

The Heron

Community Magazine

June 2020

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

No. 74

VE Day 75th Anniversary Celebrations in Lockdown ...

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... Christchurch Style!

For a glimpse of the VE Day
Lockdown Celebration photos,
check out pages 14-17.



Also, check out all our lovely rainbows -
throughout this edition - created by children in
the village and surrounding area.

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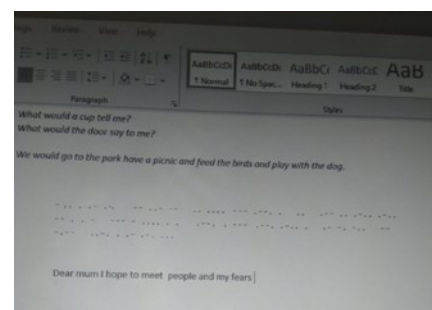
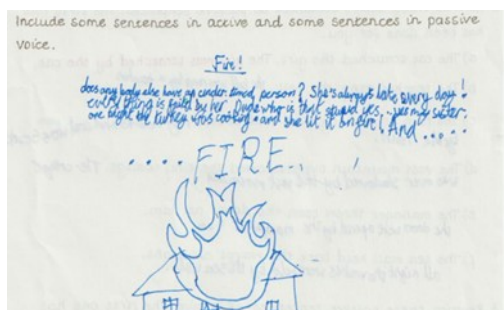
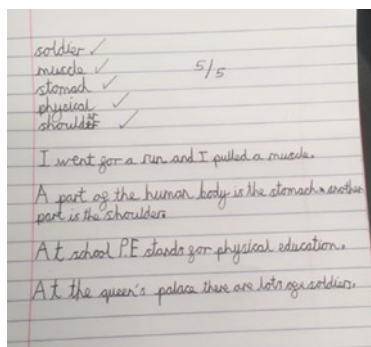
Townley School and
Pre-School

May 2020

Well, we find ourselves settling into our new 'normal' pattern of working! The children of our Key Workers have been kept safely at home, so we have remained closed, although after half term we will be reopening, as some of these workers need to return their children to school. Being closed however, does not mean that staff have had a holiday; I think many will tell you they have been working longer hours trying to support learning at home! I have felt immensely proud of the Townley staff; they have really gone above and beyond to try to support our families with their learning at home. The EYFS Team even managed to hold a virtual Story Café! Staff have been recording the daily class stories, phonics, group time, assemblies and more!

The Prime Minister's plan to reopen schools clearly did not take into account people living in rural areas, with a school that is just a small building! The maximum occupancy for our classrooms is approximately 9 people! Added into that we have six staff who are not available to work on site! Currently we are unable to open for the children in Nursery, Reception, Year 1 and Year 6.

Below are some of the pictures we have received of some of the fabulous learning at home.



You may have noticed we now have fantastic new CCTV in school! I would like to thank Simon from Christchurch Electrical and Giles for installing this for us and cleaning all the balls out of the guttering at the same time!!

Community Information

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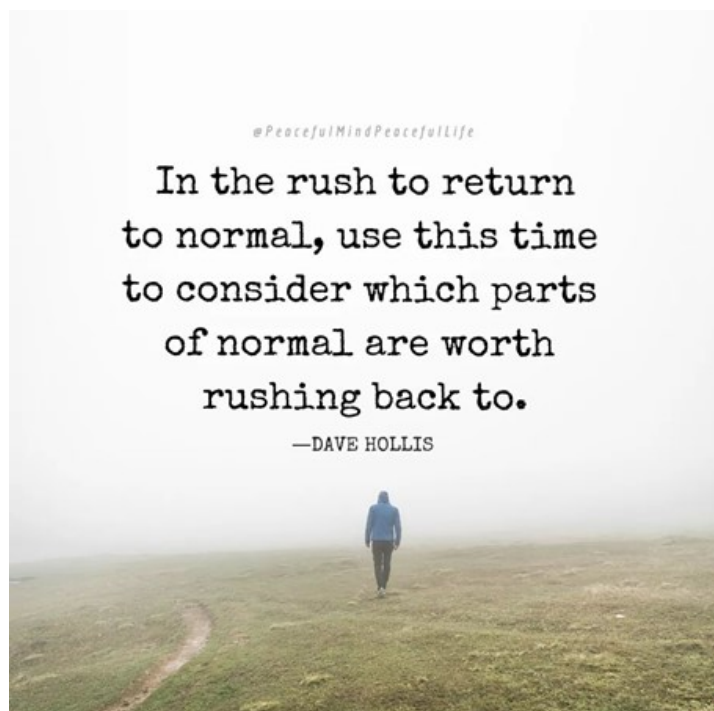
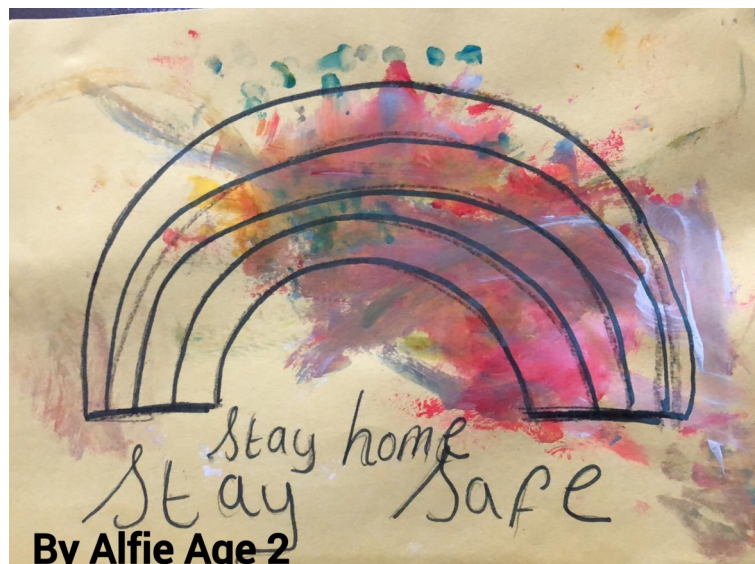
Visits Monday to Thursday in the lay-by on Upwell Road
Monday and Thursday - 16.30 to 17:00pm
Tuesday and Wednesday - 16.10 to 17:00pm
Fridays - no service.

ANYONE WISHING THEIR ITEMS TO BE POSTED,
ON THE DAY, WILL NEED TO GET THEIR POST TO THE
VAN BY 4.40PM - WHICH IS WHEN IT IS COLLECTED.

Use it or lose it!

Community Car Scheme:

This scheme is still running for Christchurch and surrounding villages. To book a ride or to become a volunteer driver please ring 07902 316360. An additional driver is still required for the scheme. For more information please ring the number above.



Editorial

Welcome to our June 2020 edition. There are a few paper copies being distributed but for the majority it is still on-line this month. Hopefully we may be back to normal for next month, fingers crossed.

This month is a bumper edition with coverage of the VE Day celebrations. Various sorts of rainbows can be found throughout the magazine and some articles on farming.

The beautiful May weather seems somehow to make the current situation worse. When it was grey, cloudy and miserable it seemed easier to stay inside. However, it will pass.

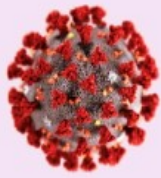
I always think of three things associated with June: roses, strawberries and Wimbledon. We cannot watch Wimbledon this year but the pleasures of roses and strawberries are there to be enjoyed. After a long wait, the roses are in full bloom with their perfume and beautiful velvety petals and dazzling range of colours. Strawberries are another delight to be enjoyed. When we first moved to the village in 1979, it seemed that we were surrounded by fields of strawberries. There used to be rows of people in the fields, bent double picking them. Even the original village sign had a strawberry emblem on it. Over the years strawberry growing has diminished, but they can still be obtained in the locality.

So I shall enjoy sitting in the garden with a bowl or two of strawberries and look forward to enjoying Wimbledon next year.

Sue Norman



Elizabeth Frazer-Wicks, Age 8



Getting rural back to work



The Rural Services Network, <https://rsnonline.org.uk> alongside other members of the Rural Coalition, have written to George Eustice (Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs) to warn against Government applying a rigid one-size-fits-all approach for getting Britain back to work. Instead it is suggested any strategy must consider the implications for rural people and businesses and also should ensure the full engagement of local communities, local business leaders and local government is in its planning and implementation.

Several outlets report on the fact that fibre broadband is 'the key to productivity' for rural businesses, yet one in 10 rural English and Welsh properties don't have a superfast broadband option yet.

The website Technative reports that achieving seamless connectivity has been a 'longstanding bottleneck for productivity' for businesses operating in rural areas throughout the UK. Without a robust network infrastructure in place, companies in remote areas risk not being able to keep up with the pace of business. In rural England and Wales superfast coverage is down at 89.5 percent versus 98.6 percent in urban areas. This is notably worse in remote areas where one in five do not have access to a superfast option.

Not good news, and this needs to be put right.

Parish Church

Although the building is not open, please do come and wander round our churchyard, listen to the birds singing, see the new signs of life as flowers push their way through the soil.

Advertisers - all our advert rates and conditions can be found on our website www.theheron.info. Business advertisers can book series of 6 or 12 adverts, paid in advance. Adverts for village fundraising events, personal announcements, or small private ads are usually free.

Copy Deadline - The deadline for copy for the June edition of the Heron is **26 May 2020**.

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.

NB as a matter of courtesy no content from the Heron should be used without prior permission.

What? No Tennis ...

No Wimbledon this year. The French Open postponed until the Autumn.

Tennis fans will be bereft. We are hoping the TV companies are going show some tennis matches from the past.

Meanwhile, Pimms and Strawberries in Lockdown! And why not??



Isla Martin, Age 5

Heron Notices



1. DELIVERERS: We are again mainly on line this month, with a few exceptions, as we have been delivering (safely) printed copies to folks we know of who don't do the internet. We plan to do a full print run for our July issue, provided the virus situation allows it. Most of our usual deliverers, however, are over 70, so we have found younger members of the community who are willing to take on the delivery routes. Thank you so much to all the people who are taking it on. It's very encouraging to the team to find so much support out there for our village magazine. BUT we are still short of 3 people to deliver 3 of our routes for the July issue: Tipps End, Poulter's Drove and the local 16 Foot properties. Please let me know if you can do one of these. (We are always on line, of course).

Please note all magazines will be left in their delivery boxes for at least 3 days, so will be safe.

2. THE TREASURER:

Linda has said that she feels she has done her bit for The Heron as Treasurer, and would like to stand down. A big thank you to Linda from The Heron, for all that you have done to keep our magazine afloat during her time as our Treasurer. Well done. We will miss you, but quite understand, and know that you will love to have more time to do other things, and to enjoy singing! We have someone to take Linda's place. This will happen in due course. Watch this space.

3. MONEY MATTERS:

Our Bank Balance at May 14th 2020 was £2,560.82. This is a very healthy state of affairs, as you can see, thanks to earlier fundraising, and a large grant from the Parish Council, not to mention no full print runs for 3 months. This gives us a chance to pay to upgrade our Website as our IT wizard, Lewis, says this needs to be done. But we mustn't be complacent. We will need to raise more funds 5 or 6 months further down the line. Ideas please! The Heron needs your support!

4. MAGAZINE CONTENT:

We have been responding to suggestions from various readers and the articles? New people's thoughts on moving into the village; grammar comments; details of farm crops; Back British Farming; Children's involvement; Stargazing; Our natural surroundings and nature; Recipes; And many more. Keep those ideas coming!

Letters to the Editorial Team

The Editorial team welcome letters from its readers. Please email letters to: editor@heron.info or post them to *The Editor of The Heron, Grasshopper Cottage, 5 Upwell Road, Christchurch, PE14 9LF.*

PLEASE NOTE: Letters will only be considered for publication if they are accompanied by name and contact details - names will be published, but not contact details. The Heron will not share any contact details unless given permission.

The team look forward to hearing from you!

Coronavirus and Christchurch Village Life

Basic protective measures against the new coronavirus

Take care of your health and protect others by doing the following:

- ♦ Wash your hands frequently.
- ♦ Maintain social distancing (at least 2 metres) between you and anyone else whilst out (1 hr per day).
- ♦ Avoid touching your eyes, nose and mouth.
- ♦ Practice respiratory hygiene (covering nose and mouth when coughing or sneezing by using either a bent elbow or tissue - disposing of the tissue immediately).
- ♦ If you have a fever, cough and difficulty breathing - seek medical care early (see info below).
- ♦ Stay informed on the latest developments - the World Health Organisation (WHO) website is a good one to follow - and follow advice given by healthcare advisers.

Upwell Heath Centre - 01945 773671 and Pharmacy 01945 774934 (dialling 111 out of hours or following the step-by-step instructions on 111.nhs.uk/covid-19 website).

TO PROTECT YOURSELF AND OTHERS - STAY AT HOME! DO NOT GO TO YOUR GP, PHARMACY OR HOSPITAL.



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Save the date for virtual National Cream Tea Day next month! In the absence of many charity events that would have taken place this summer, Rodda's Cornish Clotted Cream and Tiptree with Cream tea society are bringing the celebration online!

Come together virtually on National Cream Tea Day with friends and family through the power of social media to enjoy a much loved cream tea.



Alfie Ames, Age 3

Keep 2 metres apart



at all times

- Take care when passing pedestrians
- Use your bell
- Always be prepared to slow down & stop if necessary

CALLING ALL CHILDREN!

For the past few weeks, I've been working with Fenland District Council, and the "Getting It Sorted" team, building education packs and **fun competition sheets** for the children of Fenland.



Well, the competition is now open.

The colouring-in sheets are all based on "recycling superheroes". Children of Townley School and Pre-School can, of course, enter and I would love to see what recycling superheroes you make. Go and check out Fenlands website and download your choice of recycling, and make some beautiful art.

<https://www.fenland.gov.uk/recyclinghero2020>

Closing date for the competition is July 20th.

Thanks.

Nate

Show your appreciation for our wonderful NHS and Key Workers - if you are able to - every Thursday evening at 8.00pm!



Christchurch Art Group



We are no longer able to meet, but we can still keep our art work going. Now perhaps, in between gardening and our daily exercise, we can spare some time to practice.

I hope you found some of the ideas I suggested in last month's Heron helpful. Art of any kind is great therapy. Perhaps you sew, knit or crochet. Doodling is fun, and anyone can have a go with any material they have around. Children are especially good at this. Adults often have an issue with 'mark making' however you don't need to show anyone!

'You tube' have a lot of instructional videos for all sorts of art and there have been a few programmes on the television. Grayson's Art Club on C4 is fun to watch.

Adults and children can have a go at collage with paper cut-outs from magazines, or any bits of material they have laying around. Even very young children can use this as a pre-maths exercise. Good for their fine motor skills plus hand and eye coordination.

Perhaps having a look at your favourite artist and researching their history. It's interesting to see how Turner and Constable changed over the years. They both kept fantastic sketch books.

No art materials? No problem - just use what paper/pen or pencil you have to hand!

I have seen some of the rainbow pictures children have put in their windows and I am sure some of you with young children at home could have a go with these exercises. How about drawing a tree shape and let them use their hand prints of many colours to make the leaves? That might cheer us all up!

Jan Clifford

Christchurch Book Club



No book reviews this month but just a reminder that there is the book and puzzle-sharing facility, in the sealed plastic boxes, at the recycling station at the top of Fen View where you can leave any puzzles and books that you would like to donate and help yourself to ones that others have donated. This should help to keep boredom at bay!

Enjoy!



This month
Craft Club
had
originally
planned a

Christchurch Craft Club

UFO evening (unfinished object) but, as we're all staying home at the moment, I suspect there are a lot more finished projects now. Since Lockdown I have finished making a fabric door stopper that I first began maybe a year or so ago (!) and a Christmas sack for my baby Grandson. Other projects are temporarily on hold though now that I've joined the ranks of the

'Fenland Scrubbers'!! Sandra Kay and I answered a call for help on Facebook from the Doddington Scouts who

had set up a group of volunteers to source cotton fabric such as sheets, pillowcases and duvet covers to make scrubs for the NHS. Over the weeks, around 25 ladies (and a couple of gents) have dusted off their sewing machines and set to work. It's taken a huge amount of organisation and dedication but now we've settled into a routine. Some who can't sew do the washing, ironing and cutting-out. One of the husbands delivers patterns, threads, fabric etc to our doorsteps. When we've finished several items we bag them and put them back on our doorsteps for him to collect. You may have seen him around in his white van with Hunts FA logo on the side. He's doing a grand job so give him a wave next you see him (he recently told me Hunts FA are paying the fuel costs).



Between us we have made scrubs trousers and tops, caps, masks, hairbands and scrubs washbags. We have also knitted and crocheted ear protectors. It took me a little while to get into my stride but now I'm loving improving my rusty sewing/knitting skills (often listening to a play on the radio).

The scrubs have now been distributed to hospitals, care homes and schools in the region. **If anyone would like to help this great team by donating cotton fabric, cotton yarn, narrow elastic or buttons (1/2" or more), please let Sandra K or myself know or ring Katy Parker on 07825917364 for more info.**

We'd love to know what other crafters have been doing in lockdown so please get in touch with editor@theheron.info and we'll report in next month's edition. Stay safe.



Sandra L

Hi Everyone.

Yet another month has passed in

Lockdown. I have now set up a Facebook Group called Christchurch Stargazers. This is an amateur group. At present, it is a private group which I am trying to make public, so please be patient with me.

The month of June will bring some great views of the planets. Mercury is an evening planet, and well positioned during the first half of the month. Venus will reach inferior conjunction on June 3rd, and will be visible in the morning sky mid-month. Mars will be an improving morning planet, low in the sky in the South-East, as dawn's about to break. It's at magnitude 0.5 at the end of June, when it will be 11 arc seconds across. These figures may not be known to some people, but it's something I would like to pass on. Jupiter – what a planet to view! It's close to Saturn in the Southern part of the morning sky. Uranus and Neptune are also in the South East dawn, but Uranus is too low for good viewing. The Bootids meteors are due June 27th, but the frequency is 10 per hour, so you would be lucky to catch sight of one.

Remember never to look at the Sun with the naked eye, sunglasses, or with binoculars or telescopes without the correct equipment.

I hope we can all meet up after Covid 19 has subsided. Thanks for reading. Mark Andrews.

Christchurch Stargazers



Going through some old scrap books of events and achievements, by people in the village, dating back some 50 years. I found this little gem, from around the late 80s, of a group of 'Flappers' taking part in an Isle of Ely Federation competition. Mrs Rose Patrick of Parsons Drove won the prize for the best flapper and the best garter was displayed by Mrs Elsie Long of March St Mary WI. A supper followed and then the ladies were entertained by the Sutton Warblers - with plenty of 1920s display and dancing.

During the evening the winners of the grand draw throughout the federation were announced. A cheque for £100 went to Mrs N Nicholls, Wisbech; £50 to E Doncaster, West Walton. Three prizes of £25 went to Andrew Cutchey of Welney, Mrs Ray of Aldreth and Mrs Starbuck of Gedney Hill. It was announced that the draw raised £500 for federation funds.



In the photo I believe I can spot Margaret Sparrow, Doris (Ted) Rolfe and Ann Hicks - all Christchurch WI. Can anyone else add to that?

Source: Scrapbooks courtesy of Malcolm Hicks.



Christchurch Gardening Club

No meeting again last month, but check out the back page of The Heron. Here are some ideas for butterfly-friendly plants from the 'Gardener's World' website. Around 10 species of butterfly are likely to visit gardens, including the colourful small tortoiseshell, peacock and red admiral. Sadly, numbers of many butterflies are declining.

According to a Butterfly Conservation report published in 2015, *The State of Britain's Butterflies*, three quarters of UK butterflies have shown a 10-year decrease in either their distribution, or population levels.

Do your bit for butterflies by making them welcome in your garden. Adults feed on nectar, and can be seen nectaring on flat, daisy-like blooms as well as plants with long, tubular flowers. The more of these you can grow in your garden, the better.

Buddleia; Red Valerian; Verbena; Sedum; Hebe; Wild Marjoram; Common Knapweed; Hemp-Agrimony; Field Scabious; *Erysimum* 'Bowles Mauve'.

Creativity is
contagious,
pass it on

Albert Einstein

theWI
INSPIRING WOMEN

June is the time to enjoy English Roses

If you love reading, and love roses, here are some varieties you should invest in.



The Lady of Shalott



Emily Bronte



Gabriel Oak



Roald Dahl

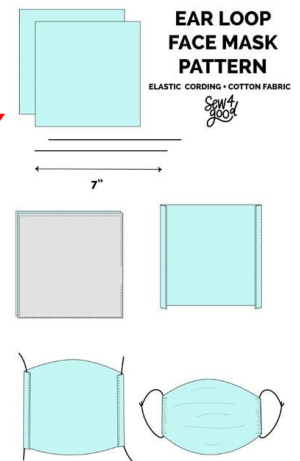


India Norman, Age 8

***If you feel you would like to do this, here is an easy pattern to follow.
The pattern is not one for MEDICAL USE but for your own use when shopping.
There is evidence that these masks DO NOT work as well as PPE medical masks, and
there is a debate on whether or not they are needed. ALWAYS wash the mask thoroughly
after an outing.***

These masks are ear-loop masks and the thin elastic cording is comfortable to wear. They are also really fast to make with an elastic gathering technique.

Cut two lengths of 1/4" elastic 14" each. Pin one length at the top corners of the fabric and there other at the bottom. Lay the second piece of fabric face down. Sew around all edges with a 1/4" seam allowance, leaving a small opening to turn. Turn, press and create pleats according to the pattern piece. Sew pleats down and backstitch. This stitching will also close the opening that you left.



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Story of a Song – ‘Summertime’ - Part 1.

Written by Gordon Harvey on 10th September 2014.

A lot of music unites people. Occasionally it divides people. With its contentious depiction of racial stereotypes, the opera *Porgy and Bess* seems to have experienced the ebb and flow of acceptance over the years, but even its cultural detractors will recognise it as one of the most important musical works of the 20th century.

The story behind the opera begins in 1926, when the popular songwriter George Gershwin read the novel *Porgy* by DuBose Heyward. He immediately wrote to Heyward with the idea of writing an opera, but it wasn't until 1933 that Gershwin, his lyricist brother Ira and Heyward finally began their collaboration. The work was radical in various ways: Gershwin wanted to create an opera in the European tradition, but to borrow from African-American blues, jazz and spirituals, as well as from the life and language of black people in South Carolina. Beyond that, he insisted that the first production feature an entirely black cast, a bridge-building gesture that launched several brilliant operatic careers.

That said, the first production was not a huge success, and it wasn't until after Gershwin's death in 1937 at age 38 that *Porgy and Bess* grew in importance, succeeding on Broadway as well as becoming accepted as serious opera and becoming the source of several of the most famous tunes in popular music.

Of all those tunes, the most popular and enduring is *Summertime*. It is one of the most covered songs of all time, with more than 25,000 known recordings by artists of every kind. While it has a distinctive style in its original form, something about it makes it endlessly adaptable. Gershwin wanted to create something in the style of a spiritual, and to most commentators he succeeded way beyond his initial brief. He uses it four times in the opera, including as a lullaby at the very opening.

Here's the very first recording by **Abbie Mitchell** (pictured above) including Gershwin himself on piano.

https://m.youtube.com/watch?v=RQsX7VTfd_c&feature=youtu.be

A message from the Parish Council

In these extraordinary times, it's very difficult to know what we as a Parish Council can do or say that hasn't already been done or said by our extraordinary villagers! At May's virtual meeting the entire council was overwhelmed by the support that has been given by so many members of our community, not just to those who are vulnerable, but to the whole village. There is the 'Caring for Christchurch' Group, 50 Backpacks, and the fantastic effort to involve the whole village in the recent VE day commemoration, sadly cut short in its prime! But it's not only these group efforts that are so amazing. It's also individual acts of kindness that really make a community great. People picking up prescriptions for individuals they have never met, popping supplies round for those that have run out, or topping up the gin and beer supplies for those that cannot leave their houses! So many people have contributed to help those that are unable to help themselves.

The Parish Council would like to thank every single member of our community who has gone out of their way to help others, and that is a lot of you! THANK YOU!

To go back to more mundane matters, May was the PC's annual meeting, where the Chair and Vice-Chair are elected. Peter Owen was re-elected as Chair, and James Hughes was re-elected as Vice-Chair.

At the meeting we were joined, for the first time, by Steve Count, the leader of Cambridgeshire County Council. Like many of us, he is stuck in his house but is still continuing to work. He also passed on his thanks to all those who have been helping out in this time of crisis. However, he also passed on a note of caution. Although only anecdotal at this stage, he did report that much of the recent spike of cases of COVID-19 in this area were caused by people not adhering to the lockdown directions. His advice? Stay vigilant, follow the guidelines, and avoid unnecessary contact.

Also reported during the meeting was the recent theft of a number of puppies and dogs, from a breeder in Upwell. Even though we are all at home, theft is still a problem so please be aware that COVID-19 is not stopping the more unscrupulous members of society from taking advantage.

Finally, the Parish Council is there for you, our parishioners. If there is anything you think we can do to help out in these strangest of times, please contact one of us and let us know your thoughts. All council members' details can be found in the back of the Heron, or on the Parish Council website.

Please remember to continue adhering to the government guidelines regarding distancing and hygiene and, above all, continue to stay safe.



We'll meet again... don't know where ... don't know when

Hi. My name is Chris Elliott and most of you probably know me as one half of the duo "Cockneyjock". I have lived in Christchurch since 2003 with my good wife Penny. I am a

supporter of our local pub and consider myself to be a well-known member of the community. I am also reigning welly-wanging champion at the Village Olympics - having won the event three times - an event that I would love to see return to the Christchurch events calendar. I spent 15 years in the Royal Engineers (spending time in the Falklands, Northern Ireland and Iraq) and I am also a founder member of March Armed Forces Breakfast Club and I Parade on Remembrance Day with members of Fenland Sappers. Remembering fallen comrades is close to my heart and that is why I decided to do something to commemorate VE Day in the village - despite being on lock down. A live broadcast of some music on Facebook quickly turned into me doing something in person on the day, as most thought it was a great idea. It was Ruth Ingram's idea to make me 'mobile' - offering up the back of hubby Colin's truck so that we could bring some entertainment to people who were partying safely in their gardens and so the VE Day tour of Christchurch was born. My set started in Crown Avenue (where I live) and a tour stopping off at Wayside, Upwell Road, Fen View and three stops along Church Road proved to be very popular. Sadly, before moving onto Green Lane, the Police came and stopped proceedings. Apparently, our following had grown in to a "mass gathering" and had been reported to the police as such. The police were very reluctant to stop us but had been told by the powers above that we couldn't continue. Just for the record, I wasn't



arrested or fined - as per the local jungle drums! I am sorry for not getting to my last stop in Green Lane but to all the others who came out and supported our efforts (and allowed us to plug into their electricity supply!) I would like to say a massive thank you. It was an amazing afternoon and it showed the fantastic camaraderie in the village during these tough times and it would be great to do something similar once lockdown is over. Thanks once again to my road manager, Ruth Ingram and my driver, Colin. Village life is alive and kicking. "At the going down of the sun and in the morning, we will remember them".



... but I know we'll meet again some sunny day!





"Well done Chris much appreciated.
I'd say you're Christchurch's secret weapon. Really put the village on the map; thanks also to Ruth & Colin."



"The World must know what happened, and never forget." General Eisenhower

"Listening to Cockney Jock in the village doing his tour around us. Thank you. I'm in the garden, singing along. Really lifted my day"



"At eleven o'clock this morning came to an end the cruellest and most terrible War that has ever scourged mankind. I hope we may say that thus, this fateful morning, came to an end all wars." David Lloyd George



"Well done to Chris for singing for us on our Avenue. I enjoyed it."





Thanks Chris you were great, and really put a smile on a lot of people's faces, I know. We had a great time!

"Looks brilliant. On the Centenary can you extend to the Sixteen Foot please?" (From Chris) We may need a different singer! I will be 85 on the centenary.



"Today we give thanks to Almighty God for a great deliverance. Speaking from our Empire's oldest capital city, war-battered but never for one moment daunted or dismayed – speaking from London, I ask you to join with me in that act of thanksgiving." King George VI



"We may need a different singer! I will be 85 on the centenary!"



"Thank you very much for the entertainment today!! Was fab and consolidates another reason we love being in this village!"





"Thank you Chris. I found your opening especially moving, when you read the words "They shall not grow old..", and then played the Last Post. Thank you. Very special. "



"Thanks Chris you were great, and really put a smile on a lot of people's faces I know. We had a great time!"



"They shall grow not old, as we that are left grow old: Age shall not weary them, nor the years condemn. At the going down of the sun and in the morning we will remember them."



"Fabulous day thank you to all of you who came out and supported us. Thank you, Ruth, for organising electric and stops. Thank you to the people who were kind enough to let us plug in to their supplies. Thank you to Colin for providing transportation "

Chris x

(Cockney Jock)



CHRISTCHURCH RAINBOWS AND BROWNIES

We hope that all our Rainbows and Brownies are keeping safe during these difficult times, we are missing you all! To make it fun, Tawny and I have decided to set you a challenge to earn yourself a Virtual Guiding Badge. To do this you must complete the following four stages, taking a photograph/note of each as evidence:

- Show us a way that you are keeping active.
- A kind gesture to three people.
- Hold a Facetime Picnic with a friend.
- Get creative and make a game.

When we return, we can show each other what we did and play the games that you make.

Hopefully see you all soon, when it is safe for us to do so.

Snowy and Tawny

If your daughter is aged between 5 and 11 and would like to join our group, we meet in Christchurch, every Wednesday evening (usually). Please fill in the free Guiding form online selecting Christchurch Rainbow and Brownies and we will contact you via that.

<https://www.girlguiding.org.uk/information-for-parents/register-your-daughter/>



Can you beat the average time of 4 minutes and 32 seconds and find 8 differences between these two pictures?



Answers on page 30.

Source: East Anglian Daily Times

“THE LIFE OF THE MARROW FAT PEA” (DRIED PEAS)



The Marrow Fat Pea is a type of pea for human consumption. These peas end up as tinned peas. They also end up as dried peas, which need to be soaked before they can be cooked. And who loves mushy peas? THIS is the pea that makes good Mushy Peas!

Mid-May. This year's crop now stands approximately 18 inches high.

We started drilling and rolling in the crop on March 25th (that's sowing, using specialised equipment, to the uninitiated amongst us), followed by a pre-emergence (growth) weed spray, within 7 days or so after that. When the plants had reached a height of about 2 ins (in old money), the crop was sprayed for Aphis and Pea Weevil. It was sprayed again at the end of April, again for the above, and possibly twice more for any pea moth infestation. The pea moth produces maggots in the pod, which, in turn, attack the actual peas themselves, leaving them full of holes, making them unsalable for human consumption.

We don't irrigate our pea fields, as it has been found that this can cause some rotting off of the plants, and that results in diseased plants. Instead, our peas rely completely on the weather for their moisture. The crop is desperate for rain at the moment, as are all crops on the farm. Meanwhile, the pigeons and crows are having a field day, despite all attempts to deter them during daylight hours.

Jill Bliss

The Farm at the End of the Rainbow

It was my 4 year old daughter's idea, with a bit of imaginative exaggeration from Daddy. She first said she wanted to draw a bigger rainbow than the little one she did with her mum, as many children did, way back in the dim and distant past at the start of lockdown. So, by bigger I thought 'well it might as well be seen from the road'. So that weekend I set about a 8 x 4 sheet of plywood and produced 2 eye catching rainbows with a 'Thankyou NHS & Key Workers slogan underneath. One of which we put on the fence beside our house and the other together with a NFU #buy British banner I put at the top of the farm road for everyone to see.



It's nice to see them colouring the landscape a bit and you can see everyone that goes past takes a look and smiles. It's that smile which people need at the moment, if it gets people through the day it will all be worth it. It's a very uncertain time we are all facing at the moment with no real idea of what will happen when we come out of lockdown, but in these challenging times we have truly seen the nation come together - and right in the centre of rural communities like this one are our farmers. We are still working tirelessly to produce your food for the future. The perishable nature of our industry means we cannot stop, and it's business as usual for all farms across the country working hard to produce top quality, traceable, high standard food for your plate, feeding the nation.

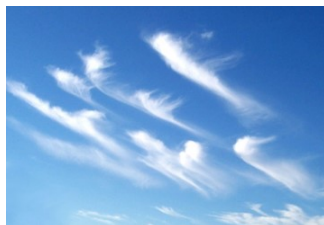
We thank our key workers every Thursday, giving thanks to our fabulous NHS for the great work they are doing putting themselves at such risk everyday. We thank the key workers; including lorry drivers, postmen, refuse collectors, delivery drivers, carers, utility workers and supermarket workers. Remember everyone needs a farmer 3 times a day, breakfast, lunch and dinner. #thankafarmer

Agriculture and farming has seen much scrutiny through the last decade but with every bad story you read about farmers there are 100 good articles you don't or won't get the chance to read as people only seem to focus on the negatives in the media. The World we live in today has changed over the last 100 years but farmers are 100% focused on keeping things as they should be, to keep producing to high standards and high welfare, enhancing biodiversity, caring for livestock, nurturing soils and supporting the rural economy. I firmly believe we are the custodians of the countryside.



Paul Hartley

Kids Corner



What can you see in these clouds?

I am sure you will often have enjoyed lying on your back on the grass and looked at the white clouds in a summer blue sky. What shapes can

you see? It's a fun game; and as the clouds are usually moving when you watch them, the shapes change into other shapes. There is a big word for this kind of activity but it's not important to remember it!

The art of seeing shapes in the clouds is known to

psychologists as **pareidolia**

(from the Greek 'alongside image'). A famous English

Poet called Samuel Taylor

Coleridge wrote a poem

about it, 'Fancy in Nubibus. The Poet in the clouds'.

Here are a few lines from it.

"O, it is pleasant, with a heart at ease,

Just after sunset, or by moonlit skies,

To make the shifting clouds be what you please".



See also page 26.



Who's Who?

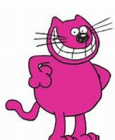
Sylvester
Garfield



Tom
Top Cat



Felix
Custard



Answer on Page 30



Isla Erin McGonagle, Age 2



CATS FACTS

Do you have a cat? Or a few, perhaps? You will enjoy these Cats Facts.

SIX GUINNESS WORLD RECORD-BREAKING MOGGIES

Loud and Proud: hailing from Torquay, in Devon, rescue kitty Merlin has a purr measuring an incredible 67.8 decibels. That's nearly as loud as a dishwasher!

Tootsie Champ: most cats have 18 toes, but Canadian Jake was born with 7 on each paw – a whopping 28 in total.

Friendly Giant: Maine Coons are known for being big, but Ludo from Wakefield measures 118.33cm in length. He's around two and a half times as long as an average cat.

Winning Whiskers: Another Maine Coon, Missi, from Finland, holds the record of the longest whiskers at a luscious 19cm long, nearly three times the length of an average cat whisker.

Grand Champion: the average lifespan of a cat is 14 years, but Crème Puff from Texas reached the grand old age of 38 years and 3 days.

Amazing Acro-cat: Didga can perform 24 different tricks in 60 seconds, including jumping while on a skateboard, and rolling over.





From 18th May

We are changing our opening hours (again sorry)

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Thank you



On average, a Panda feeds for approximately 12 hours per day. This is the same as an adult at home under quarantine, which is why we call it a "Pandemic"



Olivia Reed-Hughes, Age 11



We recently moved to Christchurch ...

I moved here at the end of January 2020, with my husband Terry. We found our new home purely by chance, as it had an open house viewing on the day we were looking at other locations, so we swung by on the way back home for a viewing. We were very impressed by the property, and the village, and made an offer the same day.

I was brought up in Suffolk, and knew that we would come back to live in the country again someday. Having lived and worked in Essex, when I took early retirement, we started house hunting, and here we are. It was everything the previous owners said it would be. We love the fresh clean air, the big skies, and the abundance of wildlife, the people who stop and say hello when I'm walking my dog around the village. There are also quite a few clubs, some of which we hope to join soon.

What we also like about Christchurch is that it has a strong community feel, and during the Covid-19 crisis this has never been more apparent, with volunteers stepping up to help those in self-isolation, with shopping and doctors' prescriptions. People are looking out for one another. We love the clapping on Thursday nights for NHS and key workers, of which Terry is one.

There is a real sense of pride in the village. It is clean, tidy with the Street Pride group created to make it an even more lovely place to live. There are already some great ideas for projects, some of which will help our wildlife, which is why I volunteered, as this is important to me too.

We have been made very welcome in the short time we have been here, and although we never went to pubs where we used to live, we have found that we really enjoy the atmosphere and friendliness of the Dun Cow pub, thanks to Paul and Sue and the regulars. We really cannot wait for it to reopen!

Pat Rigby

Lorries roar past Peterborough City Hospital in spectacular tribute to key workers.



The giant convoy, made up of trucks of all shapes and sizes, streamed past the hospital in time for the weekly clap for carers on Thursday 21 May, after weaving their way through the Fens. The charity fundraiser was the idea of Fenland trucker Danny Whitmore, and has raised more than £16,000 for the NHS.

The route started at Chatteris at 6.30pm, and saw the trucks wind their way through Fenland towns and villages, picking up more trucks as they went. As they arrived at the hospital at around 8.00pm they were greeted by staff, patients and visitors who were taking part in the now traditional applause, standing both outside the building and at windows.

To donate money to the charity campaign, visit www.justgiving.com/fundraising/danny-whitmore

Source: Peterborough Telegraph





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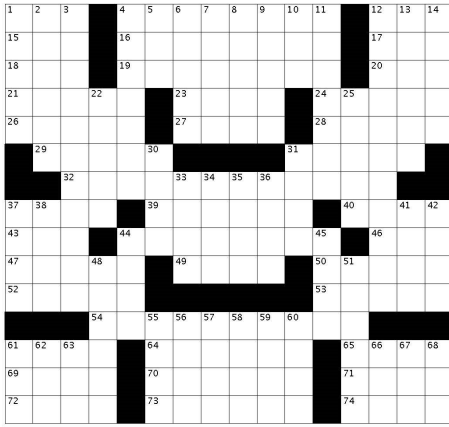
The Granary, Hall Farm, Upwell Road
Christchurch Cambs PE14 9LJ

ACROSS

1. Finish
4. * One who made a famous 70-Across from Jennifer Aniston in 2005
12. Preferred, in slang
15. "I Ching" concept
16. Undertake, or undertaking
17. Donkey Kong, e.g.
18. Alternative to QVC
19. Rhyming 1964 Shirley Ellis tune still riffed on by kids today, with "The"
20. Droop
21. One might have a pet name?
23. "Argo" setting
24. Maestro Zubin
26. "Scrubs" head nurse
27. Cash register section
28. Cutting one might result in tearing?
29. Misgiving
31. Certain Playstation button
32. * ...from AC/DC in 2016
37. Capricious desire
39. Begin bothering
40. "Just do it!" sloganer
43. "Just joking!"
44. * ...from Hong Kong in 1959
46. It's really making waves
47. Union member concerned with trains?
49. Out of a boxing match, for short
50. Tiny bugs
52. Orphan of musical theatre
53. "It's impossible!"
54. * ...from the NFL in 2010
61. Eons, say
64. Via memorization
65. Origin of the mojito
69. Venezuelan president
70. 2016 political manoeuvre -- or, technically, action from each starred entry
71. Hardly near
72. They make Skin So Soft
73. Accept a proposal
74. Wilde words

DOWN

1. Work ____



© Susquehanna International Group

2. AAPL market
3. "I'm upset enough!"
4. Indian language
5. Genetic messenger
6. Let in, as to a club
7. Handler of farm equipment?
8. Polytheistic worshipper
9. Several Russian czars
10. Hardy of "Mad Max: Fury Road"
11. Shockers
12. One whose duds aren't duds
13. "Bridesmaids" director Judd
14. One for whom eggs don't go over easy?
22. You might rise to it?
25. Noted 2001 bankruptcy
30. Bryn ____
31. Frank of diary-writing fame
33. Like Switzerland in WWII: Abbr.
34. Steal, in slang
35. Cookie consumable by a 14-Down
36. Maintain, as a belief
37. Ladies' hoops org.
38. Part of Africa
41. Very interested, in Australian slang
42. It's right on the map!
44. It's all hopped up
45. Qatari leader
48. Claim to, in slang
51. Coat common in certain cold climates?
55. Recedes, as a tide
56. Banks who coined "smize"
57. Deuce follower
58. Alluring
59. End in ____
60. Confirms as competent
61. "I knew it!"
62. Informal British address for a politician
63. ____-surfing
66. Sci-fi sight
67. Modern term of affection
68. Give a gun, say

Answers on Page 27

Beauty Treatments By Jane

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GRAMMAR QUIZ

Can you get them all right? Have a go!

A. The man next door has a garden that is being overrun with cats. Which of the following questions is correct?

Who's cats are using our neighbours garden?

Who's cats' are using our neighbours garden?

Whose cats are using our neighbour's garden?

Whose cats are using our neighbours' garden?

B. Lots of people are confused about when to use "may" and when to use "might". Which one is better here?

The win against Australia might have been a turning point, but it didn't turn out like that

The win against Australia may have been a turning point, but it didn't turn out like that

C. Read this sentence carefully. "I'd like to introduce you to my sister Clara, who lives in Madrid, to Benedict, my brother who doesn't, and to my only other sibling, Hilary." Which of the following is correct?

Hilary is male

Hilary is female

It's impossible to know from the context

D. Less and fewer often cause people grief. Which of the following is wrong?

There's less water in the river these days

I eat fewer than five apples a week

I drink less than three coffees a day

E. Which of the following sentences correctly contains a semi-colon?

My uncle's whiskers are magnificent indeed; but I have no desire to stroke them

Landing a plane isn't hard; I once saw a child do it

There are two countries beginning with Z; Zimbabwe and Zambia.

F. Sometimes you should use "that" and sometimes "which". Which sentence here is wrong?

The car which ran me over was speeding

The car that ran me over was speeding

The car, which was speeding, ran me over

G. Which of the following is not correct?

I was sitting in the chair

I sat in the chair

I was sat in the chair

Answers on page 30.



Interesting Christchurch cloud formation on the evening of Tuesday 13 May. Can you spot the running dog?!?!?

Church News

Are you struggling with some aspect of the Lockdown and the virus? You might like to click on the link below. So encouraging! It is an A Capella cover version of Josh Groban's "You raise me up", performed by BYU Vocal Point.

<https://m.youtube.com/watch?v=rcLI0A-IXlc>

DID YOU KNOW?

ELY CATHEDRAL AND VE DAY (From their Facebook post)

Ely Cathedral with its tower and lantern has been, for centuries, a familiar landmark for travellers, and never more so than during the Second World War when it proved an invaluable navigation aid to aircraft both Allied and German. Ely was, in fact, the centre of a landscape carpeted with aerodromes, and is today the home of the Roll of Honour which lists the names of 19,000 RAF airmen who flew from those same airfields and lost their lives.

It is still a sign of the Christian faith as a guiding light to the world of today and a memorial to so many who have given their lives for faith and goodness, justice and peace. May their memory and that witness long continue.

Photo: Andrew Sharpe



Thoughts from the Rectory

A word of thanks goes a long way.

Just before the government closed the schools down. I had been invited to a school in the Benefice, where I was asked to give a talk to a classroom of mixed seven-year-old children. We talked about people's special gifts and talents and how they make us happy and that everyone has a gift or a talent. I asked the young children to make a list of special talents of the child who was sitting next to them and then for the children to exchange the lists. The children were very good and enthusiastically went along with what I had asked them to do.

Each child then read out what their neighbour had written about them. It was great to see the pleasure on the faces of the children as they were affirmed by their peers for being good at maths, footy, friendliness and a whole lot of other good things.

While many of us often feel hopelessly inept at a lot of things, we are all good at *something*. There are no useless people. But there are plenty of folk who go through life *feeling* that they are useless. You know, it's not only children that need affirming. We all do. When did we last thank or compliment someone? We don't need to go to gushy extremes, but a sincere expression of appreciation could be like oxygen to someone who is faint with frustration, or lacking in confidence. Many of us - and this is not a judgement, it's just one of things that happens in a busy life - pass up opportunities to express appreciation. An old friend from my Salvation Army days, had written some beautiful hymn tunes. He thanked me for an article I had written about him in our church magazine, and for my kind words. I thanked him for his thanks, as you do, I then went on my way, and he went on his way. I immediately regretted that I'd not taken the opportunity of expressing my appreciation for his compositions. That regret was compounded when, shortly afterwards, he passed away quiet unexpectedly. When Mark Twain's wife died his friend told him how beautiful she was. In a mournful broken voice Twain cried: 'Why didn't you ever tell her? She thought you didn't like her.'

Of late, we have taken to going to our front doors and into our back gardens on a Thursday evening at 8:00 pm to clap, bang on saucepans or, as in the Rectory's case, ring a large old school bell; to say thank to our doctors, nurses, health workers and careers and all who work in the National Health service, who risk their lives to bring healing and support for others. A simple but effective way to say thank you.

The apostle Paul gave the early day Christians some good advice: 'Encourage one another and build each other up' (1 Thessalonian NIV). Such words especially in the times we find ourselves in are never wasted.

Take care and keep safe. Ian

Crossword Answers from Page 25

A	V	O	N	A	C	E	S	E	Y	A	S	N	O	N	A	V	O	N
H	U	C	O	B	R	E	X	I	T	A	F	A	R	A	F	A	R	A
A	C	E	S	B	R	E	Y	R	O	T	E	C	U	B	A	A	B	A
B	R	E	T	F	A	V	R	E	R	E	R	E	R	E	R	E	R	E
A	N	N	I	E	I	E	I	E	I	E	I	E	I	E	I	E	I	E
B	R	I	D	E	T	K	O	D	M	I	T	E	S	T	E	S	T	E
N	O	T	B	R	U	C	E	L	E	S	E	A	E	A	E	A	E	A
W	H	I	M	W	E	A	R	O	N	N	I	K	E	E	K	E	E	K
B	R	I	A	N	J	O	H	N	S	O	N	N	O	N	N	O	N	N
O	U	A	L	M	A	R	A	R	O	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W
C	A	R	L	A	T	E	N	S	O	N	O	N	O	N	O	N	O	N
I	D	A	G	A	N	A	N	A	N	A	N	A	N	A	N	A	N	A
H	S	N	A	M	E	C	A	M	E	S	A	C	A	C	A	C	A	C
T	A	O	E	N	D	E	A	V	O	R	A	P	E	A	P	E	A	P
E	N	D	B	R	A	D	P	I	T	T	F	A	V	F	A	V	F	A



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MARCH, CAMBS

Corona

By Terry Symons

That nasty corona 19
It came in 2020
It came in so quick
It could not be seen
It made a silent entry.

The message from the NHS
Can make you feel quite lonely;
But you will get no corona
If you stay at home-a
So cheer up my lads,

Bless you all.



Kimberley, Age 10

Useful Telephone Numbers

Age UK Cambridgeshire	0300 666 9860
Alzheimer's Society (Fenland)	01945 580480
Christchurch Resident's Association	01354 638990
Churchwarden - Mrs. D. Symons	01354 638352
Citizens' Advice Bureau, Wisbech	03442 451292
Community Car Scheme (to book a journey)	07902 316360
Community Centre Bookings	01354 638478
Community Fire Safety Officer	07717 858166
District Councillor - Will Sutton	01354 638025
District Councillor - Michelle Tanfield	07908 707129
Electricity Faults - UK Power Networks	105
FACT	01354 661234
Fenland District Council	01354 654321
Floodline	0845 988 1188
Library - March	0354 045 5225
National Debtline	0808 808 4000
Norfolk Dial-a-Ride	01553 770310
Parish Clerk - David Gibbs	07932 191050
Parish Councillor - Jill Bliss	01354 638343
Parish Councillor - Sharon Pomeroy	07837 407536
Parish Councillor - Roger Gladwin	01354 638538
Parish Councillor - Geoff Harper	01354 638681
Parish Councillor - James Hughes	01354 638310
Parish Councillor - Peter Owen (Chair)	01354 638847
Parish Councillor - Kay Miller	01354 638232
Police - PCSO Sue Clarke	07738 025220
Police - Emergency	999
Police - Non Emergency	101
Telephone Preference Service	0345 070 0707
Townley School	01354 638229
Trading Standards	03454 040506
Train Information	03457 484950
Upwell Health Centre (and out of hours)	01945 773671
Upwell Health Centre - Pharmacy	01945 774934
Veterinary Centre - The Crossings (D'Mkt)	01366 382219
Vicars - Ian & Lynda Brady	01354 740627
Water Emergencies	03457 145145

Club Contacts	
Art Club - Jan Clifford	01354 638217
Book Club - Sheila Day	07946 635908
Craft Club - Sandra Lloyd	01354 638956
Gardening Club - Marion Hawthorn	01354 638230
Short Mat Bowls Club - Wendy Keen	01945 772737
WI - Peggy Warby	01354 638339
Jazz Club - Nigel Smith	01945 773121
Christchurch Eco - Nate Lansdell	07401 319347

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

GRAMMAR QUIZ - ANSWERS

A. It's the third one. "Who's" is short for "who is", whereas "whose" is used to describe items that belong to someone. The garden belongs to the neighbour (singular) so needs an apostrophe before the "s".

B. It's might. The use of may or might varies according to context. In this case, because the victory did not result in a turning point, one chooses the more hypothetical might. May would be correct only if the turning point had happened.

C. He's male. The absence of a comma before "who doesn't" implies that there are other brothers. A comma after "my brother" would mean that there was only one brother.

D. It's coffees. For "countable" things use fewer. For things that are not "countable" - such as water in the river - use less.

E. It's landing a plane. Here it links two independent clauses. You do not use it before a conjunction such as "and" or "but". A colon or dash would work better in the last sentence.

F. It's the first one. "That" defines something, whereas "which" adds new information in a separate clause, often needing commas.

G. It's "was sat". To use "was" requires the participle "sitting" after it.



Web links in the Heron are active when viewed in our online version www.theheron.info

Christchurch Community Centre

2020 Car Shows



The Christchurch Recreation Ground Charity were planning to hold the 5th Annual Car Show on Sunday 7th June 2020, but due to the outbreak of COVID 19 it is with regret this has been cancelled.

The committee have a duty of care to protect our village and community, and considering the Government's guidelines with respect to lock down rules and social distancing, it is not possible to hold the event in June. This is a great shame because over the past few years people have been travelling considerable distances to attend and enjoy the day with us, which has been growing steadily in popularity. Fingers crossed (subject to the Government's guidelines) we may be able to schedule an event on Sunday 13th September.

For more information of future events at Christchurch Community Centre.



**Christchurch Community Centre, Upwell Road, Christchurch,
Cambridgeshire PE14 9LL**



Please remember that no dogs are allowed on the playing field. Thank you. Your co-operation is much appreciated.

Have you spotted these butterflies in Christchurch?



Orange Tip Small
Butterfly



Peacock Large
Butterfly



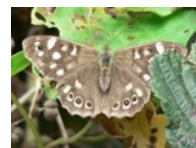
Tortoiseshell Small
Butterfly



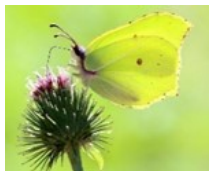
Common Blue
Small Butterfly



Painted Lady
Medium Sized
Butterfly



Speckled Wood
Small Butterfly



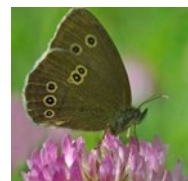
Brimstone Large
Butterfly



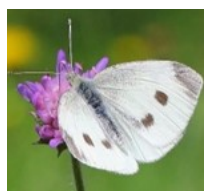
Red Admiral
Large Butterfly



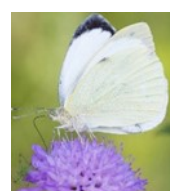
Gatekeeper Small
Butterfly



Ringlet
Small Butterfly



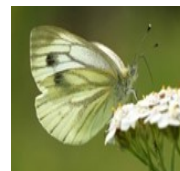
Small White
(Small Cabbage White)
Butterfly



Large White
(Large Cabbage White)
Butterfly



Comma Medium Sized
Butterfly



Green Veined White
Small Butterfly

The UK has 59 species of butterflies – 57 resident species of butterflies and two regular migrants – the Painted Lady and Clouded Yellow. Five species of butterfly have become extinct in the last 150 years. These are the Mazarine Blue, Large Tortoiseshell, Black-veined White, Large Copper and Large Blue. ***The State of the UK's Butterflies 2015 report found that 76% of the UK's resident and regular migrant butterflies declined in abundance, occurrence or both over the last four decades.*** Source: butterfly-conservation.org

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