

The Heron

Community Magazine

August 2020

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

No. 76

“Nature does not hurry, yet everything is accomplished”.

Lao-Tze, 6th cent. BC. Chinese philosopher

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TOWNLEY SCHOOL AND PRE-SCHOOL

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office@townley.cambs.sch.uk

Website: www.townley.cambs.sch.uk

01354 638229

Townley School and
Pre-School

August 2020

What feels like the end, is often just the beginning.

An emotional goodbye was held for Year 6 today, thanks to the support of FOTS. We held a socially distant afternoon of shirt signing, food and photographs! We are going to miss this lovely group of children. I hope that by the time you read this, we will have been able to put their special assembly on the website and you will be able to hear why we think they are the best!



We have made it to the end of what can only be described as the most challenging, strangest year I think I have ever known. Who would have thought when we started the school year in September that we would be finishing it being closed to most children? We have received tremendous support from the Townley families. I want to thank them for that - trying to call each family at least once a week was not as easy as you might think! The children and their parents have worked incredibly hard to continue with learning as best they could at home. We are really proud of you all. The staff have tried their hardest to provide new learning online each day, on the Facebook groups and on the class webpages, recording phonics lessons, group time and reading the class story as well! Staff have even been delivering paper packs of work this term to those without the internet!

We have also been busy planning for a safe return of the children and staff in September. If you are interested in how we are organising this, our Risk Assessment can be found on our school website.

We are saying Goodbye to Mrs Wray this term and hello to Ms Hazzard and Miss Goodrum who are joining us as teaching assistants in September.

Community Information

Mobile Post Office:

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:

LET'S HEAR IT FOR CATHY!

The local area Community Car Scheme has continued running during the Covid19 Pandemic, thanks to the hard work and kindness of Cathy Pook, who is the Coordinator for the villages of Christchurch, Coldham, Elm, Friday Bridge, Outwell and Upwell. Cathy has been the only driver working, as the others have underlying health issues and haven't been able to help out up until very recently, although one other driver did help out for one journey to the QE Hospital in King's Lynn, requested by the Upwell Health Centre. Cathy herself has been doing shopping for people, and has kept an eye on some housebound folks. She has also done a few QE Hospital runs too, for people who are stuck for transport. People must sit in the back of her car, and wear a mask, of course.

Cathy is an animal lover, and is happy to take dogs in her car, so that has enabled her to do (emergency) Vet runs for dog owners. She was able to take someone with their very ill pet to the dog hospital, where, sadly, the dog had to be put down. Now that things are easing a bit, Cathy calls the other drivers to see whether they are able to help out when she receives a request for transport. Interestingly, there have been no requests at all from Christchurch residents during the Lockdown period. MORE DRIVERS ARE NEEDED for our Local Area Community Car Scheme. Can you help?

Call Cathy on 07902 316360 for details, if you would like to become a volunteer driver.

***Thank you to Cathy from all of us in Christchurch.
What a star! STAY SAFE.***



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

Editorial

Hello everyone.

Welcome to our August 2020 edition of The Heron.

This is our village magazine, and this month, once again, a number of villagers have contributed items which are interesting and give us a new look at things from their perspective. This is just as it should be, and I would like to encourage all readers to come forward with ideas, and/or articles.

What exciting news there is from our Christchurch Recreation Ground Committee (p14)! Although they aren't quite there yet with the opening of the Community Centre, the projects that the Committee have gained funding for are amazing! What a difference these will make to our general use and enjoyment of the Community Centre. Impressive!

VJ Day is August 15th. Another 75th Anniversary. Enjoy the family stories of experiences of WW2 in the Pacific and the Far East, on pages 27,28. But we also must never forget that the conflict was brought to an end with the use of two Atomic Bombs being dropped by the Western Allies on two cities in Japan. The first, and so far, the last, use of Atomic weapons in warfare. Tragic. Coventry Cathedral is a centre for Reconciliation and this statue is in the old ruins.



Reconciliation - a sculpture by Josefina de Vasconcellos

Enjoy the magazine!

Annie Nason.

THANK YOU FROM US BOTH

We have been residents of Christchurch for the past 60 years and have always known that this was the best village to live in. However, this has become more apparent over the last 12 weeks as we have had so many offers of help during this very difficult time for us all. Graham and I have been isolating and so some very special people have come to our rescue. We even found sausage rolls on the doorstep one day (thank you Sheila!) but we must say a big "thank you" to one special friend, Marion, who has been our shopper for the past 12 weeks. This was always done with a smile and she always has time for a chat. M&Bs of Outwell have also been brilliant with keeping us supplied with Fruit, Veg and Salad. Well done.

Thank you once again. We really appreciate it.

Peggy and Graham Warby

HAPPY BIRTHDAY TO OUR LANDLORD, PAUL SIMPSON!

Thank you for the party - a lovely occasion. And thank you Cockney Jock! Everyone is impressed with the social distancing lay-out in the Pub garden. Well done. What a great effort.



60th



Parish Church

See page 23 for the latest Government Guidelines and opening hours at our church.

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 September edition of the Heron is **24 August**

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.



A Point of View

We have had World War 1 and World War 2, and now we have World War 3 (because this is what it is). I was a toddler in World War 2, but I can still remember hearing the sirens, the sounds of the aeroplanes, and of bombs dropping.

The current War is not the same as the other two; no bombs, no sirens. Just the invisible enemy. Covid19. Unlike the other two wars, we cannot hear this coming; no sirens, just a silent enemy, creeping up on us. We cannot negotiate peace with it; it cannot hear us. We have tried. In World War 2, the shops were open, the schools were open, cinemas and restaurants were open.

What have we got now? All these places are closed. During World War 2, we could hold hands, hug and kiss each other. Our latest war does not allow that; we have to have 2 metres between each other. We can't even shake hands with our neighbours. How much we all miss that! We all want to kiss and hug each other, but are unable to do that. We must avoid contagion.

Many of us have kind neighbours who will give us help when necessary. Unfortunately, others are not so lucky.

We are all looking forward to the end of this period of our lives, but I fear that will be a long time coming. However, there is always a light at the end of the tunnel, and the children will again be able to go to school, play with their friends, and kiss and hug each other. And we adults will be able to do the same, and get on with our lives without having to be anxious. IT WILL END!

Keep safe, and look forward to a new beginning. Love to you all.

Peggy Pomeroy

Heron News



TREASURER & ADVERTISING

July saw us saying goodbye to our Treasurer Linda Webster. Linda was Treasurer and Advertising contact for a number of years and we thank her very much for the help she gave us during that time. It was really appreciated.

We are delighted to welcome Elaine Reed-Hughes to the role.

Elaine has been a fan of the Heron since she and her family moved to the village back in 2007. Elaine comes from an Admin background and has some Treasurer experience (being Friends of Townley School Treasurer for a number of years) and we hope she will enjoy the role.

AGM: We are planning to hold our AGM on October 5th at 7.30pm in the Community Centre. Covid19 rules will be applied, of course. We would have liked to have had a glass of something with a few snacks, just to be friendly. However, not this time. **EVERYONE** is invited to attend, and it would be great to see and meet our "Fans". If you wish to be able to vote at the meeting, please join the Friends of The Heron. Ask me for a form. **NO COST INVOLVED**, by the way.

CALENDAR PHOTOS DEADLINE is October 12th. Keep those Christchurch Skies pictures coming in.

We would like to invite our advertisers to sponsor the Calendar to the tune of £12 (or more). Your company will then have a mention in the Calendar. Extra advertising for you.

FOR THE SEPTEMBER ISSUE: Let's see your photos of your Heron sunflower plants... mine didn't germinate, so I won't be a contender for the tallest sunflower! Current height to beat is 2.1 metres (7ft)!

SAFETY: Your copy of The Heron has been dormant in its cardboard box for 3 days, along with the rest of the copies, before being delivered to your home. Deliverers will have washed their hands before delivering them. If you are at all anxious about this, just put your magazine aside for another 3 days and then read it (though we don't believe that this is necessary).

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!



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**OPENING HOURS from 4th July – Midday Sat & Sun
Mon to Thursday variable, Friday from 2.00pm.**

Happy Hour - Fridays 4.30 to 6.30

← **Covid 19 Dun Cow update** →

New restrictions and protocols will be in place for the sake of **your community**, so maintaining a social distance of 1 metre+ is a **MUST**.

Some of the control measures in place will be; separate entrance and exit, hand sanitising available and sneeze screens on the bar along with a separate smoking area. At the time of going to press these measures are in line with guidelines from Fenland District Council.

A big thank you to all the volunteers and workers who have kept Christchurch going; you know who you are.

Susan and I would like to thank the community for their good wishes and kind gestures people have made over the past 14 weeks. We are so glad to have moved here and are proud to be part of this community.

I will update via social media of any changes for you to be aware of.

Outdoor Quiz(Weather Permitting) - Sunday 30th August - 5pm



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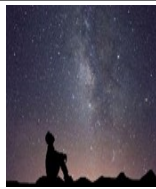
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Christchurch Stargazers

Hello Christchurch Stargazers!



Well a nice visit from comet **Neowise** on its 6800-year-round trip. Hope most of you got to see it low in the North East, and hopefully some people have had the chance to take a photograph.

August will bring the **Perseid Meteor Shower** which will peak on the 12th and 13th of the month, with up to 80 per hour. It's also a chance to view the milky way, looking South in dark skies.

Last month I asked whether you knew what Jupiter's 4 main moons were called. They are: **Io, Callisto, Ganymede and Europa.**

Planets visible this month are **Jupiter** and **Saturn** which are low in the evening sky and visible most of the night. **Mars** will be brightening in the early morning. **Mercury** will be best to view at the start of the month in the morning sky, as will **Venus.**

Always remember never to look at the Sun without the correct equipment.

Well - let's hope it's not too long before we can all meet up and view the night sky together.

Mark Andrews



Comet Neowise captured over Brancaster Staithe in the early hours of Sunday, July 12.

Picture: Gary Pearson

During these unsettling times I have really missed catching up with our members at our monthly meetings. I am an old-fashioned girl so am not up-to-date with these new-fangled Zoom Meetings - so I have used this enforced break to relax and reflect on what is important. For me, it is family and friends. You always want what you can't have so not seeing my family and friends as often as I would like has been really hard. I know I am not alone there! However, that said - my lovely friends at WI have never been too far from my thoughts which is why I, and the rest of the committee, came up with the idea of buying each of our members a patio rose to show that, whilst we are not seeing each other, they are still being thought of.

I have received several phone calls and messages of thanks and have heard how much of a lovely and unexpected surprise it was to receive such a nice gift and I am really pleased they were so well received.

As the rules start to relax, we can only hope that we will all meet up again really soon but, in the meantime, I would like to stress that we shouldn't be complacent and that we should all stay safe and healthy.

Sending all my lovely friends and fellow WI members a "Hello" and see you very soon.

Peggy Warby
President



Christchurch Gardening Club

"You say TOMAY-TOE, and I say TOMAH-TOE... Let's call the whole thing off!" Go on. Admit it. You are singing that as you read it! Here is a comment by an American (TOMAY-TOE):

***"It's difficult to think anything but pleasant thoughts when eating a home-grown tomato."* Lewis Grizzard (American writer)**

With Summer here and the weather heating up we are harvesting our own homegrown fruits, vegetables and herbs. Next Spring why don't we all try to grow our own. You don't need a garden; a balcony, or even a window sill will work perfectly.

Some of the vegetables and herbs which are easiest to grow and maintain are mint, chives and tomatoes. The joy of eating homegrown tomatoes is just amazing.

Enjoy!



Christchurch Art Group



We are not yet able to say when we will be able to meet as a group again, but we can still keep our art work going. Things are easing a little bit so we are able to venture further afield. How about taking your art materials out and about with you to sketch? Find an interesting subject, no matter how small, and have a go at sketching outside.

Enjoy the summer and hopefully we will be able to catch up soon. Watch this space ...

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

Jan Clifford



Lockdown Dreams!

Christchurch Craft Club

So, who else, like me, made all sorts of exciting plans at the start of lockdown? All this lovely time at home, no where to go, no-one to see. I would do yoga every day, finish all those half-started craft projects, read and catch up with all the on-line craft courses I've bought and not 'had time' to do. It was going to be excellent. By week 4, all I'd really done was cry a lot and feel sad about everything I couldn't do and everyone I couldn't see. My crafting mojo had well and truly left the building. No yoga had been done and the reality of life in lockdown was very different to what I'd thought it would be.

However, it was clear that it wasn't going to get better any time soon, and I knew I could easily slide into depression. Having acknowledged that, I started slowly...some reading, some rock painting, getting messy with paints. Oh the joy. I know that crafting helps with my mental health, but this time it was like a light being switched on in a dark room.



I didn't do anything too challenging to start with, just relaxed into it and tried to have some fun. I did some art journaling which allowed me to dump the crazy brain stuff. Then I moved onto a couple of projects from an online course... a bowl with affirmation cards, mini books – anything that wasn't too taxing, but was fun to do. I borrowed other people's creativity. It really helped and my spirits started to lift. I picked up a half-finished fabric book I was making and continued to sew. I started to use my own creativity again. I'm currently making a snippet roll which is tremendous fun. I don't usually enjoy hand stitch, but in lockdown, slow stitching has really lifted me. My most recent piece is a free motion embroidery picture of teasels and cow parsley.

I can honestly say that crafting has helped keep me sane during lockdown and it's been a joy to let that part of me fly free.

I'm sure many of you can relate to the lack of mojo, and we're all missing craft club. But try and find something to do – get messy, watch YouTube, paint a rock. No pressure, don't do it for anyone other than yourself. The main thing is to have fun and enjoy yourself!

Jane Rees



Cambridgeshire libraries

at home library

Cambridgeshire Libraries can now accept new referrals to the Revised Library@Home Service. This service is open to Cambridgeshire Residents who fit a set criteria: -

The service is for anyone who usually relies heavily on reading books or listening to audiobooks AND who is housebound, shielding or isolating due to age or health conditions under the current COVID-19 Government guidelines.

People accepted for this service will be contacted by a member of the Library@Home Team who will arrange a doorstep delivery of specially chosen books/audiobooks. Deliveries will be monthly (by prior arrangement) and previously loaned books/audiobooks will be picked up when new ones are delivered.

To enquire about the Revised Library@Home Service you can contact us:

By email - volunteers@cambridgeshire.gov.uk

By phone – 07442 022 926 or 07342 700308

A member of Library@Home team will respond to the referral.



We might be a small village, but there are a number of Small Business Enterprises in Christchurch. Here is one of them.

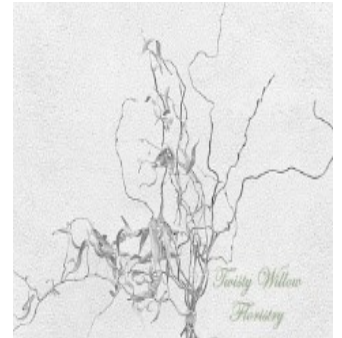
For those that don't know me already, I'm Caroline, your resident Florist.

Originally from Ten Mile Bank and having lived in Downham Market for some years, I came to the village of Christchurch in May 2013 with my husband Sam and son Jamie. I retrained as a florist 12 years ago, and once formally

qualified, my first florist position was in a shop in the village of Dersingham close to the Sandringham estate. Safe to say, we did some lovely arrangements for some very special customers!

When we moved to Christchurch I decided the commute to Dersingham was a bit too far, so I started to work more locally in a florist shop in Ely and from my home in the village. I reduced my workload when my daughter Isla was born 3 years ago, but kept my hand in, providing flowers when asked and also ran Christmas wreath making workshops at our home.

I have recently started a Facebook business page "**Twisty Willow Floristry**" where you can see some of my work. Please feel free to Like, Follow and Share. I offer bespoke Wedding flowers, Funeral flowers and floral arrangements for gifts and those special occasions when pre-ordered. You may also see the occasional 'grab and go' bunch outside our gate at West Star Farmhouse on Upwell Road.



Please feel free to contact me either by phone, email or Facebook, see below for details.

Caroline – 07915647453, twistylwillowfloristry@hotmail.com, Facebook – Twisty Willow Floristry



From 18th May

We are changing our opening hours (again sorry)

Monday to Friday

OPEN 8.30am to 12.30pm

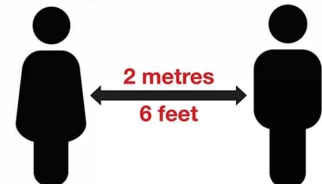
CLOSED 12.30 pm - 2pm

OPEN 2pm - 5.30pm

Please remember we will be closing at 5.30 pm.

COVID-19

The fight
is not over



Keep social
distancing



Surgery : 01945 773671 Dispensary: 01945 774934 Out of Hours: 111

When visiting the surgery for an appointment please can you ensure that you now bring your own masks/scarf or face covering where possible. This is because there is a shortage of the amount of masks that we can provide at this current time. Thank you.

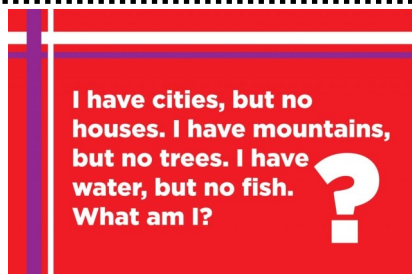
The Government has announced that this year we will be holding the biggest National Flu Immunisation Programme ever. Although we do not have dates available at present, at the Health Centre we are busy planning how we will deliver the vaccines to our patients in the safest way possible whilst dealing with the increased demand that is expected this year. Please keep your eye out on our website upwellhealthcentre.nhs.uk or the Upwell Health Centre Facebook page for news of when the appointments will be available to book.

Brownies and Rainbows to restart in September

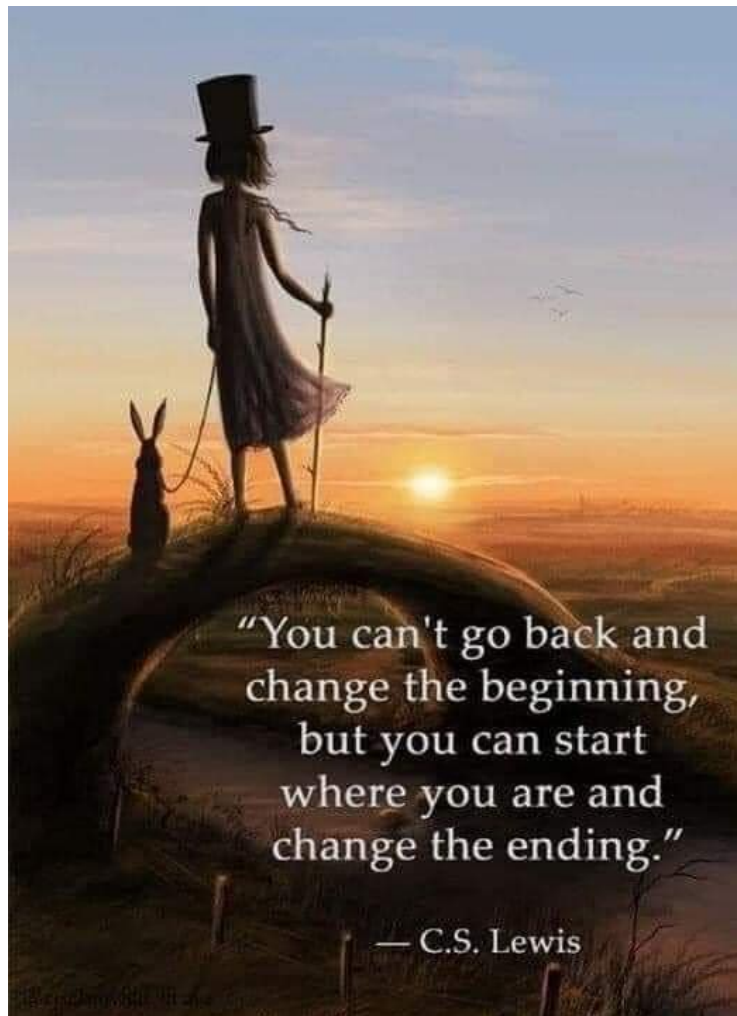
Girlguiding UK have announced that we are able to run Brownie and Rainbow meetings outside from September. This is fantastic news and we would really like to start this up for Brownies and Rainbows in the village however we need to find out how many girls would be interested in taking part.

Sessions would run as normal on Wednesdays from 5.15-6.15pm on the recreation ground, supervised by Tawny Owl and supported by parent helpers. All sessions will be fully risk assessed and measures will be put in place to keep all involved safe. If your daughter would be interested in returning to Brownies and Rainbows in this way please let us know via the Christchurch Rainbows and Brownies Facebook page.

Tawny Owl



Answer on
page 24.



Hello Christchurch! Hope everyone is doing well, and everyone is keeping safe. It's been quite some time since my last update, and as we enter what seems like a changed world, it feels fitting to update the community on what's been going on behind the scenes here at Christchurch Eco, and what I'm hoping we can now achieve during this trying times.



Before lockdown, this amazing community had helped raise £110.00 for Townley School, an incredible amount of money. And I want to thank everyone who has helped us all achieve this.

Christchurch Eco News

I am planning on reopening the stations very soon, but there will be significant changes, unfortunately. These will include just having 3 main boxes on each station, taking crisp packets, pringle tubes, and disposable gloves (the batteries and printer cartridges will also remain open as well). We, unfortunately, at this current time (July 2020), cannot take pet food pouches, Cats Protection in Downham Market has stopped collecting them for the foreseeable future and as such it's not viable to collect them. The other streams we currently collect for like oral care products are just on a temporary hold for now.

For each station please follow the strict COVID rules to protect me and the volunteers, and the community. It's common sense and were all aware of the role we play to protect everyone.

RECYCLING SUPER HEROES COLOURING COMPETITION LINK: Deadline August 31st https://www.fenland.gov.uk/recyclinghero2020?fbclid=IwAR2HurqJS0caVgfGdUG6qCjHvS0g_nMmq2yxlaurhbrswBB2xbj_8d7Fpk

Christchurch Book Swap

This has been incredibly successful, and I'm working on ways to build something within the recycling centre at Fen view to continue this. Thank you everyone for keeping this a fun, safe and friendly.

Christchurch Street Pride

Christchurch Street Pride: I've been working with Fenland District Council on ways to these back on track. Of course, like everything, social distancing rules will apply but you will soon see a dedicated army of community volunteers cleaning and bringing colour to our village, and remember it's open to everyone so please reach out and come join Christchurch Street Pride.

Christchurch Community Centre News

Re-opening after Covid 19

On Monday the 6th July the Christchurch Recreation Ground Committee held their first virtual meeting since lockdown, to discuss the safe re-opening of the Community Centre and its management. From advice that has been collated by Camb Acre, other village halls within our district are remaining closed until at least September. They have pointed out that although it is permissible to open the doors, with social distancing rules, the extreme safety requirements, plus the fact that many club members/users presently lack the confidence to return to normal socialising, the Christchurch Recreation Ground Charity have agreed to keep our Centre closed and review the situation at the end of August with respect to a re-opening decision. Should Christchurch football team want to use the shower/changing rooms during the continual closure, they will need to agree to take on the responsibility of thoroughly deep-cleaning these facilities before and after any matches, as per Government Guidelines



Other News.

The Committee has been successful in its application for grant funding for a number of projects that will enhance our facility, now and for the future. Whitemill/Fenland District Council have supported us with 85% grant funding for the installation of Solar Panel Energy (completed December 2019) and have recently (July) approved a grant to cover 85% of the cost for the procurement of acoustic sound panels for the main hall.

Other projects In progress . All projects should be completed by the end of this year which will significantly improve our Community Centre.

1. Camb Acre have approved 100% funding for 3 years to install and pay for WiFi for The Centre. This should have happened earlier this year but lockdown has caused delay.
2. The Committee have also secured additional funding to pay for the installation of overhead projectors for the main hall and meeting room, a new stage for the main hall plus CCTV to protect the centre.

Geoffrey Harper.
(Chairman Christchurch Recreation Ground Charity)

Stay **safe**
Stay **connected**



**CAMBRIDGESHIRE
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Working together to improve community safety

Be water aware

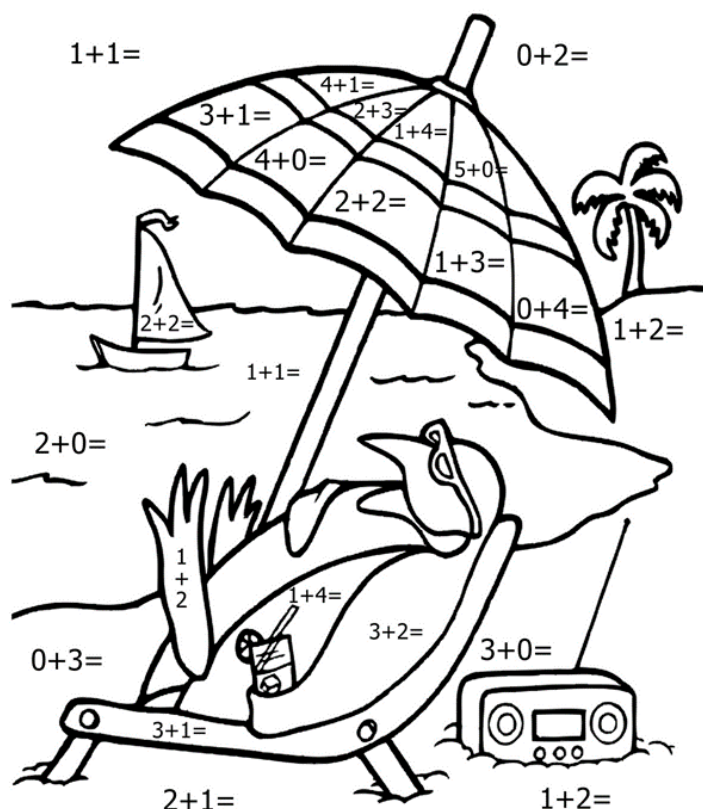
While the sun is shining, it might be tempting to cool down with a dip in local rivers, canals, quarries or lakes. But think twice before you do. There can be hidden dangers beneath the surface that can have deadly consequences. Every year firefighters are called to incidents where people, both adults and children, get into difficulty when taking a dip in open water.

Download the free what3words app so that emergency services can help pin point your location in hard to find areas.



Kids Corner

2-Blue 3-Yellow 4-Red 5-Green



Pets Corner

Meet Larry. He lives in Number 10, Downing Street, London.

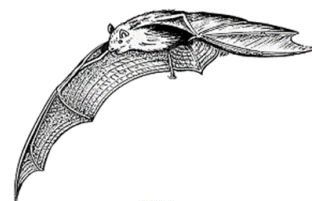
There has been a resident cat in the English government employed as a mouser and pet since the 1500s, although modern records date only to the 1920s. Though other cats have served Downing Street the first one to be given the official title of **Chief Mouser by HM Government** is Larry, in 2011. According to Larry's official description on the 10 Downing Street government page, Larry's responsibilities include spending his days greeting guests to the house, inspecting security defences and testing antique furniture for napping quality. His day-to-day responsibilities also include contemplating a solution to the mouse occupancy of the house which is still "in tactical planning stage".



Bats - Facts

Bats are quite remarkable animals worthy of our interest and respect. They are the only mammals capable of controlled flight - and their aerobatic

skills have to be seen to be believed! British bats eat insects and nothing else. This makes them valuable friends and allies as many farmers and gardeners seek to reduce insect numbers; some insects can cause damage to valuable crops and flowers.



The most common bat seen in Britain is also the smallest of our 18 species and it is known as the **Pipistrelle**. This little bat (wing span about 22 to 25cm) is often mistaken for a dusk-flying bird as it flits among the trees and hedgerows seeking insect prey.

Although bats have reasonable eye sight, they catch their food (flying insects) by using a remarkable form of 'radar'! As the bat flies through the air it emits a series of ultrasonic squeaks (about 12 - 15 per second). These high-pitched sounds are usually out of range of human hearing, although some lower frequency calls are certainly audible. The sound waves from each squeaking call are projected out in front of the flying bat. As these sound waves come into contact with objects along the flight-line they bounce echoes back to the bat's receiving gear - so allowing the bat to avoid obstacles or to home in on insect prey.

All British Bats hibernate. They build up fat during the Autumn and find a cool, humid, sheltered place to hibernate, such as a crevice in a cave. Some hibernate in church towers, or older building roofs. All their body systems slow down in order to save energy, and their heart rate drops to 20 beats per minute when hibernating - compared with 1,000 beats per minute in flight. During mild spells in winter, bats may wake up and fly to feed, or to move to a different site.



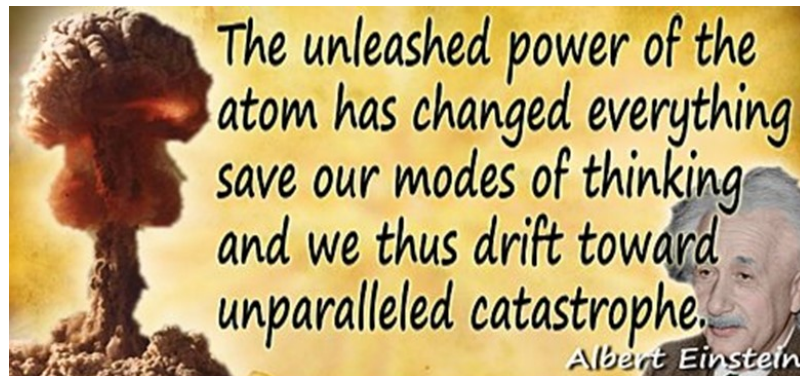
Watch out for bats just as darkness is falling.

A Pipistrelle being held by an authorised Bat Conservationist. In the UK it is illegal to touch or disturb bats, as they are a protected species.

WW2 - More 75th Anniversaries of two terrible events which contributed to the ending of the 1939-1945 War, and what Albert Einstein had to say on the matter.

The Atomic bombings of Hiroshima and Nagasaki The end of WW2 in the Pacific and Far East is commemorated on August 15th.

The United States detonated two nuclear weapons over the Japanese cities of Hiroshima and Nagasaki on August 6 and 9, 1945, respectively, with the consent of the United Kingdom, as required by the Quebec Agreement. The two bombings killed between 129,000 and 226,000 people, most of whom were civilians, and remain the only uses of nuclear weapons in armed conflict to this day.



Story of a Song – Summertime - Part 3....Our final look at the song, for the musicians amongst us....

WRITTEN BY GORDON HARVEY ON SEPTEMBER 10TH, 2014

The chords have a way of playing with our expectations and anticipations. Looking at a popular song sheet version, it starts on a dark, tense Am6 chord and moves to an E7, a chord that is commonly used to lead us to some kind of change or resolution, but here just falls back to the Am6, rocking us between the two, lulling us into a hazy torpor that feels relaxed but still seems to anticipate something. A B in the bass under the E chord emphasises the gentle sway. "Fish are jumping" offers some uplift, but soon it settles back into the Am6 & E7. The real change comes at "hush little baby" with C Major, a chord which works as the light to Am's shade. The effect is like a sudden fresh breeze on a balmy afternoon. The string fills (usually included in song sheets) wrap around the melody, adding a flowing feel with bluesy passing half-steps.



You could teach yourself an accompaniment pretty easily if you know how to work out inversions, you'll maximise the effect by keeping the voicings close. For example, if you play the Am6 chord in root position (A, C, E, F#), the E7 will work well by pivoting up around the E to play B, D, E and G#. Play it slow with a 1:1 ratio and that lazy feel will emerge. Adding the melodic fills between the sung phrases makes it very authentic. ENJOY!



***"Mary, Mary, quite contrary,
How tall does your Heron
Sunflower grow?"***

Any advance on 2.1m/7ft ??



Wow! What a Whopper!!!



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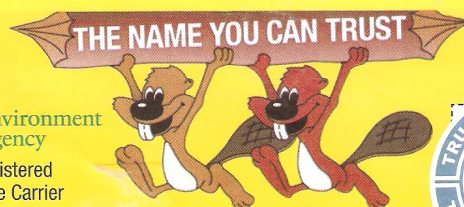
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BHS 2026 - Historical Researcher

Do you hack out? Do you know whether the routes you ride on are legally recorded?

The
British
Horse
Society

"Find the missing pieces, fill in the gaps, complete the jigsaw!"

On 1st January 2026, historical routes in England that aren't properly recorded will be lost to the public forever. We are looking for people to volunteer their time to help us identify and register these routes before it's too late.

2026 research can be really flexible and done as and when you have time and energy. We are keen to hear from volunteers with a range of skills and abilities, which may include: solving puzzles, map reading or an interest in local history. Support, training and expenses provided for all 2026 volunteers.

If you would like to register to support the BHS 2026 project in your area, please contact our Volunteer Support Team at volunteer@bhs.org.uk

The British Horse Society is a Registered Charity Nos. 210504 and SC038516



WHERE DID THAT SAYING COME FROM?

Did you know that, years ago, they used to use urine to tan animal skins, so families used to all pee in a pot and then once a day it was taken and sold to the tannery. If you had to do this to survive you were "P*ss Poor". But worse than that were the REALLY poor folk who couldn't even afford to buy a pot and they "didn't have a pot to p*ss in" and were the lowest of the low.

Here are some other interesting facts about the 1500s: Most people got married in June because they took their yearly bath in May, and they still smelled pretty good by June. However, since they were starting to smell, Brides carried a bouquet of flowers to hide the body odour. Hence the custom today of the bride carrying a bouquet when getting married. Baths consisted of a big tin tub, filled with hot water, usually in front of the fire. The man of the house had the privilege of the first bath with the nice clean water, then all the other sons and men, then the women and finally the children had their turn. Last of all were the babies. By then the water was so dirty you could actually lose someone in it. Hence the saying: "Don't throw the baby out with the bath water!"

Most houses had thatched roofs-thick straw-piled high, with no wood underneath. It was the only place for animals to get warm, so all the cats and other small animals (mice, bugs) lived

in the roof. When it rained it became slippery and sometimes the animals would slip and fall off the roof - hence the saying "It's raining cats and dogs." There was nothing to stop things from falling into the house and this posed a real problem in the bedroom where bugs and other droppings could mess up your nice clean bed. Hence, a bed with big posts and a sheet hung over the top afforded some protection. That's how canopy beds came into existence.

The floor was dirt. Only the wealthy had something other than dirt. Hence the saying, "Dirt poor." The wealthy had slate floors that would get slippery in the winter when wet, so they spread thresh (straw) on floor to help keep their footing. As the Winter wore on, they added more thresh until, when you opened the door, it would all start slipping outside. A piece of wood was placed in the entrance-way. Hence: a thresh hold.

In those old days, they cooked in the kitchen with a big kettle that always hung over the fire. Every day they lit the fire and added things to the pot. They ate mostly vegetables and did not get much meat. They would eat the stew for dinner, leaving leftovers in the pot to get cold overnight and then start over the next day. Sometimes stew had food in it that had been there for quite a while. Hence the rhyme: Peas porridge hot, peas porridge cold, peas porridge in the pot nine days old. Sometimes they could obtain pork, which made them feel quite special. When visitors came over, they would hang up their bacon to show off. It was a sign of wealth that a man could, "bring home the bacon." They would cut off a little to share with guests and would all sit around and chew the fat.

Bread was divided according to status. Workers got the burnt bottom of the loaf, the family got the middle, and guests got the top, or the upper crust. Lead cups were used to drink ale or whisky. The combination would sometimes knock the imbibers out for a couple of days. Someone walking along the road would take them for dead and prepare them for burial.. They were laid out on the kitchen table for a couple of days and the family would gather around and eat and drink and wait and see if they would wake up. Hence the custom of holding a wake.

"THE MARROW FAT PEA" (DRIED PEAS). A VERY HEALTHY FOOD. OUR FINAL LOOK AT THIS PRODUCE FROM A LOCAL FARM.

HARVEST

This particular type of pea is harvested when the vine (plant) is totally dead and yellowed, as opposed to Vining Peas, which are harvested when the vine is still growing, and is green. These are the peas that you buy as frozen peas in the Super Markets.

As for the Marrow Fat Peas, the greener the *actual* peas are, the better the quality, and the better the financial return for the farmer. As this crop is grown for human consumption, it must contain 90% of the green colour as a requirement of sale to The Far East. Any peas which do not meet this standard are redirected to Animal Feed manufacturers. The farm has machinery to grade the peas.

Marrow Fat Peas are *Combine Harvested* as soon as possible, once the vine is dead. Our farm will probably harvest the peas mid-August, weather permitting. This prevents the actual pea from becoming bleached by sunlight or bad weather. The crop is harvested with a moisture content of 15% and needs to produce at least 2 x tons per acre to break even financially. The Harvest is then delivered to the company which buys the peas. They then grade them. The best quality peas are for the Pulse markets overseas. Any leftovers are set aside for the animal feed sector.

Jill Bliss

DID YOU KNOW?

DRIED PEAS CONTAIN VITAMINS, MINERALS, FIBRE, AND OMEGA 3. NUTRITIONAL FACTS: THE TOP 6 MICRONUTRIENTS FOUND IN DRIED PEAS –

*The *RDA below are per portion.*

Folate (B9): 24% of RDA. Contributes to good mental health, cardiovascular and immune system health, DNA creation, and the reduction of fatigue.

Thiamin (B1): 19% of RDA. Contributes to heart function, energy creation, and the maintenance of mental and emotional state.

Manganese: 17% of RDA. Contributes to protecting cells from damage, and is important for healthy bone, connective tissue and energy creation.

Fibre: 15% of RDA. For healthy bowel function; may protect the heart, arrest the development of diabetes, and reduce the risk of certain types of cancer.

Phosphorous: 15% of RDA. Contributes to normal function of all your cells, and energy creation; helps maintain the growth of bones and teeth, and promotes the normal growth of children.

Pantothenic Acid (B5): 14% of RDA. Contributes to mental performance, energy creation, and to reducing tiredness.

**RDA = Recommended Dietary Allowance. Source: "Check Your food" website.*



Are you a Classical Music fan? Then read on...

The BBC Proms, what's it all about? Part 1. 2020

BBC Proms 2020. Friday 17 July – Saturday 12 September 2020.

The BBC Proms is a classical music festival held every summer at the Royal Albert Hall in London, and in recent years has explored new venue spaces through the innovative Proms at... series of events, and also "Proms in the Park". Its aim: to bring the best in classical music to the widest possible audience, which remains true to founder-conductor Henry Wood's original vision in 1895. Whether you are a classical connoisseur or think 'classical music is not for me', there is surely something for everyone in the 8-week stretch of concerts

NOT THE PROMS AS WE KNOW THEM, THE PROMS AS WE NEED THEM

125 years on from its creation, the Proms will once again provide a remarkable summer of music, fulfilling founder-conductor Sir Henry Wood's vision to 'bring the greatest classical music to the widest possible audience'. The current situation with COVID-19 means the planned season is sadly no longer possible. Instead, the Proms have been reconceived in a different format, but with the same aim – to create the world's greatest classical music festival by reflecting world class music-making from leading artists around the globe, highlighting emerging talent, and featuring work by some of today's most exciting and innovative composers. The 2020 Proms will celebrate the past, reflect on the present and build for the future.

The 2020 season will open on Friday 17 July on BBC Radio 3 and Sunday 19 July on BBC Four.

Biryani

A tasty way to use up leftovers

*Caution - not sure how authentic this recipe is - but it is very tasty!
I usually prepare this in a wok - it makes stirring everything together easier - but a big saucepan would also work well.*

Serves 4

1 onion chopped

Cooked rice - cold (for 4 people I use 1 mug-full of basmati rice and cook it in 2 mug-fulls of salted water)

Left over meat cut into bite sized chunks (chicken or lamb as much as you have - this really stretches it out!)

1 tsp ground cumin

1 tsp garam masala

1 tsp chilli powder (or to taste)

$\frac{1}{2}$ tsp ground turmeric

Handful blanched almonds

Handful sultanas

The spices can be replaced by 1 tblsp curry powder.

Fry onion until soft. Add spices & fry for about 1 minute. Stir in meat and fry in the spices for a short while - add water if it looks dry. Stir in rice, almonds and sultanas. Keep stirring until everything is piping hot and has turned yellow from the turmeric.

Delicious served with a vegetable curry and/or a lentil daal.

A vegetarian alternative is to exchange tinned chick peas (drained and rinsed) for the meat, but omit the nuts and sultanas.. This is a great side dish at barbecues!



Fenland's stunning 12-acre Maize Maze is open at Skylark Garden Centre.

The largest Maize Maze in East Anglia, at the Skylark Garden Centre, in Wimblington, is looking stunning. Visitors to Skylark can follow the twisting pathways to discover the 'Dance of the Bees' and help out the 'Honey Heroes'. The maze can be searched for nectar and flowers while learning about the importance of bees to the countryside and food production.

The 2020 Maze is truly aMAZing. It's a big THANK YOU card to the NHS.

Skylark say that they will be following the Government Guidelines very closely and have all the necessary facilities and information in place to make sure everyone has a safe and fun day out. Be sure to book before you come, please.

Call on 01354 741 212 or email info@skylarkmaizemaze.co.uk or visit <https://skylark-events.co.uk/>





WELNEY WETLANDS CENTRE - We're open!

We missed you all during lockdown and we hope you've kept safe and well. You remain our primary concern, so rest assured that we're following the latest Government guidance and we are only opening as and when we can do so safely.



What you need to know: To

help keep you and our staff, volunteers and local communities safe, we're limiting the number of people who can visit on any one day. And we have introduced a booking system to manage that.

Sadly, all walks and talks have been cancelled. *(There will be no Bat Walks this year).*

Bookings open every Wednesday morning at 9am for the following week, and you need to book before midnight the day before you'd like to visit.

Daubenton's bat: Length: 4.4 cm - Known as the 'water bat', Daubenton's bats fish insects from the water's surface with their large feet or tail. This bat, along with other types of bat, thrives on the Welney Marshes.



Parish Council

The Parish Council held another virtual meeting on Monday 13 July. The first item under discussion was the overhanging trees and bushes in Green Lane. The owners will be receiving a letter shortly asking them to help us to keep the road clear for the large vehicles that need to use it.

The Parish Council has submitted a bid for funding to the County Council for speed reduction and junction safety measures on Padgetts Road near the junction with Church Road. We'll be working with the Highways officers to clarify the best solution for this area. We have also submitted a funding application to the County Council's Communities Capital Fund to add a covered paved area at the rear of the Community Centre for outdoor events and activities. We will know within a few weeks whether or not our application has been successful, so fingers crossed!

The Council has received lots of advice on re-opening public buildings and this has been passed on to the Community Centre Management Committee for them to make plans. We also receive information from the Police and other agencies regarding scams and we're looking for ways to share this, particularly with vulnerable households.

We considered a planning application to create a dog breeding and kennelling centre at a house on the Sixteen Foot Bank.

Finally, after a wait of more than 15 months, we have received the condition report on our street lights from Fenland District Council and will now be able to start replacing some of our very old lights with modern energy-efficient LEDs. You should see some of this work taking place before the end of August and we hope to have it all completed before the clocks go back in October. We'll be back for another meeting on Monday 10 August, probably by video-conference again, but members of the public are welcome to join us, either via the internet or by telephone. Call the Clerk for details.

The (Over) Hanging Gardens of Christchurch

With 2020 set to be remembered as the year in which our wheelie bins go out more than we do, there has been plenty of time to try new hobbies. Top of many people's list is gardening and the village has probably never looked better. The daily walk is more like a trip to the Chelsea Flower Show, with floral displays of all colours, shapes and sizes. In places, the foliage seems to be making a leap for freedom over garden fences, but this can be a nuisance for pedestrians and, in particular, for parents with push chairs, or wheelchair and mobility scooter users. Please take a moment to check that no part of your hedges, trees, or other vegetation is beyond the boundary of your property, to enable everybody to enjoy seeing the fruits of your labours and to walk safely after dark. Thank you.

Seven do's and seven don'ts for taking your dog in a car



Calling all Dog owners - and we have a number in Christchurch, as I am sure you are aware!

Did you know you could be breaking the law in the UK if your dog isn't "suitably restrained" when travelling by car?

Whether it's for a trip to the vet or a visit to the beach, most owners will take their dog in the car at some stage. It almost goes without saying, however, that cars can be dangerous for dogs if care and

common sense are not applied. Remember also that the Highway Code states motorists need to ensure dogs are "suitably restrained" while travelling in the car. Here are some "do's and don'ts" for driving with your dog, whether he's in the front seat or the car boot.

DO:

- **Restrain your dog:** Use a good quality harness, or a crate or guard, to keep your dog safe.
- **Always carry water:** Cars can get hot even when they're moving, and dogs may become dehydrated on long trips.
- **Make regular stops on long rides:** If you intend to be in the car for a long time, be sure to plan your journey so you can make plenty stops.
- **Use window shades:** While these are designed for babies and young children, your dog may also benefit as they help keep cars cool and block out direct sunlight.
- **Try to help your dog relax:** There's nothing worse than travelling with an anxious pooch.
- **Drive to fun places:** If your dog only ever goes in the car to visit the vet, he may associate it with distress rather than entertainment. Be sure to travel to places he loves visiting, too.
- **Be mindful of motion sickness:** Most dogs will outgrow this condition, but if you're concerned about it, ask your vet about medication.

DON'T:

- **Let your dog hang out the window:** While this may look cute, it's highly dangerous.
- **Forget to switch off airbags:** If your dog is secured in a harness in the front seat, be sure to move the seat as far back as possible and switch off the passenger-side airbag as it may do more harm than good if you have an accident.
- **Open windows entirely:** It's imperative to keep your dog cool on car journeys, and this can be achieved by opening windows a little to allow a cool breeze to circulate.
- **Take your dog anywhere without an ID tag or microchip:** By law, dogs who go outside must have a microchip implanted by the time they're eight weeks old and wear a collar with their owner's name and address.
- **Feed your dog just before you travel:** This can upset your dog's tummy and bring on motion sickness, which is the last thing you'll want on a long journey.
- **Leave your dog alone in a car:** This is particularly dangerous on warm days.
- **Forget to take a food supply:** It's worth taking some of your dog's usual food on any long car journey, just in case you break down or get stuck in heavy traffic.

Source: RAC

You see a boat filled with people. It has not sunk, but when you look again you don't see a single person on the boat. Why



Answer on page 24.



Thoughts from the Rectory ...

There's nothing like a fresh drop of water. Like many of you during this lock down period. I have had time to reminisce down memory lane and as I looked out onto the garden this week, with the rain falling in almost Biblical force onto the lawn, which if your garden was as dry as ours was most welcome, I was reminded of my childhood years. When I was a young boy on holiday with my family, I can remember my dad saying to me. 'Son the rain in the Lake District is different from the rain in any other part of the country'. I can remember at the time thinking that there's plenty of it and it all seems to be landing on us just now.

At the time of this family holiday I must have been around nine years old and I must have wondered what he meant. I soon found out. A couple of times at night the rain came down so heavily it sounded as if it really could have been raining cats and dogs (for the origin of this saying see page 18!). The noise was so intense and heavy on the caravan roof that I can remember that we all struggled to get to sleep that night. The sound of heavy rain on the caravan roof to this day is, to me, the most soothing and reassuring of noises. Despite the wet weather, it was one of the most enjoyable holidays that I can remember; as a family we explored the woodland, went on mega walks, paddled in the lakes, watched dad fish and catch nothing. It was all quite magical, as only a nine-year-old could imagine.

Another thing that sticks in my mind about this holiday was how on this caravan site we had to fetch our drinking water from a tap on a hillside. Every time my brother and I struggled up the slope of that hill with our pail to gather water we would be gasping for a drink ourselves. Still, to this day, I can honestly say that there was nothing like getting fresh water from that tap; it's as if I can taste it just now, it was that good. We don't always realise how fortunate we are to have such an abundant supply of clean fresh water. You know more than half the world's population has only a limited or polluted water supply to them. Also, many of those people face a longer walk than I did before they can reach their water source.

Once, Jesus was tired after a long journey and he asked a woman at a well if she would give him a drink of water. During the conversation, Jesus said: 'Those who drink of the water that I will give them will never be thirsty. The water that I give will become in them a spring of water gushing up to eternal life' (John 4:14 New Revised Standard Version).

Our human nature being what it is, we may be able to last only a few hours before we feel that we would like a drink, but when we turn to Jesus and fill ourselves up with his love and teachings, the satisfaction is everlasting. For the source of hope, forgiveness and strength he offers which never dries up and never runs out.

Keep safe, take care.

Ian.

COVID-19 RULES REGARDING THE CHURCH - LATEST

From Sunday 5th July and each Sunday thereafter the church will be open for private prayer from 10 am to 12 noon. We will put out various markers to encourage social distancing and there will be hand gel etc available. Please note that there will be no formal services taking place although we hope to re-introduce them soon. If this changes before the next Heron, we will post on the Christchurch Facebook pages and the church noticeboard.



Prayer is not asking.
Prayer is putting
oneself in the hands of God,
at His disposition, and listening
to His voice in the
depth of our hearts.
— Mother Teresa

If anyone who has visited the church subsequently discovers they have COVID-19 would they please let me know (telephone 07946 635908 or email apdayemea@yahoo.co.uk) so we can do a deep clean. Obviously if people are feeling unwell or have symptoms then we ask that you please do not attend the church.

Andrew Day

***A big Thank You to
Andy and Sheila
Day for their hard
work in making
the Church Covid-
safe, and being
there on Sunday
mornings when
the Church is open
for private prayer.***

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***Please contact: Sandra Kay
on 01354 638478***

Answers to the riddles on:

Page 13 - A Map.

Page 22 - Because all the
people on the boat are
married!



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

FENLAND DISTRICT COUNCIL PRESS RELEASE

July 9, 2020

Residents can now pay for Council bills at Post Offices and convenience stores across Fenland.

Fenland District Council has introduced a new way to pay for Council services, giving residents more choice and convenience when paying their bills. From July 13, people will be able to make payments for Council bills and invoices, such as Council Tax, at any Post Office and local shops which provide the free PayPoint service.

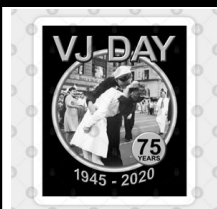
Until now, cash payments have only been accepted at payment machines located in the Council's Customer Service Centres and Community Hubs, which are temporarily closed due to the COVID-19 pandemic. But now residents will have the option to make payments at their local Post Office and at around 30 shops, petrol stations and newsagents, which display the PayPoint sign, across the district.

Cllr Steve Tierney, the Council's Portfolio Holder responsible for Customer Services, said: "Introducing this new way to pay will considerably increase the number of available payment outlets in Fenland, giving residents more flexibility and choice about where to pay their bills. "Many Post Offices and PayPoint retailers are open seven days a week, with long opening hours and some for 24 hours. It means people will be able to pay for council services at a place and time that suits them, without being constricted to Council business hours."

Paying for bills at Post Offices and PayPoint locations is in addition to being able to make payments via Direct Debit, online via www.fenland.gov.uk, the Council's Contact Centre on 01354 654321 and the Council's Customer Service Centres and Community Hubs. To make a payment at a Post Office or PayPoint outlet, customers simply need to present their barcoded bill to the retailer and confirm how much they would like to pay. The retailer will then provide a receipt and the payment will be credited within three working days.

For more information, visit: www.fenland.gov.uk/paypoint

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



THE 75TH ANNIVERSARY OF VJ DAY - AUGUST 15TH 2020

SOME CHRISTCHURCH VILLAGERS SHARE THEIR FAMILY STORIES

[PAGE 27 & 28]



HMS Warspite in the Pacific

My father **Ronald (Ron) Humphreys** served during the war against Japan. Ron served as a Royal Marine on board the battleship HMS Warspite.

Ron joined the Royal Marines, aged 18, in April 1941 and after undergoing his basic training was dispatched to join his ship, which at that time had been undergoing a refit in the USA. Ron and his colleagues sailed to the East coast of America then travelled across Canada by train in order to board the Warspite in Vancouver. This was in January 1942, shortly after the USA had entered the war following the Japanese bombing of Pearl harbour; Ron described visiting Pearl Harbour which was still in a state of devastation at the time.



Following a visit to Sydney, Australia HMS Warspite then spent several months patrolling the Indian Ocean, their role was to protect allied shipping and to search and destroy Japanese warships. Throughout this time there was the constant threat of attack from enemy aircraft and submarines. My Dad often spoke to the tension that was felt by all on board ship when these were sighted. Often there were reports of nearby allied ships and aircraft being attacked and destroyed by Japanese forces and The Warspite was sometimes dispatched to pick up survivors. During it's time spent in the

Pacific and Indian oceans HMS Warspite was fortunate to have not suffered any damage. It was not all hard work on board ship and Ron recalled that the crew would often find ways to have fun. During October 1942 HMS Warspite spent some time docked in Durban, South Africa having a new radar system fitted. During this time some of the crew were billeted ashore. Ron spent this time staying with a family on a farm; he obviously had a good time as after he had left, they wrote to him and sent him some photos that they had taken.



In May 1943 HMS Warspite returned to the UK then in June sailed to the Mediterranean where she performed a role of convoy protection and support to allied action on land. During this time the ship suffered several attacks from German and Italian aircraft. In September 1943 The Warspite took part in the allied landings at Salerno, Italy during this time the ship was attacked and seriously damaged. The ship was stationed just offshore and was bombarding enemy positions inland, my Dad was on deck at the time and he saw a several German planes suddenly appear from over the mountains. These were Focke-Wulf FW190 fighter bombers and they attacked the Warspite. A bomb went straight through the deck causing a 20ft hole in the hull of the ship. Ron remembered what happened next. In order to stop the ship from sinking waterproof doors had to be closed; trapping some men below deck and leaving them to drown. My dad has described to me how he knew that some of his friends were down there and the terrible effect that it had on all on board.

HMS Warspite was then towed to Malta where it had a temporary repair and was then able to sail back to Rosyth, Scotland. The crew were taken off while the ship was repaired. Ron's company did not go back to the ship and spent the rest of the war building runways in Scotland.

Sadly, my father died five years ago but he remained proud of his service during the war and kept several mementoes of this time; including medals and photographs.

Susan Street

The Coded Telegram

Japan's invasion of *Burma in 1942 prompted many from Burma's Indian, Anglo-Indian and British communities to flee to the safety of India. While some, particularly wealthier people, were able to leave by air or sea, hundreds of thousands were forced to make their way on foot across Burma's mountainous border with India. Thousands died along the way from disease, exhaustion, malnutrition, or through drowning while trying to cross Burma's many rivers.

Rev (Captain) E W Francis, MBE.

Here is a little of my parents' story. They were Christian Missionaries, based up-country in the jungles of Western Burma (Arakan), from 1932. In 1942, they had to escape the Japanese invasion of Burma; a few days travel by dug-out canoe, followed by 9 days walking, to Assam, in India, and safety. With very little access to communications and none to newspapers, how did they know when to leave and where to go? Well, they had friends at the coast in Burma, 125 miles downriver, who had access to BBC radio news bulletins. These friends arranged to send a coded telegram to my parents, as they had a choice of escape routes - between fleeing to the S-E (the Bay of Bengal coast), or to the North (overland to Assam, in India), depending on where the Japanese Army invaded. The Telegram came. It said **"Give our love to the Welsh Missionaries"**. The Japanese Army had invaded at the coast. There were Welsh Missionaries stationed in Assam, so that was where they went. Dad was then "Called Up", as an Army Chaplain. He went back into North-West Burma at different times, with several Brigades. He also acted as an interpreter, as he spoke a couple of local languages. He was not captured by the enemy. He was awarded the MBE for his work organising the supplies at one of the Allies' bases. For one reason or another, they had allowed their system to become chaotic, so that no one could find anything, and there was little, if any, record of the arrival or use of supplies. Meanwhile, my mother stayed in India, helping out at a Mission Hospital. I was born in Bareilly, North India, in 1945.



* Burma is now also known as Myanmar

Annie Nason

A Royal Engineer's Experience in the Far East in WW2

My father, Andrew Steenson, served with The Royal Engineers throughout WW2, in Europe, Africa and the Far East. His experience of the war in Burma was something he didn't speak of very often. He gave the impression that he had had a very tough time there. His memories were of witnessing dreadful cruelty. He saw "wicked things" during his time in Burma, and many deaths came from it. It left him with a life-long hatred of the Japanese state and people. He was never a Prisoner of War. He was proud of his military service and of the medals he gained. The Burma Star (top right medal) is explained here. The plaque in the centre of this display says:



*R.E.M.E.

Sgt ANDREW STEENSON

8 JULY 1915 - 24 MAY 1982

*Royal Electrical and Mechanical Engineers

The Burma Star.

The Burma Campaign took place between 11 December 1941 and 2 September 1945, commencing with Japanese forces invading Burma and driving British forces back to the Indian border. Since the Japanese held superiority in the Pacific, the Allies were not in a position to strike back and regain a foothold in Burma until early in 1944.

Colin Steenson



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.

