



The Heron

Community Magazine

December 2020

Delivered to homes in Christchurch, Euximoor and Tipps End

No. 80

It wasn't all doom and gloom last month in Christchurch! Congratulations to Rebecca and Josh on their wedding.



Story and more pictures on back page.
Photo by Malcolm Hicks

In this issue!

Townley School	2
Editorial/Community Info	3
Advertising in the Heron	4
Heron News/New Noticeboard	5
Solstice & Equinox	7
RNIB - Save your Stamps!	8
Your Letters	9
The Story of Silent Night	10
Charlie Chaplin Quote	11
Meet a Parish Councillor	12
Aussie Christmas	12
Dun Cow	13
Christmas Quiz	14
Kids Corner/AFC	15
Hungry?/Man's Best Friend	16
Origami Christmas Trees	17
New Small Business	20
The Post Office	21
Hanukkah	22
Church News	23
RIP Ann McClean	24
Village Season's Greetings	25
Useful Numbers	26
Answers/Stir Up Sunday	26
La Pasada/The Homeless	27
Wedding Story/Photographs	28

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 01354 638229



Facebook—Townley School and Pre-School

November 2020

Remembrance Service

On the 11th November, Years 5 and 6 went to the church and recorded a service for the whole school. They also laid our wreaths (We hope the editor recognised our templates!). The whole school came together for a virtual assembly just before 11am, where we watched what the older children had recorded, we paused at 11am, I do not think there was a dry eye amongst the adults, a pin could be heard drop in every room, before a shared recital of in Flanders field. I wish all of you could have shared in this moment of reflection; it truly was a beautiful moment. For many of our EYFS children it was the first time they had seen the rest of the school, several of them demanded to know who the other children were in my office!



EYFS

Our Early Years is such a happy place - we have lots of new children join us this term, they have all been so independent, coming in without their parent, which is not how we would usually welcome the children.

We raised £100.72 by wearing non-uniform for Children in Need.



Hawker Class

The children in year 1 and 2 are learning about dinosaurs this term.

Emperor Class

Emperor Class have been learning about the Victorians this half term, they have been learning about the



Emerald Class

The children have been learning to make music using the new laptops this term.



Friends of Townley School

FOTS are holding a raffle to raise some much-needed funds for the school on the 18th December. If you would like to donate a raffle prize please get in touch, we would be very grateful. FOTS can be found on Facebook too!

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.

Royal Mail struggled to cope with the extra volume of packages during the first Lockdown, with some deliveries taking more than 2 weeks to arrive!

It appears that they are experiencing similar problems this time too, with some significant delays being reported.

We recommend sending Christmas cards to your friends and family through the post no later than the second week of December.

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.

UPWELL (CAMBRIDGE) CONSOLIDATED CHARITIES (FORMER ISLE PART OF THE PARISH)

Due to the current restrictions, the Trustees have regrettably made the decision to postpone the 2020 DOLE MONEY distribution.

Mr N. J. Pooley
Clerk. 07799 762175

Editorial

Hello everyone, and welcome to the December 2020 edition of The Heron. All of us join in wishing you a Very Happy Christmas, however it turns out.

This year has certainly been a challenging one for us all. There will be happy and sad memories mixed in with the festivities. One blessing – we hope this kind of year will never be repeated! 'Always count your blessings'. This was my mother's advice, and it seems a good way to go. In this edition, there are a few ways mentioned as to how we can be a blessing to others, in any way, however small. Let's make this Christmas an extra-positive one, in spite of all the virus-related things that have gone on.

I would again like to say a great big 'thank you' to all involved in producing our Heron 2021 Calendar. I am sure you will agree that the effect has been "more than the sum of its parts", as they say. Particular thanks go to Rex for his tremendous work and generosity. A great success in all aspects. We certainly have some talented photographers in our midst.

I always try to find the mystery in Christmas. There is a lot of it about, if we care to stop and consider. Make your Christmas Season a very special one this year.

Annie Nason



Telephone number: 01945 774934

Opening hours

Monday – Friday 09.00-13.00; 14.00-18.30
Saturday and Sunday Closed

Holiday closures

Christmas Day - Dec 25th 2020
Boxing Day (substitute day) - Dec 28th 2020
New Year's Day – Jan 1st 2021

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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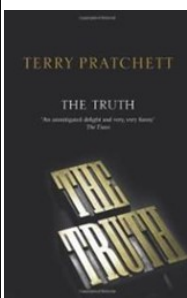
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Christchurch Book Club



Book club continues to be at the forefront of technology! We held our second Zoom meeting on 24th November and there were 4 of us this time! Numbers had doubled! We had been reading "Entry Island" by Peter May and this was very much enjoyed by all in the zoom meeting - although I had received a text from one of our members who was unable to take part in the meeting saying that she had not enjoyed it.



Members commented that they enjoyed the multi-faceted aspect of the book, there is engagement in relationships, professional and personal, it is a murder mystery and also has a significant historical perspective as well.

Our next book is "The Truth" by Terry Pratchett. We have planned another zoom meeting for Tuesday 22nd December at 7.30pm.

It was good to welcome a new member to our zoom meeting for November - if you are interested in joining us, please contact Sheila on 07946635908.

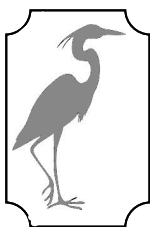
Advertisers - all our advert rates and conditions can be found on our website www.theheron.info. Business advertisers can book series of 6 or 12 adverts, paid in advance. Adverts for village fundraising events, personal announcements, or small private ads are usually free.

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

Copy Deadline - The deadline for copy for the January edition of the Heron is **20 December**.

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

I have great pleasure in reporting that we have sold all of the 130 calendars we had printed and due to your fantastic support we have made a whopping £560.48 profit so far. That has far exceeded our expectations but am not surprised given the quality of the pictures that went into it.

Our grateful thanks go to all the people that entered the competition and bought calendars, but special thanks to Rex Ockenden, from Granary Studios, for his time and generous donations, of framed pictures, for all those who took part.

Elaine Reed-Hughes, Treasurer

Thank You!

Three long-standing members of our Heron Delivery Team have decided to call it a day, and we would like to thank them for their faithful service, come rain come shine! Pauline,

Peter and Alvar have delivered to several of the roads in our community over the years. Thank you for your support and enthusiasm for The Heron over such a long time. Thank you also to Olivia and Lucy, who have been part of the Delivery Team, and have stood down. AND, whilst we are at it, a BIG THANK YOU to our present team of deliverers who are doing such a great job for our community.

Sandra Kay and the Heron Team

Spot it in front of the Christchurch Community Centre!



The original committee of The Christchurch Village Horse Show have great pleasure in donating the new Parish Notice Board to The Recreation Ground Charity in the village. The Committee also donated towards the cost of the solar panels, recently installed on the Community Centre building, to help provide electricity for heating and lighting etc.

The Horse Show committee ran several very successful annual shows at 2 local private venues, which sadly, one by one, became unavailable due to change of ownership. The only other grassed venue was the village playing field, which for obvious reasons was a "No Go" area - so very sadly the whole thing folded as far as we were concerned. However, as a result of our success, we were able to donate towards the funds of several village organisations, which have been gratefully received over the years.

After our last show, a small amount of money was banked in case a venue became available to us in the future. As this did not happen, the money accrued interest over the years. The committee decided that, when the new village hall was built and ready for use, we would close our bank account and donate all resulting proceeds to the New Committee at the Community Centre, for the purchase of equipment as required.

We - those of us Horse Show committee who "are still around" - wish The Community Centre Committee and all others involved good luck and every success in the future.

Jill Bliss



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!

December sees us trying to organise our AGM. Quite difficult when you have some committee members who are unable to zoom and we are in a lockdown situation where visiting

other people's homes is a no-no. Ho hum. These things are sent to try us.

December also sees us distributing more cheer to our members. As a small gift to them all, the committee arranged for each member to receive a 'Hotel Chocolat' Advent Calendar. Just another way of showing our members that we're still here and thinking of them and wish them all a Happy Christmas.

Check out the step back in time photo below. This is the WI putting on a Christmas Party for village children back in 1954. We'd love to hear if anyone recognises any of the faces.

A Very Merry Christmas to all our Members Past and Present.



Photo: Malcolm Hicks

A.R. CLINGO

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

SOLSTICE? EQUINOX? Some questions answered:

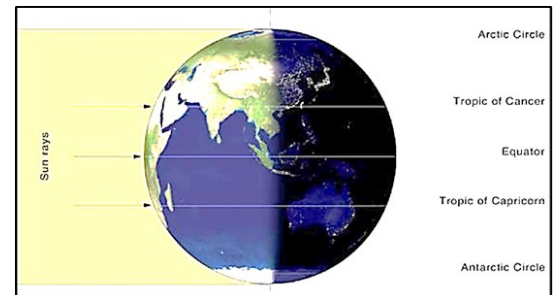
What is a solstice?

Our Earth rotates on its axis once each day, producing the cycle of day and night. At the same time, the Earth moves around the Sun on its orbit over the course of a year. However, the axis of rotation of the Earth is not lined up with the axis of motion around the Sun. Instead, it is tilted slightly at 23.44° . This is sometimes referred to as the 'ecliptic'. This tilt means that during one half of the year the North side of the Earth is tilted slightly towards the Sun and the South is tilted away. For the other half of the year the reverse is true.

At the exact moment that the Northern Hemisphere is most tilted towards the Sun, the Northern Hemisphere experiences its Summer Solstice, while the Southern Hemisphere has its Winter Solstice. About six months later, the Northern Hemisphere has its Winter Solstice, while the Southern Hemisphere is at its Summer Solstice. These key points in the year, along with the Equinoxes, help to determine the seasons on Earth. *In 2020 the Winter Solstice will occur on **Monday 21 December**. The 2019 Winter Solstice was on **Sunday 22 December**.*

What is an Equinox?

At two points in the year the Sun will illuminate the Northern and Southern Hemispheres equally. These are known as the Equinoxes: the **Autumnal Equinox and Vernal, or Spring Equinox**. It's the moment at which the plane of Earth's equator passes through the centre of the Sun's disk, or the moment that the Sun passes the celestial equator. On these dates, there are approximately equal hours of daylight and darkness. The Spring Equinox this year in the UK was on Friday March 20th. The Autumnal Equinox was on September 22nd.



Why don't the Solstices and Equinoxes happen on the same days every year?

The Earth takes approximately $365\frac{1}{4}$ days to go around the Sun. This is why we have a leap year every four years to add another day to our calendar. For the same reason the precise time of the equinoxes are not the same each year. Generally, they will occur about six hours later each year, with a jump of a day (backwards) on leap years.

What is the difference between Midsummer's Day and the summer solstice?

Midsummer's Day occurs annually on 24 June and is one of the four Quarter Days in the UK Legal Calendar. The other Quarter Days are Lady Day (25 March), Michaelmas (29 September) and Christmas Day (25 December).

Why isn't the Summer Solstice the middle of summer?

The tilt of the Earth produces the seasons, including the changes in weather associated with them. When the northern hemisphere is tilted towards the Sun, it receives more direct sunlight and for a longer portion of the day, so the temperature increases. Similarly in winter, the reduction in sunlight hours and more glancing angle to the Sun means the air remains colder.

However, just as with the air in your home, the atmosphere and, more importantly, the oceans take time to heat up. This means that even though the solstice marks the longest or shortest days (and the most direct or indirect sunlight), there is a considerable lag between that and the peak of warm or cold weather. As a result, summer is often deemed to start around the summer solstice, with June, July and August being the "summer months". However, astronomical summer can either begin on the solstice, or, if using length of days as a guide, be centred on the solstice, depending on the situation.

Hello Christchurch Stargazers

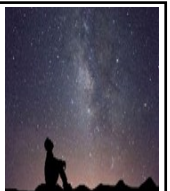
Christchurch Stargazers

This is what the month of December brings.

Mercury will be bright morning object at the start of the month. **Venus** remains bright in the dawn twilight all month long. **Mars** is an evening planet which is in the constellation of Pisces. It will dim and shrink throughout the month. **Uranus** remains well positioned all month. **Neptune** is well placed at the start of the month. There is a rare occurrence this month, with **Jupiter** and **Saturn** appearing as a single star on the 20th/21st and 22nd, with them being 1 tenth of a degree apart. This last happened back in 1623!

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

Mark Andrews



Save your stamps for RNIB

This Christmas, collect stamps for RNIB and make a difference to blind and partially sighted people.
REMEMBER - Make sure you leave a centimetre of envelope or packaging around each stamp.

For more information, visit their website:

<https://www.rnib.org.uk/donations-and-fundraising/fundraising-your-community/stamps-appeal>

OR ... get them to me, Annie Nason, at Grasshopper Cottage, 5 Upwell Road, Christchurch.

Thank You

I would like to thank all the people who remembered me in their prayers and sent me Get Well cards and best wishes while I was in hospital.

Apologies to friends whose birthdays I missed.
Hope you had a happy day.

Wendy Yates



I will honor
Christmas in my heart,
and try to keep it
all the year.

CHARLES DICKENS
A Christmas Carol



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

Your Letters

Thank you for my framed pictures. I would like to say to the Heron team they all do an amazing job.

It was amazing to get my pictures framed and I was very proud of my pictures.

David Litton

We would like to thank you for the help, offers of help and for your support leading up to the wedding of Rebecca and Joshua.

It was lovely to see everybody at church as we arrived and who then lined the church path to wish Rebecca and Josh well by throwing confetti over the happy couple. This was greatly appreciated. A huge thank you.

We all had a fabulous day and were truly blessed with the great weather.

Roger and Belinda Gladwin

It was a great idea to put the Remembrance Poppy in The Heron.

Peter Owen.

Thank you Rex Ockenden for The FANTASTIC Framed Picture.

Andy Lansdell

Just to say the poppy is in my window.

What a lovely idea. Thank you.

Anne Williams



The Heron Calendar. Love it! Well done everyone.

Wendy Yates

I have collected my calendar and am very pleased with it. Thanks to you and your team for all your hard work.

Giles Thorlby

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Care at home... because home is where the heart is 

Necessity is the Mother of Invention - the story of "Silent Night"

In the lead up to Christmas, a young priest approached the local organist and schoolmaster with an idea. The priest had written a poem to celebrate the birth of Christ, and he wanted his friend to try to write some music that would bring the words to life. The priest's name was Father Joseph Mohr and the organist's name was Franz Xaver Gruber. The year was 1818 and their collaboration led to the creation of one of the most familiar and best-loved carols of all time... "Silent Night."



The story of how it came to be written may have been embellished over the years, but it seems that a mouse chewed through the organ wires in the church, which meant the usual hymns could not be performed in the normal way. The Christmas service was in jeopardy, and both priest and organist had to come up with a solution. As luck would have it, Father Mohr remembered the verses he penned a few years before. He showed them to Gruber and the two men worked on it together. They came up with a tune and harmony that could be performed on guitar and gave the first performance that very Christmas eve.



Little did Mohr and Gruber realise that between them they would come up with one of the most popular Christmas carols ever written.

As testament to its global popularity, the carol was sung by troops during the Christmas truce of World War I. They sang in English, French and German, all at the same time, because it was perhaps the one tune that was familiar to all of them. How poignant the words must have seemed at that particular moment.

Source: <https://holidappy.com/holidays/Christmas-Carols-The-Story-of-Silent-Night>

Stille Nacht (German)

Stille Nacht, heilige Nacht,
Alles schläft; einsam wacht
Nur das traute hochheilige Paar.
Holder Knabe im lockigen Haar,
Schlaf in himmlischer Ruh!
Schlaf in himmlischer Ruh!

Stille Nacht, heilige Nacht,
Hirten erst kundgemacht
Durch der Engel Halleluja,
Tönt es laut von fern und nah:
Christ, der Retter ist da!
Christ, der Retter ist da!

Stille Nacht, heilige Nacht,
Gottes Sohn, o wie lacht
Lieb' aus deinem göttlichen Mund,
Da uns schlägt die rettende Stund'.
Christ, in deiner Geburt!
Christ, in deiner Geburt!

Words: Joseph Mohr, 1816
Music: Franz Xaver Gruber, 1818



Silent Night (English)

Silent night, holy night
All is calm all is bright
'Round yon virgin Mother and Child
Holy infant so tender and mild
Sleep in heavenly peace
Sleep in heavenly peace

Silent night, holy night,
Shepherds quake at the sight.
Glories stream from heaven afar,
Heav'nly hosts sing Alleluia;
Christ the Saviour is born
Christ the Saviour is born

Silent night, holy night,
Son of God, love's pure light.
Radiant beams from Thy holy face,
With the dawn of redeeming grace,
Jesus, Lord, at Thy birth
Jesus, Lord, at Thy birth

Douce Nuit (French)

Douce nuit, sainte nuit !
Dans les cieux ! L'astre luit.
Le mystère annoncé s'accomplit
Cet enfant sur la paille endormi,
C'est l'amour infini !
C'est l'amour infini !

Saint enfant, doux agneau !
Qu'il est grand ! Qu'il est beau !
Entendez résonner les pipeaux
Des bergers conduisant leurs troupeaux
Vers son humble berceau !
Vers son humble berceau !

C'est vers nous qu'il accourt,
En un don sans retour !
De ce monde ignorant de l'amour,
Où commence aujourd'hui son séjour,
Qu'il soit Roi pour toujours !
Qu'il soit Roi pour toujours !

Quel accueil pour un Roi !
Point d'abri, point de toit !
Dans sa crèche il grelotte de froid
O pécheur, sans attendre la croix,
Jésus souffre pour toi !
Jésus souffre pour toi !

Paix à tous ! Gloire au ciel !
Gloire au sein maternel,
Qui pour nous, en ce jour de Noël,
Enfanta le Sauveur éternel,
Qu'attendait Israël !
Qu'attendait Israël !

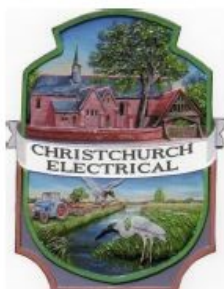
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Charlie Chaplin lived 88 years

He left us 4 statements:

- (1) Nothing is forever in this world, not even our problems.
- (2) I love walking in the rain because no one can see my tears.
- (3) The most lost day in life is the day we don't laugh.

- (4) Six best doctors in the world...:
 1. The sun
 2. Rest
 3. Exercise
 4. Diet
 5. Self-respect
 6. Friends

Stick to them at all stages of your life and enjoy a healthy life...

If you see the moon, you will see the beauty of God...

If you see the sun, you will see the power of God...

If you see a mirror, you will see God's best creation.
So believe it.

We are all tourists, God is our travel agent who has already identified our routes, bookings and destinations... trust him and enjoy life.

Life is just a journey! Therefore, live today!
Tomorrow may not be.



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Meet a Christchurch Parish Councillor ...

Jill Bliss

I was born during WW2 and brought up in a farming world. My father sold up at the end of the war and bought another farm to the north of Wisbech. The farmhouse needed some attention, before we moved in, so we lived in Coldham vicarage for a few months. By this time, I was of school age and attended the village school, until the horrendous winter of 1947 took hold and the school closed as we were snowed in, roads blocked and water supply frozen.

On moving to my dad's new farm, I attended The Colville School, at Newton. We, as a family, attended Newton Church where I was a choir girl, my dad was a sidesman and my mum played the organ when required. There was a good attendance at our village church in those days.

At the age of 10, I left Colville and became a pupil at St Audrey's Convent School, in Wisbech and after 'O' levels, I worked in Barclays Bank and trained at India House in the financial area of London. This was quite an experience, but I didn't enjoy it much and soon realised that it wasn't the life for me. I then spent a short time on the farm and, as it was harvest time, there was plenty to do and I was "as happy as Larry". I had always been an outdoor girl - much happier in wellies than in high-heeled shoes! However, my mother had other ideas and I was then sent to Cambridge College of Hairdressing and graduated as a qualified first year operator. I immediately moved to Peterborough and worked in a busy salon which was great, coming home at the weekends to catch up with my horse, farm life and some of my friends. Monday

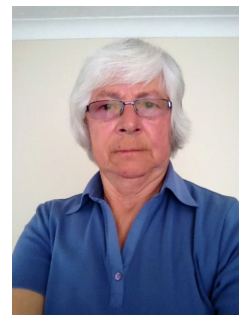
morning soon emerged and dad would take me to Wisbech Horsefair, to catch the 336 bus back to work. Happy days!

I worked at the same salon until I got married in June 1964 when I came to Beechwood Farm. I then worked in Upwell until, sadly, my dad passed away, I was 5 months pregnant at the time, with our first child, our second daughter was born 22 months later.

Later on, I was Secretary/Treasurer of The Christchurch Horse Show committee and then I became Assistant/ Secretary of The Memorial Hall (the old village hall) and a year later took the Secretary/Treasurers job on, until its closure and its total financial balance was handed over for the New Community Centre - some 26 years in all.

During the early years, I was also Secretary/Treasurer to The Annual Village Gala. I was then voted in as the village representative on The Upwell Health Centre Patient Participation Group, of which I still belong. I was nominated and subsequently became a trustee of The Upwell (Cambs) Consolidated Charity, which still stands. I was Treasurer of The Heron for approximately 10 years, when the late Pat Mills was Editor and for a very short time after Mrs Mills passing. I was also Chair of The Townley School Governors for a few years.

I was co-opted as a Parish Councillor for Christchurch, in the early 1990s and have been an active council member ever since. I now enjoy gardening, doing the odd job on the farm and am now enjoying watching our 5 grandsons emerge into their working/sporting world, following University.



An Aussie Christmas

When Australians celebrate Christmas on December 25, it is mid-summer. And HOT. Families decorate their homes with ferns, palm leaves, and evergreens, along with the colourful flowers that bloom in summer called Christmas Bush and Christmas Bellflower. Some families put up a Christmas tree. Outdoors, nasturtiums, wisteria, and honeysuckle bloom.

Christmas festivities begin in late November, when schools and church groups present Nativity plays. They sing carols throughout the month of December.

The most popular event of the Christmas season is called Carols by Candlelight. People come together at night to light candles and sing Christmas carols outside. The stars shining above add to the sights and sounds of this wonderful outdoor concert. The most popular event of the Christmas season is called Carols by Candlelight. People come together at night to light candles and sing Christmas carols outside. The stars shining above add to the sights and sounds of this wonderful outdoor concert.

Why don't we join with them and sing carols round our Christmas trees, all the while imagining the warmth and brightness of the Aussie sunshine outside!





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FRIDAY FOOD – 4.30pm till 8.30pm
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MONDAY BREAKFAST CLUB – Suspended until further notice.



COVID 19 Update

When this goes to print, we will be unsure of what the Government will do in these uncertain times. We will continue with our Friday take away food and drink.

Sue and I would like to thank the community for your continued support;
we greatly appreciate it.

In the anticipation of being open for Christmas we are putting up our decorations and will be holding our local produce raffle on Tuesday evening 22nd December.

Sunday Breakfast 27th December, a chance for all the Christmas chefs to enjoy a leisurely socially-distant breakfast from 10.00am; have a chat, coffee and even a pint.

So please all keep safe and have a merry Christmas. Roll on 2021.



Christchurch Craft Club



Don't know about anyone else, but I'm finding this second lockdown far harder than the first, no idea why but that's where I find myself. I managed to craft throughout the first lockdown, but have done virtually nothing this time.

However, just before lockdown started, I was lucky enough to do an online weekend, mixed media retreat. It was so much fun. We were sent the basics, for all 13 workshops, in kit format. Over the weekend, the workshops were shared via YouTube and Facebook Live, so people could work along with them or do them later at your own pace. I learnt some new techniques and how to use some of the vast stash I have. It also gave me a reason to buy some new bits...not that I need much reason to buy more!

I really enjoyed myself and have some great results so far, so if you're struggling like me, maybe this is something for you to try. Share the best lessons you find and what you've made with us all.

Jane Rees





1. Which Christmas hit originally released in 1984 has been no.1 in the UK charts three times?
2. What's the name of the giant snow monster that guards Elsa's palace in Frozen?
3. Cliff Richard had his 12th number one hit with his sing-along Christmas classic Mistletoe and what?
4. In which children's classic is it 'always winter but never Christmas'?
5. Stollen is becoming popular in this country - but where does it originate from?
6. Who popularised the inclusion of a Christmas tree in our indoor decorations?
7. Which character declares "Merry Christmas, one and all!" in Charles Dickens' A Christmas Carol?
8. Dr Seuss's The Grinch attempts to steal Christmas from which unsuspecting town?
9. Pigs in blankets are a Christmas favourite, but what are angels on horseback or devils on horseback?
10. What comes next in Wham's Last Christmas: "Once bitten and twice shy, I keep my distance..."

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 Dun Cow Pub Sign on Green Lane.



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A very different Remembrance Sunday ...

About 25 people joined Rev Ian Brady for his Remembrance Sunday Service this year by the War Memorial in the church yard. Everyone observed the distancing rules at this particularly moving and poignant mark of respect for the Christchurch fallen. We did remember them.



Kids Corner

Bauble Brain Teaser

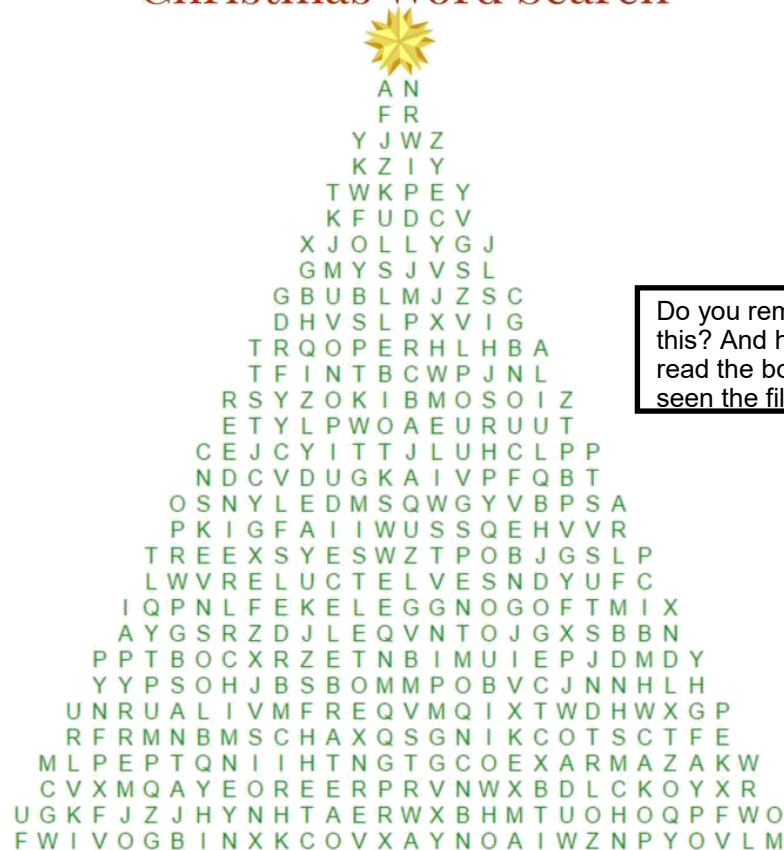
John, Lorraine and Gertie are decorating the Christmas tree. John takes half the baubles and puts them on the tree. Then Lorraine looks in the box, takes half the baubles out and puts them on the tree. Lastly Gertie looks in the box, takes half the baubles and puts them on the tree. There are now 3 baubles left in the box. How many baubles did the box originally contain?



Snowman Conundrum

The snowman and snow women are comparing their heights. Frosty, Snow White, Jack Frost and Snow Flake are lining up in order from the shortest to the tallest. Frosty is neither the tallest nor the shortest. Snow White is taller than Jack Frost and Snow Flake. Jack Frost is shorter than Frosty. Jack Frost is not the shortest. In what order are they standing?

Christmas Word Search



BELLS
STOCKINGS
WREATH
ELVES
SLED

CELEBRATE
EGGNOG
TREE
JOLLY
SANTA

MERRY
MISTLETOE
CHIMNEY
REINDEER

Do you remember this? And have you read the book, or seen the film?

SNOWBALL

~ SHEL SILVERSTEIN

I MADE MYSELF A SNOWBALL,
AS PERFECT AS COULD BE,
I THOUGHT I'D KEEP IT AS A PET,
AND LET IT SLEEP WITH ME.

I MADE IT SOME PAJAMAS,
AND A PILLOW FOR ITS HEAD,
THEN LAST NIGHT IT RAN AWAY,
BUT FIRST - IT WET THE BED!



Always winter
but never
Christmas.

C.S. LEWIS

The Lion, the Witch and the Wardrobe



Sat 31st oct. AFC had a fantastic 4/1 away win against Witchford before going into a second lockdown.

From all at AFC Christchurch we wish you a very happy and safe Christmas.

Yvonne Chenery



AFC Christchurch The Magpies

AFC CHRISTCHURCH
2020-2021 SEASON



Hungry?

Dear Sheila

After reading your slot in the Heron, I would like to tell you about Tandoori Nights who are at 5 High Street Manea (01354 688255).

This lovely little restaurant is a hidden gem in the heart of Manea. Well it was before Covid hit. We haven't ventured in for a sit-down meal since the pandemic but have continued to have takeaways from them – much to our delight.

The menu is quite varied but not as varied as some these days that bamboozle you with so many choices it leaves your head spinning - so you sit there pondering for ages but, in the end, usually go for your favourite anyway! Well Tandoori Nights do the usual Traditional Dishes with some really rather lovely Signature Dishes. My husband's favourite being the Chicken Salee which, although not on the new printed menu, they will still quite happily rustle up for him!



Another plus point for these lovely people are that (a) they have just put themselves onto the "Just Eat" website so you can order and pay for your food online (my husband's beloved Chicken Salee making a reappearance!) and (b) they deliver to Christchurch.

They happily take orders over the telephone if you don't go down the online ordering route but equally as efficient if you use the Just Eat website.

I would say that Tandoori Nights are about middle of the road price-wise. Starters range from £2.95 up to £4.95 and Main Courses from £6.95 up to £12.50 (for a King Prawn dish) with side dishes at a fixed £3.50.

I can't recommend them enough and really look forward to the nights we treat ourselves to a curry from them. Why not give them a try?

Christchurch Resident (name supplied but withheld)



Our "Best Friend" may also be our oldest one

A study of dog DNA has shown that our "best friend" in the animal world may also be our oldest one.

The analysis reveals that dog domestication can be traced back 11,000 years, to the end of the last Ice Age. This confirms that dogs were domesticated before any other known species.

Our canine companions were widespread across the northern hemisphere at this time, and had already split into five different types.



Despite the expansion of European dogs during the colonial era, traces of these ancient indigenous breeds survive today in the Americas, Asia, Africa and Oceania. The research fills in some of the gaps in the natural history of our close animal companions.

Dr Pontus Skoglund, co-author of the study and group leader of the Ancient Genomics laboratory at London's Crick Institute, told BBC News: "Dogs are really unique in being this quite strange thing if you think about it, when all people were still hunter gatherers, they domesticate what is really a wild carnivore - wolves are pretty frightening in many parts of the world.

"The question of why did people do that? How did that come about? That's what we're ultimately interested in." To some extent, dog genetic patterns mirror human ones, because people took their animal companions with them when they moved. But there were also important differences.

Find out more here: <https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/science-environment-54690458>



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DIY ORIGAMI CHRISTMAS TREES (STEP BY STEP)

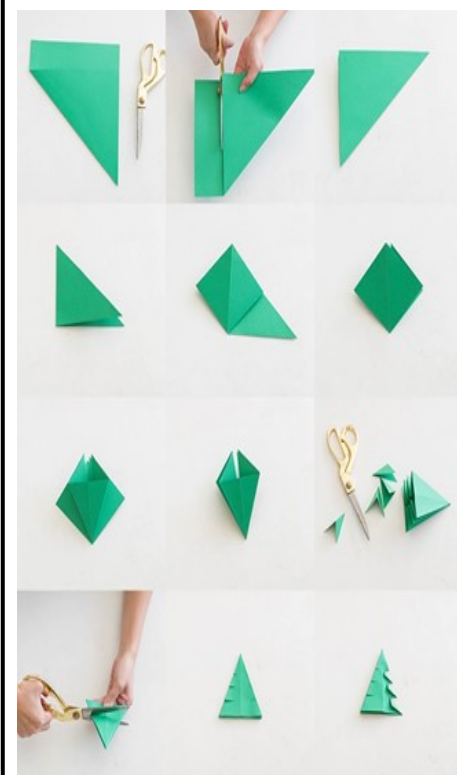
Materials:

Letter-sized paper in shades of green, blues and white.

Scissors

Tip – you can buy the large square sheets of paper to make the big trees.

INSTRUCTIONS:



Fold top corner of the paper to align with the opposing side of the paper.

Cut the bottom of the paper off so that you are left with a square paper folded into a triangle.

Fold that in half into a smaller triangle

Open the triangles and fold down to create a square x2

Open the sides of the squares to create a tall triangle x4

Trim off the bottom triangle.

Cut 3 rows on each side, spaced evenly.

Fold down the bottom three flaps.

For more detailed instructions, visit:
<https://sugarandcharm.com/origami-christmas-trees>





"One Christmas was so much like another, in those years around the sea-town corner now and out of all sound except the distant speaking of the voices I

sometimes hear a moment before sleep, that I can never remember whether it snowed for six days and six nights when I was twelve or whether it snowed for twelve days and twelve nights when I was six".

Dylan Thomas, A Child's Christmas in Wales

*Friendship improves
happiness and abates misery,
by the doubling of our joy
and the dividing of our grief.*

Marcus Tullius Cicero



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CONGRATULATIONS!

Fenland has a new Poet Laureate. She is Psychiatrist, Dr Kim Allen and also the Young Fenland Poet Laureate title going to eleven-year-old Layla Gull, from March.

Arts Council England gave a generous grant towards the Fenland Arts Development Scheme, of which the Fenland Poet Laureate Award is part.

Source: Fenland Citizen

Christchurch Art Group



This year has been a difficult one. Let us hope things will improve a bit next year and village groups will be able to find a way of meeting again. Now the winter is here we could spend our time indoors looking up our favourite artist and studying the way they paint. History of Art is a very interesting subject as well. There is a lot of information online, or the library is a good source of information.

Very best wishes to you all and hope our Art classes can start again in the spring; I have lots of ideas and some requests for sessions.

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

Jan Clifford



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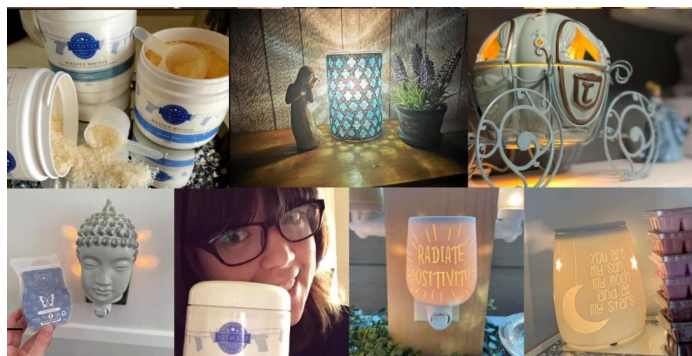


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Another small business enterprise in Christchurch...

Hello. I'm Maddie, your independent Scentsy consultant in Christchurch. I've lived in the village since 2016 so I guess we are still fairly new! I work part time as a registered veterinary nurse having just returned from maternity leave. Working part time has now enabled me to grow my Scentsy business which I fit in around looking after my young children.

For anyone that hasn't heard of, or seen, Scentsy products, we sell a huge range of home, clean, laundry, body, pet and children's products. Primarily, we offer a safe alternative to candle products. Our gorgeous decorative wax warmers use a heating element to gently warm our specially formulated food grade paraffin wax to make your home smell scent-sensational. *NO flame. NO soot. NO smoke. NO lead.*

All of our products are gluten, toxin and animal cruelty free.

I've absolutely loved creating gorgeous Christmas gifts and treats for people. It's definitely meant SO much to me that so many are choosing to support local people this Christmas. If you would LOVE to have a sample pack or even would love a borrow basket to try out please get in touch with me!

The easiest way to do this is through my Facebook, "Magic Scents with Maddie". I can also be contacted via text message on 07864721404.

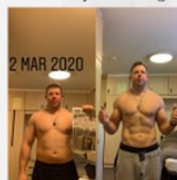
Can you name these tennis players from 1978?



Answers: John McEnroe, Ivan Lendl, Jimmy Connors, Björn Borg



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Christmas is a busy time for the Post Office. We love our P.O. Van ... but check out the following information about Post Offices. Do you agree?

A summary of the results from "The Economic and Social Impact of the Post Office Survey 2020"

When we asked directly, our respondents were in agreement that it is important the Post Office exists, that it is close to everyone that needs it, and that it remains relevant for the modern world. The Post Office is an important British institution. It is one of the most admired institutions in the public sector.

1. In our polling, the Post Office had a higher net favourability than the Bank of England or BBC.
 - 87% agree that it is important the Post Office exists for when you need it.
 - 19% agree that the Post Office is irrelevant in the modern world.
 - 84% agree it is important that everyone has a Post Office close to them.
 - 81% agree that it is important that the Government funds the continued operation of the Post Office.
 - 85% agree the Post Office is an essential part of UK culture.
2. In total, the Post Office creates over £9 billion in consumer surplus a year, the equivalent of £30 per household per month. Our respondents valued the Post Office higher than their local library, corner shop or pub.
3. The Post Office is an anchor for the High Street. Visits to the Post Office help drive another 400 million visitors to other shops, restaurants and local businesses. 33% of respondents said that on their last trip to the Post Office they had stopped at another shop, cafe, pub or restaurant, driving an estimated £1.1 billion in additional revenue.
4. Two-thirds of Britons (67%) have a Post Office within a ten-minute journey - and 38% within a ten-minute walk. 84% agreed that it is important that everyone has a Post Office close to them.
5. The Post office supports day-to-day living. On average, 18,000 people a day use the Post Office a day to send a birthday present. Another 13,000 use the Post Office to send a present or card to a sick friend.
6. The Post Office acts as an important backstop for those that cannot access cash, mail or digital services elsewhere. 87% agree that the Post Office is an essential service for vulnerable or lonely people.
7. The Post Office is an enabler of small businesses. 43% of small businesses say they would not be able to continue functioning without the Post Office. 83% of SMEs agreed that the Post Office had been important to their business during the lockdown period.
8. 53 million parcels are sent each year from the Post Office for online marketplaces. That helps ordinary Britons earn an estimated £4 billion in extra income.

Source: Rural Bulletin and www.publicfirst.co.uk



Happy Hanukkah!

December is a time when we see lots of lights around in homes and gardens. Christmas isn't the only religious festival at this time of the year. The Jewish festival of HANUKKAH, also known as The Festival of Lights, this year begins on the evening of Thursday December 10th and ends the evening of Friday December 18th. We are familiar with traditional Christmas food. At Hanukkah, different traditional foods are cooked and eaten.

Hanukkah is an eight-day Festival that celebrates the endurance of the Jewish religion and culture in second-century BCE. A Temple lamp kept burning for eight days under siege. The Menorah has 8 candles, plus a "Servant Candle", which is used to light the other candles; one on each evening, until all 8 are lit.

Hanukkah is a time when friends and family gather to have a happy time together, exchange gifts, and enjoy an assortment of traditional Hanukkah foods. From hearty potato latkes to sweet, crispy kugel.

Give these a go! **Latkes**, also known as potato pancakes, are made from shallow-fried shredded or mashed potatoes. Latkes are commonly served with sides such as applesauce and sour cream. They are fried in oil. This reminds Jewish people of the miracle of the oil lasting 8 days in the Temple. Here's a link if you would like more information about Hanukkah.

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/newsround/35030671>



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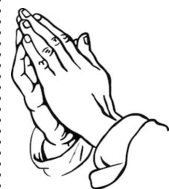
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Church News

Thank you to those that were able to join us for the Remembrance Service on the 8th November. It was a very moving occasion. It was good to see so many from the village there.

Unfortunately, due to Covid rules, we are limited to holding weekly private prayer on Sundays from 10am-11:30am. Should the restrictions ease, we hope to have **Communion Services at 11am on Sunday 13th and Sunday 27th December**. We don't have a Christmas Eve or Christmas Day service planned at Christchurch, although there will hopefully be services elsewhere in the Benefice. We will update the noticeboard nearer the time. Updates will also be posted on the Christchurch Community Facebook page.



WE WISH YOU A VERY MERRY CHRISTMAS, AND A HAPPY, BLESSED AND HEALTHY NEW YEAR!

Andy and Daphne



Thoughts from the Rectory

The Season of Cheer or of Fear?

Many look forward to Christmas. People look forward to the Christmas lights being switched on in our villages. Christmas cards are sent off to loved ones and friends, Christmas decorations are brought down from attic spaces and children count the number of sleeps until the big day. In past years family and friends have gathered to celebrate in one form or other at this time of the year. But because of Covid 19, I suspect that the gathering will not take the same form this year.

But there are those who dread this time of the year. I remember meeting a woman with an alcohol addiction, who said she was scared of Christmas because her party friends might inadvertently encourage her to fall off the wagon. There are those who dread the financial expense that Christmas has come to mean for them, and the real fear of going into debt into an already unknown New Year ahead. Some are afraid of Christmas because they find it the loneliest day of the year. For those who have lost a loved one, even the sight of an empty chair on Christmas Day can be upsetting.

I wonder if people were anxious when the very first Christmas took place. The Bible tells us that Joseph didn't understand God's purpose in sending his Son Jesus into the world; I suspect that Joseph was fearful about his responsibility in the role of Jesus father. As for Mary, she couldn't quite fathom God's power in bringing about her pregnancy. Her fear was so evident that the angel had to tell her not to be afraid. As for the shepherds in the fields, they were so amazed and scared or as the King James Bible put it 'sore afraid', that they ran to the manger as fast as they could.

But the overriding message behind Gods encounter with people on that first Christmas was 'do not be afraid' (Luke 1:30 NIV) and two thousand years later, that same message still stands. Whatever happens over this Christmas time and whatever restrictions we may find ourselves under because of the Covid 19 virus, remember that God came into this world in the form of his Son, Jesus, to bring hope and peace to all of us. *For that reason, we don't need to be afraid.*

Have a great Christmas, keep safe and keep well.

Ian





Some sad news

Ann McClean, well known to many long-standing villagers, died suddenly on the 17th of November, 2020.

She and her husband settled in Wales, where they looked after her father until his health deteriorated and he moved into a full-time care home.

Here are some lines about her from a couple of friends in Christchurch.

Ann left the village a long time ago, and we have only kept in touch via face book regarding family and village history. She was born on March 25th 1952, to Frank and Joyce Cawthorn, who lived at Poplar Farm, Padgetts Road Christchurch.

She was educated at Townley School in Christchurch, Hereward School in March, and Isle College in Wisbech. She attended Christchurch Methodist Sunday School.

Ann worked at March and Cambridge Libraries.

She married David McClean at Christchurch Parish Church in November 1974. They moved around the world with David's work, to the Sudan, Germany, and Singapore. I believe he worked in the diplomatic service. They had two sons; one is in Vancouver, Canada, the other in Perth, Australia. Ann and David settled in Wales, and at the time of her death, she lived at Newtown Powys. She only contacted me on Sunday November 15th to say that Frank, her dad, was seriously ill with only a short time to live. Her enthusiasm for searching records was incredible, and she was also a collector of old photos, documents, post cards etc. She will be sadly missed.

Malcolm Hicks

Ann and I both lived on Padgetts Road and grew up together, our birthdays being only two months apart. We attended Townley school and Hereward Secondary Modern for Girls. One memory at Townley school was the puppet club, run by our teacher Mrs Sparrow. We made puppets and did little shows.

Ann and I went to Sunday School at the Methodist Chapel and especially enjoyed the Chapel Anniversary and the Christmas parties. They were held in the old school. I also remember our time at St John's Ambulance, which was held in the attic of the Rectory. We had great fun but I don't think we would have been much use in an emergency. Something we really enjoyed was the annual Gala. Here is a photo of us (Ann in the pram) at one Gala. I was the father.

Ann worked in March and Cambridge libraries before going abroad with her husband David. I think David was in the diplomatic service or something similar.

Sincere condolences from the Heron team.

Sue Holmes (nee Roe)



Hello everyone. Some updates:

Christchurch Street Pride recently finished their first major project; the flower displays outside the Community Centre - we truly hope you all enjoy it. The flowers will grow beautifully over the next few months. A huge thank you to Sarah Jane's Nursery for supplying the plants, to the street pride volunteers for helping, and to Will Sutton and the Christchurch Community Centre group for their help as well. A new Street pride website is also on the way.



Christchurch Eco is still growing. I am hoping to open a pet food pouch collection soon, and will update Facebook when it's set up.

Just a quick reminder - I volunteer for **Fenland District Council's Environmental Team**, working on the recycling side. If you need help knowing what goes where, please ask and, if I am unsure, I will find out for you. They also have a new website www.gettingitsorted.org. This will help you work out what goes in which bin. Also, you can get extra recycling sacks (great for Christmas); you can order them from Fenland, or I have some that I can hand out (In a COVID friendly way).

Nate Lansdell

Seasons Greetings

Wishing all my friends and neighbours a Happy Christmas.

From Doris (Wolsey) Rolfe and family



Sandra and Richard Lloyd would like to wish everyone a Merry Christmas and Happy New Year.

We're so grateful to have spent 2020 in such a caring village.



Peggy and Graham Warby would like to wish everyone a Merry Christmas and a happy, healthy and safe New Year.



We wish all our friends in Christchurch a Merry Christmas and good health in 2020.

Wendy and David Yates



Wishing our friends and neighbours in Christchurch a very Merry Christmas and a hopeful return to some form of normality in the New Year.

With love and Seasons Greeting from James, Elaine, Arun, Elliot & Olivia Reed-Hughes



Margaret and William (Beswick) wish our friends in Christchurch all the best for Christmas and the New Year.

Keep safe and well.

We would like to wish everyone a Happy Christmas, and thank all of you who have helped us during this year, with all your help and kindness, after the loss of Sean. It's been a hard year for everyone. Thank you.

Sandra and Brian Kay



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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:

Bauble Brain Teaser

There were 24. Three left means there were 6 when Gertie went to the box....this means there were 12 when Lorraine went to the box....this means there were 24 when John went to the box.

Snowman Conundrum

Shortest....., Snow Flake, Jack Frost, Frosty, Snow White.....tallest

Christmas Quiz Answers

1. Do They Know it's Christmas
2. Marshmallow
3. Wine
4. CS Lewis' The Lion, The Witch and The Wardrobe
5. Germany
6. Prince Albert
7. Tiny Tim
8. Whoville
9. Angels on horseback - oysters wrapped in bacon; devils on horseback - prunes wrapped in bacon
10. But you still catch my eye



Stir up Sunday

It was not until the 1830s that the 'cannonball' of flour, fruits, suet, sugar and spices, all topped with holly, made a definite appearance, becoming more and more associated with

Christmas. The East Sussex cook Eliza Acton was the first to refer to it as "Christmas Pudding" in her bestselling 1845 book "Modern Cookery for Private Families".

It was in the late Victorian era that the '*Stir up Sunday*' myth began to take hold. The Collect (a special prayer) for the Sunday before Advent Sunday in the Church of England's Book of Common Prayer begins with the words "*Stir up, we beseech thee, O Lord, the wills of thy faithful people; that they, plenteously bringing forth the fruit of good works...*". This led to the custom of preparing Christmas puddings on that day, which affectionally became known as *Stir Up Sunday*, associated with the stirring of the Christmas pudding.

Source: Ocelot Magazine

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“La Pasada” ... searching for a place to stay.

This Advent tradition, still often practised in Spanish and Portuguese speaking countries, is thought to have originated in Mallorca, one of the Balearic Islands of Spain.

During Advent, families would walk to different houses every few days, taking images like these, of a pregnant Mary on a donkey, with Joseph leading them. Where they stopped, people would enter the home and share seasonal food together. The Holy Family was looking for a place to stay the night. It's an extension of the Christmas story, where Mary and Joseph couldn't find a place to stay the night in Bethlehem. They had to settle for a stable, where the baby Jesus was born. Various householders would be pleased to offer these figures a place to stay, and then pass them on to another home in a day or two. This lovely practice has been taken up and adapted by many modern Christian churches. These days, people are encouraged to join in by offering the Holy Family a place to stay for the night, and think of, and pray for, the Homeless and Refugees in our time. Our Parish Church has kept this tradition for the last few years but, with the virus around, we won't be able to do it in 2020. Instead, perhaps everyone who reads this would like to take the opportunity, sometime during Advent, to think of and pray for the Homeless and Refugees in our country, and across the world.

Perhaps you might consider donating some money or goods to a relevant charity.



Homelessness is always a focus at Christmas time in this country, as we give thanks for our own homes and reach out to those less fortunate than ourselves. Charities for the homeless need our support, especially now.

Our local Homeless Shelter is called The Ferry Project and is based in Wisbech.
<http://www.ferryproject.org.uk>

The aim of Ferry Project is not simply to provide accommodation, but to give people the skills they need to enable them to live independently. These include life skills such as cooking and cleaning, education courses, vocational training, volunteering and employment opportunities.

We currently provide up to fifty bed spaces in Wisbech and engage with over three hundred clients per year. We are the largest provider for homelessness-related issues in the district, engaging with an estimated eighty percent of those who find themselves homeless in Fenland.

"The Ferry Project provides a short-term interaction in an individual's life when they have an immediate need. Once we carry them to their destination, they move on." Keith Smith, Founder & Director of Ferry Project.



The Big Sleep Out, organised by Simon Crowson, took place on 6th October 2020.

"Supporting rough sleepers, could so easily be any of us. I'll be sleeping rough this weekend in the rain. Whatever you can spare would be appreciated and hey you will be in the warm whilst I'm outside experiencing real life for so many".

Sharon Pomeroy, who lives in Christchurch, took part in this year's "Big Sleep Out", to raise funds and awareness of some of the difficulties homeless people face in our country today. Well done!

Other Charities for the Homeless:

<https://www.shelter.org.uk> **<https://centrepoin.org.uk>**
<https://www.crisis.org.uk> **<https://www.salvationarmy.org.uk>** **<https://www.mungos.org>**



Tighter Covid Rules and the dreaded pandemic certainly weren't on the side of local couple Rebecca Gladwin and Josh Murphy when their long-awaited wedding had to be postponed back in June. Like many of us, they patiently awaited news of a reprieve so that they could rebook and finally tie the knot. Once again, the government put the kybosh on things by bringing in a second lockdown just one day before their new wedding date. Not to be outdone, and after frantic ringing around, they were able to bring the day forward - to the Wednesday before lockdown.

A small crowd gathered outside the church on this crisp, sunny Autumn day when Josh, the Groom, turned up in a brand new John Deere 8RX 370 tractor (you know, the one with the massive triangular tracks!) with Rebecca opting for her late grandfather's vintage, silver Mercedes convertible 250 SL, driven by her Father, Roger Gladwin.

After the ceremony, the couple and their close family posed for pictures in front of the church, taken by the bride's Uncle (the original photographer, unable to make the last minute change of date) followed by a meal at The Poets House in Ely.

Many congratulations to you both, from the The Heron Team.

Photos by Malcolm Hicks and other villagers



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