had to wait nearly 14 years for James to pop the question so wasn't taking any chances!) in a vintage, silver-grey Mark II Jaguar attended by their daughter Olivia, 7 and Elaine's Niece Tia, 16. Elaine surprised James with a Pam Ayres

poem called "Yes I'll Marry You My Dear" before the ceremony got under way and James surprised Elaine by trying to put the ring on her middle finger! Unfortunately the rain didn't stop in time for the photographs so these were all taken indoors.

There followed a small wedding breakfast at The Old Fire Engine Restaurant (when the sun finally made an appearance - albeit too late!) with a larger party back at the Maltings in the evening for a further 150 guests where James fulfilled a life-long ambition to play guitar, in a band, at his own wedding.

The couple spent their wedding night in a suite at Peacocks Tea Rooms in Ely and have just returned from a two week honeymoon in Dubai and Mauritius.







Robin Pearson - Withycot Gundogs & CSJ Stockist



[www.csjk9.com](http://www.csjk9.com)



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## F.O.T.S FUN DOG SHOW AND FAMILY FUN DAY

Organised by Friends of Townley School, Raising money for new changing rooms for the school swimming pool



**Saturday 2ND July 2016**

@



**Townley School Play Field, Christchurch, PE14 9NA**

HOT FOOD AND REFRESHMENTS, VARIOUS STALLS, BOUNCEY CASTLES,  
VICTORIA SPONGE CAKE COMPETITION OPEN TO ALL ADULTS CHILDREN

**Judge:** Mrs V.J. Watkinson

**Booking from:** 10:00am

**Judging:** 10:30am

£1.50 per class on the day or £1 per class pre-booked.



- |   |  |
|---|--|
| 1. Puppy 12mths & under                       | 8. Handsome Dog                        |
| 2. Pedigree Adult                             | 9. Prettiest Bitch                     |
| 3. X Breed Adult                              | 10. Best Trick                         |
| 4. Dog the judge would most like to take home | 11. Waggiest Tail                      |
| 5. Junior handler                             | 12. Best Rescue                        |
| 6. Golden Oldie 8yrs up                       | 13. Best six legs                      |
| 7. Heads Choice<br>(60 Minute Break)          | 14. Fancy Dress<br><b>BEST IN SHOW</b> |



The JUDGES decision is final, the organisers are not responsible for any injury, accident or damage to people, animals or property. All Dogs must be kept on leads. No bitches in season. Any dog docked on or after the 6th April 2007 may not be entered for the show. Please do not leave your dog in a hot car.

**Please Clean up after your Dog.**

For enquires please email: [fotsfundogshow@outlook.com](mailto:fotsfundogshow@outlook.com)

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