

The Heron

Community Magazine

February 2016

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

In this issue!

Eel Catcher Quits	2
Community Info	3
Editorial	3
Diary Dates	4
Church Services	4
Letters to the Editor	5
Health and Fitness	6
Parish Lunch	6
My First Car	8
HealthWatch	8
What is it? Revealed	9
Superfast Broadband	10
Joan Smith Column	11
Clubs Pages	14
A Coloured Heron	15
John Sparrow	15
Townley News	17
Alan Russell	21
Hall Update	22
FOTs Latest Appeal	23
Small Ads,	24
Worst Passwords	24
On the Farm	25
Useful Numbers	26
And Finally	26
Focus on Floristry	27
Biodiversity Boom	28



Editorial Team:

Richard Guilford – Editor

Paul Haresnape – Technical Support

Vivien Haresnape – Administration

Enquiries: editor@theheron.info / 01354 638990

Advertising: adverts@theheron.info / 01354 638381

Web Site: www.theheron.info



Eel trapper quits as Eel stocks plummet

Britain's last eel catcher finally has hung up his traps and called it a day. Peter Carter, 50, of Upwell ends a tradition which goes back 3000 years. He has been unable to find a successor to carry on the work, and says he can understand as "no one can live on empty pockets".

Peter, who is one of a long line of Eel fishermen in his family, using traditional trapping methods going back to 1475, says he is devastated by having to take this step, but it is forced on him by plunging eel stocks.

Archaeologists have evidence of this way of life going way back before Peter's family started, to before the Bronze Age - a staggering 3000 years ago.



Eels were once so common – and highly prized – that the stone to build Ely Cathedral was bought with them. In more recent years, they were shipped to London by the boatload to make the Cockney sparrow's favourite jellied snack.

Scientists say the creatures, which spawn in the Sargasso Sea, have declined sharply since the 1970s.

Anglers must now return them alive and very few fishermen are allowed to catch them commercially.

But in the Fens, they still say that when the trees are in bud, the eels come out of the mud.

Writing in a statement online, Peter says, "It breaks my heart but I can't live on empty pockets.

So the last wicker eel hive and grigg have been lifted from the river, I will not be making any more. I've found employment elsewhere but still working around the waters."



Peter's great Uncle and Aunt with traps in the 1950s

Peter said he was still trying to come to terms with the momentous decision he had taken as he'd always identified spiritually with thousands of other eel fishermen down the ages.

"I feel I have let all the eel men of the past down - 3,000 years of Fen life has finally gone," he said. "Let the eels swim free as I lift my punting pole for the last time."

His letter has struck a chord with well-wishers across the distinctive East Anglian wetlands.

Pictured above is Peter outside the shop premises he used to operate from, opposite the Outwell Post Office. He gave the premises up a few years ago, as times got harder.

Over the past few years Peter had become a local celebrity being featured on several television programmes and supplying rural products such as his eel traps, which he made for himself and tourists.

PVH source The Telegraph



Peter and Ade Edmonson (of the 80s cult sit com The Young Ones) doing a series of programmes on traditional produces.

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

New Hours - Please Note:

Monday and Thursday 16:30 to 17:00

Tuesday and Wednesday 16:10 to 17:00

Fridays - no service

The Little Local village shop now has
different opening hours, they are:

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

Cake Coffee and Chat in the church on
Fridays continues even though Helen Chappell
and Karen Beers have had to hand over the
running of this to others due to work commitments.
The regular attenders asked us pass on thanks for
their hard work and faithful service

The Pharmacy phone number has
changed, and is now 01945 774934

Your family and friends wherever they
live in the UK, can now get The Heron delivered by
post for a year. It costs only £25 annual fee
covering printing, postage and packing. If you are
interested, application form and details are on the
website www.theheron.info or from "Glynan"
Crown Road, Christchurch, Wisbech Cambs PE14
9NF email adverts@theheron.info

Gill Bliss is currently archiving village
history regarding the Old Memorial Hall etc., and
things that went before like the Men's Institute.
However, she cannot find any real records of this
organization. Are there any chaps still out there
who were either members or who can remember
anything about it, or who to contact?
Any minutes pre1946, or between July '52 and Jan
'63 would be helpful. Please contact Gill on 01354
638343 or, beechwoodfarm2021@btinternet.com if
you can help with any information. Many thanks

Wanted: Volunteers to attend a Cruse
Bereavement Care training course for Fenland:
March, Wisbech and Ely areas.
Telephone 01223 302662
Email: cambridge@cruse.org.uk

Christchurch Gala has had to be postponed
for this year due to difficulties with insurance and
the number of other fund raising events planned

EDITORIAL

Well! – Should Ely even be called Ely anymore
'cos there ain't any left! Even Peter Carter – the
nation's last official eel catcher says so!

From this month onward you can look forward to
colour pages in The Heron every month with
feature articles on both the inner and outer cover
pages. This does mean we've had to shuffle
things round a bit in order to make the best use of
this latest innovation. Don't worry! We're sure
you'll get used to it! More details on page 15

We lost another villager on 25th January after a
long struggle with cancer in both lungs. Helen
Stenson of Church Road passed away in the
early hours of Monday morning with her husband
by her side. Please see her obituary on page ??

Sadly one of our well known four legged friends
passed away earlier this month. "Roscoe"
Margaret and William Beswick's Rotweiler bitch. A
big softie and loved by many villagers she will be
much missed. See her obituary on page 11.

We were shocked to hear of John Sparrow's
accident and wish him all the very best for a
speedy recovery. Please see the update on this
and his progress on p15.

Interesting 'Fire Marks' article on page 8, news
on the 'Superfast Broadband' service now
available in the village on 10, and the latest
update on Christchurch Community Centre on 22.
Plus of course all our regular columnists, including
the welcome return of Alan Russell after his brief
sojourn, and a 'new feature' from Sue Fletcher –
"Views From the Farm Gate" on page 25.

Enjoy our new regular colour pages from now on
too!

Restard

DIARY DATES

Abbreviations for commonly used venues:

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

UH = Upwell Village Hall, WH = Welney Village Hall

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

Feb 1 st	Pilates for all ages - 6:30pm TS - All Welcome - £5 per session
Feb 2 nd	Christchurch Craft Club - Make a Pin Cushion - TS - 7pm
Feb 5 th	"Cake, Coffee and Chat" Parish Church 2-3pm - All Welcome
Feb 5 th	Mobile Library visits - Upwell Rd Lay-by 3-3:40pm
Feb 8 th	Pilates for all ages - 6:30pm TS - All Welcome - £5 per session
Feb 8 th	Christchurch Parish Council Meeting - TS - 7:30pm - All Welcome
Feb 9 th	WI - Souvenirs from the Past - John Smith - 7pm - TS
Feb 10 th	Christchurch Residents Association - 7:30pm - The Old School
Feb 12 th	"Cake, Coffee and Chat" Parish Church 2-3pm - All Welcome
Feb 14 th	Welle Film Project presents "Paddington" - PG - £2 - doors open 1.30 - TH
Feb 15 th	Pilates for all ages - 6:30pm TS - All Welcome - £5 per session
Feb 16 th	"Cake, Coffee and Chat" Parish Church 2-3pm - All Welcome
Feb 19 th	Christchurch Garden Club - AGM - 7pm - TS - it's important all members attend
Feb 20 th	Food Fair at Cambridge Central Library - 10:30 to 3pm - FREE - see ad on page 9
Feb 22 nd	Pilates for all ages - 6:30pm TS - All Welcome - £5 per session
Feb 24 th	Hall and Recreation Committee meeting - 7:30pm - TS - Ruth Ingram - 01354 638419
Feb 24 th	Christchurch Book Club - 7:30pm - Pear Tree Farm, Padgetts Rd.
Feb 26 th	"Cake, Coffee and Chat" Parish Church 2-3pm - All Welcome
Feb 29 th	Pilates for all ages - 6:30pm TS - All Welcome - £5 per session
Mar 1 st	Christchurch Craft Club - Easter Cards - TS - 7pm
Mar 4 th	Mobile Library visits - Upwell Rd Lay-by 3-3:40pm
Mar 4 th	"Cake, Coffee and Chat" Parish Church 2-3pm - All Welcome

Parish Church Services

Feb 7 th	11am	H Chappell, A Day	All Age Worship in Townley School
Feb 14 th	9:30am	Rev J Webb	Holy Communion
Feb 21 th	3:30pm	V Smith	Evening Prayer
Feb 28 th	11am	Churchwardens	Morning Prayer
Mar 7 th	11am	H Chappell, A Day	All Age Worship in Townley School

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

The church's APCM is on Sunday 28th February at 12 noon in the church building.

The Heron Deadline

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

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

Letters to the Editor



Hello,
I am hoping that your readers may be able to help me locate the family of the late Mr & Mrs J. Frost of Euximoor, Christchurch. I have been carrying out research into my true Father. I am 70 years old, and I have recently been given more information regarding my true Father. I was born an illegitimate child on the 18th July 1945 and all my Mother would tell me was that my Father's name was Rolfe and would marry her on his return from France. He did not return. I have recently learnt that his Christian name was also Colin. Apparently he was an Officers Batman and was billeted at Great Walton House, Eastry, Sandwich, Kent and my Mother did the washing for them. He also gave my Mother a part of a parachute which she had to keep quiet about. Although I cannot find any trace of the Regiment who was billeted at Great Walton House, I have carried out research into Colin Rolfe and have found a Colin Rolfe who was an orphaned son of late Walter & Harriett Rolfe, of Sheffield and he lived with a Mr & Mrs J. Frost of Euximoor. And he served in the 3rd battalion. Parachute Regiment.

I know it is a long shot, but if anyone can help me I would love to hear from them.

Kind regards,

Colin Arthur Rolfe Coulson

Tel: 01304611849

Address: 15, White Wood Road, Eastry, Sandwich, Kent. CT13 0JZ

Thanks for a very interesting and intriguing letter. I have spoken with several members of the Rolfe family here in Christchurch, and also several other villagers who have memories of the Frosts. No guarantees of course but some are willing for you to contact them and have a chat. If you would like to contact me in the first instance I can let you have their contact details. Good luck in your quest, and please let us know the outcome if any. - Ed'.

Good afternoon,

I've just been reading an article about www.littlefreelibrary.org and wondered if there might be some interest in the village for one...and feel the easiest way to find out is to ask via The Heron.

Do you think this would be something that you would be interested in supporting? I'm happy to set it up and locate it (or maybe it could go near the community centre), but would clearly need your help to let people know its here.

I look forward to your thoughts

Kind regards

Jane Rees

Rosedene

Upwell Road

Thanks for contacting us Jane. I'm sure some of our Christchurch residents would find this of interest.

Perhaps you might like to write us a short article on the subject? - Ed',

Dear Richard,

As a regular reader of The Heron when I come to visit my son Andy, I enjoyed this [New Year] quiz and was pleased to see references in it to our native Land up North. However with regard to HOGMANAY which is in fact New Year's Eve. New Year's Day is referred to as Ne'eerd day. It used to be the custom for a First Foot, i.e first visitor after midnight to bring with him several items of importance

1. was a dram to ensure you always had something to drink.

2. A piece of coal or peat so that you would always have a fire in your hearth.

3. A piece of cake or if near the sea, then a Herring with a ribbon round its middle, so you would never want for food.

- 4 A silver sixpence to ensure you would always have "siller" in your pocket

The visitor should also be tall and dark haired and also a stranger. (ie. not a member of your own family) and dark to show he was a Scot and not a Viking, as they were red headed or fair haired!

I hope this is of interest to you. Sadly these old customs are rapidly disappearing. It is now more common for everyone to gather at one home and then proceed to get "Boozed up" after the bells. When I was a lad we would celebrate in our own home and then go out to meet friends, when assembled we would all march from each others homes to the next one and be their First Foots. If possible we had a piper to lead us and we often walked miles in all weather round distant houses from the villages. Happy Days! Sadly all now vanished.

I used to set Quizzes for Pat Mills before she sadly passed away. Feel free to ask if you would like any for future editions.

Yours sincerely John Murray.

Thanks John for the update on these old customs. We would be more than happy for you to provide us with quizzes. Perhaps you would be kind enough to let us know if your contribution might be occasional or regular monthly. - Ed'.

Health and Fitness

with - Stephen Aish



Nutrition basics

We will make this more of a fast tips overview than detailed article so you can implement quickly.

Sugar – one of the best things you can do for long term health is systematically remove sugar from your diet like the plague. Yes, you have to be brutal as it has pretty much no benefit and is the only food? (substance) rated zero by the world health organisation. Now sugar in food is not a bad thing as it is a great source of energy. Sugar in your tea, on your cornflakes, in your can of coke, top draw haribo and the cake after dinner is where the strategic removal focus has to be placed.

Fat does not make you fat – it is unfortunate that many people still believe the ancient myth that fat makes you fat. It should actually form the larger % of your diet as fats line all of the cells in the body and are essential for many processes. A lot of disorders can result from denying the body essential nutrients so add in fats to your diet.

Avoid all vegetable cooking oil – they are trans-fats and basically poison

Cook with butter, dripping, lard, and coconut oil
Remove margarine

Balance meals with a protein source as the body does not store it

Rotate sources of protein and carbohydrate regularly

Go for the highest welfare food you can afford – grass fed meats, free range eggs, organic fruit and veg from a reliable and certificated source.

Drink calorie free liquids where possible – more on hydration soon.

If you are training then ideally you have 3 focus meals –

A good breakfast

A pre workout meal that will energise you

A post workout meal that will replenish glycogen stores and aid recovery

It is highly recommended that you get a meal plan from a professional as not only is it one less thing to worry about, you know it will be correct and something that will yield results when adhered to.

Next month – hydration.

Stephen Aish is a Personal Trainer living in Christchurch see his Ad on page 18 - Ed'

Advertise in THE HERON

FULL PAGE(27.7cm high x 19cm wide)
occasional inclusions by special arrangement

HALF PAGE(13.4cm h x 19cm w)
6 issues £72
12 issues £138

QUARTER PAGE(14cm h x 9.4cm w)
6 issues £36
12 issues £69

BUSINESS CARD(5.8cm h x 9.4cm w)
6 issues £18, 12 issues £34

DOUBLE BUSINESS CARD(5.8cm h x 19cm w)
6 issues £34, 12 issues £64

Single insertions – rates on application

(You should provide your own artwork, but if necessary we can do it for you at extra charge.
price on application)

ALL ADS MUST BE RECEIVED AND PAID FOR BY
25TH OF THE MONTH PRECEEDING MONTH OF ISSUE

Block booked ads can be changed, but any required changes must meet the above copy date.

Small personal ads - 10p per word, photos extra
Village fundraising events & personal greetings usually free

Tel: 01354 638381

Email adverts@theheron.info

It is the responsibility of advertisers to ensure their advert complies with Advertising Standards Authority Codes of Practice.

Christchurch Parish Lunch Committee

The members of the Parish Lunch Committee would like to inform the residents of

Christchurch who are eligible to attend, that the lunch is to be postponed until Sunday

17th April 2016

More details and invitations to follow!





Paul Braybrooke

Oil Fired Boiler Engineer

Boiler Servicing & Breakdown Service

Commissions
Tank Replacements

Phone 01353 777788
07946 735691

4 Hollycroft Road
Emneth, Wisbech, PE14 8AY

Jade House

FISH BAR & CHINESE TAKEAWAY

01945 586955
07443 144113

Telephone Orders Welcome

Opening Hours

Sunday	5.00pm-10.30pm
Monday	Closed
Tuesday	5.00pm-10.30pm
Wednesday-Saturday	12.00noon-2.00pm 5.00pm-10.30pm
Open Bank Holiday	5.00pm-9.00pm

L.W Vehicle Services
Car & Commercial repairs



Est 2003

- ~ Electrical and Mechanical Diagnostics and Repairs
- ~ MOT Preparation & Testing
- ~ Servicing and Inspections
- ~ On Site Service
- ~ Breakdown / Recovery Service
- ~ Van and Car Sales

Contact Lee on 07717 738796 Or Tel 01354 610172
March Road, Welney



My First Car by Terry Symons

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

My first car was an Austin 16 Saloon.

The car had previously belonged to Mr Davies, the Schoolmaster at the Village School. It had been taken in part exchange by Jack Rolfe at the local garage, where I in fact worked. I paid the princely sum of ten pounds for it! I guess it was about four years old by that time, a 1945 model.

I kept it in one of Jack's outbuildings after I bought it and repainted it and had several parts



A restored Austin 16 saloon

re-chromed. I never actually taxed or insured it, nor indeed did I have a license as I was only 16 years old and not old enough!

After a few trips around the Sixteen Foot bank, I sold it for £30 to Maurice Clarke at the Hole in the Wall Farm.

There's Nowt Stranger Than Folk

Did you hear about the bloke who was shouting out loudly to other customers in a Sainsbury's car park that he'd beaten the 5p bag charge by nicking a trolley!? The trolley had cost him a quid! And I doubt if he would have needed more than 20 bags for his shop, to impart any kind of sense to his antics!?

Had a recent experience of using health or social care?
Tell us what it was like for you.

Listen:

At Healthwatch, we listen. Tell us what is working well within our local health and care services and what you think needs to be better. We log what you say and share this anonymously with the people who make decisions about our care. This helps them improve care where it is needed.

Involve:

We can make sure you know about local opportunities to have your say on health and care decisions. You can sign up for regular updates, or get in touch whenever you want some information. We can help you find out what health and care services are available locally, or how to raise a concern. This is a free, independent and confidential service.

Challenge:

Healthwatch can challenge health and care decision makers, if care isn't working in the way it should. We can also challenge, if we think a decision has been made where people have not been able to contribute. They have to listen to us, and they have to reply.

Get in touch

Please do tell us how care is working right now for you and the people who are important to you. Your experiences are important to us.

We are happy to talk to local groups and attend events, so please do invite us.

Contact us www.healthwatchcambridgeshire.co.uk or call 01480 420628.



Healthwatch Cambridgeshire



follow us @HW_Camb

healthwatch
Cambridgeshire

What is it? - revealed!

Following last month's quizzical photo we had several correct replies.

Thanks to Mark Hardiman of Church Road who correctly identified it as a 'fire mark', probably of the Sun Fire Office, now Royal Sun Alliance. Compare with the one I own myself in its proper colours with date.



Last month's photo



A modern replica

Thanks also to Elaine Reed who had a similar plaque on a beam in a house she lived in as a child, similarly identified as a Sun Life fire mark. Elaine also directed us to the following website, coincidentally from the

village of Burton Latimer, Northamptonshire, where I used to live and teach 20 years ago. www.burtonlatimer.info/crime/Fire%20Brigade%20history.html The 'fire mark' shown here and in last month's Heron was found on the outside wall of Syringa House – The Old Post Office.

Here is some of the basic info about 'Fire Marks': In 1707, an Act of Parliament was passed which required every parish to provide its own fire engine. Here's a photo of our very own village fire crew from 1940-42ish formed during the war years. Do you recognize anyone? Like most other towns and villages at the time, it would have been the responsibility of the churchwardens to look after the engines and equipment, and it would have been kept in or near the church but, just as before the Act, for serious fires they would have relied on outside help. Sometimes engines and equipment were kept at a local farm.



Dom Russen - Alfred Smith
A Ostler - John Rolfe - Cyril English

In the early 18th century, insurance companies started to operate across the country and people could take out insurance against fire. As these companies grew, some started their own fire brigades to help fight fires at properties insured with them. It is believed that the Sun Fire Insurance Company (est. 1710) was one of the companies that operated in this area, and that they may possibly have had a fire brigade of some description which would fight fires at the properties of people insured with Sun Fire Insurance. It is likely that any brigade operated by the insurance companies would have been based in the larger towns such as Wisbech or Ely, rather than in a small village such as Christchurch would have been at the time, and indeed still is. Further research might enable us to find out where the last local office was as they clearly operated in the area. Any properties insured with an insurance company would have had a plaque fitted to the building to show which insurance company they were with. In the event of a fire, the insurance fire brigades would turn out, but they would only put out the fire if the property was insured by their company.

Fire Mark plaques were made in a variety of materials from quite thin tin, or steel, to cast iron, copper or even (rather anomalously) lead. The Syringa House plaque appears to be of tinfoil. The other plaque illustrated is a modern cast iron copy painted in what would have been the original colours. All fire marks normally carried a date.

If anyone has any further information on the topic of Fire Marks or local village fire brigades, please let us know!

RWBG

Interested in Fire Fighting - see CFRS article on recruiting for the modern Fire Service - pg 13 - Ed'

????????????????????????????????

~ A lone palaeontologist whose vehicle broke down in the desert, shortly after he was travelling back to base with some dinosaur flesh samples, was forced to eat them to survive as it was nearly 5 days before he was rescued. Later he said that the flesh had tasted rather like pork! Jurassic pork?

~ ~ ~ ~ ~

9



Superfast Broadband - now available in the village!

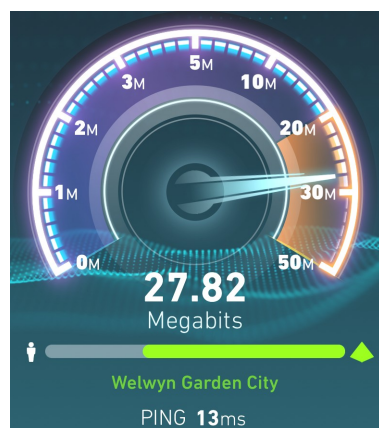
You may have noticed BT Openreach, and other vans parked about the village over the last 6 months or so, pulling cables



underground to the Telephone exchange in Green Lane. Well it turns out they were laying the new glass fibre 'wires' that superfast broadband requires. Two new cabinets have been installed. The good news is THEY ARE NOW LIVE. I know this because I'm writing this on a superfast broadband enabled PC.

What is Superfast, and how superfast is it?

There are two types of fibre broadband - for the techies amongst see the



status updates, streaming videos and working in the cloud. It all takes a toll on the average internet connection, especially if several devices are vying for bandwidth.

Broadband has desperately needed another boost. Since its commercial roll-out in 2000, ADSL technology has been pushed to its physical limits. ADSL2+ pushed the 'up to' speed to 24Mbps, although the real-world average is

typically half this figure. The problem is that the old copper telephone wires loop out from central exchanges. The further you live from the exchange, the greater the signal loss and the slower your ADSL connection becomes.

Faster internet

connectivity requires a whole new infrastructure. Which is where fibre broadband comes in... sidebar, suffice it to say we've got the 'easier to roll out' variety, and sadly, the least fast, superfast version. To give you some idea though. On ordinary broadband I was getting a download speed of 5Mbps (megabits per second) which was quite good for the area. Upload though was only about 1/3 Mbps. Now with superfast I'm getting 28Mbps download (see the speedtest screenshot above) and 10Mbps upload—so when I send The Heron to the printer instead of taking some 10 to 15 minutes, it should go in under 1 minute.

Why do we need Superfast Broadband?

The short answer is that some of us don't! Ordinary ADSL broadband was fine so long as you only had a single computer and didn't use it or a 'Smart TV' to watch moving pictures or Films. However with the explosion in web-connected laptops, smartphones, tablets, games consoles and smart TVs, and before we spent hours 'liking'

connectivity requires a whole new infrastructure. Which is where fibre broadband comes in...

What is fibre broadband?

Fibre broadband replaces copper telephone wires with a network of fibre optic cable. Cut one of these cables open and you'll see that it's crammed with thin glass strands coated in plastic.

The strands act like mirrors, enabling digital data to be pulsed along them using infrared laser light. While broadband speeds tail off as copper wire connections get longer, it doesn't matter how long a fibre optic cable is.

Fibre broadband is capable of delivering download speeds up to 330Mbps, with speeds perhaps reaching as high as 40Gbps at some point in the future (though don't get excited just yet: that's far away. Speeds right now are lower because each fibre optic strand must share its bandwidth between many homes).

Test your broadband speed at

www.speedtest.net

PVH

What are the types of superfast broadband?

There are essentially two main types of fibre broadband - FTTH (Fibre To The Home) and FTTC (Fibre To The Cabinet). FTTH (Fibre To The Home) is the fastest form of fibre broadband available, because the fibre optic cable runs all the way from the exchange into your house.

Unfortunately, the majority of homes in the UK aren't wired up for FTTH - it's expensive and disruptive to deploy. Which is why FTTC (Fibre To The Cabinet) or FTTK (Fibre To The Kerb) infrastructure is more widespread. This is the type available to us in Christchurch! In this type the fibre optic cabling only runs as far as your local cabinet. Data travels the rest of the way over the old copper wiring. This means that there's inevitably some slowdown in the data speed, but the level of slowdown depends on your home's distance from the local cabinet. Try the speedtest to check how many Megabit per second you get. Using the address opposite.

The Joan Smith Column



Does Christmas seem a long time ago? With Valentines up and coming of course, but with Easter cards and eggs already in the shops, February will soon be gone and we'll be thinking Shrove Tuesdays and all the lovely fillings for those pancakes. However, I will try and recollect from my old bread round which we did on alternate days; Tuesday, Thursday, and Saturday.



We would actually begin in Upwell, the bakery being in the Norfolk side of Upwell; though in my time of bread deliveries it was actually in Cambridgeshire. We drove via Listers Road to Three-Holes, then Nordelph where we approached West-Norfolk into Barraway Drove, Stowbridge, and then to Outwell. There were lots of small farms, smallholdings, that tenants rented from Norfolk Council. They were mostly arable, growing corn, barley, oats, potatoes, and sugar beet. So Christmas time was always very good for us. We would be given a brace of pheasants, eggs, veg. etc. All manner of little gifts, expressing their gratitude for us delivering their flour, bread, etc.

I remember in one of the more built up village areas one lady said that her brother-in-law was coming up to live with her. He liked Hovis bread so she asked if I could save one for him, and leave it with her order on the next delivery, which would be the Thursday. She said that he would be bringing a caravan and that, once he was settled, he would order what he needed himself. When the delivery day arrived there was still no caravan so I just left the Hovis and carried on with the rest of my round.

On the Saturday, the sun was shining, and the caravan was there, with the door open. I pulled up, took the lady's bits to her home (she always left a note for what she required). My husband had gone on to deliver to two houses further down. As I came out from the rear of the house I had another Hovis in my basket with a cake of some kind. The chappie in the caravan was in his doorway, was very chirrupy and I asked if he was satisfied with the bread, and said that I had a cake I could sell him if he was interested. He said he didn't think so, and what if he didn't like it? "Nothing to dislike about it!" I said. "What's in it?" he asked. "Caraway seeds!" I said, "They are really quite nice!"

Anyway, in the end he had it. He complimented me on that cake on my next visit. "You'll have another one eh?" "Not today – I'll try something later in the week!"

I must say he turned out to be a good customer in the end. Two or three weeks later I was rather puzzled - when I arrived at his caravan to see three huge Royal Mail sacks outside his door. Curious I asked, "Been robbing the Royal Mail then?" "No!" he replied, "I'm an agony aunt for one of your ladies' magazines. So I asked which one and what kind of thing he wrote back? Then Frank arrived tooting the hooter on the bread van. I hoped that next time I'd find out a little more, as will you when I tell you more about this intriguing man next month.

Keep warm
and happy
till then -
Joan

*A caravan of
the time*



Sat Nav strikes again!

Well it's happened again, another unwitting person fell victim to that bane of modern life - The Satellite Navigation device - Sat Nav. It was Monday morning and I was walking down the Green Lane track when in the distance there was a van, deeply stuck in one of the mud holes near the sewage treatment plant. Jack



was his name, I found out. He had done really well to get that far. I did think of assisting him with a push, but to be honest there were two more mud holes ahead - so I thought Roger would be the best option! PVH



BRIAN TWEED & SON LTD

Family Butcher
Town Street, Upwell.

Tel: 01945 773248

Fresh beef, pork, lamb and poultry.
Our specialities are home made
sausages and burgers.
Home cooked ham, roast beef,
roast pork and haslets.

Upwell Computer Repairs

Virus Removal - Upgrades - System Service -
New Machine setups - Wireless setups -
Printer setups - Call out repairs

Phone - 01945 772717/07849 778525
E-mail - upwellcomputerrepairs@gmail.com

A's Florals

Funerals, Weddings & Special Occasion Flowers

07442017798

Email: angelamayes21@yahoo.co.uk

J. Mallett Carpentry

All types of carpentry work undertaken including
doors, laminate flooring, kitchens.

Contact Jonathan Mallett

t. 01354 638656

m. 07581 368725

jmallettcarpentry@hotmail.co.uk

www.facebook.com/jmallettcarpentry

www.tackk.com/jmallettcarpentry

Caroline's Flowers

For All Your Floristry Needs

West Star Farmhouse, Upwell Road,
Christchurch, PE14 9LJ

Find us at Caroline's Flowers on facebook



01354 638038 / 07915 647453

carolinesflowers@outlook.com

SANDRA KAY

SOFT FURNISHINGS & CURTAINS

HAND MADE (your own fabrics)

01354 638478



The Dun Cow

Green Lane, Christchurch, PE14 9PG

Weekdays open from 5.00 pm

Fri, Sat & Sun open from 12.00 noon

Sunday Lunches ~ 12.00 - 2.30

Thursdays - Steak Night

Alternate Wednesdays Feb 3rd, 17th and Mar 2nd - MEAL DEAL 2 courses for £5 - Pre-Booked ONLY

Bookings - 01354 638323 - Bookings



Golding Feeds & Nursery Ltd

For all of your Pet, Animal & Garden Requirements

Hall Road, Outwell

Wisbech, Cambs. PE14 8PE

Open 7 days a week: Mon - Fri 8am - 6pm

Sat 8am - 5pm

Sun 9am - 2pm

Tel: 01945 772802
Mobile: 07768 397626
Fax: 01945 773159

email: taglodge@aol.com
www.goldingfeedsandnurseryltd.com



CAMBRIDGESHIRE FIRE AND RESCUE SERVICE

THINK the fire service is all about putting out fires and rescuing people from road crashes? Think again. At Cambridgeshire Fire and Rescue Service, the men and women on our frontline deliver important fire safety advice to dozens of different communities. From visiting schools to care homes, mother and toddler groups to community fetes, our fire-fighters play an integral role in keeping YOUR community safe. And we'd like you to think about joining us. The role of a fire-fighter is varied and exciting but most importantly, it can make a real difference to people's lives.



Five of our latest recruits finish training proving you don't need to be a big, burly man to do the job!



Here's a typical group of Fire Fighters ready for action

The next recruitment process for whole time fire-fighters opens on February 6.

To find out more, log on to www.cambsfire.gov.uk.

Like our fan page on Facebook:
www.facebook.com/cambsfrs,

follow us on Twitter @cambsfrs.

To find out if you are eligible for a free home fire safety check, call 0800 917 99 94.

MAJESTIC

WINDOWS . DOORS . ROOFING
BI - FOLDS . CARPENTRY
CONSERVATORIES
COMPOSITE DOORS
HOUSE RENOVATIONS
GARAGE CONVERSIONS
FASCIA, SOFFIT, GUTTERS
FREE QUOTATIONS AVAILABLE

MIDDLE-MASS@LIVE.CO.UK

MOBILE : 07875 745125

OFFICE : 01354 461172

MARCH, CAMBS

Minutes of the Monthly WI Meeting held in the dining room of Townley School on January 12th 2016



Peggy welcomed everyone to member's night.

Apologies.

Wendy, Elaine

Finance

During the evening the annual subscription was collected.

A.O.B.

To help with our finances, members agreed to raise the fee for competition entries to 30p bringing it in line with the cost of refreshments, both now being 30p.

Instead of receiving a birthday card it was agreed to sing Happy Birthday to members on the appropriate day.

Names were taken for the annual whist drive which will now be held at Marion's



Michelle and Michael of Fenland Mobile Catering

Voting for Resolutions: The list of resolutions was read out, along with a brief description of each one. Members then voted for the one they supported to go forward to the AGM.

The rep. for the AGM will be Marion Hawthorn.

We all sat down to an excellent meal of fish and chips provided by Michelle and Michael of Fenland Mobile Catering (see their ad page 20). Dessert was provided by Peggy.

February Meeting

Souvenirs from the past John Smith



Next Month Competition:

A holiday souvenir

Raffle Prize Rota:

Elaine, Michelle, Anne A, Viv

Comp. Results A fish related item

Beryl 5, Viv 5, Sue N 4, Ann H 4, Val 4, Sandra K 3, Susan Q 3, Sandra L 3, Peggy 3, Marion 3

- Contact info: Peggy Warby 01354 638339



Our January meeting was "bring something to do or make a card". We had some new faces, and our young friends from Germany visited us again. We had our tea and biscuits followed by the raffle. We had a pleasant evening.

The next meeting is on Tuesday February 2nd. We will be making a Pin Cushion. You will need to bring scissors needles and thread.

We are still meeting in the School Dining Hall.

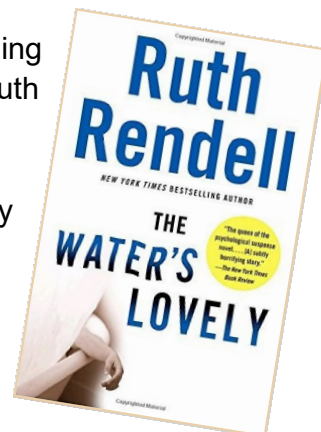
- Contact info: Wendy Yates 01354 638448

Christchurch Book Club

Book club met on 27th January. We had been reading 'Wolf Hall' by Hilary Mantel. This was a very long book, and some members did not get to the end! Some of us found the book rather 'hard going' whilst others enjoyed the mix of fact and fiction and were fascinated by the setting in Tudor England.

This month we are reading 'The Water's Lovely' by Ruth Rendell and we plan to meet to discuss it on Wednesday 24th February 7.30pm at "Pear Tree Farm", Padgetts Rd. For more details ring Sheila Day.

info: Sheila Day 07846 635908



A coloured Heron!

We have always hoped to include colour in The Heron on a more regular basis. Up to now it's just been for Christmas, or special occasions like our Church's 150th back in 2014. You can, of course see it all in full colour every month at

www.theheron.info

Unfortunately we cannot yet afford to deliver a full colour magazine to you all. But due to fortunate happenstance, beginning with this issue, and for the foreseeable future we will now include four colour pages each month! That's front and back covers and their inside pages – 1,2,27&28.

Interestingly, on January the 20th, the Editorial Team had discussed the possibility of adding such an improvement to your community magazine. Steve, our wonderful 'printmeister' at March Stationary & Print (see their ad on page 20) was to be approached for a quote to see if the colour option would be viable cost wise.

Back at the end of November 2015, because of services rendered when asked, we had helped him out regarding the purchase of a new machine buy paying in advance for our December issue with the promise of future 'perks'.

So it was, in the afternoon of the very same day that we had discussed future colour pages, and before we had contacted him, Steve telephoned our Editor with the very same proposal that we were going to ask him about! Because we are probably one of his best, regular customers, and now 'doubling up' with his new machine this was enabling him to make some production savings on large runs like ours, so, though he didn't have to, he was able to offer us the four colour pages per issue for very little extra cost. It was simply – 'meant to be!'

So enjoy! Dazzling eh?

Idiot Sighting

We had to have the garage door repaired. The GARADOR repairman told us that one of our problems was that we did not have a 'large' enough motor on the opener.

I thought for a moment, and said that we had the largest one GARADOR made at that time, a ½ horsepower.

He shook his head and said, 'Lady, you need a ¼ horsepower.'

I responded that ½ was larger than ¼ and he said, 'NOOO, it's not. Four is larger than two.'

John Sparrow

On Friday 15th January John Sparrow received severe burns to his face and hands when a woodburner caused a backdraft which engulfed him in flames. He was fortunate to be wearing glasses otherwise he may have lost his sight. Another worker passing behind him also suffered mild burns. John had performed the same operation, in the same way, for many years without incident. This was just incredibly bad luck!

John was immediately rushed to Chelmsford Hospital's burns unit for treatment. He was home after a few days, but at the time of writing he still has to make repeated trips to the hospital every couple of days, though of course his wife Margaret also attends to his care at home. The good news is that his healing is progressing well.

As a regular contributor to The Heron, and for his previous positions, both as a Parish Councillor and Chairman for a period, John continues to be a highly regarded member of our village community. We send him our prayers, and very best wishes for a speedy recovery. Hoping that we will hear from him again real soon.

Beauty Treatments

By
Jane

N.V.Q. – i.b.d. – Babtac

LCN Microdermabrasion
Facials

St.Tropez Spray tanning
Gel pedicures
Shellac manicures
Week-end & semi permanent
eyelashes

Rose Cottage,
Christchurch
Telephone: 01354 638378

Outwell Timber

For all your Timber and Building Supplies

ISLE ROAD, OUTWELL

PE14 8TD

Tel: 01945 77 21 16

FENCING, PANELS, TRELLIS
TIMBER, PLYWOOD, DECKING

SAND, BALLAST, GRAVEL

SCREWS, NAILS, BOLTS

PAINT, SILICONE, HAND TOOLS

LOCKS, ELECTRICALS, PLUMBING,
GUTTERING

UNDERGROUND PIPE & FITTINGS

CEMENT, MULTIFINISH, PLASTERBOARD

Navrady's OF UPWELL



GOOD FOOD - GOOD VALUE

Opening Hours

Monday	Closed
Tuesday	4.00pm - 9.00pm
Wednesday	4.00pm - 9.00pm
Thursday	4.00pm - 9.00pm
Friday	11.00am - 1.30pm 4.00pm - 9.00pm
Saturday	11.00am - 1.30pm 4.00pm - 9.00pm
Sunday	Closed

10% Discount Given On All Telephone
Orders Over £16

105 School Road, Upwell, Wisbech

(01945) 772398

P R PARKER

Established 1978

General Building and Maintenance

CARPENTRY	REFURBISHMENT	GLAZING
PLUMBING	AND	PAINTING
PLASTERING	RENOVATION	DECORATING
BRICKLAYING		RENDERING
ROOFING	01354 638380	GUTTERING

FREE ESTIMATES

All Types - Houses - Flats - Shops - Offices



TOWNLEY SCHOOL AND PRE-SCHOOL

Christchurch, Wisbech, Cambs. PE14 9NA

Email: office@townley.cambs.sch.uk

Website: www.townleyschool.org.uk

Years 4/5/6 have recently enjoyed a fantastic few days at Burwell. These few photos are of the 'Great Eggscape' where the children completed challenges to earn eggs. Then they used the eggs to buy resources to build a 'pod' to launch an egg from the top of the fire escape to enable the egg to land in one piece at the bottom! Hard to capture all the experiences on camera but then good memories are like that! More pictures on the website!



Natural Resources wanted

Do you have any twigs, pebbles, shells, pine cones or other natural resources that you think we could use?

We are now trying to build up our library of natural resources as they have endless possibilities in terms of the children's learning. Please send them in as soon as you can.

Thank you in advance.



Dates

15-19th Feb - Half

Term break

3rd March —World

Book Day

The Little Local

Groceries and Newspapers
Fresh Bread,
Fruit, Vegetables available.
Card Payments,
Cashback up to £50
Phone Top-ups

Open 7 days a week.

MON-FRI 8 am - 5.00 pm
SAT 8 am - 5.00 pm
SUN 9.30 am - 11.30 am

Church Road, Christchurch.

NEW!

We are now an
Amazon "pass
my parcel"
Shop!



Maximise the enjoyment of
your home
with the professional help of

Brimstone
Garden Design Services
in association with
SFC Services

Design Development Maintenance
Hard and Soft Landscaping
Household Repairs and Building Maintenance

for free estimates, contact either

Cliff 01354 638217 or 078 080 78518
cliff@brimstonegardendesign.com

or
Steve 01354 638964 or 07725 866445
sfclifford67@gmail.com

**Personal
Trainer**
FENLAND

Personal Trainer Fenland



DROP A DRESS SIZE IN 1 MONTH



Lifestyle Transformations - Safely lose weight
the right way so you keep it off and feel great



Performance for sport - Maintain great fitness
levels and improve in sports as an athlete



Increased Confidence - Mindset allows you
to remove the barriers that hold you back in life



Call us for a FREE consultation today - We are here to help

Entrust your health to a world class coach for world class results

info@personaltrainerfenland.co.uk

Tel : 01354 638 589 - Christchurch



CHRISTCHURCH ELECTRICAL



Simon Freeland Hill Farm 3 Church Road Christchurch PE14 9PQ
Tel: 01354 638802 Mobile: 07727 046439

- All domestic electrical installation work undertaken.
- No job is too small (Min ½ Hour Charge).
- Free quotations / estimates.
- Very reasonable rates with no VAT.
- References available throughout the parish.
- Part P Registered - Fully Insured - Government Approved.
- Six Year Warranty Offered.



www.elecsa.co.uk

www.trustmark.org.uk

Electrical Safety
Register



www.electricalsafetyregister.com



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

HIGH STREET, MANEA, MARCH, CAMBS PE15 0JA

Telephone: 01354 688089

Are you a keen gardener, passionate about plants, and wanting to learn more?
 Or do you want to start a career in horticulture; maybe thinking about a career change? Maybe you already work in the horticultural industry – but without any qualifications to further your career.....

RHS Qualifications is a nationally recognised awarding organisation offering a range of qualifications for professional horticulturists and keen gardeners of all ages.

We offer **Royal Horticultural Courses** at all levels

Theory & Practical

New courses commence in September and March

Small, friendly groups in a natural and peaceful setting

PLANT SALES

Wide range of **Traditional** and more **Unusual** plants
 all at **direct-from-the-grower** prices

Saturdays only 10am – 4pm

March – June

September - October

www.maneaschoolofgardening.org

E-mail: msog@btinternet.com



LOVE FOOD FAIR

Cambridge Central Library



on the 20th Feb 2016

At 10.30 - 3pm



Central Library, Cambridge – 3rd floor.

FREE event

A variety of different groups and organisations providing top tips on food / eating healthy / growing your own – a fun and informative fair with tasty samples to whet your appetite.



Why not stay for lunch or a drink
 at the Library Café.



E-mail: Maggie.Brown@cambridgeshire.gov.uk

www.cambridgeshire.gov.uk/library



MOBILE CATERING

***For freshly cooked fish & chips,
sausages, chicken and pies
every Friday at the Dun Cow
from 5.00 'til 8.00 pm***

For enquiries/quotations call:

07756 170 700

**We also cater for private parties,
functions, charity events**



A.R. CLINGO

FUNERAL DIRECTOR

Family Independant
Business

Private Chapel of Rest
Personal Attention

24 Hour Service

Full estimates given at all times

Golden Charter
Funeral Plans



Pinfold House
St. Peter's Road
Upwell, Wisbech
Phone 01945 772502

M S P

March Stationery & Print



**500 SINGLE SIDED
A5 GLOSS LEAFLETS**

£35

**SPECIAL
'NEW
HERON'
OFFER**

*in Feb and March 2016
on production of this advert*

Artwork not included

Leaflets • Newsletters • Business Cards
Photo Printing • Plan Copying
Video Copying • DVD/CD Duplication

01354 656614

sales@marchsp.co.uk

5 Fenland Walk, March, PE15 8TW

The Alan Russell Column

Holidays - a rare treat



When the Editor asked me to contribute a column in the Heron again, I had to have a long think as I believe I had exhausted most of the local history, apart from true episodes of happenings on the land amongst the gangs of strawberry and potato pickers etc; village scandals and tittle-tattle that would make you laugh at the unbelievable things that went on, but would I'm afraid leave me open to a libel case or two! So I let my thoughts wander to a subject most of us hope for or have memories of, namely Holidays.

For weeks before, during, and after the Christmas period, our TVs, newspapers and magazines are full of adverts for holidays for all, from two nights in a cottage in Yorkshire, ten days in a Spanish 5 star hotel to a round the world cruise, no expenses spared, on a magnificent liner; are all presented as wonderful value bargains available to us.

I wonder where the Jones's are going; we won't be behind this year, we must keep up or at least pretend with a few white lies!!

These are the thoughts that are encouraged by the glossy brochures to make us part with our hard earned cash.

As I was born in 1938, I am told that not too many working class families had the necessary funds for holidays away from home at those times, and because of the War, trips to the local seaside were a definite no go.

My earliest remembered holiday wasn't until 1946, unless biking to Granny North's at the Cottons in Outwell for a 2/3-night stay over the Christmas season counts.

In late 1946 we were invited by the Uncle and Aunt of the boy who lived with us all through the War as an evacuee to come and stay with them for a week or so in the East End of London at Forest Gate. After much discussion preparations were made to go to London – Yes! All the way from Christchurch to London, it was really one extreme to the other!!

So with our pre-war cardboard suitcases suitably packed, it was the same then as now – “We can't leave that out”, “Do we really need to include that?” Someone roped in to feed the farm animals and pets; Mr. Stan Corke's Taxi booked to take us to the station, the day for our long awaited trip arrived. Standing on Stonea Station, watching the approaching smoke from the steam train, we couldn't have been more excited.

All aboard, a seat next to the grimy window and we were off. Trying to recognise places in the Fens seemed well nigh impossible from this unaccustomed angle.

A half hour wait at Ely to change trains and we were off once again. I remember what struck me even at my young age, was the number of service personnel crowding the train and the stations even though the War had ended many months before.

Feeling so strange in this environment I can't remember us entering into conversation with anyone, just counting off the many stations we called at until arriving at Liverpool Street where Uncle Bill had arranged to meet us. Look out London; we have arrived to give them a taste of the Fens!!

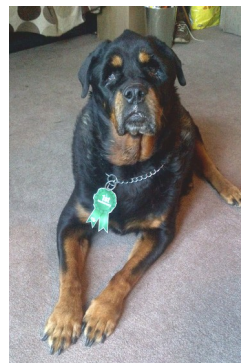
To be continued.....



War

RIP

Roscoe



Aged 11 years 4 months
The best friend a person could
ever have
Will never be forgotten

Christchurch Community Centre - Latest

Yep! We thought that we would give our new building its correct title now it's finally been decided. Things have moved on quite a bit since we last updated you on



how the building works were progressing.

The plumbing and electrics were finally completed on Wednesday 13th January. There had been a delay in the floor drying out due to all the wet weather we've been having lately. But now the under floor heating is in operation this shouldn't take too long. Because of the water issue it was expected to be another three weeks before the flooring could go down. However, now the heating is fully operational, and with additional dehumidifiers and gas heaters in place, the drying out process is hoped to be reduced to 7 – 10 days.

Next meeting Wed 24th Feb, School Hall, 7.30 - ALL WELCOME.

Sandra Kay has agreed to take care of Bookings and Peter Owen has agreed to become Treasurer. So fingers crossed for the 'grand opening' in the not too distant future. We can now, at last, see a small glow at the end of the tunnel!

RWBG



The meeting room overlooking the bowling green



The Main Hall

After this the latex floor levelling compound will be laid prior to the laminate flooring and carpet tiles being laid. The main hall, entrance hall, and corridor will be in a wood finish. The small meeting room will have carpet tiles, and the kitchen, bar, showers, and WCs, will all have non-slip flooring.

Savings have been made, both on the mains electrical connection, and for some of the flooring. Flooring in the kitchen and bar areas, and also showers and WCs are all being laid and fitted within the builders original quote. WCs and waste are also now operational.

As I write this, quotes for the kitchen fit-out, chairs, and extra tables are currently being sought. We already have a very competitive quote and chair sample which the CCC (Christchurch Community Centre) Committee will be considering on Wednesday, 20th January.

MAY DAY
COMMUNITY
CENTRE FUNDRAISER
1ST MAY
ON SPORTS FIELD
BOOT SALE, BOUNCY
CASTLES, CLUB
STALLS,
AND MANY OTHER
ATTRACTIONS
INCLUDING
FISH AND CHIPS,
BEER AND OTHER
REFRESHMENTS

[STOP PRESS - It is hoped that the Grand Opening & Hogroast will be Saturday 9th

22 April, with the Parish Lunch on Sunday 17th April - IN THE NEW BUILDING!]

Friends of Townley launch Internet Funding Appeal for Pool Roof and Changing Rooms



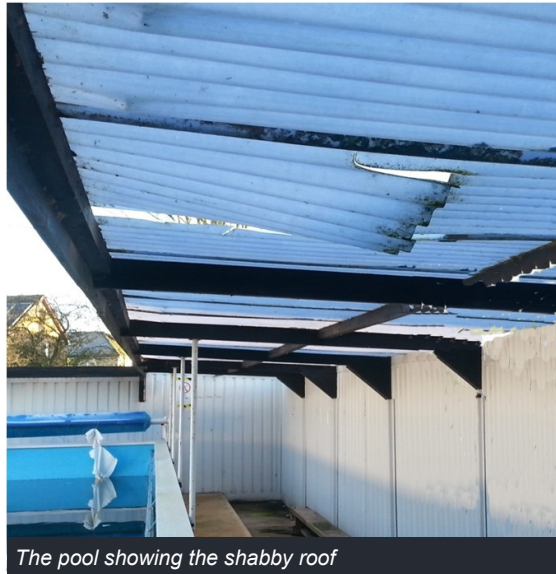
On behalf of Friends of Townley School (FOTS) we are trying to raise funds to replace the swimming pool roof and build proper changing rooms for the school children. The swimming pool is a vital asset for the village school teaching the children a very important skill (the ability to swim) which could save lives especially in our area with all the fen drains around. Also the use of the pool benefits the children as another form of exercise. Sadly, the children can only use the pool for a very small amount of time during the course of the year which is leading up

to summer; it would be great to be able to cover the pool so they have the chance to use the pool all year round. I know as a parent with children at the school I would like to see them using the pool more often and feel happier knowing that they have learnt an important life skill.

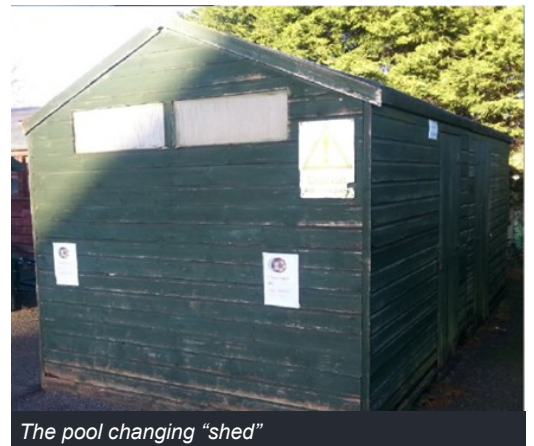
John Saywell

Please use the following link to make donations

<https://www.gofundme.com/aqhgghst8>



The pool showing the shabby roof



The pool changing "shed"



FENLAND LEISURE PRODUCTS
PLAY SOLUTIONS
SCHOOLS, PARKS & LOCAL AUTHORITIES

Designing and manufacturing play equipment in the UK for over 21 years specialising in:

- Multiplay Towers
- Net Play
- Aerial Runway
- Outdoor Gyms
- Roundabouts & Seesaws
- Spring Rockers
- Slides
- Trim Trails
- BMX & Mountain Bike Tracks
- Seats & Bins
- Fencing
- Surfacing Solutions
- Bespoke Build Service











www.fenandleisure.co.uk
Tel: 01354 638359 Email: sales@fenandleisure.co.uk

BUILDING DECONSTRUCTION

Buildings bought and demolished
all materials recycled/upcycled
Pre-1930s preferred
but all buildings considered
including site clearance
FREE QUOTATIONS GIVEN
Call Matt or Sarah Lawrence
Mobile: 07856 291787
Tel: 01354 638977
Toll Farm, Ha-Penny Toll Road,
Three Holes, Norfolk PE14 9LJ
Email: buildingdeconstruction@yahoo.com

Small Personal Ads

For Sale or
Wanted

Now just 10p per word. Photos extra

FOR SALE

French style (cream)
Double wardrobe,
Chest of drawers and
Dressing table with
mirror
£100
Tel:- 01354 638956



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



The Worst 25 Passwords?

Most of us need passwords for a range of services we use day to day. It seems, though, that the message of setting a secure password is just not getting through! People are using passwords too easy to guess, and we are leaving ourselves vulnerable to all sorts of scams and theft.

Every year, SplashData publishes the "25 most common passwords" and in first place is: 123456. No change from 2014.

The most popular (and worst) passwords of 2015 have been unveiled and it still looks as though we don't know how to use them!

Describing the list's significance, the firm explained that this collection "will expose anybody to being hacked or having their identities stolen."

Without any more delay, here is the full "Top Twenty Five worst Passwords" as compiled by Gizmodo:

- | | |
|--------------------------|----------------------|
| 1. 123456 (Unchanged) | 14. 111111 (Up 1) |
| 2. password (Unchanged) | 15. 1qaz2wsx (New) |
| 3. 12345678 (Up 1) | 16. dragon (Down 7) |
| 4. qwerty (Up 1) | 17. master (Up 2) |
| 5. 12345 (Down 2) | 18. monkey (Down 6) |
| 6. 123456789 (Unchanged) | 19. letmein (Down 6) |
| 7. football (Up 3) | 20. login (New) |
| 8. 1234 (Down 1) | 21. princess (New) |
| 9. 1234567 (Up 2) | 22. qwertyuiop (New) |
| 10. baseball (Down 2) | 23. solo (New) |
| 11. welcome (New) | 24. passw0rd (New) |
| 12. 1234567890 (New) | 25. starwars (New) |
| 13. abc123 (Up 1) | |

Beloved wife, mother and grandmother



Helen Teresa Steenson

1951 - 2016

Passed away in the early hours of
Monday 25th January
after a long struggle from a
liver transplant which led to lung cancer
Service Feb 12th 12.30pm
at Fenland Crematorium
Wake at the Dun Cow from 2.00pm
ANY VILLAGERS WELCOME

Set A Secure Password:

Choose a word you'd remember easily. Let's use Christchurch as an example. Decide a point within the word where you'll always break it (say at the third letter) and insert the first two characters of the service you're signing up to. So using our example and signing up to Google it would look like:

Chrgoistchurch. If you signed up to Tesco's it would be Chrteistchurch. Get the idea? However you should always make sure one of the letters is a capital, AND add a couple of numbers which need to be ones you'll remember, say the three or four from your postcode - Chrteistchurch149 AND use a symbol you'll always remember. I use the # symbol which Americans know means number so we get Chrteistchurch#149

PVH

Views from the Farm Gate

- Sue Fletcher

This month we welcome a new writer for us, Sue Fletcher, who farms off the Silt Road towards Nordelph. We hope you'll enjoy her insights written to help us "townies" learn about what really goes on through the year in the countryside.

Hello, and welcome to Fendale Farm, which is run by Jim (my husband) and I. Over the forthcoming months we will reporting on the happenings and daily life, on the farm, situated a



Swimming pregnant ewes off of Welney Wash

few miles outside of Threeholes village.

For the last 18 years we, (and for the past two years, Leah, our apprentice shepherdess), have worked together on the farm, which currently consists of 120 acres of arable land, growing crops of wheat, barley, stubble turnips and fodder beet, and 800 acres of grassland with up to an extra 1000 acres on short term grass lets throughout the year, providing grazing for our sheep

The main enterprise on the farm is sheep, currently running 1650 ewes which lamb in April, both inside our lambing sheds and outside on pasture. We can have up to 3000 lambs born over April, fattening them for meat over the next 12 months. Ewe lambs are kept back for breeding, to replace unproductive sheep.

We spend a lot of time shepherding (checking) our livestock. As we graze fields in a 30 mile radius, we can drive over 200 miles to see all the sheep in one day.

So what has the New Year brought to Fendale Farm? Rain, rain and yet more rain, causing flooding issue on much of our grazing. We have had to evacuate 100's of sheep from the Ouse and Nene washes.

We look forward to sharing our farming life with you, over the next few months.

Sue

The Heron Annual Postal Subscription

We are now offering an annual postal subscription scheme for people living out of the area. The cost is £25 per year to cover the magazine, postage and packing. Application form and details are on the website www.theheron.info or from "Glynan" Crown Road, Christchurch, Wisbech Cambs PE14 9NF
email adverts@theheron.info

S & H

Painters and decorators

Steven Horne

Christchurch, Cambridgeshire

Tel: 01354 638124

Mobile: 07905145680



A JONES & SON

TELEVISION SALES/REPAIRS/INSTALLATION

FREE LOCAL DELIVERY

FIRST CLASS AERIAL INSTALLATIONS/ADDITIONAL POINTS

26 March Road, Wimblington, March, Cambs PE15 0RN

Tel: 01354 740320

CLOSED ALL DAY TUESDAYS



HIGHBURY SCHOOL OF MOTORING
*DSA Approved

Learner driver and Refresher Lessons
Friendly, Female Instructor
Intensive Courses
Pass Plus Registered

MOBILE: 077233 20333

EMAIL: highburysom@gmail.com

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 - Jackie Richardson	01354 677856
Parish Councillor - Jill Bliss	01354 638343
Parish Councillor - William Beswick	01354 638758
Parish Councillor - Roger Gladwin	01354 638538
Parish Councillor - Geoff Harper	01354 638681
Parish Councillor - James Hughes	01354 638310
Parish Councillor - Peter Owen	01354 638847
Parish Councillor - Nigel Russell (Chair)	01354 638279
Pharmacy at Upwell Health Centre	01945 774934
Police - Non Emergency	101
Police - Emergency	999
Telephone Complaints	0345 145000
Townley School	01354 638229
Trading Standards	845040506
Train Information	08457 484950
Upwell Health Centre (and out of hours)	01945 773671
Water Emergencies	08457 145145

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

Would you believe it?

- ♦ Militant feminists - I take my hat off to them!
- They don't like that!
- ♦ I just poured some Superglue into a non-stick pan.
- Somebody's going to be proved wrong!
- ♦ So what if I can't spell 'armageddon'! It's not the end of the world.

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! What can I say! For sometime we've been hoping to get a view from a Fenland farmer. Our efforts seemed to be 'ewesless' in that regard. But finally, having 'rammed' our wishes home, we are delighted that Sue Fletcher has taken up the challenge and joined our team with her first missive on farm life in the Fens – "Views From the Farm Gate". Welcome Sue!

Apparently Sue's Border Collie has recently developed webbed feet enabling him to continue working whatever the weather!



Things really are developing well here at Heron H.Q. With all our columnists and other contributors it certainly makes our job more rewarding, and, to a certain extent, less hard work, as we don't have to do so much writing ourselves! Plus of course it all goes make The Heron even more a 'community' magazine in the full sense of the word!

Enjoy! 'Till next month – Ed'.

Focus on Floristry

Valentine's Day and Mothering Sunday are fast approaching, and with two florists in the village, you don't have to go far to find that perfect floral gift!

Caroline McGonagle

Caroline says that her "two main loves are food and cooking, and the garden" so after working in catering (she was Catering Supervisor in the café at WWT Welney) she trained as a florist in 2008, and gained her National Certificate in floristry at Easton College. As her husband Sam said - "She was creative with food, so why could she not do it with flowers?"

She was employed as a florist in Norfolk and then Wisbech before starting her own business in April 2015. She is known for her holly wreaths, which she sells from her gates in Upwell Road at Christmas, but works all round the year doing flowers for funerals, weddings, and many other occasions. She sources her flowers from Spalding, or on the internet, and can deliver arrangements to events outside the immediate local area.

She is thinking of running workshops on how to make holly wreaths, and perhaps on arrangements for special occasions, so watch out for information about these later on in the year.

You can find her on Facebook - Caroline's Flowers, where you can see pictures of some of the arrangements that she has done.

See her ad on page 12



Caroline at work



A funeral arrangement by Caroline

Angela Mayes

Angela has lived in Christchurch for about 13 years, and many people know her as a teacher of Psychology and Sociology at a local 6th Form College, but she now also has a part time floristry business! See her Ad on page 12.

She says that she has always been interested in floristry - her Dad having been a keen gardener, and her Mum a flower arranger. After her Dad died in 2008, she decided to do a floristry course. At the time this was mainly for her own well-being. She says that she loves "being experimental with different colours and shapes" and working with different materials - the flowers, containers, and bows. She finds that working creatively is fulfilling and therapeutic - she also does needlework and tapestry, loves cooking, is learning the piano, and has been a photographer, so has a range of skills!



Angela Mayes



Some examples of Angela's work

pressure, and she enjoys, "working with people individually, working towards what someone wants".



Recently, she has been extending her skills by attending workshop courses on different aspects of the work at the Cambridge Floristry school at Linton, and she has plans to use her garden to grow flowers for arrangements.

Another in our series of features on local businesses. Please contact us if you would like yours to be included.

Boom in Biodiversity on Fenland waterways!

Five years of working towards biodiversity targets have produced real gains for wildlife in the districts of 36 Drainage Boards in the Middle Level Biodiversity Action Plan Partnership. The Partnership's annual meeting on 2nd December 2015 included a review of targets achieved.

One much-loved species that has benefitted from Drainage Board Biodiversity Actions is the kingfisher. To provide nest sites for these jewels of

our waterways, 150 holes have been drilled during the last five years through steel, brick and concrete structures at 80 Internal Drainage Board (IOB) sites. When a 50 to 70mm diameter



hole is drilled through steel piles or concrete headwalls that have soil behind them, an opportunity is created for kingfishers to establish very safe nesting tunnels and chambers. Natural nest sites in riverside soil cliffs are often quickly eroded and only last a few years, but sites like these behind steel piles will remain available for more than 20 years. 2015 has been a boom season for kingfishers in the Middle Level with many more sightings than usual reported from drains and rivers throughout the area.

Other species that have benefitted in the five year biodiversity plans of the 36 IOBs have been bats, barn owls, water voles, otters and black poplars.

82 large panel bat boxes have been attached to pumping stations and 26 bat bricks have been installed in culvert tunnels.



During the first five year 'IDB Biodiversity Action Plan' period, 91 barn owl boxes have been erected in the 36 Drainage Board Districts, consolidating the

Middle Level of the Fens as a stronghold for the species.

The 70,000 hectare Middle Level catchment is also a national stronghold for water voles. 1,770 metres of coir rolls pre-planted with native marginal water plants



have been installed at 23 sites to create 'instant habitat' for water voles, provide pollen for insects

and to stabilise bank margins.

Otters have benefitted from the construction of 79 otter holts (dens) in the banks of Middle Level waterways and spraints (otter poo) have been recorded at over 60 bridges throughout the 120 miles of drains and rivers in the catchment.

The black poplar is the UK's rarest timber tree and traditionally grows in damp locations beside water. 140 black poplars have been planted from cuttings taken from local trees and have been established at new sites throughout the Middle Level.

Thanks to Roger Gladwin for supplying this article

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.