

The Heron

Community Magazine

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

April 2016

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Check out the full story on the back page

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Descendants of Dun Cow Landlord revealed

Another little piece of Christchurch history came to light on Sunday 17th January when Mr & Mrs K Rayner, from Coates near Whittlesey, celebrated their 57th Wedding Anniversary, and their daughter's 50th birthday, by having a lunch with their family and friends at our village pub, The Dun Cow.

They noticed, while enjoying an excellent Sunday Roast, a framed photograph hanging on the wall in the dining room. It showed a family standing outside in front of The Dun Cow. On closer inspection Mrs Jean Rayner, and her sister, Mrs Janet Warby, recognised their great-grandparents and family, Mr & Mrs Turner. You could also see the sign board of the landlord behind them over the door.

Mrs Rayner writes: "John Simon Turner and Evangelina Turner – my great-grandparents – moved to The Dun Cow in Christchurch around 1897. They had three children who survived; Alpheous, Freda, and Evelyn. They moved to the pub when Freda was six months old and Evelyn



Mrs Jean Rayner (left) Mrs Janet Warby and Kenneth Rayner with the picture

was born there in 1903. They ran The Dun Cow for about 20 years and then moved to The Black Bull in Upwell. I think this part is called Bull Bridge? (Can any readers confirm this? – Ed'.)

The Turners ran The Black Bull at Upwell until 1925 when John passed away and Evangelina took over the licence for a further ten years. The Turner's daughter, married George Frederick Amps and George – known as Fred – took over the licence after Evangelina. Sadly, The Black Bull was sold by Elgood's brewery in 1964 and was then demolished. A bungalow now stands on the site.

Incidentally, Fred Amps had a store shed behind the pub where cyclists from Christchurch, Euximoor, etc. Could leave their bikes for six pence a day when they wished to catch a bus to Wisbech. Fred's son John and his wife, Dorothy, ran a successful 'proper' butchers about half a mile from The Black Bull; taking over from Mr Cecil Way, for many years until their retirement.



The picture of John and Evangelina Turner with two children and some locals

Community Information

Mobile Library: first Friday each month

in the Lay-by Upwell Road 15:00 - 15:40

This service was under threat due to spending cuts but is now saved for at least the next two years

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

Dog Microchipping

All dog owners should know and have acted upon the change in the Law which compels all dogs, in England Scotland and Wales, domestic and working, to be microchipped by the 6th April 2016. You can find more details and arrange to have it done free at www.chipmydog.org.uk

Reinstating the Public Bus Service

is the aim of Cllr W Beswick - he has arranged for the question to be put on an insert in this month's Heron to gauge the interest. If you would be prepared to support such a service by using it rather than just thinking it's a good idea, then please fill in the form and return to the shop.

Will all Dog Walkers please note - with spring crops now being sown, YOU ARE ASKED TO KEEP TO DESIGNATED ROADS/PATHS AND NOT TO ALLOW PETS TO ROAM OR PLAY LOOSE ON FARMER'S FIELDS. Thanks

Bags of Help for community projects in Cambridgeshire. Do you know of a local community green space project that would benefit from up to £12,000? If so, there are Bags of Help at hand!

The money raised from the 5p bag charge in Tesco stores is being used to pay for a large number of local projects to improve green spaces in communities across the UK. Grants of £8,000, £10,000 and £12,000 are on offer through the scheme.

Community charity Groundwork is administering the funding and you can find all the details on our dedicated website: www.groundwork.org.uk/tesco

The next round of applications opens online on April 18th. Don't miss your chance to benefit! All information about the scheme is on the website (details above) but you can also contact your local Bags of Help Enabler for further information about applying on Katie.dean@groundwork.org.uk or 07736 132870.

IMPORTANT - The Health Centre

Appointment system is to change from Monday 11th April - see page 24 for all the details.

We are hoping to start BodyCare

Conditioning classes in May, it improves posture, builds strength & safely reshapes the entire body. SUITABLE FOR ALL AGES If you are interested Please will you ring Jane on 01354 638378

EDITORIAL

Hoorah! Spring is finally here at last! And I have already seen many villagers busying themselves in their gardens. My bees are getting more active too now. If you see them on your new blooms be sure and send them home before the evening temperature drop. (lol)

Dog owners please take note of the two items in Community Info opposite. Also an important letter on page 5 which concerns us all regarding various proposed housing developments within the village.

There have been a lot of 'bugs' about over the last few weeks so there's some useful health advice on page 9. And also details of changes to the Health Centre appointment system on pg 24.

News of the 'Snap the Ouse' Photographic Competition on page 25, which we would encourage all budding 'David Baileys' to participate in; hopefully we will be able to publish the winning entries at a later date.

What a splendid cover feature we have this month of our willing volunteers who planted the new hedge saplings alongside the picnic area. These were received from the Woodland Trust; conveniently when James was away on his stag weekend!!!!?

Then of course there are all the usual features for your reading pleasure; except Joan Smith's Column as she is rather poorly at present, and Steve Aish who is busy on another project. We send Joan our best wishes for a speedy recovery.

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:

Apr 1 st	"Cake, Coffee and Chat" Parish Church 2-3pm - All Welcome
Apr 1 st	Mobile Library visits - Upwell Rd Lay-by 3-3:40pm
Apr 4 th	Pilates for all ages - 6:30pm TS - All Welcome - £5 per session
Apr 5 th	Christchurch Craft Club - Fabric Painting - TS - 7pm
Apr 6 th	Christchurch Community Centre Committee meeting - 7:30pm - CCC
Apr 9 th	COMMUNITY CENTRE 'Grand Opening' 2-6pm
Apr 10 th	Welle Film Project presents "Lady In the van" Cert 12 - £2 - doors open 1.30 - TH
Apr 11 th	Pilates for all ages - 6:30pm TS - All Welcome - £5 per session
Apr 11 th	Annual Parish Assembly followed by Parish Council Meeting - 7pm - CCC
Apr 12 th	WI - One Stroke Painting - Margaret Ringham - 7pm - CCC
Apr 15 th	"Cake, Coffee and Chat" Parish Church 2-3pm - All Welcome
Apr 17 th	Parish Lunch - 1pm - NB this year only for over 64s who have booked - CCC
Apr 18 th	Pilates for all ages - 6:30pm TS - All Welcome - £5 per session
Apr 19 th	Christchurch Garden Club - Barry Gayton - Scented Flowers - 7pm - CCC
Apr 22 nd	"Cake, Coffee and Chat" Parish Church 2-3pm - All Welcome
Apr 23 rd	Coffee Morning in the church with stalls and attractions 10am-12 noon - All Welcome
Apr 25 th	Pilates for all ages - 6:30pm - TS - All Welcome - £5 per session
Apr 27 th	Christchurch Book Club - 7:30pm at "Glynan" Crown Rd
Apr 27 th	Christchurch Residents Association - 7:30pm - The Old School
Apr 29 th	"Cake, Coffee and Chat" Parish Church 2-3pm - All Welcome
May 14 th	Garden Club Plant Sale 10am-4pm

Parish Church Services

Apr 3 rd	11am	H Chappell, A Day	All Age Worship in Townley School
Apr 10 th	9:30am	Rev J Webb	Holy Communion
Apr 17 th	6:30pm	V Smith	Evening Prayer
Apr 24 th	11am	Rev J Webb	EASTER Communion
May 1 st	11am	H Chappell, A Day	All Age Worship in Townley School

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

Saturday 23rd April, 10am -12noon, there will be a Coffee Morning in the church to raise money for church funds. There will be a few stalls and games as well as refreshments.

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



Dear Editor,

It was good to talk to you the other day when we were on our way back home from the play park. After chatting with you, and explaining that we probably used the park more than anyone, we thought we would write a short review on the park facilities. So here are three teenagers opinions on the park.

Skate Park: We personally use the skate park the most. We think the skate park is great for all ages and types of people with different talents. But we do think it could do with an update or a clean up.

Newer Park: The newer park is very basic and not very suitable for children under six or seven. We have two younger brothers between the ages of two and five and they find it very difficult to use the equipment.

Older Park: The older park is very aged and most of the equipment is rotten and falling apart. As a result it is not very safe for younger children.

From our point of view the older park should be refurbished and joined onto the newer park. There should also be more newer equipment aimed at younger children; e.g. under eight.

Yours sincerely

Sacha Webb, Connor Webb, and Joshua Webb

Thanks a lot guys for taking the time to write to us here at The Heron. Hopefully some of the powers that be will take note of your comments and perhaps post some sort of reply to us for next month? – Ed’.

Dear Editor

I don’t believe I am the only person concerned about the number of new builds being proposed in our village. After the recent proposal of 16 in Upwell Road and 6 behind Syringa Cottage I have investigated a bit further and can total 46 comprising some that have already been granted planning permission, some being built and other being proposed.

Looking at individual sites it doesn’t seem unreasonable but when you look at the overall total I feel it is leading to over development of our village. The local plan referring to Rural Areas Development Policy, published by Fenland District Council and covering 20 years between 2011 and 2031, suggests a figure of 10%. A quick addition of households in Christchurch on the Electoral Register showed around 330. Therefore the 46 dwellings, if all passed by Planning, are already in excess of 13%.

Christchurch is considered a ‘Small’ settlement which is, of course, the reason many of us moved here, enabling us to enjoy the peace and quiet that it affords us. According to the Development Policy any increase to the 10% must show demonstrable evidence of clear local community support for the scheme(s). There would also be a requirement for support from the Parish Council.

If residents do oppose these schemes then I suggest they make their feelings known to the Parish Council. If building continues at the rate of 13% where will it all end. Developers are only interested in making money not how local residents are affected. The school is at present full. The electricity supply can be erratic, I believe there were problems on Christmas Day. There are considerable drainage issues especially for those with septic tanks which fill with water from surrounding land.

If other villagers do feel the same way I would urge them to make their objections known. Silence will be viewed as assent!
Linda Webster

Thank you for your input on this very fraught and contentious subject. I believe the total to be 47 if you count the recently completed property in Upwell Road. I would also point out other relevant correspondence in The Heron from May 2015 page 3 regarding electricity supply infrastructure, and August 2014 page 16 CRA Report re sewage issues and the reply on this issue from Anglian Water in September 2014 page 14. I concur with Linda in encouraging any concerned residents to express their views on any development issues, either by writing to us at The Heron and/or writing direct to FDC. If six letters or more are received by FDC regarding any individual planning application the issue is forced before the Planning Committee where individual representatives may also express their views and concerns. – Ed’.

Compiled list of current and proposed housing in the village

Planning permission already granted:	No. of dwellings
Land behind the old School	9
Land on corner of Church Road and The Croft	4
Land adjacent to Glebe House, Church Road	2
Land next to the Little Shop, Church Road	1
Land in Green Lane, opposite side to Dun Cow	2
Builds in progress:	
Upwell Road near Community Centre	2
Land opposite school	1
Proposed developments:	
Land at present fridge reclamation yard	16
Land behind Syringa House	6
Land next to The Ferns, Padgetts Road	2
Building plot, sold, next to Albert House	1

compiled by Linda Webster

The Alan Russell Column

Holidays - how they lived in London



We had arrived at Uncle Bill and Aunt Rose's house and, as an 8 year old, some of it was rather strange to me ...

The house front door opened into a hall with stairs on the left and on the right from the front was first the "lounge", then the daily living room and thirdly the kitchen with the back door leading to a converted washhouse to a toilet and bathroom of sorts. In the garden, dug into the ground about 4 feet deep was an Anderson Shelter, made up of curved metal at the top, strong metal sheets for the sides, with a door down steps at the front.

My cousin Jack showed me in there once but it was really out of bounds now as it was deemed unsafe – but they were made to last and there was one on land I farmed, used as a strawberry shed about 20 years ago so they did endure.

There were shelf like beds for up to six people in cramped conditions and Jack told me they spent many nights in there at the height of the Blitz.

Since there was no rear entrance to their property and everything had to come through the front door I've often wondered what very house-proud Auntie made of the mess, but, needs must I suppose!

Uncle's mother tried it for one night in her own shelter but never again as he told us she made a comfortable bed under the stairs in a cupboard saying she would rather die quick from a Nazi Bomb than a lingering death from Pneumonia etc., she would catch in the shelter in the garden.

These shelters did save many lives I am told during the Blitz. Although a pub and a few houses were bombed further up the road No 89 only had a few slates blown off the roof and some panes of glass broken so they were very fortunate.

So much for our "Hotel". I have searched my mind at 78 to remember little items of this holiday but can't recall where I went a week ago!!

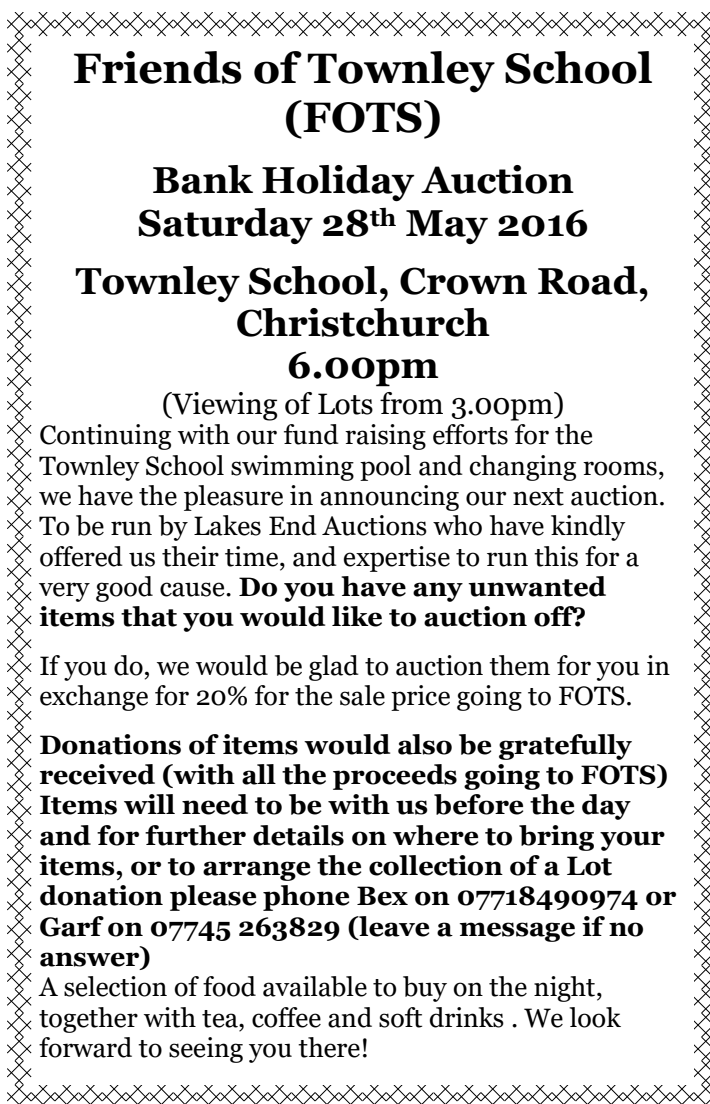
Uncle Bill was a Milk Roundsman and went off every morning at 4am but was then home mostly by 10.30am, washed and changed he was ready to take us out sightseeing. Anxious to see as much as we could this suited us very well.

Next time I tell you a bit about where we went and what we saw...

(to be continued)



PARISH (Over 60's) LUNCH
& Entertainment
YOU MUST BE 64 OR OVER TO ATTEND
PRE-BOOKED ONLY
Call 638454 or 638419
Community Centre
1.00pm – 17th April
Please call if you need
transport to this event!



Friends of Townley School (FOTS)
Bank Holiday Auction
Saturday 28th May 2016
Townley School, Crown Road, Christchurch
6.00pm
(Viewing of Lots from 3.00pm)
Continuing with our fund raising efforts for the Townley School swimming pool and changing rooms, we have the pleasure in announcing our next auction. To be run by Lakes End Auctions who have kindly offered us their time, and expertise to run this for a very good cause. **Do you have any unwanted items that you would like to auction off?**
If you do, we would be glad to auction them for you in exchange for 20% for the sale price going to FOTS.
Donations of items would also be gratefully received (with all the proceeds going to FOTS)
Items will need to be with us before the day and for further details on where to bring your items, or to arrange the collection of a Lot donation please phone Bex on 07718490974 or Garf on 07745 263829 (leave a message if no answer)
A selection of food available to buy on the night, together with tea, coffee and soft drinks . We look forward to seeing you there!



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March Road, Welney



My First Car by Graham Warby

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

When Peggy and I had been married for nearly 8 years, in 1968, we decided to move nearer the village having a 5½ years old son Stephen and a 3½ year old daughter Eileen, to Acorn Farm (and stayed for the next 45 years). So I needed transport to Manea.

I was employed by Horace Bradshaw, so I bought my first vehicle, an Austin A35 van, colour grey. It was purchased from Bank Garage, Christchurch, owned by Dennis Russell, it cost £100 which was a lot of money then! My weekly wage was £9.

Luckily I could nearly already drive due to passing my test in the Army.

Mainly I used the van for work, but we did have an allotment on Upwell Road where we grew potatoes, sugar beet and wheat, so it came in handy to transport any tools needed as there was no shed.

I kept the van for 3 years, then traded it in for a white Austin 1100, again bought from Bank Garage.



Graham - in signature overalls and the A35 Van

Too many exclamations!!!!

Pauline Hutchins sent us this article - Ed'.

Exclamation Marks! Seven-Year-Olds Get Strict New Rules On Exclamation Marks! by Adam Lusher The Independent on Sunday

"Curiouser and curiouser!" cried Alice, which would have lost Lewis Carroll points under new guidelines for the use of exclamation marks.

The Department for Education has instructed moderators assessing the writing of seven-year-olds that an exclamation mark should be deemed to have been correctly used only if the sentence begins with 'How!' or 'What!' and uses "the syntax of an exclamation!"

The guidance on marking this summer's National Curriculum Key Stage 2 – grammar assessments stipulates that "What a lovely day!" and "How exiting!" remain permissible; but a sentence that ends in an exclamation mark, but which does not have one of the grammatical patterns shown above is not considered creditworthy!"

This has led to anxiety that in disqualifying modern additions, such as "That's well sick!" the new structures may also deter innocent outbursts in common use (*shouldn't that be 'usage'? – Ed'*). Ben Fuller, President for the Association of Achievement and Improvement through Assessment. Said: "Can anyone within the Department of Education

justify this extraordinary requirement for seven-year-old children to write in such an old fashioned tongue?" A DofE spokesman said The Government was committed to providing "a high quality education in English!"

Thanks for letting us see this Pauline. I have long been criticised for my overuse of the exclamation mark. However, I too think this article is a little OTT and definitely plays on a technique as opposed to the expression of feeling! -Ed'.



"My wife
doesn't trust
me even with
small
amounts of
money.
So no change
there then!"

Coping with Colds and Flu - Advice from Upwell Health Centre

Most of us will have a cold this autumn or winter and some of us will have flu. Here's how to look after yourself if these viruses affect you.

Colds and flu are caused by viruses. There are more than 200 common cold viruses and three types of flu virus with many different strains, so they're hard to avoid.

These viruses can be spread through droplets that are coughed and sneezed out by an infected person. The viruses can also be transferred on a person's fingers. For example, if you have a cold and you touch your nose or eyes and then touch someone else, you may pass the virus on to them.

Cold symptoms

The main symptoms of winter cold and flu bugs are:

- ♦ coughing
- ♦ sneezing
- ♦ blocked nose
- ♦ sore throat
- ♦ headache
- ♦ a slight temperature

If these are the only symptoms you have, it's unlikely that your GP will be able to do anything.

You may want to visit your local pharmacy, where you can get advice on how to manage the symptoms and buy over-the-counter medicine.

Children and colds

Children can be treated using some over-the-counter painkillers to ease discomfort and help to bring down a fever. Both paracetamol and ibuprofen are available as a liquid for children and can be given from the age of about three months. Always check with your doctor if you aren't sure which treatments you can give your child.

There are some benefits, particularly for children, in catching a few coughs and colds. "Children tend



to get a lot of colds because the body takes time to build up immunity. Your body learns to fight off a particular kind of virus every time you get an infection, which is why you get fewer colds as you get older," says Angela Chalmers. Find out more about children and medicines.

When to see a doctor

While most bugs will run their course without doing any real harm, there are certain cases when you or your child should see a GP. These include:

- ♦ if you or your child have a chronic condition such as asthma, diabetes or heart disease
- ♦ if you have a very high temperature and feel ill, for example if you also have an unusually severe headache or abdominal pain
- ♦ if your child is vomiting but does not have diarrhoea, or has a rash in addition to the fever
- ♦ if your child stops drinking and is unusually lethargic
- ♦ if your child's fever doesn't respond to paracetamol or ibuprofen

Babies should get help if they're unwell. All babies under three months with a temperature of more than 38°C (100.4°F) should be urgently assessed by a doctor, as should babies aged three to six months with a temperature higher than 39°C (102.2°F).

The March Meeting was in the New Community Centre. Apologies were received from Wendy, who was ill.

We were the first club to meet in the Centre - it is fantastic, lovely and warm, plenty of room, a real pleasure to use.

Members had the chance to make Easter, Mother's Day or Birthday cards.

We enjoyed tea and coffee and homemade biscuits - The usual Raffle took place.

I would like to thank Steve coming and for taking some photos for a special brochure for the Opening Day display board.

April's meeting - Fabric Painting. Bring your own items to paint. Do feel free to come along - only £1.50 Raffle 50p / strip, Tea /coffee 20p

- Contact info: Wendy Yates 01354 638448



Tuesday 15th

March saw the gardening club's

first meeting in the new hall, where a good turnout was in evidence to hear a talk given by John Pierrepont from Delamore. For well over an hour John held the members interest with demonstrations and chat about fruit trees and bushes.

His advice on pruning was a master class by itself, even without all the rest of the invaluable knowledge he managed to impart, all offered in an easy going and laid back manner.

A lively question and answer session was also included where he was able to solve or at least advise on the problems and queries brought up by the members.

John very generously donated all his samples and examples of fruit trees and bushes that he had brought with him to the club raffle. We had several very happy participants in the raffle making their way home with their spoils at the end of the evening.

May I extend the club's thanks to John both for his time and his generosity.

Next month on Tuesday 19th April the speaker will be Barry Gayton who will be talking on Scented Flowers. Barry is a well known knowledgeable lecturer who will be familiar to some of our members but has not visited the club for some time, so we will be looking forward to his visit.

Also next month on Saturday 9th April, look out for the Gardening Club which will feature at the official opening of the community centre. Come along and have a chat, ours is a very social club and welcomes new members.

The club day trip by coach to the Hampton Court Flower Show on Sunday 10th July was well supported by the members with many of them adding their names to the list. Some tickets remain and the trip is open to non-members as well as members.

Our club secretary Marion has pulled off something of a coup with the visit to our club in October of Jenny Cairns, 2014 winner of best garden at Hampton Court and is this year returning to the show with another show stopping garden. I can't wait for that one. More details later.

The members contributing to the raffle next month (April) are: John F, Maureen Green, Sandra Kay, and Jennifer Jones.

To book tickets on the club trip to Hampton Court or to join the club call Marion Hawthorn (club secretary) on 01354 638 230 or come along on the night.

Till next month, enjoy your outside space - Steve.

PS the Garden Club Plant Sale will be 14th May

- Contact info: Marion Hawthorn 01354 638230



Minutes of the Monthly WI Meeting held in the Christchurch Community Centre on March 8th 2016

Peggy welcomed members to the first WI meeting in the new hall.

Apologies were received from Margaret S, Ann H, Margaret H and Viv.

Minutes were signed.

Correspondence: Information on the selected resolutions for the AGM in June.

Invitations to the Group Meeting, resolution meeting, flower arranging evening and an invitation from Friday Bridge WI to celebrate their 65th birthday.

AOB: The Birthday Dinner has a change of date and will now be held on Wednesday April 20th at the West End in Wisbech.

Final arrangements and numbers were taken for the Whist Drive at Marion's on Wednesday 30th March at 6pm.

Our speaker was Eileen le Voi, who spoke about an organisation called Safe Traders which she set up several years ago in order to help people avoid rogue traders. With the help of slides she showed some awful consequences when dealing with cowboy tradesmen. Her organisation covers the PE postal district. It has a directory of safe reliable people, covering many different trades. They have been checked and recommended by their customers. This service is free to use. Members found the talk interesting and useful.

Competition Results: A decorated crème egg. Susan Q(4), Sandra L(5), Beryl(5), Anne A(4), Val (3), Tracy(5), Doris W(4), Marion (3)

April Meeting: One Stroke Painting - Margaret Ringham.

Competition - A handmade greetings card.

Raffle Rota - Sue N, Beryl, Sandra K, Peggy.

A voucher for points scored in competitions was presented to Beryl.

- Contact info: Peggy Warby 01354 638339

Q. What do bullet-proof vests, fire escapes, windshield wipers and laser printers all have in common?

A. They were all invented by women.

Christchurch Residents Association

Our March meeting was held on Tuesday 22nd. Apologies were received from Peggy Warby who was at a WI function. The minutes of the last meeting were agreed and there were no matters arising.

The recent funerals of Helen Steenson and Maurice Allan were mentioned. Members were thanked for their attendance and kind donations to the MacMillan Palliative Care Unit at King's Lynn, and Great Ormond Street Children's Hospital respectively. Both the deceased originated from Glasgow and lived in Church Road. A Scots Piper gave them both a splendid, if emotional send off.

Sandra Kay as Bookings Secretary for our new Community Centre explained that bookings were going very well with all the clubs booked in, the return of indoor bowls, two FDC events, and two private bookings later in the year. The beers, pumps and cooler were now in place for the Grand Opening on 9th April. Thanks to Phil from The Dun Cow for his help with this. Rod Cook will be providing the entertainment for this event, and bouncy castles and Bar-BQ were being arranged. Due to some confusion all future CCCC meeting dates were to be emailed to The Heron.

Heronaid II was being planned for October with some special surprise guests who will remain a secret for the moment.

Concerns were expressed over the number of new homes being proposed or built in the village totalling 47 at present. This is over 13% compared with the current Christchurch total of 330 registered homes. It is feared that current infrastructures regarding sewage, electrical supply, transport, and school places was inadequate, and we did not wish to visit the problems of the past (*see letters page 5 – Ed'*). Townley School is already oversubscribed with no plans to extend the current buildings or take on extra staff as this was considered impractical. The school was also being consulted regarding the six proposed new homes to the rear of Syringa House because of access being so near to it.

PCSO Sue Clarke would be arranging SPEEDWATCH training for our six volunteers in due course so that this can be put in place in the very near future. Our volunteers are – Colin Steenson, William Beswick, Simon Freeland,

Peter Owen, Linda Webster, and Richard Guilford. Since Townley's poster campaign, featured in The Heron last month, the 'dog poo' situation seems much improved. Additional signage would be posted around the village in due course. As of 6th April ALL DOG OWNERS ARE LEGALLY OBLIGED TO HAVE THEIR DOGS MICROCHIPPED (*see Community information, page 3 – Ed'*).

The new tree saplings from the Woodland Trust have now been planted by our group of willing volunteers (*See this months feature! – Ed'*).

Simon Freeland was voted in as Vice-Chairman as he could not fully commit to the role of Chairman due to other commitments. He would try and help/fill in for Richard when our Chairman had a particularly busy week with production of The Heron and other commitments such as CCCC meetings.

Three items were raised in AOB: 1. The damage to protected trees in Green Lane from 'flailing' and the subsequent mess left behind all over the road., 2. Recent cases of vehicles getting stuck up Green Drove and Crown Drove – it was proposed that we ask the Parish Council to erect 'No Through Road' signs., 3. Lorries parking in the village along Church Road, and sometimes even across the pavement. Richard our Chairman said he would look into the first two points. The latter was already in hand via Nigel Russell; the culprit having been identified as a nomadic resident.

The meeting closed at 9.20pm. Next meeting – Wednesday 27th April, 7.30 at The Old School, Church Road.

Shirley Knight (CRA Secretary)

Christchurch Book Club

Book club met on 23rd March. We had been reading 'My Sister's Keeper' by Jodi Picoult. All agreed that the book was thought-provoking, at times harrowing, and all-in-all a good read.

Our next book is 'What You See is What you Get', Alan Sugar's autobiography.

We shall be meeting on Wednesday 27th April at Viv's - Glynan, Crown Rd.

For more details please contact Sheila Day 07946635908 .

New members always very welcome.

info: Sheila Day 07846 635908

LOVE THY NEIGHBOUR - Steve Waye

Sunday March 13th was one of those rare early spring days, sunny bright and a little nippy as the audience trooped into Three Holes village Hall for the regular lunchtime session.

A tanned Pete Neighbour looking relaxed and joking that the residents of South Carolina USA where he lives had been enquiring about the club, launched into a virtuoso performance of Jazz Clarinet accompanied by Nigel Portass on keys, Nigel Smith on Drums and joining them on double bass veteran Len Skeet.

The set kicked off with Pete coaxing an unaccompanied solo from the Clarinet before being smoothly joined by the rest of the band on the standard "Softly as in A Morning Sunrise"

The sound in the hall was perfectly pitched for volume, each instrument clear and audible, locking together like a well-oiled machine. The un-initiated often ask the question of the musicians "how long have you been together?" to which the answer is "oh about five minutes." Musicians of this calibre need no rehearsal. The rest of the afternoon consisted of one well played standard after another each member soloing in turn. Stand out moments were plentiful but best summed up in the wistful rendition of "What'll I Do?" a jazz standard probably better known as the theme music to the TV sit-com Birds of a Feather. A less well known but superbly played tune was "What is



Pete Neighbour

There to Say" played by Pete on Clarinet and Len on Bass in an almost fugue like rendition. The afternoon came to an end with a track from Pete's latest CD followed by a joyful twelve bar blues. A satisfied crowd showing their appreciation before heading back out into the sunshine.

Promoter Nigel Smith prides himself on the quality of musicians he books and the low cost of

admission. It really is a great precursor to your Sunday lunch at minimal cost so why not come and check it out. You might be pleasantly surprised.

Future Dates at the club: Sunday 3rd April 2016 The Alan Norris Big Band. If you've never heard a big band in full flight, it's definitely an experience come along and be amazed.

Sunday 1st May 2016 Parisian swing playing Gypsy Jazz and other standards in the style of Stephane Grapelli and Django Reinhardt's Hot Club of France Enquiries Call Nigel Smith 01945 773 121

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Local charity Groundwork coordinates the Community Champion Scheme on behalf of CFRS. Anyone interested in becoming a Community Champion should call Katie Dean on 01480 587140 / 07736 132870 or email katie.dean@groundwork.org.uk.

And don't forget to test your smoke alarm – and that of elderly relatives – by pressing the 'test' button on the device. To find out if you are eligible for a free home fire safety check, call 0800 917 99 94.

Contact: Follow us on social media, visit www.cambsfire.gov.uk or call 01480 444500.

The Heron - online

Could we remind readers of the add-on facilities available on our website at www.theheron.info

As well as the latest Heron in full colour, there is an archive of all the Herons that we have published as well as those we have digitally from previous eras. There are links to useful sites related to Christchurch, our Ad rates, and a page showing how you can help support your Heron. You can also get details and forms to join our Postal Subscription service.

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Jonathan Mallett - Working in Wood

“How can I find a good” You know the sort of thing - plumber, electrician or in the case of this piece, a good carpenter. Well let us introduce you to Jonathan Mallett. On our doorstep, almost - in Three Holes. Jonathan is married with a 7 year old daughter.

Jonathan grew up in Upwell, son of a carpenter making 1 tonne potato boxes for farmers. He left school at 16 and enrolled on a three year full time building course at Kings Lynn Tech. In the first year he studied bricklaying and plumbing as well as carpentry, then in the second and third year he chose to specialise in carpentry only. He also worked in the family firm when time allowed.

During the ensuing years Jonathan has worked for a local building firm, doing a range of chippie related tasks, roofs, floors, doors, skirtings as well as fitting kitchens. He has worked around the area with a carpentry contracting firm, in such places as The Mo

Sheringham Museum, Queen Elizabeth Hospital Kings Lynn, and Dereham Library. He worked there for over 10 years until the recession hit. At that time the business came under severe pressure, and they needed to reduce staff - he was eventually offered redundancy, which he took with the intention of “going it alone”.

Jonathan Mallett Carpentry was launched just 3 years ago. It took him some 6 months of advertising and shoe-leather to bring his considerable skills to the notice of the wider community, but now he tells us, “Most of my new business comes from recommendations from happy customers”. What you may not have appreciated from his advert on page

13, as indeed I didn't, is that, as well as the usual building carpentry, he is happy to build sheds, do fences, make garden pergolas and garden decks, in fact he is willing to consider any aspect of carpentry. Find him on Facebook - www.facebook.com/jmallettcarpentry or just search for j mallett carpentry. PVH



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Two Christchurch Scots, recently departed

Helen Teresa Steenson 1951 – 2016



Helen of Church Road, Christchurch was born in Glasgow. I would like to express my thanks to all relatives, friends, and other villagers who attended my wife's funeral, and the wake at The Dun Cow which was very well attended, and thanks to Phil and Co. for providing a wonderful spread. Many thanks also to all those who kindly made donations to the MacMillan Palliative Care Unit at Kings Lynn Hospital, a total of £235 was collected. This was Helen's last wish in thanks for all the care she had received. Thank you all!

Colin Steenson

Robert Maurice Gordon Allan 1928 – 2016



Maurice of Church Road, Christchurch was born in Glasgow. He passed away in the early hours of Thursday 25th of February aged 87 years. Many thanks to all family and friends who attended Maurice's funeral to show their respects; and the wake afterwards at The Dun Cow. Thanks also to all those who kindly made donations to Great Ormond Street Children's Hospital.

Thank you all

Ann Allan and Michael & Eileen Jackson



The emotive Lone Piper played at both funerals

Alma retires after 44 years!

Many thanks and congratulations to Alma Hughes of Wayside Estate, who has been a poppy seller for approximately 44 years. Selling poppies for this length of time is a fantastic achievement. Alma has now retired, so The Local Poppy Appeal Organiser, Lesley Kennedy is looking for someone to cover her round at Wayside, Crown Road and Fenview. Also, many thanks to Sarah Craven, who has been a great help as a poppy seller but is now moving on. Lesley said, "On behalf of the Royal British Legion Poppy Appeal, I would like to thank all the poppy sellers who go from door to door in all kinds of weather. I would also like to thank the Dun Cow, the Little Local and the school for supporting this Appeal. To everyone who helped the Appeal in any way, a big thank you".

Lesley provided the following totals - in 2014/15, we raised £5105.72. For the 2015/16 Appeal, the amount raised to date is £3307.65 and there are some more donations to come, these sums of money are from Manea and Christchurch combined.

Anyone who could help cover Sarah's round at Padgett's Road, Green Lane and Scott's Road and Alma's round, please contact Lesley Kennedy Poppy Appeal Organiser on 01354680401 or 07947143864.



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Some Snippets from the March Parish Council Meeting

Development of the village

Concerns from the public dominated the early part of the meeting, particularly different aspects of the future shape of the village. The pre proposal of the houses at the rear of Syringa House, with the access off Crown Road, close to the junction of Upwell Road, worried some residents. A more comprehensive condemnation of the overall development proposals and pre proposals was launched by one resident and backed up by others. She had surveyed the scene in the village and was suggesting that if all the proposed development went ahead then the village would be bigger by some 13%. A figure which was suggested could not be sustained with the current infrastructure.

Bus Service, or lack of one

This led to a discussion on the availability of a public bus service, Councillor Beswick bemoaned the fact that there had been little done to encourage a service to visit the village. This was denied by the Chairman, Councillor Russell, who cited several initiatives which had been made but had failed due to lack of support by villagers. The Heron was asked to publish something to gauge the demand from readers, so if you feel strongly that you would support a bus service, please contact Cllr Beswick, or one of the other councillors, and maybe you'd like to write to the Heron to express your thoughts.

Heavy Lorries

Another concern, which was raised was the number of heavy lorries travelling through the village, causing vibration to properties, and potentially damage. This is one that had been raised many times before, but the Council offered to discuss it in the agenda at their next meeting in April. All residents with views on this were asked to either attend or make their views known to councillors before the meeting. Phone numbers are in our Useful Numbers on page 26.

(they've even been parking in Church Rd! -Ed')

Police - want to help

Our PCSO Sue Clarke, gave a report and commented on the issue of speeding traffic. She



PCSO Sue Clarke

said that she would support a Speedwatch campaign in the village and was seeking volunteers for training. Sue also reported a change of policy on several fronts, primarily that she would attend all Parish Council meetings when they occurred within her shift pattern, provided no emergency occurs; also she gave out her mobile number which could be used to contact her when she was at work, otherwise use 101. Again we will put the number in Useful Numbers.

Lastly she warned of a spate of very nasty burglaries in the area, thankfully not in our villages. Not just the usual sheds and outhouses, but actual houses, broken in and stripped. Readers are advised to be on the alert and if suspicious cars, or activity are seen call her number, or 101. If actually seen entering or around known houses of people on holiday for instance ring 999.

Fenland Councillors

The District Councillor, Michelle Tanfield spoke about the need for

Fenland to make £1.6 million savings, and the fact that the Chancellor of the Exchequer will announce the "East Anglian Powerhouse" and the combining of Norfolk, Suffolk and Cambridgeshire

counties under that banner and the fact that a "mayor" will need to be elected to oversee this. Councillor Sutton reported on his suspicion that the County Highways were manoeuvring to renege on their promise to fix the faulty installation of the widened pavement at Upwell Road "road calming" chicane. The Council and other interested people were urged to contact Joshua Rutherford to express their dismay. His email is Joshua.rutherford@cambridgeshire.gov.uk



Cllr Will Sutton and Cllr Michelle Tanfield

Grants

The Heron itself became the subject of a lengthy discussion, when the grants were discussed for next year. The Chairman had had representations

from some people asking what the Heron was doing to warrant this support. There were questions asked about why the Council Minutes no longer featured in the Heron. Your reporter was asked to respond to the question and it was pointed out that it was the Council themselves who asked that they no longer be published following a request from the Heron and some members of the public to increase the grant to reflect the increasing number of pages the minutes were occupying. *(This was enabled by the Council being able to publish the draft minutes on it's newly opened website. Ed'.)* Your reporter stated that the Editorial Team regretted that decision, and had always published what was sent. As well as that, the Heron reported parts of the meetings that the team thought would be of general interest to the readership. (Since that time the Editor has only has two people express sorrow that the minutes are no longer in the Heron, one of those was not actually a parish resident.)

Various Councillors suggested a précis of the meeting could be published, but the Clerk pointed out that this would mean an increase in her workload which would need to be paid for. Councillor Sutton suggested that the Heron should gauge support for the reinstatement of the minutes from its readership. In 2015 the Heron ran a survey to gauge popularity of the features then currently published. On the issue of the council minutes, out of 44 questionnaires returned, half thought it was "very useful" with a quarter thinking it was "useful" having the minutes available in this form, the main reason why we were reluctant to agree to removing them! It should be said though that some of the "free text" comments bemoaned the fact that they were always (in those days) out of date when published. Perhaps individual readers could make their views know to us through our letter column.

External Audit report

For the last items on the Agenda the press and public were excluded while the External Audit report was discussed. This had been posted on the village notice board for the statutory period and is now removed. It is believed to say that there were some errors in the way some figures were presented as well as some amounts did not include all that that they should. We hope to be able to publish a more thorough explanation in the near future.

Reporter - Paul Haresnape

Views from the Farm Gate

- Sue Fletcher



And, it's now officially spring! Over the next month or so, the farms around us, will be experiencing one of their busiest times of year, and for me, it's the most enjoyable part of the farming calendar. The barren arable fields are now being drilled or planted with spring crops, and the grass fields are coming alive with baby calves and baby lambs, signifying the start of yet another farming year.

However, like previous years the dismal



Drilling wheat on a very dry day

commodity prices are making local farmers look for more diverse crops to grow, such as, soya beans, maize (for anaerobic digesters) and many more.

While local arable farmers are busy planting this year's crops, we are expectantly awaiting the arrival of approximately 3000 lambs from 1600 pregnant ewes, early April.

Following ultrasound scanning (which are very similar to the scans pregnant



Twin lambs on an ultrasound display

mothers receive in hospital) in the middle of February, we have been busy moving the pregnant ewes back to the home farm. Once home, the ewes are divided in groups depending on the numbers of lambs they are expecting. As with most years, the majority of ewes are expecting twins, but we do have approximately 200 triplets and 6 quadruplets.

By next month we'll have lots more mouths to feed on the farm, and I look forward to sharing our experiences and pictures from the lambing yards.

Sue

SOMETIMES TRUTH IS STRANGER THAN FICTION

Top This For a Speeding Ticket!

Two British Police Officers from North Berwick, to the east of Edinburgh, were involved in an unusual incident, while checking for speeding motorists on the A1 Great North Road.

One of the officers (who are NOT named) used a hand-held radar device to check the speed of a vehicle approaching over the crest of a hill, and was surprised when the speed was recorded at over 300mph! The machine then stopped working and the two officers were unable to reset it!

The radar had in fact locked on to a NATO Tornado Fighter Jet that was engaged in a low-flying exercise over the North Sea near the Borders District. Back at police headquarters the Chief Constable fired off a stiff complaint to the RAF Liaison Office.

Back came the reply in true laconic RAF style, "Thank you for your message, which allows us to complete the file on this incident. You may be interested to know that the tactical computer in the Tornado had automatically locked on to your



'hostile radar equipment' and immediately sent a jamming signal back to it! Furthermore, the Sidewinder air-to-ground missiles, aboard the fully-armed aircraft, had also locked on to your position as an enemy target. Fortunately, the Dutch pilot flying the Tornado responded to the missile status alert intelligently, and was able to override the automatic protection system before a missile was launched!"

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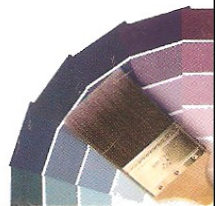
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IMPORTANT changes to Health Centre appointments

To try to improve our service to you we are proposing changes to our appointment system. Our aim is to offer you more choice of appointments and avoid having to ring back again the following day. We have compiled this leaflet to explain how, from Monday 11th April, the new appointment system will change and to help you make the best use of the services that we offer.

- ◆ Each day in addition to appointments released on the day, a selection of appointments will be released to book for tomorrow and in two days time.
- ◆ To help you plan ahead we are now extending the length of time you can book in the future from 4 weeks to 6 weeks.
- ◆ If you require an appointment for today and all the appointments have been filled the reception staff will ask you a few details and ask for a contact telephone number. A Doctor or Nurse Practitioner will then contact you later in the morning /afternoon to discuss how they can best help you and offer you an appointment time if they feel that you need to be seen in the surgery.

In order to make the new system work for everyone there are ways that you can help.

- ◆ Please make sure that if you are waiting for a call back you are available to take the call. Please note that you will not necessarily be contacted by the clinician of your choice and if you refuse a call back it will be noted on your medical records.
- ◆ If you have an appointment with a doctor or Nurse Practitioner and they ask you to return for a follow up appointment (for example in a month's time) we strongly advise you to make the appointment before you leave the surgery so that you are able to book a suitable time with the clinician of your choice rather than wait and be given an appointment on the day.
- ◆ If you no longer need a booked appointment please cancel it. Even at short notice an appointment can be rebooked.
- ◆ Please consider requesting online access to our appointment system. You are then able to book and cancel appointments online and also request repeat medications. If would like this facility please contact reception for details.
- ◆ In order to free up the telephone line for people requesting appointments please telephone for test results and non -urgent enquiries in the afternoons.

Please note that this is a trial and we ask for your patience whilst the changes are in progress. However please be reassured that you will always be seen if you have an urgent medical problem.

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61cms deep
40cms floor to seat
£250 o.n.o.
Tel: 01354 638478



FOR SALE

Belling range cooker.
In good working order
with ceramic hob.
Colour cream.
Will be available end
of April. Buyer to
collect.
Price: £200 o.n.o.
Tel: 01354
638461/07980892426



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.

Community Centre

GRAND OPENING

Saturday 9TH April

2.00pm ~ 6.00pm

Bouncy Castles,

Barbeque & Bar,

Entertainment

ALL WELCOME

Win fantastic prizes and showcase your talent in this year's "Snap the Ouse" Photographic Competition!

In the lead up to the exciting summer OuseFest celebrations (18 to 31 July), the Ouse Washes Landscape Partnership have just launched their 2016 Snap the Ouse Photography Competition.

The competition is open to any photographs that define the character and feel of the Ouse Washes and surrounding areas, and that depict what makes our area great. Whether your photographs include landscapes, wildlife, people, buildings or water, you are encouraged to enter.

The Ouse Washes Landscape is entirely distinctive and immensely beautiful. The huge open skies, expansive views, strongly linear landscape features and isolated settlements, as well as the sense of mystery and tranquillity means endless photographic opportunities. The Ouse Washes Landscape is also rich with distinctive Fenland customs, traditions, folklore and arts, which provide limitless inspiration.

Sara Marshall, Countryside Engagement & Marketing Officer at the Ouse Washes Landscape Partnership says "last year's competition was

hugely successful and we hope the Snap the Ouse Competition will provide more fun opportunities for people to see their local environment through different eyes, discover new aspects not seen before and capture what their local area means to them".

A shortlisted 12 photographs will be posted on the Ouse Washes Landscape Partnership's website for public voting and will also be exhibited at various events throughout OuseFest.

There will be three winners, one from each entrance category (age 12 or under; 13 – 18; 19 or over), who will each receive a fantastic basket of prizes worth £50. To participate, please send your photographs taken in the Ouse Washes or surrounding area to

sara.marshall@cambsacre.org.uk by Sunday 29 May 2016.

More information can be found at www.ousewashes.org.uk.

Good luck and happy snapping!



Snap the Ouse Competition

In the lead-up to this year's **OuseFest**, you could win £50 of prizes and showcase your talent

Send us your photos taken in the Ouse Washes area by Sunday 29 May 2016!
(Adult and Child categories)

For more info on OuseFest and the Competition:

www.ousewashes.org.uk



Ouse Washes Landscape Partnership



@OuseFest

Believe it or not ... This may look a mess at first glance, but you should be able to read it ...

I cdnuolt blveiee taht I cluod aulacly uesdnatnrd waht I was rdgnieg.

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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 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 - Jacque 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
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	07846 635908
Craft Club - Wendy Yates	01354 638448
Garden Club - Marion Hawthorne	01354 638230
WI - Peggy Warby	01354 638339

INCONVENIENCE AT MARCH POLICE STATION

Thieves broke into March Police Station last Sunday and stole all the toilets. Police reports stated recently that they have absolutely nothing to go on!

However, the thieves did leave behind a large hole in the station wall and police are looking into it!

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...



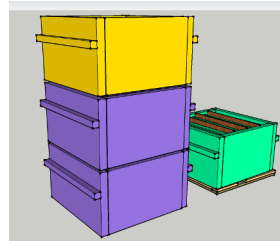
Well would you believe it!? We begin our third year next month as the incumbent custodians of your Community Magazine. How the time flies!

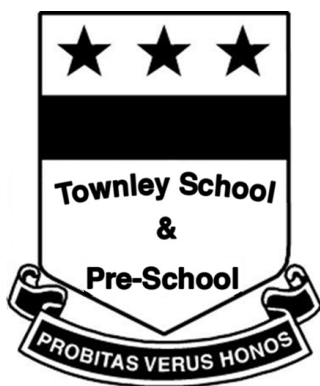
Quite a buzz at Heron HQ about that and how to mark the event? - Any suggestions readers? On a more personal note; I'm buzzin' too, having won myself a brand new 'Flow Hive'. I know you probably won't believe it but you literally turn a tap to harvest the honey! More on that next month. But with the Garden Club Plant Sale on May 14th I'll be encouraging you to purchase lots of 'bee friendly' plants and maybe eat a cream tea or two.

I now have three hives; a National, a WBC, and my new Flow Hive. The latter of which is far too nice to leave out in the front garden. Anyway I mustn't 'drone' on about it. Though I must admit to a temptation to 'wax' lyrical about my current 50,000 charges who are busily adding to their honey stores due to the mild weather we've been having. Shame they don't get 'nectar' points for the amount of honey they produce each year.

You may already know that a Queen is much longer and slimmer than the workers or the chunkier drones, but did you also know that she has much longer legs too!? If you can't spot her in your hive at any time it's important not to get in a 'lava' about it. You'll soon know if there's a problem if your bees simply decide to 'buzz-off'!

'Till next time! – Ed'





TOWNLEY SCHOOL AND PRE-SCHOOL

Christchurch, Wisbech, Cambs. PE14 9NA

Email: office@townley.cambs.sch.uk

Website: www.townleyschool.org.uk

World Book Day on the 3rd of March had pupils and staff coming to school dressed as their favourite book characters. They took part in lots of book related activities, including our traditional cat walk. We also had a second hand book stall and raised a £50.00 for the Literacy Trust. Please enjoy the pictures - there are more on our website!



Thank you!

Since last month's report regarding the dog mess situation, parents have been pleased to report an improvement. A big Thank You to all!



Our Year 5's recently took part in Safety Zone, learning about keeping safe around water, seatbelts, fire, internet and anti social behaviour. They took part in activities at our local fire station.

Dates

12th April - Children return to school
 9th May - SATS week
 16th May - Bikeability Week
 25th May - Life Bus Visit
 27th May - Break up for half term
 28th May - Townley Auction
 7th June - Children back to school.



Tree planting Saturday! - by James Hughes

On Saturday the 12th of March, a small team of volunteers planted out over 100 hedgerow saplings in front of the picnic area near the new Village Hall. These saplings were provided to the Parish by the Woodland Trust as part of their woodland planting scheme. In the words of the Woodland Trust themselves, "These tree packs for schools and communities offer the perfect opportunity to bring people together to plant trees - encouraging local wildlife, protecting our landscape against tree disease and creating beautiful wooded areas that people can enjoy for years to come."

Families were the order of the day during Christchurch's planting Saturday, with children and their parents planting out the saplings, inserting bamboo posts and applying the plastic protectors to prevent hungry bunnies and deer from chowing down on them.

Elaine said, "It didn't take us very long to plant the 105 saplings and we had fun playing with the worms (that soil must be good as the worms were huge)! Hopefully we haven't killed any trees and they will grow lovely and lush"

The trees planted are intended to form a hedge along the side of the new path, and include hawthorn, hazel, holly, dog rose and dog wood. They are pretty small saplings right now, and will take a few years to form a decent hedge, with the aim of keeping it to about 4ft. This should provide a decent barrier and make the picnic area safer for children playing there, and also provide hazel nuts for the picnics, as well as a shelter for hedgehogs, dormice and other small creatures. The picnic area itself is currently undergoing tidying, with some of the existing untidy bushes being removed to give more grass area, and make it easier to maintain.

There is lots of great information about woodland species and all the creatures they help to thrive on the Woodland Trust's website, at www.woodlandtrust.org.uk. The Parish Council would like to extend their thanks to the Woodland Trust for supplying the trees, bamboo and guards, as well as all the volunteers who helped plant them out.



Volunteers: Elaine Reed, Bex Bradbury, Nathalie Paine, Vanessa Murray (all FOTS); Saf Bradbury (Neale Wade); Fern Bradbury, Olivia Reed-Hughes, Elliot Reed-Hughes, Coral Bradbury, Angus Murray, Hannah Paine (all Townley School); Cherry Bradbury (Townley Pre-School)

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.