

The Heron

Community Magazine

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

August 2016

Welney goes batty

page 2

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Register your interest in a
Community Owned Shop pg 7

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Welney Wetlands Wildlife Walkabout - Richard Guilford

Welney Wildlife and Wetland Trust held an unusual (for them) evening event on Saturday July 30th beginning at 8.00pm until 11.00pm. It was billed as a Bat & Barn Owl evening but we saw so much more besides. I went along with my stepdaughter Arianne and her fella Ryan. It really was the most fantastic evening of wildlife exploration. Specifically to study crepuscular creatures, like owls and badgers (who come out to hunt and feed at dusk, as opposed to nocturnal creatures, such as bats and moths, who are trully nocturnal and fly through the night until dawn), along with various species of bat; two varieties of pipistrelle, serotenes, and the much rarer and larger noctule. Apparently up to eight different species of bat frequent WWWW.

We arrived a little before eight and the tables were already full of explorers busily dissecting owl pellets to see what they'd been eating. I thought at first that Arianne and Ryan might be a little squeamish at this but no, we all got stuck in, discovering vole and shrew skulls and various other bones that we compared with those on our accompanying chart. One couple discovered eight skulls in one single pellet! Along with a mass of other bones. Real hungry owl that one!

After about a half hour or so, once all the troops had gathered, our attention was drawn to a beautiful barn owl flying along the line of a dyke hunting out food for its three chicks. We were all provided with binoculars, some folks had brought along their own, and we could clearly see mother owl bringing home food in her talons. We watched several hunting trips before focusing on a couple of huge hares squatting in the long grasses surrounding the wetland pools. There was also a magnificent, and ever changing, sunset, along with some fantastic cloud formations in the 'big sky'.

After our observations from the viewing platform we were all equipped with bat detectors and trekked off to one of the first hides we visited in the heart of the wetland. It was getting quite dark by then. We observed numerous

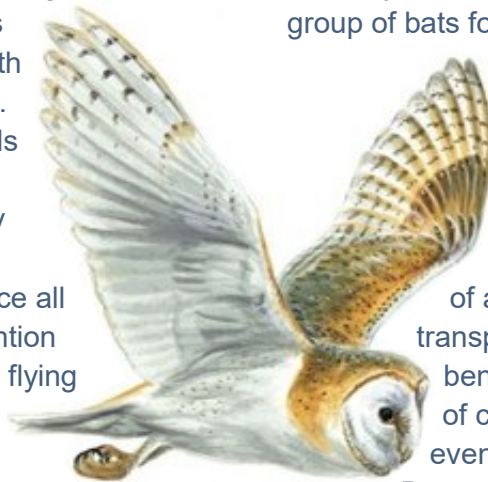
waterfowl; Mute and Hooper swans, coots, crested grebes, black tailed godwit, and many more besides. Then one or two pipistrelles were spotted flying nearby, so it was bat detectors on! As we walked back to another hide we could see bats flying in and out of the tree line. I

got the first loud 'squawk' on my bat detector and then others too. Arianne and Ryan quickly became very adept at tracking the bats in flight. I struggled to see them as the evening darkened but could certainly hear them on the bat detector. There was a group of bats focused around the long bridge over the river. A rich source of insects there no doubt!

Finally, it was back to the main building where on another observation platform there was a large moth trap. These are made up of an intense bright light under a transparent canopy with a container beneath full of egg boxes. The moths are of course attracted by the light and eventually fall into the container beneath.

By gently lifting out an egg box or two this makes for easy observation of numerous species of all shapes and sizes. I'm afraid their names were all too numerous to recal. One even looked remarkably like a butterfly with its wings held vertically as they do. Talking of which one thing has always intrigued me about moths. If they like light so much – why don't they get up in the morning?

WWWT is holding two more similar evening events on the 27th August and 24th September. We highly recommend a visit. All ages from about eight years old to ninety odd are catered for. The sessions run from 8.30pm to 11.00pm and cost £10 per adult and £5 per child, refreshments are provided. Do give them a try! We promise you won't regret it! It's an opportunity to observe many creatures first hand that you would not be able to enjoy on a daytime visit. Good Luck!



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

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

Dun Cow Meal Deal on alternate Wednesday lunchtimes - 2 courses for £5.50 - Pre-Booked places ONLY.
This month's dates are 3rd, 17th and 31st Aug

An Update - Jane Rees, Parish Clerk, due to strange circumstances, has had to change her phone number - new one is now on page 26

Good News from our church -

Daphne and Andrew tell us that our new priest, Revd Ian Brady, will be Licensed as Priest in Charge of Christchurch, Doddington with Benwick, Manea, Welney and Wimblington on Monday 5th September at St Mary's Church Doddington at 7.30pm. The Revd Lynda Brady will also be licensed as Associate Priest.

The husband and wife team of Ian and Lynda will be in charge of six parishes so will be kept busy. They are currently living on the Isle of Man and when they move to us they will be living in the Rectory at Wimblington.

Your views are sought - The Parish Council meeting on August 8th will have an agenda item on 'Highways issues' so if anyone has any issues with the roads, signage etc. please come and have your say!

Upwell Road will be closed from 12th to 16th September - in two phases from the Sixteen Foot Bank Road to Ha'penny Toll Road, and from Ha'penny Toll Road to the village

Speedwatch training evening for our volunteers will be Friday 12th August from 6.00pm till 7.00pm (approx) at The Old School, Church Road. Those involved; Peter Knight, Peter Owen, William Beswick, Sarah Craven, Colin Steenson, Richard Guilford, plus Simon Freeland, Ryan Christie, and Arianne Szpak!
Hopefully, over time, we will be able to make a difference to vehicles speeding along the main drag from Upwell Road and along Church Road.

EDITORIAL

Hi All!

You know it occurred to me the other day that sometimes we are not particularly aware of all that goes on around us wildlife wise. For example, three years back I know we had a thriving hedgehog family in the garden, but with falling numbers nationally, I thought they'd disappeared. But no! I spotted a huge mum in the garden just last week so they've probably been there all the time! I just hadn't seen them!

This prompted me, Ryan & Arianne to go along to the WWWT's (Welney Wildfowl & Wetland Trust) special evening looking at bats, owls and moths. But we saw much more besides. You can read all about our adventure on page 2 and there are more such events coming up over the next couple of months. Something not to be missed which caters for all ages.

Some great news for the school and indeed the village as a whole, in a letter from Townley's Head, Maria, on page 5. A new star at the Church's cake, coffee and chat sessions on page 4. Finally the awful slope at the end of the widened pavement in Upwell Road has been corrected. See page 8. Bake off finalist visits on the same page. More news on the Community Shop, page 9 and some great news from Christchurch Bowls Club on page 15. Then there's all the usual features plus one or two other interesting articles.

So enjoy! Till next month!



PS If you would like to see me completely bald; no beard, and no eyebrows; please see Macmillan fundraiser on page 25 where David Litton has also sacrificed his locks.

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:

Aug 5 th	Kath Goodwin's funeral - Parish Church - 1:30pm
Aug 5 th	Mobile Library visits - Upwell Rd Lay-by 3-3:40pm
Aug 8 th	Christchurch Parish Council Meeting - 7:30pm - CCC
Aug 9 th	WI - Emmaus – Lynn Watson - 7pm - CCC
Aug 12 th	"Cake, Coffee and Chat" Parish Church 2-3pm - All Welcome
Aug 16 th	Garden Club - the history of the edible garden - Alison Sloane - 7pm - CCC
Aug 18 th	Playing with Boxes - Queen Mary Centre Wisbech - 10am-1pm FREE - see pg 19
Aug 19 th	"Cake, Coffee and Chat" Parish Church 2-3pm - All Welcome
Aug 23 rd	Cambridgeshire/Peterborough Devolution with elected Mayor - consultation closes
Aug 26 th	"Cake, Coffee and Chat" Parish Church 2-3pm - All Welcome
Aug 27 th	Welney WWT "Bat & Barn Owl evening" - book ahead to secure place
Aug 31 st	Christchurch Book Club - 7:30pm - venue Pear Tree Farm Padgetts Rd

Parish Church Services

Aug 7 th	11am	H Chappell, A Day	All Age Worship in Townley School
Aug 14 th	9:30am	Rev J Webb	Holy Communion
Aug 21 st	6:30pm	Rev J Webb	Evening Prayer
Aug 28 th	11am	B Hopkins	Morning Prayer
Sep 4 th	11am	H Chappell, A Day	All Age Worship in Townley School

Every Friday 2-3pm - except 5th Aug - Coffee, Cake and Chat in the Church building

See announcement about new Priest-in-Charge in Community Information - page 3

Cake Coffee and Chat

- in the Parish Church is going right through the summer (not 5th Aug) and it is featuring a new cake maker! Morgan is Peter and Sue Norman's grandson who is doing his Duke of Edinburgh Award. He goes to Downham Market Academy and has been working on his award for some months. The good news is that he has volunteered to make cakes and serve at the table and wash-up at the end. Why don't you drop in on Friday afternoons at 2pm and taste his wares?



Some of the cake and coffee consumers



Morgan does his stuff!

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

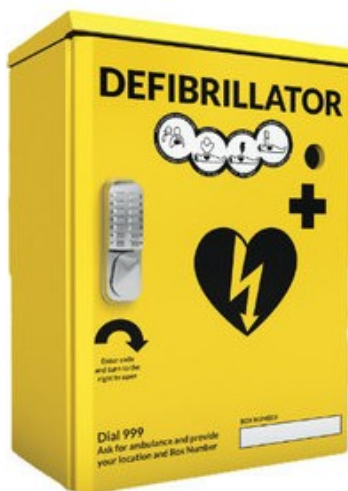
At the time of going to press, all information is as accurate and up to date as we can make it. Changes and updates may be published subsequently. All information contributed by outside agencies, including dates etc., will be assumed to be correct.

Letters to the Editor



Dear Editor,

I spoke to you on Thursday as I was keen to enlist the support of the Village to raise funds for a defibrillator cabinet. We have a truly wonderful child in our school who may at some stage need a defibrillator, the East of England Ambulance Service have kindly said they will provide us with one on a long term loan. I thought it would be fantastic if we as a village could raise £700 to provide a cabinet to keep it in, this would enable the defibrillator to be used (if located carefully) by the whole village outside of school hours in the event of an emergency. A parent helped me set up a 'Go -Fund Me' account Friday lunchtime, which was shared by the school Facebook account and by Monday morning we had reached our target! The generosity of strangers has astounded me this weekend and I cannot thank you all enough for your support.



However, the story doesn't quite end here, to make the project viable for the community we need volunteers who would be prepared to be trained in the use of the defibrillator.



Some of the children enjoying being in their 'camp'

The East of England Ambulance Service have offered us training early in the new term. If you would like to be involved in this please contact me at school.

Kind regards,
Maria-Anne Higgins

Kathleen Curtis Goodwin

7th July 1923 – 1st July 2016



Kathleen (Kath), formerly of Fen View, Christchurch died peacefully in The Queen Elizabeth Hospital, King's Lynn on 1st July. Originally from Nottinghamshire, Kath moved to Christchurch in 1988 to be near her daughter and son-in-law Zillah and Shaun Booth. She participated in village life being an active member of the Good Companions, Gardening Club and WI as well as helping with teas for the Short Mat Bowls Club. Sadly, following an accident a few days after her 90th Birthday she could no-longer live alone and went to live with her daughter and son-in-law in Three Holes. She continued to enjoy many trips away, having last spent a week in France with Zillah and Shaun just three weeks before her death.

Kath's funeral and burial are to be held in Christchurch Parish Church on Friday 5th August at 1.30pm.

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MARCH, CAMBS

Who needs a shop in the Village anyway? By Paul Haresnape

It's been a little over a month since our Little Local village shop closed its doors and we residents were forced back into travelling outside the village to shop. I understand that to many, life has become a little poorer, perhaps a little harder since it closed, it is a hole in the village structure that must be re-filled.

You may recall that last month some of us concerned villagers got together to begin the process of evaluating if a Community Owned shop could work in our village. Within a few weeks we'd been offered various alternate locations, as unfortunately, we learned, the previous shop premises are not available to us.

Several Questions

The BIG UNKNOWN is does the village WANT a shop, and if the answer YOU would give is "Yes", then my question to you is, "What will you do to make it happen?"

Q What sort of things will the shop stock? Will I be in the embarrassing situation of calling in, but not being able to find what I want?

A Well, before we go ahead too far we want to find out what you would like the shop to stock. We are working on a questionnaire which will inform us if there is enough willingness out there to make this work.

Q Who will run the shop - after all, do any of the Working Group have any experience of retail?

A We envisage a Management Committee deciding on long term policy, who will appoint a

professional manager to oversee day to day organisation. But crucially supported by a pool of (hopefully) 50 volunteers working shifts of 2 hours.

Q What sort of things could you volunteer for?

A Without wishing to cramp the style of the future Management Committee, we envisage lots of different skills being needed. At the moment it would be great to have more people on the Working Group to help drive the project through. We have a Project Adviser from ACRE but business and IT skills, fund finding skills, financial skills, Health and Safety skills and retail management skills, for example could all be useful. Later on we'd need shop assistants, caretaking skills, maintenance skills and more.

So What Now?

You might remember last month I asked if you could be interested in helping out IN ANY WAY, even in the future, even if you'd need training or other help. Then we would like to hear from you. Do you know how many rang the number to enquire? A very disappointing ZERO.

Does that mean that no-one is interested? No I don't believe it does. What it might mean is that everyone is too busy, or you think you would like to, but just put it 'on the back-burner', or think others will get in touch, and I can get in later.

Of course we'd always take more people in once the project is up and running BUT WE NEED TO KNOW **NOW** that the village wants this! If we don't get people ringing in to offer support then maybe we can take it that there's not enough enthusiasm to go further with this!

Please ring 638381 to register your interest



A Community Owned and Run Shop in the little village of Grafham, Cambridgeshire. They established the shop some 18 months ago.

It runs with some 30 shop assistant volunteers, managed by a paid manager and serves a small village of 630 people. They are making a go of it quite successfully I'm told. PVH

Persistence Pays over Pavement Peril

At long last, after much asking and cajoling it's finally happened! Complaints to the Parish Council were received following the alteration of the pavement in Upwell Rd near the junction of Crown Rd because where the pavement dropped down outside Christchurch Cottage it had been left with a very worrying severe slope. This had caused some users of disability scooters to fear for their safety.

We were pleased when Cambridgeshire Highways said it would all be done before the end of the last financial year, but that didn't happen! It was promised again by April 30th, which again didn't happen! and then the officer who promised it left his post!

Anyway, we are glad to report that Ricky and Daniel were spotted 'making good' the dangerous slope one day last month. (See picture right)

We now understand that it's better!



Ricky and Daniel use a vibrating plate to ensure a smooth change of level

Great British Bake Off Finalist Visits Christchurch

On July 8th the Isle of Ely Federation WI hosted an evening with Great British Bake Off finalist Ian Cumming in our new Community Centre.

Ian is a professional photographer, the first part of the evening he took us around the world with some amazing photographs. On one of his ventures he visited Tibet and had a private and privileged meeting with Dali Lama who found Ian's size 12 shoes a talking point.

90 members then enjoyed savoury refreshments made by the committee followed by a delicious piece of Ian's famous Colossal Curvy Carrot Cake, a special ingredient which helped to enhance the flavour was pure orange oil.

Ian then continued taking us through the Bake Off procedure, days were long on some occasions, and

recipes were given to experiment with at home. A short bread crown had many takes, with family, friends and neighbours all helping to eat the failures. We all make mistakes, on one occasion he read the recipe wrong. Time went all too quick, it was an excellent and enjoyable evening with members leaving impressed with our new centre.

Margaret Sparrow - Chairman of Home Economics the Organizing Committee





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My First Car - Peter Norman



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 1966 at the age of seventeen, I started saving for driving lessons. In early 1967 I had ten driving lessons with the BSM. Sadly I failed my first driving test. The reason for failure was – Inappropriate speed – travelling too slowly! My grandfather offered to take me out in his car for additional driving practice. He was running a Hillman Imp. A rear engined little beauty that seemed to make a distinctive howling noise in all gears.

Shortly after my test failure I started going out several evenings a week in the Imp. My grandfather wedged in to the front passenger seat with a copy of the Highway Code on his knee. The idea being he would ask me questions on road signs, stopping distances, hand signals etc.

Normally within ten minutes of starting a practice session my grandfather would fall asleep and I was able to drive where ever I pleased, only waking him if the petrol tank needed filling! By the time my new test date had arrived I had explored most of central and eastern Kent with my “sleeping



A Hillman Imp, not my first but my first loved!

partner” and got about 1500 driving miles under my belt.

I passed the second driving test and continued to borrow the trusty little Imp during college vacations for the next four years.

In 1972, I bought my first car, a preowned 848cc Austin Mini for £50. My father in law, a skilled welder and sheet metal worker sorted out the body work and gave it a respray – a tasteful combination of yellow and black.

During the next 18 months the car gave good service and did about 10000 miles more or less trouble free. After that, the car was nothing but trouble. Hardly a week seemed to go by without a problem. It got to the point when it was costing just too much time and money to keep it on the road.

In 1974 I sold it for £10 and I think it was broken up for spares. The mini was replaced by a new red Renault 5. The model with the dashboard mounted gear shift. The Imp continued to run until 1976 when the engine seized.

Devolution and Elected Mayor

The Government has offered Cambridgeshire and Peterborough more autonomy over some powers, responsibilities and funding which is to be transferred from Central Government to Cambridgeshire and Peterborough under an elected Mayor.

All Councils have now approved this in principle and voted to put this proposed deal out to public consultation. Councillors want to hear what the public thinks about putting powers and funding, normally decided by Government, into the hands of local people.

Launched on Friday July 8, the public consultation will run until Tuesday, 23 August 2016.

Details of the proposed deal can be found at www.fenland.gov.uk/devolution.

To comment on the proposal online, go to www.cambridgeshire.gov.uk/devolutionsurvey



Afternoon Tea

£6 per person.

Children's picnic boxes £2.50.

Fun activities for the children.

Townley School Dining Room.

Wednesday 24th August

serving between

2 and 5pm

All profits to church funds.

All Welcome

no unaccompanied children



CAMBRIDGESHIRE FIRE AND RESCUE SERVICE

The school summer holidays are here and we hope you are enjoying time with family, going on holiday or even creating your own adventures at home.

Why not take the opportunity to teach your children about fire safety and design your very own fire escape plan?

We recommend every household has a fire escape plan and regularly runs through it with the family – and especially when guests are coming to stay.

Here are a few things to consider when writing yours:

- ♦ Everyone should know where the window and door keys are.
- ♦ Your normal way out of the house is your best escape route so always keep it clear of clutter - think of the difficulties you'll have using this route in pitch darkness or smoke.
- ♦ Walk your escape route with the rest of your family or housemates and make sure everyone can open windows and doors easily.

If you, your neighbour or family member might be vulnerable or have trouble escaping from their house in a fire, get in touch with us to see if we can help by calling 0800 917 9994.

For the latest news, incidents and safety advice, or to contact us, log on to www.cambsfire.gov.uk. Sign up to email alerts and find us on Twitter, Instagram, YouTube and Facebook.

BIRD QUIZ - John Murray

Can you guess what these birds are from the cryptic clues?



- | | |
|--|--|
| 1. What were Victorian Postmen called? | 14. A real baldy |
| 2. Often found at the docks | 15. A string of flags |
| 3. St.Paul's bird | 16. Followed after the removal van |
| 4. Rough tobacco | 17. Regal angler |
| 5. Kept under the bed | 18. Maker of matches and ink |
| 6. Found on the corners of a chess board | 19. Bird of the Golf course |
| 7. An ancient wizard | 20. Sound a bit stupid |
| 8. Politically incorrect these days | 21. Used while eating or drinking |
| 9. Used for flattening tarmac | 22. Boast |
| 10. Flown by kids | 23. Very fast |
| 11. Perfect Baby bird | 24. Lower your head |
| 12. Rather a large nose | 25. Very famous British Railway Engine |
| 13. Grumble | |

Answers on page 24

A minutes silence was

held for Kath Goodwin, a former member who had died recently.

Apologies:

Susan Q, Alma, Margaret B, Mari Anne, Belinda.

Correspondence:

10 Pin Bowling at Guyhirn

Pudding and Punch evening

Federation Day

10 Week Draw

Group 1 WI group committee meeting

Welney Gambian Aid through education

Election of NFWI board of trustees nominations

Updates on resolutions

Transport Arrangements:

Whittlesey Walk

March St Mary Garden Party

AOB

Garden in a Bra competition. Sandra L was the only member to provide an entry , so hers will be sent in to be judged.

It was agreed to donate the September raffle money to the Denman Appeal. Well done to Beryl who has raised over £400 so far for this appeal by making and selling teddy bears.

Peggy congratulated Sandra Kay on making the curtains for the new hall.

Richard Hughes has agreed to be a demonstrator for next year.

Our speaker Denise Taylor gave a very good talk on Hearing Dogs for the Deaf. She talked about how the dogs were trained to help deaf people to be alerted to sounds in the house such as fire alarms, door bells, phones ringing. Accompanied by slides, it was very informative. Denise was a very clear speaker. Afterwards there were merchandise items for members to buy.

Competition Results:

Best Photo of a Dog – Sandra K(4), Viv(4), Anne A(5), Sandra L(3), Wendy (4), Doris W(5), Val (4), Peggy(4), Marion(4), Ann H(5), Beryl (4), Margaret Haynes(5).

Raffle Rota: Tracy, Viv, Marion, Sandra L

£75 was raised at the recent Dog Show. Peggy thanked members for contributing the cakes for the cake stall.

We would like to thank the Dog Show Committee for allowing us to have a cake stall to raise funds for the WI. Also to Peggy and Ann who judged the cake competition. The entries were of a very high standard. It would have been an even bigger challenge if all competitors had followed the same recipe.

August Meeting:

Emmaus – Lynn Watson

Competition – a buttonhole from your garden.

- Contact info: Peggy Warby 01354 638339

Our July meeting was very interesting, Beryl demonstrated how to make buttons and beads with polymer clay. When we had made them Beryl then cooked them in the oven for thirteen minutes. When cool we made the beads into bracelets or necklaces. We were so pleased with the result that Beryl was asked if we could make them again next year.

Thank you Beryl.

There will not be a meeting in August. so enjoy your holidays. Don't forget the suntan lotion!!!!!!

I would like to take this opportunity, to thank the generous people that have generously given us wool, material, card making material also craft books.

I look forward to seeing you all in September. Don't forget your glass bottle as we are doing glass painting.

Regards Wendy - Contact info: Wendy Yates 01354 638448



Christchurch Book Club

Book club met on 27th July.

We had been reading "Labyrinth" by Kate Mosse. The book was very well received with most members thoroughly enjoying it.

We are now planning to read "The Nemesis Program" by Scott Marian.

We shall be meeting at 7.30pm on Wednesday 31st August at Sheila's (Pear Tree Farm, Padgetts Rd)

New members very welcome.

For more information call:

Sheila Day 07946 635908

It was a very early start for the members and friends on

Sunday 10th July as the coach pulled away from the kerb in Church Road and began it's much anticipated journey to Hampton Court, at 7.30 in the morning. This was the start of a memorable day which began with a four hour trip to the west of London to visit the Hampton Court Flower Show.

The flower show takes place in the grounds of the Palace which provided a magnificent backdrop to proceedings.

The palace started life as a rural barn making it the most comprehensive barn conversion ever, becoming at first a grand country house for

courtier Giles Dabney in 1494 and later Thomas Wolsey who undertook to build a huge complex, part of which became state apartments. It's most famous resident Henry VIII was also a keen builder and spent the equivalent today of £18

million on the house. Later residents added little to the already oversized mansion.

The flower show was huge with large marquees set up and filled with every bloom that one could imagine. There were stalls selling gardening tools, seeds, plants. Patio furniture just about anything to do with gardening, while the food, beer and pimm's concessions proved popular as did the soul band knocking out covers of Motown, Stax and Stevie Wonder hits.

The show gardens were disappointingly nestled in among the

Christchurch Garden Club

commercial activity of the stalls and while brilliant in concept and design seemed to me at least a little lost in the hubbub. The dog trust had a fun garden designed by Paul Hervey-Brooks but the undoubted most special place was the Working



Garden Club members hard at work

Wetland Garden designed by Jenny Cairns which deservedly won best in show. Jenny is coming to talk to the club later in the year.

As if all that wasn't enough the club members also visited the Abbey Walled Garden in Ramsey on Tuesday 19th July. Less hectic than the previous trip to Hampton Court we spent a very pleasant evening in the company of our guide Jane Sills who showed us around and entertained us with the a recap on the garden's history. Jane gave the club a talk on the gardens last year so it was interesting to see it up close. The gardens are



Dogs Trust garden at Hampton Court



Wetland Garden by Jenny Cairns



The old entrance to the Abbey Gardens

open to the public with excellent produce offered for sale but do check for opening times before

setting off! There is also a rural museum on site so it's well worth a visit.

Contributors to the club raffle in August are Mark Williams, Miranda Pointer, Marion Smith, and Mark Birch. A big thank you to Stuart Turner who kindly donated his winnings of the draw to the clubs finances. I am also happy to welcome new members Dianne and Duncan to the club. It's good to see the Gardening Club go from strength to strength.

Our speaker on August 16th will be Alison Sloan on the history of Edible Gardens.

I hope you all enjoy your gardens while the summer lasts.

Steve.



Marion and Jane Stills with Elephant Garlic plant

The Alan Russell Column

My reflections on that first holiday -



Many years have passed since that first holiday in London when I was 11 years old.

Since then we have taken the caravan to Crystal Palace caravan site for the odd week or two, really enjoying the beautiful buildings, sights and sounds of all the hubbub, but nothing ever touches me like my first holiday. Christchurch to London; this holiday came to an end leaving us with so many memories.

Uncle Bill saw us safely back on the correct train for home. We had so much to discuss on the way home of what we had seen and done.

More holidays with them followed for a few years, Mum's highlight being in 1948 when Dad encouraged her to have a 'New Look' winter coat from a well known store. New Look was the name given to the first fresh fashion trend after the war. Now all I



The 'New Look' from Dior collection 1948

remember is Mum in her elderly years, but at the time of our first holiday she would have been only 29, little more than a young girl of course, my how time flies by when you get older!

I believe everyone needs at least one holiday a year just to rest and freshen your mind up from the every-day grind.

We arrived back at Stonea - another world to Liverpool Street Station but it's true what they say—there is no place like home.

More holidays followed, most of them enjoyable, some with a few mishaps but "C'est la vie"

More to follow if the brain cells allow.
(we've just received further memoirs from Alan's rich store—Ed')

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Bowlers win in the sun!

Five members of the Christchurch Bowls Club recently took part in the week long Hunstanton Open Bowls Tournament held at the Cliff Parade Bowling greens.

Previous years have seen some success but this year was an exception with the five competitors coming with four trophies from five competitions entered.

Roly Frost and Malc Southwell took the men's pairs trophy in a close fought final which was won with

Roly's very last bowl. Roly and Malc teamed up with Malc Hicks to win the men's triples. The mixed triples was won for the second



L-R Malc Hicks, Malc Southwell, Lynda Chamberlain, Roly Frost, and Gordon Green.

year in succession by Lynda Chamberlain, Gordon Green and Malc Hicks.

Lynda and Malc H. were triumphant in the mixed pairs with several games being won on the very last end.

Roly came close in the men's singles competition narrowly being beaten in the semi-final.

A great week was had by all, for once, at a truly Sunny Hunny.



back Malc H, Gordon, Roly, Malc S. front Lynda and mascot Bella.

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- ◆ Asked questions about important issues; e.g., when the older people's health and adult community services contract collapsed in December after only 8 months.
- ◆ Published 16 reports into local health and care services, including: local care homes; children and young people's mental health services; Gypsies and Travellers health needs; and local GP, NHS 111 and pharmacy services.
- ◆ Won a national Healthwatch Award for 'Working with the Care Quality Commission'.
- ◆ Continued to work with our 23 fantastic volunteers; they have helped us listen to stories, visit local services and even run workshops to help professionals understand local people's experiences.

New Tramway Signage

Upwell has long had a sign marking the line of the old steam tramway that ran all the way to the port at Wisbech. But just last week Outwell has added their own commemorative post.

As you can see from the photo it is quite a sculptural affair made up from old bits of tramway. The top is a demarcation ring showing 'Norfolk CC Outwell'. Below this are two wings with small plaques on them denoting some of the tramway's history. Below this it starts to get even more interesting with an old bogie wheel mounted on top of a piece of rail sitting in its shoe on top of a piece of sleeper. All of the above are mounted atop a six inch diameter cast iron post adorned with photos of the old tramway. The whole structure stands a little over seven feet tall. An intriguing and sculptural addition celebrating the history of the now sadly lost Wisbech tramway.



Friday walking group to start

Care Network has decided to run a monthly walking group, starting September—actual date to be arranged, but would likely be on Fridays.

The walks would offer a gentle stroll in the company of others. They will vary slightly in the length and pace, but all end up at the Church for "Cake Coffee and Chat"

The aim is some good exercise in the fresh air as well as the opportunity for a nice chat. Because the pace is gentle, the other groups that they run have attracted people with reduced mobility, so anyone can take part.

If there are people locally, who would be interested in joining the group. Please let Sue Beel, at Care Network know on 01945 589953 or email sue.b@care-network.org.uk for further information



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CLAS provides household items and vouchers to help people.

Household item means fridges, freezers, cookers and washing machines and beds.

Voucher means food, clothing vouchers, utility vouchers, for example gas and electricity.

Vulnerable means:

- Someone may be homeless
Or
- They have a serious health problem or a disability.
- It includes carers and young people who are leaving care.



We need to make sure our money supports as many people as possible.

We need to help people to stop their problems coming back.

Exceptional pressure means:

- A relationship has broken down.
- This may be because of domestic abuse
Or
- A family member's disability has got worse.



We want to know what you think about CLAS.

We want to know what you think we could do differently.

Domestic abuse means when the abuse is by your partner or a member of your family.

You must meet the eligibility criteria for the scheme. Your support worker or agent can explain this to you.

You can find out more online:

www.cambridgeshire.gov.uk/clas

Please fill in our survey at the link below

www.smartsurvey.co.uk/s/OWM84/

This survey closes on
Wednesday 3 August 2016

Post 16 Transport cuts impose penalty on households

Did you know...

Young people are required to stay in education or training until their 18th birthday, but the local Government is not obliged to provide transport after they are 16. The removal of free transport to post 16 year olds effectively means that families living in rural areas are being penalised - families with post 16 year old children now have to pay to send their children to school. Rural living families include those from farming communities and those on limited

financial means who don't necessarily meet the criteria for benefits, yet will still be forced to pay.

Does this affect you or someone you know?

If so, **please let the Heron or the Clerk to the Parish Council know.**

The Parish Council is looking into the matter, but needs to have an understanding of how widespread the problem is, so please do get in touch. - Parish Clerk number 01354 638131



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Townley hosted Area Sports and were really delighted to come 3rd. Well done to everyone who took part and all the support we received.



On Townley's Sports Day, we saw Reds winning. Well done to all who took part and again for all the support from FOTS and Tesco!



Come September Townley Pupils will have a new School uniform! Thanks to FOTS for funding all pupils to have a new jumper and school bag!



Class 1 and Pre-School held their annual Teddy Bear Picnic. All had a great time and the weather was fantastic!



Dates

5th September 2016 - year 1 and 6 return to school

6th September 2016— Reception Children Start

The Joan Smith Column



Joan needed a new dress if she was to get the job working for Customagic ...

Hello again!

I had a friend who was a dressmaker and who was brilliant at running up garments, but I would have to supply my own material. First I had to ask her how busy she was and if she could spare the time. I would need no pattern as she always had the Vogue magazine to look through, or she could work from any illustration that took my fancy. She was very adept. Later I drove over to Guyhirn, where she had recently moved to from Upwell, and had a nice chat.

I told her that I had come begging, explaining about the interview I'd had earlier that morning. "Oh!" she said, "You've got the job then?" "Oh no!" I said, "But I have to wear navy in the shop and I must have one ready – in case!" She knew that if ever I bought anything 'off the peg' it always had to be altered; my height and waist being so small. I said that I would go into Wisbech and have a look around for something appropriate. She mentioned that her husband and herself had been in Kings Lynn the previous day and had come across a large stall selling curtain materials one end and dress fabrics the other. She showed me some lavender coloured material that she had bought from there to make a dress for herself. She explained that it was in a new material called 'Crimplene' – wash, drip-dry, no ironing. Wow! Sounded ideal I thought, hoping they'd have some in the appropriate navy blue. We had a look for some style ideas and finally I chose a three quarter sleeve dress; plainish, but quite nice for the job. If I didn't succeed in getting the position at Jermyn's I could wear it anyway.

I needed to get three and a half yards of material. It was yards, feet, and inches then, and, I must admit, to this day I very seldom use metric. Tuesday came and off I went to Lynn, parking outside The Dukes Head Hotel. I walked to the bottom end where the market, in those days, was a mass of stalls. These days it's only about a quarter of what it was then, if that! I found the stall and there were loads of fabrics to chose from. There was a rather nice mid-navy which I finally settled on and the stallholder gave me a leaflet on what to do with this new material – 'Crimplene'. Back I went to Guyhirn to drop off the fabric. This

was Tuesday. By Friday my dressmaker friend rang me, and I went over for a fitting. She said that if I stayed a while she could finish it off 'there and then'. I was so lucky for in what seemed like minutes I had a new dress which was a perfect fit. All I needed now was to be told I'd got my new job at Jermyn's!

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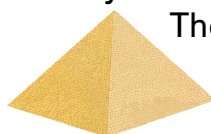
1. Robin
2. Crane
3. Wren
4. Shag
5. Nightjar
6. Rook
7. Merlin
8. Blackbird
9. Roller
10. Kite
11. Dabchick
12. Grosbeak
13. Grouse
14. Coot
15. Bunting
16. Linnet
17. Kingfisher
18. Swan
19. Eagle
20. Cuckoo
21. Swallow
22. Crow
23. Swift
24. Duck
25. Mallard

Dig this!

Archaeologists digging in a previously undiscovered pyramid in Egypt found a mummy covered in chocolate and hazelnuts.



They believe it to be
Pharaoh Rocher!



Green Team - could come here!

Six young volunteers have teamed up to create better places for locals whilst improving their own prospects.

The volunteers have enrolled on the Green Team, a project run by community charity Groundwork Cambridgeshire & Peterborough and funded by Huntingdonshire County Council, Urban & Civic and North Herts Council.

Over the course of 14 weeks, the team of six will spruce up various sites in Huntingdonshire. At the end of the project they may even be rewarded with a job with Huntingdonshire District Council or at Alconbury Weald.

The Green Teamers will begin the project at St Neots Riverside car park where they will tidy up the area before constructing raised beds, to brighten up the space for visitors. The team will then revamp the outdoor area at St John's



Primary School Oxmoor, to give the children a better space to play and learn.

Not only will they get valuable practical experience, they will also gain qualifications to help boost their job prospects: City & Guilds Level 1 Diploma in Practical Horticulture, City & Guilds Level 1 Award Employability Skills, Functional Skills in Maths and English and a CSCS card.

This is the first Green Team project run by Groundwork Cambridgeshire & Peterborough in partnership with the council, but it is not the first for Groundwork as a whole. Green Teams have taken place in Hertfordshire, Luton & Bedfordshire and Essex for several years, with the teams gaining recognition for their achievements and improvements to local areas.

Andrea Finbow, Employment and Community Project Supervisor, Groundwork Cambridgeshire & Peterborough said: "We are really excited to be starting a Green Team in Cambridgeshire. Previous teams in other areas have benefitted greatly from the project, whilst giving back to their local community, and we're looking forward to extending this success into Cambridgeshire."

Dave - Braving the Shave

By the time you read this, one of our stalwart Christchurch boys will have "Braved the Shave" and hopefully raised some money for Macmillan Cancer Care.

David Litton, who many of you will know, had asked us to put some advanced publicity in flagging up his "braveness" and asking for sponsorship. Unfortunately the information reached us too late for the July issue of the Heron, and also he will have undergone the "shave" on 30th July, before this issue comes out. However all



is not lost, if you'd like to support this "Brave Shavee" then you can still donate on his Brave Shave website:

bravetheshave.org.uk/shavers/david-litton/

Editor to shave too!

Our Editor has also put himself forward for the latest Macmillan fundraising effort. He has said that not only is he willing to 'go bald' but also to lose his beard and eyebrows! So if you would like to see our Editor 'hairless', the only stipulation that he has made is that at least £1000 should be raised in order for him to have the lot off.

We hope that readers will pledge sponsorship monies for this very worthwhile fundraising event! Forms will be circulating but are also available at The Dun Cow. All monies to be collected at sign up prior to the event. If you would pledge £10 to Macmillan that means we only need 100 people - but every little helps!



WOULD YOU LIKE TO SEE OUR EDITOR LIKE THIS?

Useful Telephone Numbers

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Churchwarden - Mrs. D. Symons	01354 638352
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Community Car Scheme (to book a journey)	07902 316360
Community Centre bookings	01354 638478
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Trading Standards	845040506
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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

Neighbourhood Watch

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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...

So! Wildlife abounds! People are going bald for Macmillan, and Outwell have just discovered that they used to have a tramway. How diverse are we humans!?

Makes us wonder what the stock will look like in our proposed Community Shop? Bird seed, hairgell, and old bits of tramway??? Guess you'll just have to let us know!

Could be a goldmine!? Could put the heart back into the village, along with The Dun Cow of course. We don't want our Community Shop to take as long as Christchurch Community Centre did! But at least we've got that now! So! Community Shop by Christmas??? ("Which Christmas?" – You may well ask) What do you reckon? IT'S UP TO YOU – THE VILLAGERS!!! We need your help and support, suggestions, and possibly even time; say a couple of hours a week; as a shop helper volunteer?

WE CAN DO IT!!! But not without your help. Wouldn't you like a fully functioning shop in the village carrying exactly the items you might require from time to time? Got to be worth a try surely?

'Till next time! – Ed'.

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F.O.T.S Fun dog show and family fun day 2016

So I woke up with a whole bag of mixed feelings...excitement, nervous and with a lot of please God let it stay dry. It will be fine, we had most of the planning and prep done last night, we were on track....what could go wrong? Ah who was I kidding? Within one hour I found myself racing over to Wisbech as we had the wrong tape for the ring arghh!! Luckily we have amazing and wonderful people in our village and F.O.T.S who are a steady force to be reckoned with, and they had everything else under control. So by the time I got back everything else



was in place and it looked amazing, Now time to get the ring up QUICK the dogs are arriving! Phew! Always a good sign to have dogs at a dog show, and boy did they come! I think the ladies on the booking

tent had a very tough time, I was really pleased to see so many different breeds. It was lovely to see. Although we started slightly late classes were well underway and moving fast and it was a good job too as the big black clouds were moving in on us.

One of my favourite bits was

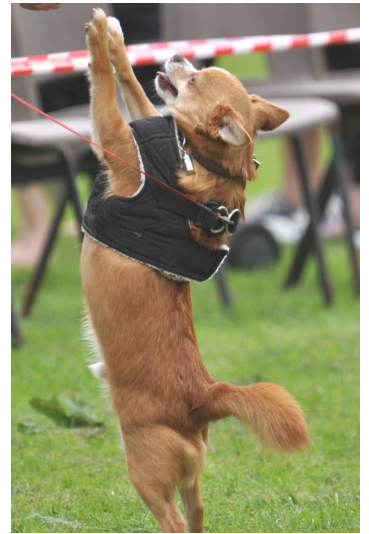


at lunch, while having the tasty food that was on offer I was watching some of the children of Townley School perform country dance in the dog ring. It was nice to watch the little ones enjoying themselves. If you missed this display by the children there is a video on the school web site. While getting lunch I also took a sneaky peak at all the yummy Victoria Sponge cakes entered in the Townley Bake-off competition judged by the ladies of the WI. With lunch over it was time to carry on with the dog show and what fun we were about to have with all the novelty classes. The classes ended on a high with the fancy dress which is always good for a laugh.

Time to find the kids, now where did they go? They had a great day looking around the stalls, enjoying the various games on offer and playing on the bouncy castles, Even watching and learning how to shear sheep. What a great day. Apart from a couple of showers the weather held up.

I would like to say a big thank you to everyone who helped on the day. Without you the event wouldn't be able to go ahead, but also massive thanks go to everyone who came along and supported the event and made it a fantastic day.

Sarah Saywell



MORE WILDLIFE NEWS

We thought we had lost our nesting thrush that we featured last month, as the eggs had been gradually predated until there was only one left. She then disappeared entirely for a couple of days but fortunately was then spotted bringing in nest materials to a new site high in the evergreen clematis by the side door (see photo). Another welcome visitor is also shown. We knew that we had had a large hedgehog family in past years but had not spotted them for a year or two. With some nice stacks of wood in the front garden it's nice to know they are still around and have made a home. RWBG



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