

The Heron

Community Magazine

November 2020

Delivered to homes in Christchurch, Euximoor and Tipps End

No. 79

In this issue!

Townley School	2
Editorial/Community Info	3
Advertising in the Heron	4
Rural Services/Heron News	5
Missing your singing?	6
Time to Back British Farming	7
Green Energy/Your Letters	9
Meet a Parish Councillor	10
A Play on Words	10
"Autumn" Poem/Village History	11
Christchurch in Bloom!	12
Make Your Own Poppy	13
How observant are you?	14
AFC Christchurch	15
Hungry?	16
Kids Corner/Bonfire Night	17
Street Pride	18
Mobile Phone Law	19
Cambs Fire & Rescue Service	20
Football Star MBE/Anagrams	21
Recipe	22
Church/Thoughts from Rectory	23
Parish Council Snippets	24
Reverse Calendar	25
Puzzle Answers/Useful Numbers	26
Thanksgiving	27
Photo Competition Runners Up	28

'Christchurch Skies' 2021 Calendar Competition - and the winner is ...

Lucy Pye with "July Rainbow"

[See the back page for 2nd and 3rd place.]



Remember when we created and coloured in the lovely rainbows and put them in our windows to thank Key Workers? Let's do the same to remember our fallen heroes of War.

We have an insert this month, a poppy for you to colour-in yourself, if you fancy that, or a colour one on the other side all ready to go in your window.

Let's fill our windows with red poppies. We will remember them.



LEST WE FORGET

EDITORIAL TEAM:

Annie Nason—Editorial Team Leader

Elaine Reed-Hughes—Treasurer & Ad. Manager

Editorial Team Members: Sue Norman, Sheila Day, Peggy Warby, Sandra Kay

Support—Lewis Bennett (IT), Sandra Lloyd, the Delivery Team and Publishers

ENQUIRIES

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TOWNLEY SCHOOL AND PRE-SCHOOL

Christchurch, Wisbech, Cambs. PE14 9NA

office@townley.cambs.sch.uk

Website: www.townley.cambs.sch.uk

01354 638229



Facebook—Townley School and Pre-School

October 2020

Proud

This term I have used the word 'proud' an awful lot this first half term. I have been proud of the children and their resilience returning to school; I have been proud of how hard the staff have all worked to support the children; proud of the parents and carers collecting the children each day; and proud of the way our community has supported us throughout the year.

School has very much been business as usual this term, the children are working hard and we can see progress in their learning. Our virtual assemblies have been fun, we enjoy 'seeing' everyone together on a Friday afternoon. We are hoping to organise a virtual Remembrance Service and Christingle later this term.



Virtual School Trip

Emperor Class have been learning about Charles Darwin this term, they had hoped to visit his home in Kent, however we felt in the current pandemic this might not be safe. So, English Heritage came up with a Plan B, a virtual visit, it was brilliant!

Specsavers

We were donated a hi-vis vest for every child by Specsavers opticians in March, as it is unlikely that we will be venturing very far this year we thought the children might be safer if they can use them at home.



FOTS

We have asked the children not to 'Trick or Treat' in the usual way this year, so FOTS have treated them all to some goodies and a colouring competition!



PSHE

In PSHE, the children held elections and voted for their School Council Reps!



Community Information

Mobile Post Office:

Visits Monday to Thursday in the lay-by on Upwell Road

Monday and Thursday - 16.30 to 17:00

Tuesday and Wednesday - 16.10 to 17:00

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!

NEW INFORMATION: The van might sometimes leave before 5pm, once the post has been collected (4.40). The Driver has discretion as to when they leave Christchurch. This depends on whether or not there is anyone waiting to be served. *The best thing to do is to get there before, or at, 4.30pm to guarantee service. On some occasions, there is no signal, so that complicates matters, and can't be helped. However, the van always has to be there to collect the mail from mail boxes, brought by another post van, at 4.40pm.*

LATEST COVID RULES- Masks/Face Coverings are now mandatory when entering the Post Van (unless you are medically exempt). Thank you.

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.

**SEE HOW MANY
FIREWORKS YOU CAN FIND
THROUGHOUT THE
MAGAZINE THIS MONTH?**

A THANK YOU

I would like to thank all those kind people of Tipps End and Christchurch for their words of sympathy, beautiful cards or flowers on the death of my partner, Mr Peter Cutforth on September 11th, 2020. It meant so much to me and has been a great support. Jenny Head, Croft Farm, Tipps End.



Editorial

Welcome to The November Heron!

First, HUGE CONGRATULATIONS to our Heron 2021 Calendar WINNERS! Well done to Lucy, Sam and Pat - and also to all the other entrants. Check out our website to see all the photos. www.theheron.info Also a MASSIVE thank you to Rex Ockenden for judging the competition, formatting the calendar "Christchurch Skies" and for his huge generosity with his valuable time and wonderful prizes. Rex has also, on top of that, given The Heron a generous donation too. It is such an encouragement to us on The Heron team. What a star you are, Rex. Our printer Steve, at March Stationery and Print (who has also printed our lovely insert this month for FREE! THANK YOU STEVE!!), and Lewis, of Upwell Computers, have also given us a generous donation in time and money. Thanks to you both!

Have you put in an order yet? It's definitely not too late. Remember it is our 2020 Covid-19-Safe Fundraiser. Please support your Village Magazine.

November

*No sun – no moon!
No morn – no noon –
No dawn – no dusk – no proper time of day ...
No warmth, no cheerfulness, no healthful ease,
No comfortable feel in any member –
No shade, no shine, no butterflies, no bees,
No fruits, no flowers, no leaves, no birds!
November!*

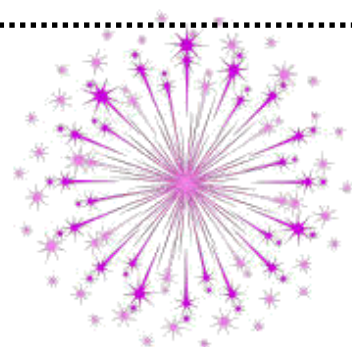
(poem abridged) Thomas Hood (1884)

I feel that this poem, by Thomas Hood, is particularly appropriate this year.

I expect Bonfire Night will be a low-key affair, possibly with only those taking part in individual gardens. However, Remembrance Day can be commemorated, even without parades. The good news is that Christchurch WILL be able to hold a short event (see Church News).

In this month's insert, in the Heron, you can find a large red poppy that can be displayed in your window. Let's all do that this year! Hopefully, this time next year, we will be back to a new normal. In the meantime, *stay safe*.

Sue Norman



Would you like to advertise in the Heron? Here are our prices for 2020:

Full Page (27.7cm High x 19cm Wide)
(occasional inclusion by special arrangement)

Half Page (14cm High x 19cm Wide)
6 x issues £85
12 x issues £160

Quarter Page (14cm High x 9.5cm Wide)
6 x issues £50
12 x issues £90

Eighth Page (6.5cm High x 9.5cm Wide)
6 x issues £34
12 x issues £64

Please contact adverts@theheron.info or phone Elaine on 01354 638310.

As most small businesses are struggling under the current, uncertain climate, we have decided to leave our prices as they are at the present time.

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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.

BANK BACS DETAILS: Sort Code: 53-81-42 Account no: 04140109 - *Heron Publishing*

Copy Deadline - The deadline for copy for the December edition of the Heron is **26 November**.

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.



Heron News

In these Covid times everything has been difficult, and our Heron Publishing AGM was no exception. There wasn't any way we could get together; not even on Zoom, as several of The Friends of The Heron (voting members) don't do Zoom. So – we resorted to good old paper. Remember that? There were no dissenters, so our "Postal Ballot" went ahead. The relevant documents were sent out, along with a voting/ballot form. There were only 4 items on this form, making life as easy as possible in these difficult times. There were no objections to passing these 4 items, and no new names put forward for the Committee and Officers of Heron Publishing. Deadline for ballots was October 16th.

1. I APPROVE THE MINUTES OF THE LAST AGM;
2. I ACCEPT THE AUDITED ACCOUNTS for 2019/2020;
3. I ACCEPT THE REVISED CONSTITUTION;
4. I RE-ELECT THE COMMITTEE, *who are all prepared to stand again.*

Our Heron Publishing Executive Committee for 2020/21 is as follows: Chair: Ms Annie Nason; Secretary Mrs Sue Norman; Treasurer Mrs Elaine Reed-Hughes; Committee members: Mrs Sandra Kay; Mrs Sheila Day; Mrs Peggy Warby. The eagle-eyed amongst you will notice that the **Editorial Team** (front cover) is made up of exactly the same people, and have been appointed again for 2020/21. Once the virus is done, we can co-opt others onto either committee, so bank that thought, if you would like to be involved with the magazine in some way.

The Revised Constitution of Heron Publishing is now on our web site. We have added our new **Vision Statement** and **Objectives**. See what you think of them.

VISION STATEMENT

We aim to enrich the lives of our readers, and enhance and encourage Community Spirit in Christchurch, Euximoor and Tipps End, Cambridgeshire, UK.

Our policy is to be inclusive, celebrating cultural diversities within our communities.

OBJECTIVES

- We will distribute The Heron Community Magazine monthly. The magazine will also be posted on line on our website.
- It will be delivered free to every household in Christchurch, Euximoor and Tipps End.
- This will be funded by advertising in The Heron, and by grants, donations, and occasional fundraising events.
- Our magazine will reflect the needs and interests of our communities, widening our horizons by including articles from a wide range of sources, without bias.
- The magazine will reflect the concerns of our local communities. It will not be a platform for personal conflicts.
- We will encourage community members to contribute articles.

Annie Nason



The Right Hon Steve Barclay ... our MP

On 13th October the Rural Services All Party Parliamentary Group (APPG) met Steve Barclay MP, the Chief Secretary to the Treasury, to raise a number of rural issues ahead of the upcoming Spending Review. Steve Barclay represents a rural constituency and was clearly aware, first hand, of the rural issues.

The issues raised at the meeting and in the APPG's document related to (1) Rural Mobile Phone and Broadband Connectivity, (2) A Fair Share for rural communities of national resources for the provision of essential services, infrastructure and economic growth initiatives, and (3) Energy Infrastructure and Decarbonisation. The need for the Government's "Levelling Up" agenda to include rural areas was stressed throughout.

The Chief Secretary confirmed that the Spending Review was likely to be announced mid November 2020 and the Treasury was working on a multi-year settlement at this stage. Philip Dunne said:

"This was a very useful meeting and we were particularly pleased to hear the Chief Secretary say that he was keen to continue working with the APPG. We all recognise the difficult financial situation the country faces but will continue to raise rural concerns with Ministers"



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!

Last month we decided to put together a "Meeting In A Bag" for our members. Given that it is nearly Armistice Day, we thought that a Poppy theme might be appropriate.

Our lucky members were in receipt of:

- * a crochet and knitting pattern to 'Create Your Own Poppy'
- * a potted history of why the poppy is used as a symbol of "Remembrance"
- * a bar of chocolate
- * a tube of sweets
- * a tea or coffee bag
- * a pen
- * a magazine
- * a candle or glass of prosecco
- * a poppy china mug
- * some biscuits.

All the above were delivered in a reusable and very colourful Tote Bag.

I should personally like to thank Elaine for buying all the items and putting the bags together. I think she did a wonderful job.

We hope that members enjoyed the contents and we all very much look forward to meeting up again soon.

Till then, stay safe all.

Peggy Warby
Christchurch WI President



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There are some singers in our community who must really be missing their choirs these days, and can't wait to get back to singing!

Well – don't allow your voice to get lazy in these virus non-singing times! Have a go at these exercises for the voice. The beauty of these is that anyone can do them! These exercises will help loosen up the vocal chords, which is good for speech as well as singing.

The reason why we cannot sing in public is because singing spreads the virus very efficiently, so it's important to practice these away from anyone. Sing in the shower! Or in the garden!

Humming: You already know how to hum. **Why, though?** Because it's a gentle way to begin vocalizing. You can work your vocal range without putting a lot of pressure on your voice. You keep your lips together, your teeth apart, and make a sound. You keep your lips together, your teeth apart, and make a sound. Then go up and down the scale, starting each time on a note higher than your previous start note.

"I love to sing": Sing these words in an arpeggio (doh-mi-soh-doh) both up and down, beginning a note higher each time.

Lip buzz: Make a motorboat sound by making your lips vibrate as you blow air through your mouth and nose. You can incorporate pitch slides as well.

Siren: Use an "oooo" sound. Gradually go from the lowest note that you can up to the highest, just like a siren for an emergency vehicle. The sound needs to be continuous. (This one could lose you some friends if done too close to someone's ears!).

Yawning and sighing: This we have been doing a lot of lately, but for the voice, try to do it without opening your mouth.

For diction: Try saying this very fast and over and over. It isn't easy! *"The tip of the tongue and the teeth and the lips"*





Time to back British Farming

By NFU Cambridgeshire County Chairman Mat Smith

We may only be in November but for many Cambridgeshire farmers the chance to wave goodbye to 2020 cannot come quickly enough. Alongside the varied and continuing impacts of the pandemic, we have had extreme weather events that have played havoc with farming here in the Fens. After prolonged dry spells and high temperatures during the growing season, we've seen heavy rain over the past few weeks, creating challenges with the potato and vegetable harvest and delaying the planting of some cereal crops.

The results of a survey just published by the National Farmers' Union (NFU) highlights the impact the weather has had, with yields of wheat down by 18% from 2019 and oilseed rape by 15%. The total wheat crop is estimated to be the lowest since 1981. However, farmers tend to be optimistic and, with fields now greening up with next year's crop, we will be hoping for an ideal growing season and record-breaking bumper yields in 2021.

One thing that has put a spring in our step is knowing we have the public behind us. More than one million people have signed the NFU petition calling for our food and farming standards to be protected in future trade deals.

It shows that people care passionately about where their food comes from and they don't want to see our world-leading environmental and animal welfare standards undermined. Thousands of people also took the time to contact their local MP, urging them to vote in support of those standards as the Agriculture Bill moved through Parliament.

We really value the public's support and there is still time to get involved. Look for Back British Farming online to find out more. As I put my wellies on to start my day, I can only hope that, with the public's backing, we can persuade the politicians to make the right decisions. What they do now could have implications for the food on our plates, and the countryside around us, for generations to come.

Mat is a third-generation farmer, farming in a family partnership at Ramsey Mereside with his brother Lloyd.



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Christchurch Gardening Club

"What did the Victorians do for us?"

Watching one of the many TV gardening experts the other day, it occurred to me that the garden design they were engaged in using to "update the viewers garden" quite probably owed more than a little to our forebears. So, I decided to find out just how original were the ideas they were putting forward.

Gardening became popular in the Victorian era. The more affluent had the space, time and money to create lavish landscapes and, as is often the way, this "hobby" found its way into the ranks of the middle class, who, with more time on their hands than ever before, could also do their bit to create beautiful gardens.

Fences were usually made of cast iron, but wood was also acceptable, as long as Climbing Roses or Flowering Vines were draped across them. Picket fences, now unfashionable, were dispensed with.

Gardeners of this era tended to prefer formal gardens, but they also often included wild and exotic plants in their designs. Flowers were grown in borders alongside walkways and also in large round beds, or if the space and finances allowed, in geometric shapes or intricate mosaics.

Plants that were previously popular such as hollyhocks, larkspur, pansies and sunflowers, were now

considered to be outdated and passe. In came large bold plants like lilies, dahlias and gladioli, as well as ornamental grasses and ferns. This was aided by the ability to overwinter delicate flowers and plants in newly acquired greenhouses.

Green lawns were for socialising and games. However, as they were trimmed with a scythe, the lawn was not as manicured as they are in the second Elizabethan era.

The Victorian gardener implemented trees and shrubs, both evergreen and deciduous, as specimen plants. These were also planted along property lines and in mixed hedges.

What about our gardening experts' favourite, the ubiquitous water feature? The Victorians were there before us, once again. The Victorian garden also featured ornaments like topiary, and sundials on pedestals, along with marble walkways and statues.

So, although tools such as lawnmowers have become more convenient. Planting fashions come and go, and new variants of our favourite plants have become available. Really, what is it that differentiates the modern garden from the Victorian? Maybe the Victorians actually did set the scene for the current crop of gardens, garden centres and the like.

Maybe there really is nothing new under the sun after all!

Stay safe.

Steve



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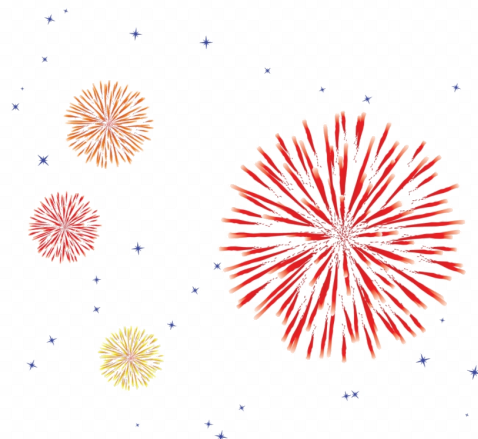
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Your co-operation is much appreciated.





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Eligibility criteria for HEART: Contact Green Energy Switch (see below) or visit www.greenenergyswitch.co.uk

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Your Letters

As Chair of Governors at our Community School, Townley Primary, I would like to express my gratitude to all our staff in doing such a fantastic job in preparing our school ready to welcome our children back in September. Mrs. Higgins and her team have had so much to do behind the scenes - moving furniture, preparing individual equipment packs for every child and working out entry and exit points, not to mention a 43-page risk assessment to complete and change almost daily!

I visited the school in the week before children returned and, although I knew what to expect, it seemed so bare! No cushions in reading corners, no soft bodied dolls....so necessary but so unlike Townley. However, the following week our children came back, and a big shout out to our parents for being so sensible about the staggered starts, not crowding round the gates and staying for a chat, however tempting!

Talking to our young learners, they all told me how pleased they were to be back in school, seeing their friends and learning again. No-one told me they felt worried, which is a credit to their parents and teachers! They are very aware of Covid and the constant handwashing but are taking it in their stride and know what's expected and why. One young man put me to shame when he politely but firmly said 'No' when I asked him to take a hairband to another classmate that had left it on the floor. 'We aren't allowed to touch anything that isn't our ours', he told me.

A strange time we're living in, after spending years in school teaching children to share it's now the opposite. I think there are a lot of people out there that could learn from our youngsters!

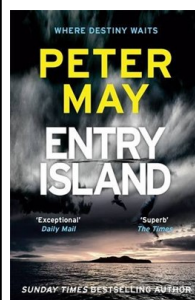
Thank you all for everything you are doing to help our Townley children keep safe and smiling, I'm proud to be a part of our wonderful little school,

Sue Rudge, Chair of Governors

Christchurch Book Club



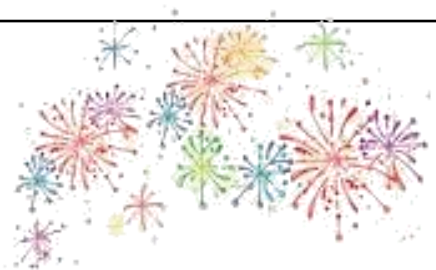
Book Club has entered the 21st century! We held our first Zoom meeting on 20th October.....OK so I admit there were only two of us participating, but it was nice to chat! "My Booky Wook" by Russell Brand was not particularly appreciated - in fact at this time when we are limited in what we can do, it is amazing how we find so little time to read!



Our next book is "Entry Island" by Peter May. Looks like its a crime/action/ mystery type book - much more exciting!

Plans for future meetings are still very uncertain and dependent on government guidelines... but we have reserved 7.30pm on Tuesday 24th October for SOMETHING! (*probably another Zoom meeting*)

It is always good to welcome new members - if you are interested in joining us, please contact Sheila on 07946635908.



Meet a Christchurch Parish Councillor ...

James Hughes

Although technically an Essex boy, apart from 3 years spent at University in Norwich, James has lived in Fenland since 1972 when his family moved to Sutton.

James and his family moved to Christchurch in 2007, and James has been a keen follower of PC matters since then; prior to becoming a councillor he spent many meetings as the only member of the public to attend!



As a councillor James is very keen on trying to reduce speeding in the village, as well as improving village facilities for parishioners.

During his time in Christchurch, James has also been a school governor at Townley School, which two of his children attended, but the ever-increasing workload in this volunteering position meant he had to give that up. He is still on the Community Centre Committee and is currently the Chair of the Over 65's Lunch Committee.

By trade James is a software engineer, and currently works for a company called Raspberry Pi, a charity dedicated to improving computer education around the World. He worked for them as a volunteer for some years before finally taking a full-time job. He enjoys the work there immensely, and is currently working, full-time, from home - which is actually quite easy when everything is computerised!

Over the years James has taken part in many different hobbies, from dinghy sailing and windsurfing when young, then offshore yacht racing for many years with a top 10 result in the 1999 Fastnet being the climax of his sailing career. James then moved to karting and then car racing, but now spends all his time being Mechanic for his two boys who are also keen kart racers. At some point he needs to finish off a 90% complete car he has built from scratch in his garage! James plays the guitar, and played in a band at his own wedding to Elaine and, much to her annoyance, has many guitars dotted around the house. Not too many, of course. You can never have too many guitars!

Many thanks, James for sharing these insights into your life....we are so glad you and your family moved to the village in 2007 and very grateful for all that you do for the community.

Sheila Day



A Play On Words ...

An annual competition is held by the New York Times to see who can create the best original play on words. Some of this year's submissions:

- I changed my iPod's name to Titanic. It's syncing now.
- Haunted French pancakes give me the crepes.
- I know a guy who's addicted to drinking brake fluid, but he says he can stop any time.
- I got some batteries that were given out free of charge.
- The guy who fell onto an upholstery machine last week is now fully recovered.
- When you get a bladder infection, urine trouble.
- I'm reading a book about anti-gravity. I just can't put it down.
- Those who get too big for their pants will be totally exposed in the end.

I can hear you all groaning from here ...!

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Further to the article featuring the WI presentation of a Village Sign (see October Heron Page 6) this is the present village sign.

The 'photo was taken on Saturday July 30th 2011.

Photo sent in by Cllr Will Sutton.

Autumn

John Clare



I love the fitful gusts that shakes
The casement all the day,
And from the mossy elm tree takes
The faded leaf away
Twirling it by the window-pane
With thousand others down the lane.

I love to see the shaking twig
Dance till the shut of eve.
The sparrow on the cottage rig
Whose chirp would make believe
That spring was just now flirting by
In summer's lap with flowers to lie.

I love to see the cottage smoke
Curl upwards through the naked trees.
The pigeons nestled round the cote
On dull November days like these.
The cock upon the dung-hill crowing;
The mill sails on the heath a-going.

The feather from the raven's breast
Falls on the stubble lea.
The acorns near the old crow's nest
Fall pattering down the tree.
The grunting pigs that wait for all,
Scramble and hurry where they fall.

John Clare (13 July 1793 – 20 May 1864) was an English poet. The son of a farm labourer, he became known for his celebrations of the English countryside and sorrows at its disruption.



**Prediction: There will
be a minor baby boom
in 9 months, and then
one day in 2033, we
shall witness the rise
of THE
QUARANTEENS.**



Top village in Fenland

Christchurch may not be the most attractive place to live and drivers travelling through could blink and easily miss it altogether.

But the people in this Fenland village, with a character all its own, have obviously made a special effort to keep their lawns trimmed and pick up litter, because Christchurch has won the title of Fenland's Best Kept Village 1980.

The general tidiness of this village, which straddles just two main roads impressed the judges so much they decided to award it the Cambridge-shire Times Trophy.

This automatically qualifies Christchurch to compete for the County Trophy.

Chairman of Christchurch and Upwell Parish Council, Mr C Chamberlain, was delighted with the news

of success.

"As a council we are naturally very pleased to have got this far in the competition," he said.

He disclosed that the village was awarded 90 marks out of a possible 100 and added that he thought it was a good score to take to the finals.

Mr Chamberlain thought it was the generally tidy nature of the village which clinched the title and offered his congratulations to the villagers.

He also paid tribute to the work done by various village committees who take care of the village hall, playing fields, and public buildings, all of which were given special credit by the judges.

Our pictures illustrate the judges' sentiments, showing a general absence of litter, neat gardens and pretty foliage and borders.



- Not a scrap of litter in sight as the camera's eye looks down Green's Drove.

BRITAIN IN BLOOM WINNERS 1980

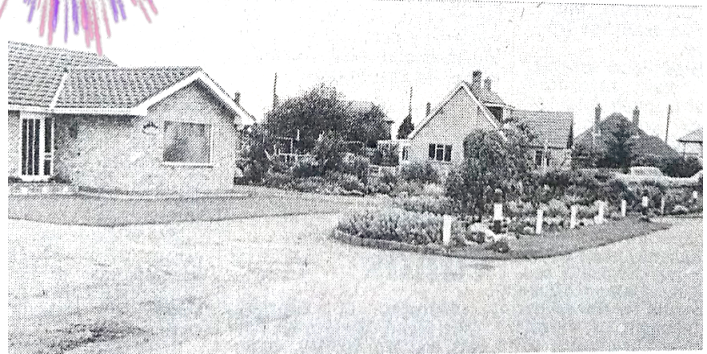
Could we do it again? Well – YES!

BRITAIN IN BLOOM WINNERS 1981

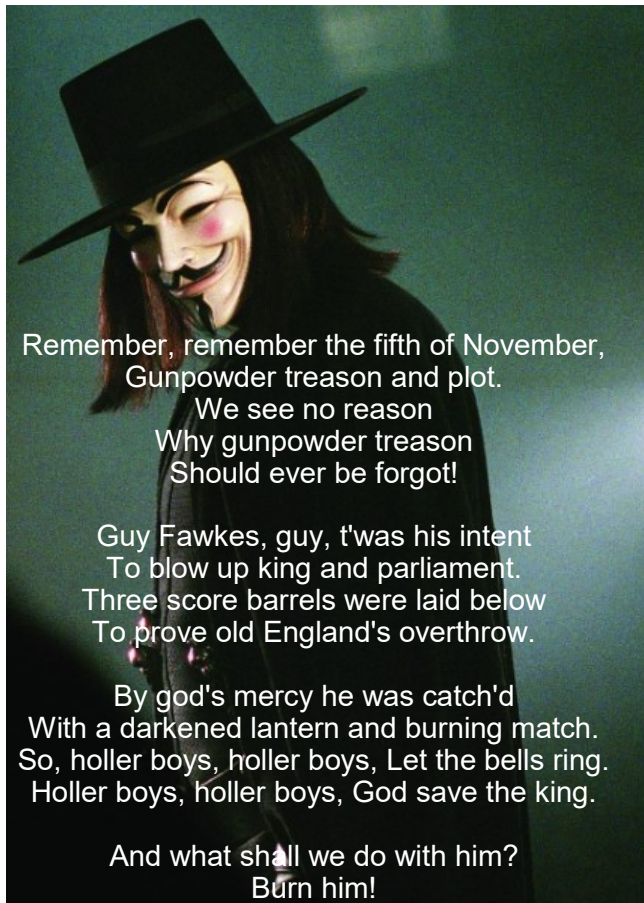


And we're still at it! See Page 18.

Source: Malcolm Hicks Scrapbooks. THANK YOU, MALCOLM!



- These neat, flowering borders are skirting Upwell Road.



Remember, remember the fifth of November,
Gunpowder treason and plot.

We see no reason
Why gunpowder treason
Should ever be forgot!

Guy Fawkes, guy, 't'was his intent
To blow up king and parliament.
Three score barrels were laid below
To prove old England's overthrow.

By god's mercy he was catch'd
With a darkened lantern and burning match.
So, holler boys, holler boys, Let the bells ring.
Holler boys, holler boys, God save the king.

And what shall we do with him?
Burn him!

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COVID 19 Update: We will follow all latest restrictions as applied by the Government for Tier 1 (medium alert). Thank you to all our customers for abiding by these regulations and their continued support. We now have **Dun Cow Facemasks** available - £1 of which goes to charity.

The Magpies Christchurch AFC has striking new Dun Cow-sponsored shirts and would love your support on the side-lines when playing at the Community Centre playing field.

Macmillan coffee morning; to date over £850 has been banked; excellent effort by all concerned.

Thank you to all who attended the Luke Wright show; full of quick wit and smart observations of time past and present, leaving plenty to debate.

Sunday Breakfast **29th November**, a chance for all the weekday workers to enjoy a leisurely breakfast from 10.00am; have a chat, coffee and even a pint.



On and around November 11, wearing a scarlet poppy is a sign of remembrance in the UK, to honour those who have died in war.

Follow this simple pattern to create an extra special crocheted poppy brooch of your own. This poppy has ruffled petals and a centre filled with glass beads.

YOU WILL NEED

- Any oddments of 4ply cotton yarn, small amounts of each: Red, Black
- A 2.5mm (US B/1 or C/2) hook
- Small selection of orange
- glass beads
- Brooch pin

TENSION

Tension is not critical for this project

MEASUREMENTS

Poppy measures 8.5cm (3½in) in diameter

POPPY CENTRE

Using Black, make a magic loop.
Round 1 (RS) Ch3 (counts as tr throughout),

Christchurch Craft Club



15tr into the loop. [16 tr]
Round 2 Ch1 (does not count as st throughout), dc in bl of each st around. [16 dc]
Fasten off.

PETALS

Join Dark Red into any st.
Round 3 Ch1, dc in each st around. [16 dc]
Round 4 Ch1, 2dc in each st around. [32 dc]
Round 5 Ch3, tr in st at base of ch-3, 2tr in each dcst round. [64 tr]
Round 6 Repeat Round 5. [128 tr]
Round 7 *Ch3 (does not count as st), tr in the next 14 sts, ch2, ss into next 2 tr; repeat from * around. [8 petals]
Fasten off and weave in ends.

TO FINISH

Sew the beads to the centre of the poppy, as shown.
Sew the brooch pin to the centre back of the Poppy.

KNITTING PATTERN ALSO AVAILABLE ON PAGE 22.

Beauty Treatments

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Jane

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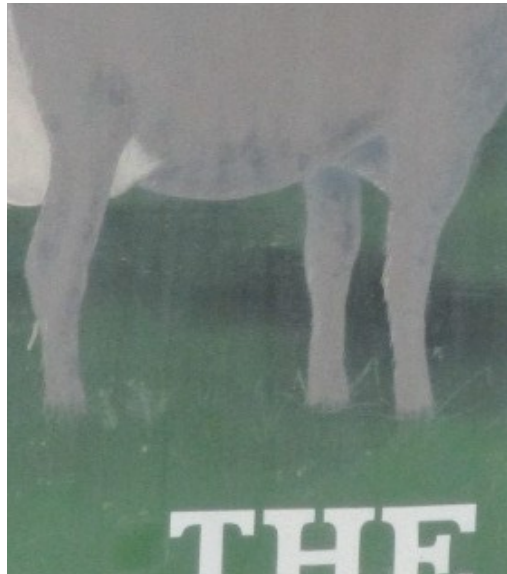
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How observant are you?

This photo was taken in one of our villages
(Christchurch, Euximoor or Tipps End), but where.....?



Answer next month!

Last month's answer is - the post box outside the
Farmer's Boy at the end of Church Road.



A nation that
forgets its past has
no future.

Winston Churchill

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Getting suspicious emails, text messages, and 'phone calls? You can help

EMAILS AND TEXTS:

From a Heron reader:

"Just had a fake email from (supposedly) DVLA demanding money. Sent it to www.phishing@hmrc.gsi.gov.uk
Do this with any emails like this one".

An answer was received:

"Thank you for letting us know about the **suspicious email/text** you have received. We can confirm this is a scam and is not genuine correspondence from HMRC/DVLA. Do not respond, or follow any links that may be within the message.

Our specialist team will investigate and take the necessary action. Whilst we cannot inform you of the outcome of these investigations, we do act on each submission we receive.

We strongly suggest that you do not open any attachments, or click on any links contained within the email as they may contain malicious software. If you have opened an attachment, we recommend that you run your antivirus software as a matter of urgency, and change any online passwords. Using the latest version of Office software may also help to reduce the risk of infection.

Alternatively, you can forward similar **scam text messages** to 60599. Regards, HMRC Online Security Team.

If your dodgy emails and texts are not HMRC related, here's what to do:

"Unfortunately, we are unable to take any action to emails or texts if the content is not HMRC related. You may wish to consider re-directing it to the correct department/organisation it relates to".

TELEPHONE CALLS:

Spam calls. Report them, after dialling 1471, record the number and send it to the website www.whocalledme.co.uk There, you can see how many others have had similar calls.



It has been a time of mixed results . 3rd Oct, AFC met Needingworth at home. Battling hard, they were unlucky to concede a 3 /1 defeat. The following week they had 13 shots on target, but again conceded a 1/0 away defeat to Manea. With AFC in the lead on the 10th Oct, the match with Bottisham was abandoned due to a water logged pitch after a heavy storm shower. 17th Oct saw the best result so far. A well-deserved 4/2 home win against Somersham. 24th Oct, after being the strongest team, AFC were unlucky to only get a 2/2 draw at home against a strong Littleport team.

Right: Christchurch Magpies in their new kit.

A big thank you goes to Paul Simpson (standing, 2nd left) at The Dun Cow for his contribution to the sponsorship of the new kit.

Much appreciated.



AFC Christchurch The Magpies

AFC CHRISTCHURCH
2020-2021 SEASON



Report by Yvonne Chenery

Hungry?

We continue our monthly food article.

We are looking for recommendations for where to eat in the area - this can be eat-in or takeaway, fast food or haute cuisine. We would love to hear from you!

Pera Palace, 8 Market Hill, Chatteris

Entering from the street (there is plenty of on-street free parking) be ready to ascend a flight of stairs (there is a chair lift for those with mobility challenges) and you will enter a surprisingly huge restaurant.



Looking at the menu you will see a wonderfully baffling choice of starters (mezze) and main courses - mercifully with explanations to help you to know what you are ordering! Portions are extremely generous and don't be put off by the picture of the plate with the huge chilli, the dishes are tasty without being overpoweringly spicy. One rather unusual touch is the rice accompaniment - which is half rice and half pearl barley - I don't know how they do it, but its fantastic! Don't worry if you over order - they are always willing for you to take home anything

you can't manage to eat!

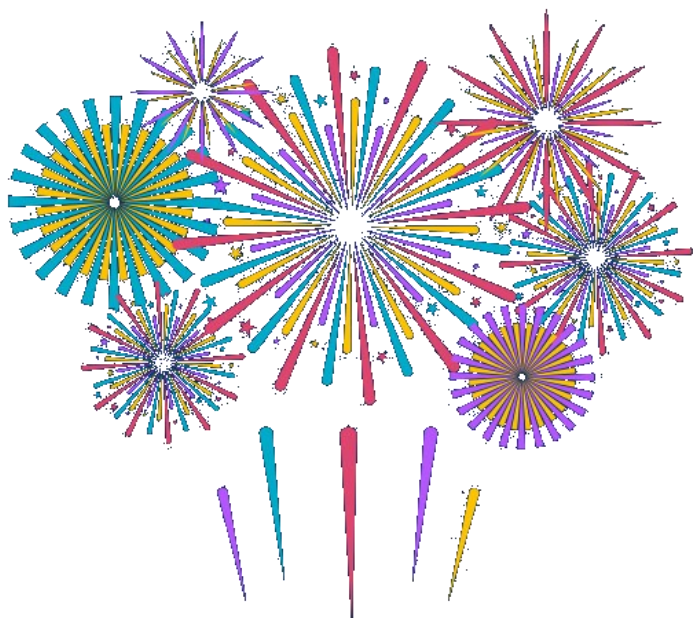
...and as for cost - lunch (Mon - Fri) or take-away menu 2 courses for £9.95. 3 courses for £10.95 per person. Evening meals are rather more pricey, but there is a set menu at £18.95 per person.... appetizer: Bread and olives; starters: Chef's special selection of mixed cold mezze; main course: Special mixed grill (also fish and vegetarian options available).



Oh and if you've never had Baklava (sweet Turkish pastries) - then please do! You'll get addicted!

Please send your food recommendations to editor@heron.info.

Sheila Day



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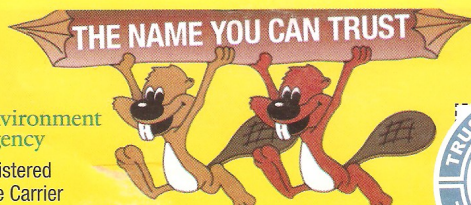
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Kids Corner

...a Guy Fawkes theme this month... Did you know?

- Guy Fawkes was born in April 1570 in York. His parents were Protestants but during his childhood Guy converted to Catholicism.
- When he was 21 he left England to join the Spanish army. During his time in the Army he adopted the Italian version of his name and became known as 'Guido'.
- In 1594 he joined a group of fellow English Catholics. He was not the leader of the group - this was a man named Robert Catesby. They planned to blow up the Houses of Parliament in order to kill King James I and his Government. Fawkes was responsible for lighting the fuse to the barrels of gunpowder, which they hid under the Houses of Parliament.
- Spoiler alert - The plot was unsuccessful and Guy was caught and punished, along with the other conspirators. Guy Fawkes is remembered today because of the failed plot.



Firework Wordsearch



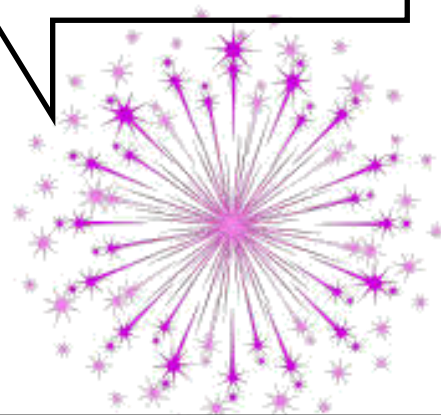
FIREWORKS GUNPOWDER GUYFAWKES
SPARKLER ROCKET BANGER BONFIRE
ROMAN CANDLE FUSE SMOKE

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



SPOT THE DIFFERENCE

There are 8 differences to spot!
Good luck!



Some Interesting Facts About Bonfire Night

- It was once illegal to celebrate Bonfire Night. In 1914 during WWI people were not allowed to set off fireworks or light bonfires.
- King Henry VII was the first person to host a fireworks display in 1486.
- It is still possible to see the lantern that Guy Fawkes was carrying when he was caught at

the Houses of Parliament. It is currently in the Ashmolean Museum in Oxford.

- The Yeoman of the Guard STILL search the Houses of Parliament just in case ...
- Your average sparkler burns at between 1000 -1500°C
- Guy Fawkes has an island named after him - North-West of Santa Cruz Island in the Galapagos Islands is the uninhabited island, named Isla Guy Fawkes.

Christchurch Street Pride

So those with a keen eye have probably noticed the assortment of tractor tyres at the community centre. Please don't worry, they're not dumped. They are an ongoing project the volunteers from the Christchurch Street Pride, along with me, are working on to make our village even more beautiful.

We have been working on plans to bring wildlife and colour around the village, and although we all love the idea of wooden planters, the upkeep would be a lot, so we decided to recycle some old tractor tyres, and will be turning them into beautiful planters. Fitting for a village that prides its self with its farming heritage.

Over the next few of weeks, we will look at getting some nice plants and bulbs planted.



We all hope you enjoy these and they bring a bit of sunshine to your world.

Nate Lansdell



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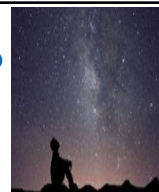
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Hello Christchurch Stargazers

Christchurch Stargazers



Hello once again Christchurch Stargazers. What to look out for in November.

Mercury is a morning planet and will give good viewing 2 hours before sunrise. Venus, despite getting closer to the sun, remains a prominent object in the morning sky. Mars remains bright but will start to dim. Jupiter will be low but visible all month long, low and Southerly in the evening sky, as will Saturn, and separation will shrink between the planets. Mars is a lot higher but will follow the same arc. Uranus is well positioned in the evening sky and is in the constellation of Aries. Neptune is also a well-placed evening planet, and is close to the star Phi Aquarii. Let's not forget the Leonid meteor shower which peaks on the 17/18th of the month.

Remember - never ever look at the sun without the correct protective equipment.

Mark Andrews

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Virtual meetings are basically
modern seances.

"Elizabeth are you here?"
"Make a sound if you can hear us."
"Is anyone else with you?"
"We can't see you. Can you hear us?"

Christchurch Art Group



We are not yet able to say when we can meet as a group again, but we can still keep our art work going.



Perhaps now is the time to start thinking about painting some Greeting cards for family and friends. The examples below are painted by an art club member during lockdown. They are a lovely selection. People really appreciate some thoughtful card you have painted yourself.

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



Jan Clifford

It will become illegal for anyone to pick up and use their mobile phone while driving, under new legislation to be enacted next year.

The change will end a loophole that can allow drivers to escape punishment for using a hand-held phone to take a photo or play a game.

Mobiles will still be able to be used to pay for a drive-through takeaway and drivers will still be able to use devices hands-free under the plans, the Department for Transport said. At present, making phone calls and sending text messages are banned while driving.

Ministers have rejected calls to also ban the use of hands-free function, for example using a sat-nav in a phone cradle. Roads minister Baroness Vere said hand-held phone use behind the wheel was "distracting and dangerous" and that "for too long risky drivers have been able to escape punishment".

The change in law would apply across the UK and is expected to come into effect early next year, depending on the outcome of the consultation.

National Police Chiefs' Council lead for Roads Policing, Chief Constable Anthony Bangham, said: "Using a mobile phone while driving is incredibly dangerous and being distracted at the wheel can change lives forever.

"Police will take robust action against those using a hand-held mobile phone illegally and proposals to make the law clearer are welcome."

The punishment for drivers caught breaking the rules on hand-held mobile use is six penalty points and a £200 fine.

Source: BBC News Website. October 2020



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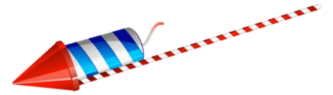


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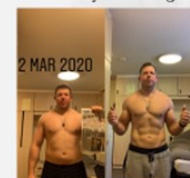
Thinking of having fireworks this November?

While most people enjoy fireworks responsibly, they can quickly become a disaster and, in the wrong hands, they can cause injury and damage to property. We would also strongly discourage people from lighting bonfires in back gardens as they present significant risks to residents if they get out of hand. Not only this, but the smoke can also aggravate coronavirus symptoms for those that might be shielding or isolating".

STAY SAFE THIS NOVEMBER!



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How's your Spanish?

Translate:

Un amigo es alguien que
mira por encima de tu verja
rota y admira las flores en tu
jardin.

Answer
on page
26.



CONGRATULATIONS FROM EVERYONE AT THE HERON!



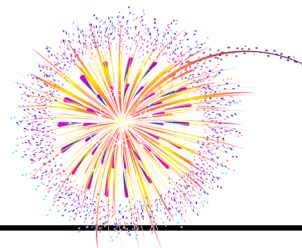
FOOTBALL STAR HONOURED WITH AN MBE

Prime Minister Boris Johnson said the recipients of this year's honours were "a testament to the sort of country we are - caring, compassionate and resolute in the face of a global pandemic". "The hard work and dedication of these local, often unsung heroes has helped carry us through," he added.

England player Marcus Rashford, whose award came for services to vulnerable children in the UK during the coronavirus epidemic, said becoming an MBE sounded "a little bit strange but obviously I feel honoured".

The 22-year-old Manchester United forward successfully campaigned to extend free school meals over the summer after pressing the government into a U-turn on the issue. "Hopefully it inspires more people to do good things," Rashford said. "It's a nice moment for me personally but I feel like I'm still at the beginning of the journey that I set out to try to achieve".

Source: Various news articles.



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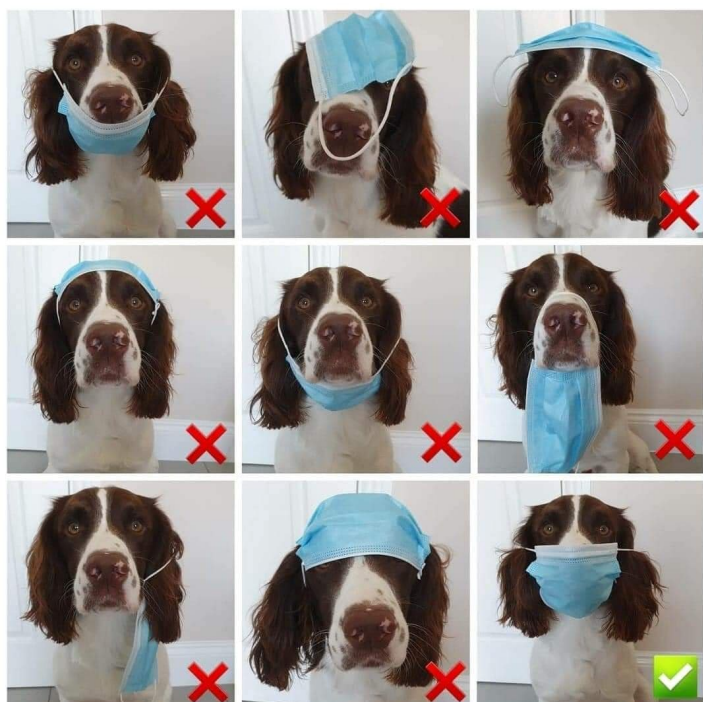
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Bonfire Night Anagrams

TOPPLE DUN GROW (2 words)
SIR CROON PAST (1 word)
YUK FEW SAG (2 words)
FRIGHTEN BONI (2 words)
RID COWS OF REEK (2 words)
HE FUNNY TORY PEG (4 words)
PALE MARTIN (1 word)
HE BOFFIN FROM VET (3 words)
WE CHEAT LIN HERE (2 words)
MATHS IF JESTER (3 words)

Answers on page 26



Pauline's Pumpkin Pie

Make enough shortcrust pastry to line a large pie or flan dish (or buy ready made!).

Mix together:

2 mugs of cooked, mashed pumpkin
1.5 mugs of condensed milk (15oz)
1 large egg
Half teaspoon of salt
Half teaspoon of cinnamon
Half teaspoon of nutmeg
Quarter teaspoon of ginger
Half to 1 mug of hot water.

Beat together and pour into the uncooked pastry case. Bake for 50-55 mins at 190°C (gas mark 5) until the mixture starts to brown and set.

Sprinkle the top with nutmeg and serve hot or cold with whipped cream!

Yum!

A traditional Thanksgiving dinner consists of roast turkey, turkey stuffing, mashed potatoes, yams, gravy, green beans, corn, dinner rolls, cranberry sauce as well as the pumpkin pie.



KNIT YOUR OWN POPPY

YOU WILL NEED

- Any red DK yarn
- A pair of 4mm (US 6) needles
- A small black button



TENSION

Not important for this project

POPPY

Cast on 60 sts using 4mm needles and red DK yarn.

Rows 1-8 (K2, P2) to end.

Row 9 (K2tog) to end. [30 sts]

Row 10 (S2kpo) to end. [10 sts]

Break off yarn, leaving a long tail. Thread tail through remaining 10 sts and pull tight, then fasten off yarn. Join the edges of the poppy together and sew the black button in the centre of the poppy.

CROCHET PATTERN ON PAGE 13.

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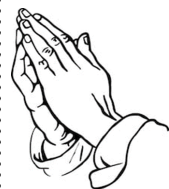
Church News

It has been lovely to welcome a good number of people to the two communion services we have held since the Covid pandemic made its presence known.



We look forward to our first wedding in a long time on Friday 6th November. Wishing Rebecca and Joshua a wonderful day (in spite of limited numbers!) and every happiness in their life together.

On Sunday 8th November at 10.50 am, we will be holding our Remembrance Service round the War Memorial, but will need to be more spread out than usual. You do not need to book a space for this service, but it is imperative that social distancing is observed, so please ensure you stand no closer than 2 metres away from anyone not in your household, and observe the rule of 6 if your household is particularly large.



The church will be open for private prayer from 10am - 12 noon on 1st, 15th, and 29th November. Our next communion service is at 11am on 22nd November. To attend this service you will need to book your place, please contact Sheila Day on 07946635908 or sheiladay1@hotmail.com.

Andy Day

Thoughts from the Rectory



These days that war time poster is everywhere! Its slogan, 'KEEP CALM AND CARRY ON', has been adopted - and adapted - for bags, mugs and tea towels, as a humorous response to tough times. The original design for this war time poster was envisaged for very different days from those we are experiencing now.

In the run up to the Second World War, the Ministry of Information commissioned artists of the day to design a poster to encourage and reassure the public. This resulted in three posters being commissioned for September 1939, two of which were to be used. The 'KEEP CALM AND CARRY ON' poster was printed, but kept in reserve for when the necessity arose for it to be displayed to the public. The history of this poster has been extensively studied by Dr Rebecca Lewis in a PhD thesis, and, contrary to the wide spread belief; this poster was never actually displayed during the war years.

There are many people these days that were not there, and cannot remember the war years. They will watch the much-reduced 2020 events and observances of the Remembrance Sunday. But those war days, for good or ill, have left their mark on the nations psyche. There was death and destruction on a scale the like of which this nation had never seen before. But today, when facing problems, our society can still invoke the admirable 'KEEP CALM AND CARRY ON' style which is associated with those war years.

On Remembrance Sunday, we should all reflect upon the resolve of a people who faced up to evil at huge personal cost. We can also take time to consider how to turn words about the horrors of war into actions, to prevent war and promote peace. Facing up to such a challenge will require policy makers, decision makers and society as a whole to show great resolve and 'keep calm'. But it may also mean that we have to acknowledge our mistakes, recognise the God-given value of every human being, and do something other than 'CARRY ON' as we always have.

Keep well and keep safe. Ian.



Binyon was too old to enlist as a soldier in the Great War, but he volunteered in hospitals, helping wounded French soldiers.





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Parish Council Snippets

From meeting held on 12th October 2020.

Again this meeting was held over zoom, and there were no members of the public present.

The clerk reported on a number of topics, but on the whole, little progress can be reported on the bus shelter, the street lights or the new pavement to be installed outside Field Lodge on Upwell Road. The clerk will continue to chase.

During the District Councillor reports, Cllr Sutton reported on the progress on the Stonea railway bridge repairs. Whilst the bridge repair is complete, the reopening is awaiting the installation of a warning beam set back from the bridge, to prevent bridge strikes from reoccurring. In addition, Highways are considering a change of priorities on that section of road, again, to try and prevent strikes.

A number of resident issues were discussed at the meeting. It was decided to get quotes for the winter maintenance of the trees around the recreation ground. This is normally done by volunteers, but it was considered that some professional help with the trees would probably be needed.

There is some concern that the grass cutting contract for the field and green spaces around the village is not giving the best value for money, so some investigation will be done to get prices from alternative contractors.

The waste bin at the front of the village hall is rather the worse for wear, and probably too small. Quotes are to be garnered for a replacement, and consideration made as to whether it should be re-sited next to the bench on the other side of the entrance.

A resident has asked about the possibility of installing a pavement from The Hall entrance on Upwell Road to the village hall, to allow children to walk to school from the collection of houses at that point. Unfortunately the huge costs involved (almost certainly between £750k and £1M) make this project a non-starter from the Parish Council's point of view.

The Clerk has reported that the area Neighbourhood Watch coordinator has been in contact stating that although the Heron magazine lists a number of official Neighbourhood watch volunteers, in fact the Christchurch Neighbourhood watch was never officially recognised, due to the local organiser being ineligible to stand in post. Because of this the Heron has been asked to remove those names of Neighbourhood watch volunteers from the magazine. The PC noted that should someone wish to organise an official neighbourhood watch scheme, they would be pleased to support it.

There was a long discussion about planning, and three more sites for possible development in the village were discussed. This was simply to judge the PC's thoughts on the sites, not to discuss any specific planning permission. The sites are on the West Green Lane opposite the houses, the field to the South of Church Road between Padgetts Road and the dyke, and an extension of the current building works behind Syringa House. The PC gave scores to each of these areas.

The next meeting is Monday 9th of November, items to be included on the Agenda should be with the Clerk by Friday 30th October.

James Hughes

A.R. CLINGO

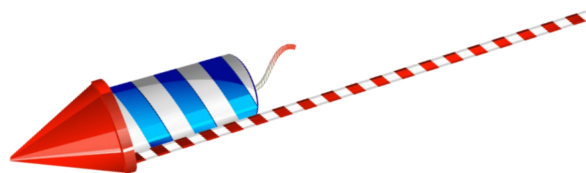
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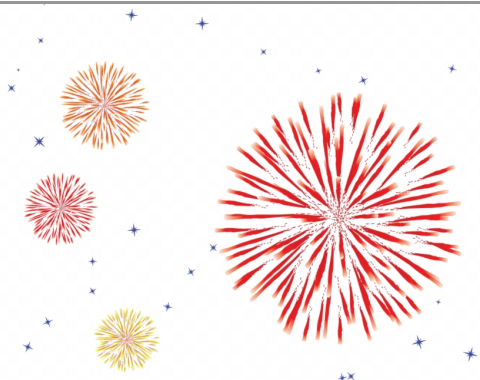
Reverse Advent Calendar

Each day in December add an item to a box. On Christmas Eve donate the contents to a Food Bank.

Some suggestions below:

- 
- 1 December – Tin of Beans
 - 2 December – Tin of Mixed Veg
 - 3 December – Bag of Potatoes
 - 4 December – Bag of Pasta
 - 5 December – Pasta Sauce
 - 6 December – Tin of Soup
 - 7 December – Bag of Rice
 - 8 December – Porridge Oats
 - 9 December – Peanut Butter
 - 10 December – Jar of Coffee
 - 11 December – Tin of Tuna
 - 12 December – Jar of Jam
 - 13 December – Deodorant
 - 14 December – Tin of Fruit
 - 15 December – UHT Milk
 - 16 December – Shower Gel
 - 17 December – Some Tinned Meat or Fish
 - 18 December – Tin of Sweetcorn
 - 19 December – Packet of Mince Pies
 - 20 December – Bag of Carrots
 - 21 December – Tin of Tomatoes
 - 22 December – Box of Teabags
 - 23 December – Carton of Fruit Juice
 - 24 December – Bar of Chocolate

There are food banks in Chatteris, March and Wisbech.



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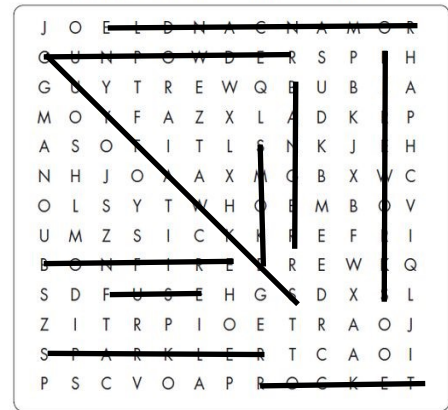
To join our local syndicate (Outwell, Upwell, Christchurch, Tipps End, Welney) and to get a competitive heating oil quote, please call 645 Services' local representative Elaine, on 01354 638310 or 07803 178824 or Email: elaine@645services.co.uk

We will always try and be the best price around - with local deliveries scheduled for the middle of the month, every month.

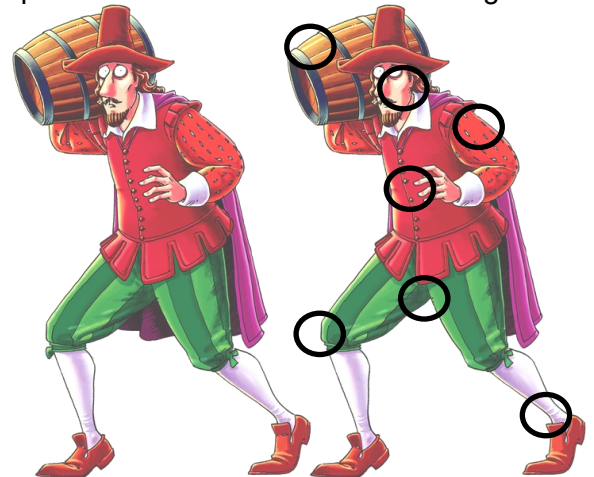
Useful Telephone Numbers

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
NHS	111
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
Christchurch Stargazers - Mark Andrews	07425 165415

Puzzle Answers:



Spot the Difference Answers from Page 17.



From Page 20 - SPANISH ANSWER: A friend is someone who looks above your broken gate and admires the flowers in your garden.

Anagram Answers from Page 21

TOPPLE DUN GROW	GUNPOWDER PLOT
SIR CROON PAST	CONSPIRATORS
YUK FEW SAG	GUY FAWKES
FRIGHTEN BON	BONFIRE NIGHT
RID COWS OF REEK	FIREWORKS CODE
HE FUNNY TORY PEG	PENNY FOR THE GUY
PALE MARTIN	PARLIAMENT
HE BOFFIN FROM VET	FIFTH OF NOVEMBER
WE CHEAT LIN HERE	CATHERINE WHEEL
MATHS IF JESTER	JAMES THE FIRST



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



Cheer up your November and join our US brothers and sisters by celebrating Thanksgiving on November 26th this year!

Thanksgiving Day is a national holiday in the United States, and it carries on into the weekend.

In 1621, the Plymouth colonists and Wampanoag Indians shared an autumn harvest feast that is acknowledged today as one of the first Thanksgiving celebrations in the colonies. Today, Thanksgiving is celebrated on the fourth Thursday of November.

Americans dress their Thanksgiving Table with Autumn colours, and with fruit, vegetables and nuts. There are traditional dishes eaten at Thanksgiving, which include Roast Turkey, Pumpkin Pie, Sweetcorn, Hassle Back Baked Potatoes, Sweet potatoes, and other Autumn specials.



Scott MacNeil and his family keep Thanksgiving in our part of the world. He tells us their story.



Heather (from Ilfracombe, Devonshire) and I (From Ludlow, Massachusetts, USA) met in Cambridge, UK in 2001 and married on June 25th, 2005. We moved to the Eifel Region of Germany in July, 2005 and returned to the UK in 2008, where we continue to live to this day. We had our first child in Germany - our daughter

Devyn - and then had our son Jakobi here in Huntingdon, in 2010. I never really thought much about my American Thanksgiving tradition until our son was born, and Heather thought

it would be a good idea to bring it into our family, but do it with a twist. She thought I should cook a traditional Thanksgiving Meal on Thanksgiving. That consists of Turkey, mashed potatoes with gravy, stuffing, cranberry sauce, green beans, corn on the cob, butter muffins, and warm pumpkin pie with whip cream and vanilla ice cream.



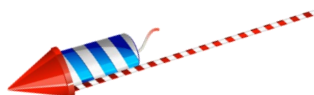
Thanksgiving is always on the fourth Thursday of November, and this year the date is 26th. Heather thought we should then spend the rest of the weekend at Centre

Parcs, Elveden. Her idea has worked perfectly, and for the past 9 years we have brought Thanksgiving into our home, then moved it over to Centre Parcs to say goodbye to Thanksgiving in style: and then welcome in Christmas, as Centre Parcs is always so special, with its Christmas Wonderland. We get into the Christmas spirit with visiting Santa, and watching Christmas Movies, next to the log fire and all cosied-up on the couch with our dogs Moose and Fern. We only watch the Nativity

movies and as there are 4 of them, it works out perfect. Here is a pumpkin picking photo from 2009 with Devyn, then 2010 of our 2nd year picking pumpkins with our son Jakobi, and from 2019 with our new dogs Moose and Fern and our latest visit to Santa in 2019 - and we are booked in again this year for both pumpkin picking and Centre Parcs and I never see this tradition ever changing for us.



Scott MacNeil





2nd Place goes to Sam McGonagle with his entry "Heavenly Rays"

My involvement with the Heron 2021 calendar has been an absolute pleasure. Except the judging part, which proved very difficult...so many excellent photographs have been submitted!

This is art. Thought has gone into each piece. Combining composition with opportunity is not easy. 31 artists sent their work in. Thanks to all of you. Your names will be proudly displayed on your calendar artwork.

A special well done to our young artists; Ella (age 11), Kimberly (age 10) and Lorna (age 7).

The calendar will display 74 images of Christchurch Skies, plus 2 Christmassy snow scenes by Giles Thorlby. There will be a box in each month, for every day of the year; large enough to pop in your birthday and appointment reminders.

Like me, most of you probably keep boring electronic diaries. But no piece of software can be a substitute for the real thing, with its monthly art displays, hanging on your kitchen door or wall. Send one to your far away friends and relatives at Christmas to remind them where you live, and how Fen skies enrich your lives. £6 each or £15 for three...place your orders with Elaine adverts@theheron.info (638310).

Congratulations to Lucy, Sam and Pat. Please call me on 01354 638614 so we can decide on the size and format of your winning framed pictures.

Congratulations also to all 28 close runners up! I have decided to frame you all an A4 (or smaller, as is your preference) picture of the favourite image you choose from the photos you sent in. Please email me on rex@granarystudio.uk confirming which picture of yours you would like to have framed, and your address.

Rex Ockenden
Granary Studio, Christchurch



3rd Place goes to Pat Rigby with "February Sunset"

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.

