



# The Heron

Community Magazine

Delivered to homes in Christchurch, Euximoor and Tipps End

January 2021

No. 81

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**SEE HOW MANY DIFFERENT PANTOMIME REFERENCES YOU CAN FIND THROUGHOUT THE HERON THIS MONTH!**

## EDITORIAL TEAM:

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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

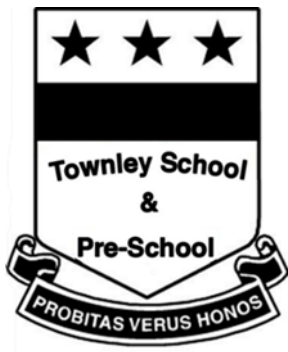
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Website: [www.theheron.info](http://www.theheron.info)







# TOWNLEY SCHOOL AND PRE-SCHOOL

Christchurch, Wisbech, Cambs. PE14 9NA

office@townley.cambs.sch.uk

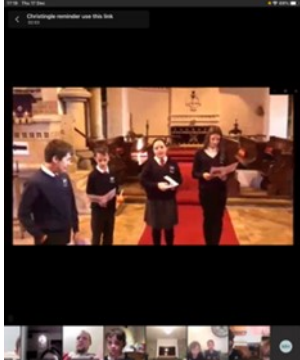
Website: www.townley.cambs.sch.uk

01354 638229



Facebook—Townley School and Pre-School

**January 2021**



At the end of a difficult year, when the clock strikes 12, you can say that this year is definitely behind you! At Townley however, with only one third of our academic year over, we can only say 'oh no it isn't'. We believe at Townley, the academic road is paved with gold. Like Jack, if you plant the right seeds the beanstalk grows and you can achieve your dreams. Our children have been working hard this term, we are proud of their achievements.



If you followed the Yellow Brick Road this week, (AKA the login to Microsoft Teams!) you will have seen our virtual Christingle, where Rev Ian Brady joined us in worship. It was not quite the same, but our band of magic staff, along with a few ugly sisters organised a service that made us feel proud to belong to this school.

Cinderella and the Fairy Godmother (Sharon and Kellie) prepared us a wonderful Christmas; although we were not together as a school, we still enjoyed ourselves in our 'Bubbles'.

As this year draws to a close I would like to say a heartfelt thank you to our community, your support ensures our happy school continues to thrive. Wishing you all best wishes for a happy and healthy 2021.



# 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!

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.



## DOG THEFT

### Organised crime driving 'Epidemic' of dog-snatching.

Demand for dogs has skyrocketed in Lockdown and has risen again in the run-up to Christmas. Prices have soared as a result. Organised crime is exploiting the situation by smuggling puppies from abroad and stealing dogs in the UK. Dog thefts are now believed to

## Editorial

Welcome to our January Full Colour Edition (Oh yes it is!), to get the year off to a bright start. With vaccinations having begun to be rolled out in the area, let's hope things will begin to improve by Easter.

Throughout this edition there are references to pantomimes hidden in different articles. See if you can spot them.

Giving is certainly in the air. Last month WI members were lucky enough to receive a chocolate Advent Calendar. This was followed by beautiful Poinsettias for Garden Club members. Lastly, senior citizens received a special Christmas card and a lovely tin of biscuits from the Parish Lunch Committee. Thank you to all concerned. I'm sure that the gifts were much appreciated. It makes you realise what a kind and caring community we live in. Meanwhile, in all this gloom and doom, don't fall asleep for a hundred years, but look forward to better times ahead!

In the meantime, stay safe.

Sue Norman



## Your Letters

As we have been unable to hold the Parish Lunch this year, the committee decided to deliver a small gift of some chocolate biscuits and a personalised card to all those over 65s that ordinarily would have attended the lunch in April. I really hope they enjoy them and we all very much hope we can get together in 2021. Happy New Year! James Hughes, Chair, Parish Lunch Committee.

\* \* \*

We would like to thank the Heron Team for the Thank You cards and gifts we received on the occasion of our retiring from our delivering of The Heron.

Thanks also goes to the Garden Club Committee for their gifts of Poinsettias. And yet another 'thank you' to the Parish Lunch Committee for their gift and card, wishing us a Happy Christmas.

We are living in such dismal times, and these kind gestures have meant a lot to us. Thank you again to all, and best wishes for 2021. Sheila and Alvar Smart.

be at an unprecedented high, with puppies stolen for immediate sale, and adult dogs taken for forced breeding programmes on illegal puppy farms. An 'organised crime' expert tells the BBC how it works, and why it is "The Perfect Crime". For the full story, check this link. <https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/av/stories-55356211>.





## Would you like to advertise in the Heron? Here are our prices for black & white copy 2021:

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

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Please contact [adverts@theheron.info](mailto: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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**BANK BACS DETAILS:** Sort Code: 53-81-42 Account no: 04140109 - *Heron Publishing*

**Copy Deadline** - The deadline for copy for the February edition of the Heron is **25 January**.

**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

We have another huge thank you to say this month, to another of our long-time Heron delivery people.



Sheila Smart has finally called it a day, and is to stand down from delivering the Heron. We are so very thankful for all that you have done for The Heron over the years, Sheila. You must have walked as many miles on our behalf as it is to walk to London! We will miss you. All the very best for the New Year.

We thought we would cheer everyone up in this first edition of 2021. That is not to say that we do not recognise the dreadful things that are going on in the world at the moment, but we think we all receive enough details on the TV, Radio and Social Media! Our mostly light-hearted approach is in spite of what is going on, and we hope you have had fun with it. Please do remember that The Heron needs your contributions to make it truly a village magazine. Thanks to those who do write something, month by month or do a "one off" article. I am sure our readers appreciate this. Keep the articles coming!

Annie



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

## Important Message

Because the Pfizer vaccine must be kept frozen and then defrosted in a very particular way, GP practices have been asked to team up and provide one hub to administer the jabs. For our area that is going to be at the Terrington St John practice (postcode PE14 7RR).

The first vaccines will be aimed at people aged 80 and over who are able to travel to the vaccination centre. If you are in that age group, or if you have a relative or neighbour who is, then please start thinking about how you will get to and from Terrington for the first injection. Please note that you cannot drive for 15 minutes after the vaccination. **You will also be given an appointment for the second jab 3-4 weeks after the first.**

Please do not ring the surgery. I know people will have lots of questions and I will try and answer them on Facebook or through the email system on the practice website. **The NHS will be contacting patients when it is time to book appointments.**

A lot of planning is going into this process and it is all happening fast. I will keep you updated. Please spread the word. Thank you.

Eamonn Clarke

## A CHANCE TO GAIN EXTRA QUALIFICATIONS – GO FOR IT!

From April 2021, if you're an adult without A Levels or equivalent, you could be eligible to study for a free qualification as part of the Government's Lifetime Skills Guarantee.

With courses in agriculture, environmental conservation and science, to business, accounting and finance, there's a wide range of opportunities to choose from.

All courses have been selected in line with key growth sectors, helping you gain the skills needed to boost job opportunities and get ahead in work.

Find out more at: [www.gov.uk/guidance/national-skills-fund](http://www.gov.uk/guidance/national-skills-fund)

### Letters to the Editorial Team

The Editorial team welcome letters from its readers. Please email letters to: [editor@heron.info](mailto: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!

We held our annual meeting this year via zoom. We were joined by 10 members plus our WI Adviser, Rosemary Green.

Rather than being read out during the meeting, all annual reports were distributed to members before the meeting. Reports were then proposed and adopted.

The current committee stepped down and a new committee was formed.

President: Beryl Brooks  
Secretary: Peggy Warby  
Treasurer: Margaret Sparrow

As members' membership has been extended till the end of March (due to Covid preventing actual meetings), the new committee agreed to stand until then - with a review at the end of March.

**Once you understand why a pizza is made round but packed in a square box and eaten as a triangle then you will begin to understand 2020!**



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**From the local Water Bailiff**

Just to confirm Bird flu has been confirmed in the Fenland swan population. Please be aware you may see dead swans on the Nene or Drains. Please under no circumstances go near or touch them. Phone Defra: 03459 335577. Defra will direct you to the correct local swan rescue (recovery) people, as all dead swans must now be collected for investigation.

Thank you in advance for your co-operation.

Roy Bridson, your local water Bailiff



**Exciting times at FACT**

Environmental charity PECT and FACT are launching a new community fridge project to tackle food waste and help local residents who are most in need.

We aim to help residents in March by opening the town's first community fridge, located at the FACT office.

The fridge - an open access fridge stocked with surplus food from local businesses and individuals that is freely available to all members of the community. A simple way of enabling communities to share good food that would otherwise go to waste.

If you are a local company that would like to donate your spare food to help combat food waste please email [hub@cotransport.org](mailto:hub@cotransport.org). We are hoping that we can have a good supply of potatoes and fresh veg readily available with some donated dry goods.





## Oh – hang on, aren't we in January?

Christmas may have come and gone for some, but many people and communities around the world are celebrating the holiday in January.

The Orthodox Church recognises January 7th as the day that Jesus was born. Elsewhere in the world, Christmas is celebrated on December 25th. The difference in the timing of the Christmas celebrations stretches back to 1582,

when Pope Gregory XIII, ruled that the Catholic Church should follow a new calendar – called the Gregorian calendar, as it was closer to the solar calendar than the Julian calendar. Orthodox Christians still use this calendar today for religious holidays. For countries like Egypt, Greece, Russia and Ukraine, Orthodox Christmas Day is a public holiday.



The holiday is celebrated with many of the same symbols as those used for December 25, such as Christmas trees, wreaths and gifts. But this holiday is also a special time of prayer and reflection. Many people celebrate over three days. On Christmas Eve morning, a special church service is held and many Orthodox Christians fast. The only Orthodox churches that still observe the January 7th date are the Russian Orthodox Church, the Ukrainian churches, the Serbs and the Mount Athos monks in Greece.

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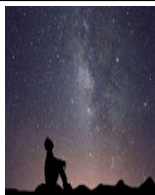
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Care at home... because home is where the heart is 



## Christchurch Stargazers

Hello Christchurch Stargazers. Hope you had a great Christmas and I'd like to wish a Happy New Year to everyone. Well - what does Jan 2021 bring in the night sky? Peter Pan and Wendy? Perhaps not – but read on! **Mercury** is an evening planet in the East, but sets 100 mins after the sun. **Venus** is a morning planet and will still be bright. **Mars** is a dimming evening planet. **Jupiter** and **Saturn** will be bright in the evening sky but we will lose sight of them around mid-month. **Uranus** is an evening planet, reaching 50 degrees altitude, and Mars is only 1.6 degrees away on the 20th of the month. **Neptune** will be an evening binocular planet near Phi Aquarii.



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



The Horse Head Nebula - Photo: Darren Hall

The Horse Head Nebula is located in the constellation of Orion. It is located to the south of Alnitak which is the most Eastern star in Orion's belt. It is 422 Parsecs, or 1375 light years, from Earth. This area also contains the Flame Nebula. This can be seen as a hazy cloud with binoculars. Great photo!

Mark Andrews

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Many years ago, I made a New Year's resolution to never make New Year's resolutions. Hell, it's been the only resolution I've ever kept!

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## HAPPY NEW YEAR

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

MIDNIGHT SING  
NEW  
PARTY  
CELEBRATION  
GIFTS  
CARDS  
MUSIC  
RESOLUTIONS  
WISHES  
REFLECTION  
FUN  
CALENDAR  
BALL  
DANCE  
FEAST



### Did you know?...

- Romans celebrated March 1 as New Year.
- A lot of New Years traditions surround the food we eat. For example many cultures believe its good luck to eat black eyed peas on New Years Day.
- New Year's Eve has a special name in Belgium. It is known as Saint Sylvester Vooravond. People in this country toast with customary champagne and children write letters to godparents or parents on the day of New Year.
- Some people believe the first person you lay eyes on on New Years Day will determine whether it will be a good or bad year.
- In Holland they eat donuts on New Years eve - the idea is that the round shape represents the full circle of life from one year to the next.
- Some people believe that you should never eat fowl (chicken, turkey, duck, goose etc) at New year because this will result in your family having to "scratch out" a living for the entire year.
- South East Asians often eat sticky rice around midnight on New Years Eve to ensure a year of prosperity and good fortune.
- In Scotland New Year (Hogmanay) is often considered to be more important than Christmas. This dates back to the time of the pagan festival for the winter solstice.

## Christchurch Book Club

Book club continues to meet using technology and collecting and distributing our free library books is keeping Sheila Day fit!

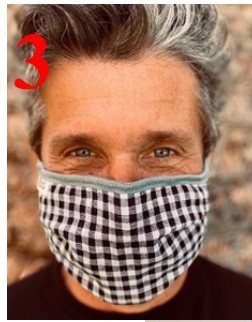


We have been reading "The Truth" by Terry Pratchett, and although we have not yet had our December zoom meeting at time of writing, responses have hit the WhatsApp group and represent a dazzling array of opinions from "hate it" to "love it!" (and everything in between - perhaps the fact that this is the 25<sup>th</sup> book in the series and some of us hadn't read any others didn't help!)...very hard to explain the plot (the synopsis on Wikipedia says "The book features the coming of movable type to Ankh-Morpork, and the founding of the Discworld's first newspaper by William de Worde, as he invents investigative journalism with the help of his reporter Sacharissa Cripslock. The two investigate the charges of embezzlement and attempted murder against Havelock Vetinari, and help vindicate him.") - but it all centres on the veracity, or otherwise, of the printed word and as one of our members said "the abiding message is 'just because some thing's written down, doesn't mean its necessarily true!' - wise words indeed!

Our next book is "The Water's Lovely" by Ruth Rendell. We have not yet planned our January Zoom meeting but it is likely to be on a Tuesday evening towards the end of January - watch out of Facebook or contact Sheila for more information. If you are interested in joining us, please contact Sheila Day on 07946635908.

Sheila Day

# YES! You SHALL go to the Masked Ball! Guess who?



Answers on page 26.



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A simple fire safety check list can help you avoid an unnecessary fire in your home - Simple tips, simply STOP the chance of a fire.

- **NEVER overload sockets:** Multi-socket adapters, often used in homes to provide more plug sockets quickly and easily, are particularly popular during the winter period when people are more likely to plug in heating devices, lights and other items. If used incorrectly however, these can be very dangerous and cause an electrical fire through overloading the socket. 'One appliance, one socket' is the safest approach to avoid any danger
- **Switch off, Turn off:** If it isn't meant to be left on (like fridges, freezers) switch it off and turn it off at the plug when it isn't in use.
- **Charge safely:** Only use electrical charging devices for the purpose they were intended and avoid purchasing counterfeit, cheap charging devices for electrical items and always keep leads away from cookers and hobs.
- **Fat-Free, Fire-Free:** Fat can build up slowly over time through regular use of kitchen devices and as it does it increases the chance of a fire when cooking. Ensure you regularly maintain hobs, grills and ovens and keep them clear from fat build up and safer from fire.
- **Distraction causes fires:** over 50% of fires in the kitchen are caused by distraction - pay attention and avoid cooking if under the influence of alcohol or medication or feeling tired.

## Friday Night Curry Club

For a truly tasty, authentic and traditional Indian meal - which is also healthy and vegetarian - why not try a takeaway from the *Friday Night Curry Club*.

**Adult menu:** 2 different curries each week, 2 chapatis and rice – £10

**Children's menu:** Stuff chapati, vegetable/pulses and rice - £7

Each week we will feature a different set of dishes. For more information please phone 07775 336772 or Email: vyasfoods@outlook.com

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Did someone say it's snowing?



Just enough snow to make a snowman!



Ivy with a snowy, frosty tinge. Beautiful!



Trees and plants tinged with a frosty, white blanket.



The frost beautifully enhances some of nature's wonders.



Recent snowfall down Crown Road.



CHRISTCHURCH HISTORY  
Snow? What snow?

Thank you to Malcolm Hicks and his scrapbooks, from which we have taken this article. There was no date given, but we assume it was during the Winter of 1975. If anyone remembers that Winter here, do get in touch and share your memories with our readers.

First ski lesson

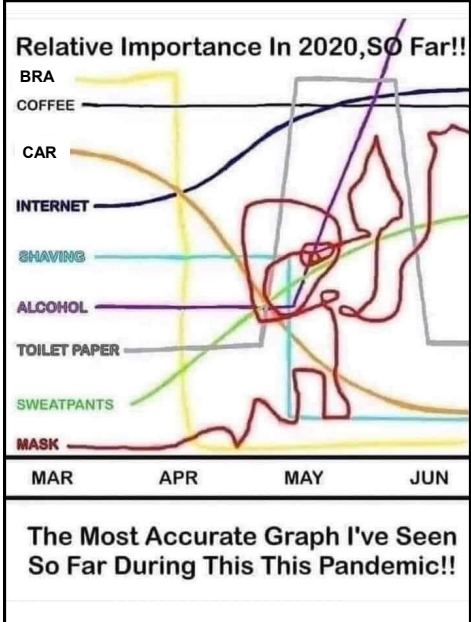


● Three-year-old Rose Hearnshaw has her first skiing lesson from her father, Peter, on March's Cavalry Barn estate.

CUT OFF

Christchurch was completely cut off from the outside world by high snow drifts. By mid morning farmers had managed to clear some of the single track roads into the village. Teachers could not get into the school which was forced to close. But headmaster, Mr Peter Hearnshaw, found a novel way of getting about. Mr Hearnshaw, who usually goes to Sweden for skiing holidays got out his cross country skis. His three-year-old daughter, Rose, had her first skiing lesson on March's Cavalry Barn estate where the Hearnshaw family live. On Monday Mr Hearnshaw was able to ski to the local shop to buy the family provisions.

All photos taken by  
Christchurch Residents







March Road, Welney, PE14 9SE

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## THE ORIGINS OF OUR ENGLISH PANTOMIME TRADITION

**Pantomime has its roots in 'Commedia dell'Arte'**, a 16th-century Italian entertainment which used dance, music, tumbling, acrobatics and featured a cast of mischievous stock characters. Harlequin was the quick-witted miscreant who carried a magic bat, wore a mask and dressed in clothes made of patches.

**By the early 18th century**, Commedia characters began to appear on the London stage in early Pantomimes, which were based on classical stories, set to music *but without speech*. Harlequin was the star of 18th century Pantomime. **In 1732 John Rich**, the most notable early Harlequin who danced but never spoke, built Covent Garden Theatre with the profits of his magical Pantomimes. Rich also developed the **Harlequinade**, a comic chase scene telling the story of the lovers Harlequin and Columbine, who are kept apart by the girl's father, Pantaloon and his servant, Clown. Harlequinades were mimed with music and lots of slapstick and tomfoolery, and dominated Pantomime for around 100 years. **The term 'slapstick'**, meaning a certain type of clownish physical comedy, came from Rich's Harlequinades – his Harlequin used a wooden bat to change the stage scenery by knocking down a series of hinged flaps.

**At Drury Lane Theatre** meanwhile, the actor-manager David Garrick astonished audiences with a speaking

Harlequin and employed Rich's pupil Henry Woodward to pen new stories for him, some incorporating old English folk stories like *Dick Whittington*, *Robin Hood*, and *the Children of the Wood*. As Pantomime evolved, more domestic stories and topical satire began to replace classical tales. After Joseph Grimaldi's **Clown** was such a hit in *Mother Goose* at Covent Garden in 1806, Clown began to edge out Harlequin as the star of the show.

**Victorian innovations.** Witty puns, word play, and audience participation were added to the repertoire of mime, daring chase scenes and spectacular transformations. Favourite fairy-tale characters, magical animals, Principal Boys and Pantomime Dames all became part of the mix. Any subject was fair game, as Pantomimes combined nonsense tales with social satire, commenting on current events and innovations - such as the exciting but still dangerous railways!

**By the late 19th century**, it became customary for Pantomimes to open on Boxing Day, forever linking this entertainment with Christmas and family.



Source: The V&A website. [www.vam.ac.uk](http://www.vam.ac.uk)



## WHAT'S NEW IN THE THEATRE THIS COVID SEASON?

### “HORRIBLE CHRISTMAS” A Drive-in Pantomime performed in December.

While Christmas has been very different this year, Northampton still had a favourite festive tradition, as a drive-in Pantomime came to the town. A drive-in performance of a Christmas pantomime toured several outdoor venues across the UK.

The performance, which was put on by the Birmingham Stage Company, was of **HORRIBLE CHRISTMAS**, a Pantomime inspired by the series of Horrible Histories children's books, by Terry Deary.

The pantomime told the story of a young boy trying to save Christmas, and also explored some of the history behind the festive season.

Audience members had their tickets scanned through their car windows upon arrival at the outdoor venue.





# Christchurch Craft Club

## Woodturning for the masses?

Woodturning is the craft of making items using a lathe and handheld tools. The lathe spins a piece of wood, or blank, and the tools are used to form this into the desired shape.

One of the objects most associated with turning is the bowl. This may be because the large, curved shape often accentuates the natural beauty of the wood. The turner will often adjust what they are doing to almost let the wood choose what shape it wants to be, accentuating grain, figuring, spalting and colour.



However, the range of objects that can be made is vast; from goblets, light pulls, seam rippers, spinning tops and candlesticks

to lidded boxes, rolling pins, bottle stoppers, handles, garden dibbers, plates, pens and many more.

I tend to make quite a few pens as I find a real sense of achievement in crafting something that is useful and will be treasured and used for years to come.

Of course, you can turn many other materials as well as wood; acrylic, polyester, resin, even offcuts from corian kitchen worktops. *Sweets and Gingerbread, sourced from the woods, don't work so well!*

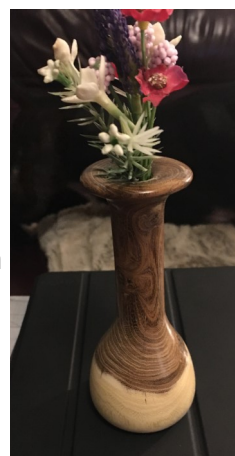
These are all particularly useful in pen making and can produce some quite beautiful results.

A good place to start is by going along to a local woodturning club (lockdown permitted). The members are all enthusiasts and are always more than willing to welcome new people and help out. I belong to the Ely Woodturners Guild and can confirm that they are a friendly bunch and we have regular professional demonstrators and even wood sales.

There are also numerous places that you can go for turning experience days, including a very well regarded one in Upwell ([www.blendedmonkey.co.uk](http://www.blendedmonkey.co.uk)).

Secondhand listings on FaceBook market place is also a good place to look for second hand equipment and would always recommend this route for a relatively inexpensive way into the craft as a brand new lathe and chisels can set you back a considerable sum.

Woodturning, however skilled the turner, is a slow, mindful craft with an item often taking several hours to create. It requires concentration of the mind and body, it requires patience and a light touch. There will be occasions when it all goes wrong and that one final little cut just to smooth things off leads to a big catch and your delicate piece lies, literally, in pieces. But the sense of fulfilment that you get when you make a beautiful or useful piece, especially if you have coppiced the wood from your own garden, or somewhere that means something to you, is wonderful. Watching the grain and character revealing itself from beneath the bark is a joy and shows that woodturning's reputation as a therapeutic craft is well deserved.



Mark Williams

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## Parish Council Snippets

Once again this month's Parish Council meeting was held over zoom. All councillors were present, but there were no members of the public.

In public time Cllr Hughes brought up a recent problem with a loose dog in the village. The clerk provided the name of the Fenland dog warden, who is Caroline Twig, from Ravenswood Pet Rescue.

There was no progress to report on the bus shelter improvements, the path outside Field Lodge, or the grass cutting contract. UK power networks have cut back some of the overhanging trees on Green Lane, so now OpenReach have access. The Clerk will be visiting the lane and assessing which property owners will be sent letters to inform them where their trees need cutting back.

The new bin for the community centre has been ordered and should be installed in the next few weeks.

The neighbourhood watch was brought up, and it was emphasised that although it is not down to the Parish Council to organise it, they are happy to support it should someone take on the mantle.

Street light repairs and replacement orders have gone in, however, there is no schedule for the work being done.

In the police report, only one crime has been reported, a theft from a vehicle, but the clerk did emphasise that there have been a lot of catalytic convertor thefts in the area recently, especially Honda's, so people should be alert to the danger of leaving their cars easily accessible.

The Council were made aware of a resident's concern over the broken road markers along the 16ft bank. As it is a Highways issue it has been reported to them, however, they do not regard it as important enough to require immediate attention, so will be including it as part of their rolling maintenance programme.

The recent vandalism to the community centre was also discussed. The damage is undergoing repair, but since the total cost is less than the insurance excess, this will be paid for from PC funds. A resident had spoken to some people playing football close to the building which may go some way to preventing future issues.

The meeting was then closed to the public, for discussion on the plans and finances to add a canopy to the village hall. A number of tenders were assessed, and progress should be made soon on this welcome addition to our village facilities.

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# The Dun Cow

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A great turnout for the impromptu, socially-distanced Carol Singing at the pub on Sunday 20th December. Great organisation and technical support by Ruth and Colin Ingram. Mulled Wine, Mince Pies and Christmas Cake was provided by Sue and Paul in the Interval. We even had a blast of fake snow! The evening was a much-needed slice of normality and joy before the Christmas break. Thanks to all that made it happen.

## *"It's all very well counting sheep, but what if you can't find them?"*

Do you suffer occasionally from not being able to sleep? Here are a few tips for us in this digital age.

It can help to think about when and how you use screens. For example, you could try:

- avoiding screens an hour or two before bed
- cutting down on screen time before you try to sleep
- avoiding stimulating activities, such as playing games
- using a blue light filter, night mode or dark mode – you might be able to find these options in your device settings and in individual app settings
- adjusting other settings – for example, changing the brightness, or using silent, flight or airplane, or do not disturb mode.

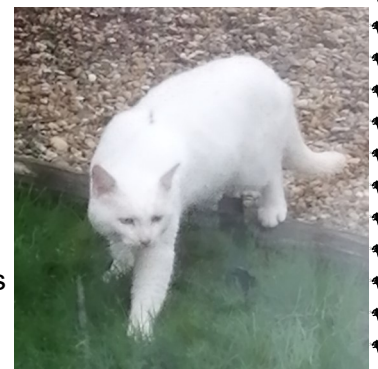


*"Reminding myself that a bad night of sleep won't make or break me (because I can make it through, even if it sucks) has helped a lot to allay stress/anxiety about sleep."*

## Have you lost your beloved pet?

A Christchurch resident has been desperately trying to locate the owner of a white cat that has made itself quite at home on her farm. Whilst it is no bother and is being well looked after, she is very keen to reunite it with its family.

If you have lost a pure white cat (see picture) and it looks familiar, please contact us here at the Heron and we will try and get it back to its rightful home. (It is quite a nervous cat and hasn't been handled so we don't know whether it is male or female at this point!)



**Here is an Interactive, Covid-safe-with-social-distancing Drama. Be sure to read it out loud in the Spirit of Pantomime! THIS IS THE HERON PANTO-RHYME 2021**

**"OH NO IT ISN'T!"**  
**"OH YES IT IS!"**

"Tell me you didn't sell our cow for 5 beans!"  
"Oh yes I did!" WOW. Jack's Mum was so mad!  
"We can't live on this. You know what that means!"  
And she took up her broom and chased after the lad.

He bumped into a wolf as he rounded the bend,  
Who was huffing and puffing and blowing homes down;

**"HISSSSS"**

But the Three Little Pigs hooked up with a friend  
Escaped with a lass in a pretty red gown.

**"AHHHHH"**



Poor Jack didn't know quite where he was going -  
Ended up in the woods by a Gingerbread house.

**"YUM YUM"**

All the while, back at home, a Beanstalk was growing,  
While Whittington's cat was chasing a mouse.

Jack then found a house with a really dark cellar  
Lay low with a pumpkin and quite a few rats.

**"UGHHHH!"**

There he met Buttons and a girl, Cinderella  
And her ugly Step Sisters, with terrible hats.

**"BUT THEY'RE BEAUTIFUL!"**

**"OH NO THEY'RE NOT!"**

**"OH YES THEY ARE!"**

**"OH NO THEY'RE NOT!"**



They searched for a light; found a lamp, old and mucky,  
As Jack rubbed it clean, they all got a fright.

**"OOOOH!"**

A massive blue Genie came out; said, "You're lucky!"  
Granting them wishes to make their world bright.



But a witch with a spindle put paid to all that,  
And she frightened them all quite out of their skins.

**"HISSSSS"**

They fled up to the lawn, tripping over the cat;  
In the sky they saw children, and a fairy with wings!

**"OOOOOH"**



They had to be quick to get through some soft sand  
Where a crocodile slithered across the wet ground,  
Pursuing a man with a hook for a hand...

**"HISSSSS"**

They heard, with surprise, a loud tick-tocking sound.

**"LOOK BEHIND YOU!"**

No time to stop – three bears were behind  
Clutching their porridge bowls – scary, of course.  
They needed a carriage – Fairy Godmother had gone!  
And all they could find was a Pantomime horse.

**"IT'S NO USE!"**

**"OH YES IT IS"**

**"OH NO IT ISN'T"**

Cinderella was slow – she had only one shoe  
Jack had to help. Then a Prince came along  
And gave her another, so now she had two.  
He whisked her away and then they were gone.

**"AHHHHH"**

There was a huge clatter, and loud banging sounds  
In the sky, and a voice shouting **"FEE-FI-FO-FUM"**.

**"HISSSSS"**

The noise was the Giant a-stomping around  
At the top of the Beanstalk Jack remembered his Mum.

Jack picked up an axe, and he cut the stalk down.  
And down fell the giant, no longer a threat.

They all cheered the lad, now the talk of the town.  
And Jack found the treasure – they no longer had debt!

**"HURRAH!"**

Jack and his Mum were now rich beyond measure,

**"OOOH!"**

Snow White and her Dwarf friends were cheering as well.  
Beauty joined in, and the Beast showed his pleasure.  
The Town Crier shouted, and rang his big bell.

**"OH YAY - OH YAY!"**

It took quite a while for the characters, though,  
To return to their stories, but when that was done,  
The Baddies were hissed at, and banned from the show.  
The Goodies lived happily ever after – THEY WON!

**"OH NO THEY DIDN'T"**

**"OH YES THEY DID!"**

**"OH NO THEY DIDN'T"**

**"OH YES THEY DID!"**

By A. Non.





## I'm dreaming of a green New Year... with a nice cup of tea!

Many of us like a nice cuppa.....many of us use tea bags....and many of us like to do our bit for the environment by putting our tea bags in the compost heap. HOWEVER...did you know that many tea bags contain plastic, which although not apparent to the eye when the paper content of the teabag decomposes, contributes towards plastic pollution and is therefore harmful to the environment.

So...what is the answer? Well....you can change to loose leaf tea, use a strainer and compost the tea leaves - makes good tea, but a bit of a faff! Or...you can empty out your used teabags for composting and put the bag in the non-recycle bin, also a faff! Alternatively you can do a bit of research and find a make of teabags which guarantee that their bags are 100% biodegradable!

*The situation is further complicated as some items are not recommended for domestic composting, just for commercial composting which works at a higher temperature...the alternative to plastic, Polylactic Acid (PLA), can contain material from genetically modified sources. PLA teabags should go into council food waste, as they won't break down in most home composting conditions.*

These are the top six teabags based on annual sales - how do they stack up in the green stakes?...

### **Twinings** (£107.9m sales per annum)

While Twinings are still working on making their "ordinary" bags plastic-free, pyramid bags were launched in 2014 and the bags are made from maize starch. However, each bag has a tag attached which is coated in a thin layer of plastic so while the bag itself is free from plastic, this tag needs to be removed before putting on the compost heap. Argh, so close!

### **PG Tips** (£98.7m sales per annum)

All PG Tips boxes now contain fully plant based and biodegradable tea bags. PG Tips was the first major tea brand to remove all plastic from its teabags. The Unilever brand has rolled out fully biodegradable plant-based bags made from corn starch across its entire retail range. They are also working hard to remove the plastic film from their boxes.

### **Yorkshire** (£97.6m sales per annum)

In March 2020, Yorkshire Tea announced that they are well on the way to switching away from plastic completely. Instead, their tea bags are going to be made of a plant-based "plastic" called PLA. The update on their website posted on 9th March states: "... by the end of April, we reckon we'll have made about 360 million tea bags with the new material. If all goes well, about 20% of the UK Yorkshire Tea bags we make from that point will be PLA. That should be up to

50% by the end of June, and by January 2021 all UK Yorkshire Tea, Yorkshire Gold, Yorkshire Tea Decaf and Yorkshire Tea for Hard Water will have switched."

- but PLA is not for domestic compost bins...

### **Tetley** (£89.8m sales per annum)

The vast majority of their tea bags are made from natural plant fibres, with a thin inner layer of a plastic material called PP, which enables their edges to be heat sealed and stops them falling apart in hot water. Their goal is to remove it completely and produce tea bags made from PLA tissue. Remember PLA is a bioplastic derived from renewable plant sources, which is fully compost-able via food waste collection bins - not domestic compost bins.

### **Pukka** (£22.6m sales per annum)

Pukka has taken a different approach to the others on this list: their bags are individually wrapped in a paper envelope coated in a thin layer of PVC and BPA free plastic to ensure freshness. The company says this can be recycled with paper because it is so thin that it can be recycled paper. So, nearly plastic-free, but not quite. However, their teas are all 100% organic, the company is certified carbon neutral and members of a number of fair trade organizations so their overall sustainability credentials are very high indeed.

### **Clipper** (£13.2m sales per annum)

Clipper has the distinction of being the world's first fair trade tea and is probably the biggest name in organic tea in the UK. They use unbleached paper, made from a relative of the banana plant, so appear browner in colour than many tea bags and use a sealant made from non-GM plants. The "but"? They come sealed in a plasticized foil which, at this time, is not recyclable.

Phew! Writing this article has been a real learning journey - it is clear that all the big brands want to display their "green credentials" - but if you are planning to compost your tea bags in a domestic setting, the choice is limited...and PLAs are ok for commercial composting, but not domestic compost bins.

....and just to further complicate matters, the situation is constantly changing - so always read the labels!

Just for the record, Kasim and his wife prefer Arabian Coffee!

Sheila Day





## “YOUR GARDEN NEEDS YOU!”

As I sit at my desk writing this column, I can't help but think how history repeats itself, over and over again. Today on the news, we are basically in a state of blockade, due to the Corona Virus, with upwards of thirty countries refusing access to our citizens or our freight, which includes supplies of wheat and basic food stuffs as well as the necessities of modern life, such as the mobile phone. The same (excluding the mobile phone of course) was true at the outbreak of world war one in 1914, when 60% of food stuffs and 80% of wheat was imported, which compares to the current state of play, with a figure of 80% of basic food, still imported into the UK. True unlike in 1914 to 1918 we don't have enemy submarines sinking our ships but there are some uncomfortable similarities.

Not long after being elected Prime Minister in 1916 David Lloyd George made a speech in which he demanded that “Every available square yard must be made to produce food.” It became every citizen's patriotic duty to produce food, however they could, in whatever space they could.

So out went the Roses and in went the carrots and veg required to feed the nation. Model allotment training areas were set up in the royal parks, such as Regents Park and Kensington Gardens in London, staffed by experts helping to train members of the public in their food growing endeavours. Strangely enough these model allotments in Regents Park were re-opened in 2010 and are still up and running and training gardeners to grow their own food. Back in the early part of the last century posters proclaiming, “Victory Gardens” and “War Gardens” proliferated, and the erstwhile pleasant pastime of gardening was replaced by the urgent need to produce food, some even turning their hands to raising livestock. Turnip Flour replaced the wheat derived version. Allotment ownership rose from four hundred and fifty thousand to one and a half million. So great was the need to produce food that disused land and railway embankments were pressed into service. It may be worth remembering, the next time we get to stroll through beautifully laid out gardens, smelling the scent of jasmine on a warm summer evening, that you could be standing where the “Taters” that helped to feed a nation at war, were grown.

Hopefully we are in a situation at present that is purely transitory and will not require us to dig up our Daffodils and replace them with Turnips.

Till next time,  
stay safe.

Steve



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Hopefully things will improve next year and village groups will be able to find a way of meeting again. Maybe some of you have been looking up your favourite artist and studying the way they paint, as suggested last month. History of Art is a very interesting. I know some folk enjoy looking at portraits. Try having a go at a self-portrait. Just set up a mirror in front of you. You can even chat to yourself and ask questions while you are doing it! Just don't worry if you are overheard; all 'artists' are rather vain! Have Fun!

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!

**All the best for 2021. Jan Clifford**



### England's countryside will radically change after the Brexit transition period, the government has confirmed.

There will be more trees, meadows and wetlands - and fewer sheep and cows as controversial EU farm subsidies are phased out. Ministers say it represents the most fundamental shift in farming policy for 50 years. Under the outgoing EU system, farmers got taxpayers' money based on the amount of land they farm.

So, in many cases, that has meant the richer the farmers, the bigger the grant they get. This scheme will be replaced in the UK when the post-Brexit transition period ends on 31 December. The new system, named **Environmental Land Management (ELM)**, will pay farmers if they prevent floods, plant woods and help wildlife. Environment Secretary George Eustice told BBC Breakfast the changes would not happen overnight, and that prices for food "will remain broadly stable". "This will be an evolution not a revolution," he said, although farmers warned of a chaotic future with supermarkets engaged in a price war, and uncertainty over new trading rules after Brexit. A document published at the end of November 2020 confirms that the old area-based subsidies will be halved by 2024 - and abolished by 2028. The cash saved will be transferred into the new environmental ELM system. Ministers say the EU policy was morally wrong, because it paid the biggest government subsidies to the richest farmers. A billionaire Saudi was even subsidised to breed racehorses!

Source: BBC News website



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IS TO  
ACCOMPLISH THE  
GOALS I SET IN  
2020 WHICH I  
SHOULD HAVE  
DONE IN 2019  
BECAUSE I MADE  
A PROMISE IN  
2018 WHICH I  
PLANNED IN 2017.**



## How observant are you?

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

Answer for last month:

Mannequins facing the road at Cherry Farm, Euximoor.



## A YEAR ON THE FARM - JANUARY

*Have you ever wondered about those huge mounds of Sugar Beet we see round here during the winter months? Local Farmer, Jill Bliss, starts off our new monthly series with an explanation.*

At the time of writing, our first taste of Winter has come and gone, and all we are left with is seasonal "slush and muck". Not pleasing when you have just washed the car, only to find "the man of the house" decides to go and get his newspaper. Back to square one!

Not much is going on, down on the farm at this time of the year. Any sugar beet left in the ground has to be lifted and stored until the haulier loads and transports it to Wissington Sugar Beet Factory, near Stoke Ferry. This factory, I understand, is the largest beet factory in the World. With modern loading equipment, it only takes 5 minutes max to load 29 tons of beet onto the lorry. It is then taken some 17 miles or so to the factory, where the load is weighed, tested for sugar content then tipped onto a huge concrete slab, along with beet from other farms. It's then power washed into a flume. The clean beet then arrives at the slicer, and is processed into liquid form and stored in large storage tanks until such time it is processed further, into the granulated sugar, which we buy from the super market (Silver Spoon). This process is carried out throughout the year at the factory. The factory usually opens late September and closes in February/March for raw beet deliveries from the grower. There are 4 beet factories in the country - Cantley (Norfolk), Bury St Edmunds (Suffolk), Newark (Notts) and Wissington (Norfolk) - locally known as Wissy - which takes in about 700 loads of beet per day, and slices some 18,000 tons per day, when operating to capacity.

The 2020 crop has been one of the worst ever, because of the sugar beet virus (due to aphid spread), resulting in sugar content and weight per acre being well below normal. I forgot to mention, after the beet has been processed, the resulting pulp is dried, then pressed into nuts or left loose, and sold for valuable animal feed. Nothing is wasted.

When the fields are cleared, the plough moves in, followed by the corn drill, followed by the sprayer on our farm. Some local farmers leave the fields to "weather", following the plough, and they drill in the spring, depending on how their particular crop rotation falls. Beet is on a 4-year Crop Rotation

Other than dealing with beet, potato grading is also going on, fulfilling seasonal orders.

Hoping we don't get so much rain this month that we get marooned on an island!

Until next time, a Happy and Healthy New Year to everyone.

Jill Bliss



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# V-Day December 8<sup>th</sup> 2020

## How well do you know your Shakespeare?

Margaret Keenan has made history by becoming the first person in the world to get a Covid-19 vaccine outside of a clinical trial, but if there's one name you'll associate with this day, it may not be hers. Enter, "pursued by puns" *William Shakespeare*.

Not the writer, poet and playwright, but his 81-year-old namesake. This Mr Shakespeare was the second person to be given a jab - and, guess what, he also comes from - Warwickshire.

"Is this a needle which I see before me?" the present-day Shakespeare could have asked, but his reaction was a little bit less, well, dramatic: he said he was "pleased" to be given the jab, and staff at University Hospital in Coventry had been "wonderful".

So, if Ms Keenan was patient 1A, was Mr Shakespeare "Patient 2B or not 2B"?

"Much ado about nothing?" It doesn't matter - "all's well that ends well".

The vaccine is given as two injections. "Two doses, both alike in quantity,"

"The taming of the flu"

"This Winter's Tale"

"Two Gentlemen of Corona"

"A plague on neither of your houses"

I'm surprised they let William Shakespeare have the vaccine. I thought he was Bard.

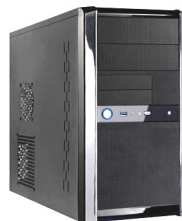


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## Church News

At time of writing we are all used to the fact that the rules and regulations for Covid restrictions can change so what follows may be subject to alteration!

3rd January: 10-11:30 Private prayer  
10th January: 11am Christchurch Holy Communion\*  
17th January: 10-11:30 Private prayer  
24th January: 10-11:30 Private prayer  
31st January: 11am WELNEY United Benefice Service Holy Communion\*

Services marked with an asterisk (\*) need to be booked - contact Sheila Day on 07946635908 or sheiladay1@hotmail.com. For private prayer there is no need to book.



Safety is always at the forefront of all we do - so social distancing precautions are in place - but if you forget your mask, don't worry, we have spares!

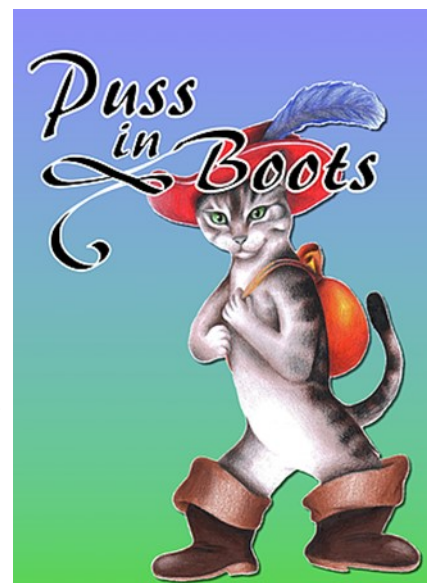
Daphne/Andrew



## Thoughts from the Rectory

### A musical Panto for one

What I am going to share with you might seem a bit far-fetched, but it is true. I once went to a Pantomime 'Puss in Boots the Musical' when I was theatre Chaplain to the Isle of Man, and I was the only person in the audience. "O no you weren't!" "O yes I was!" As is the norm in January on the island, there's often very bad weather, which can include huge waves, eighty mile an hour winds, localised flooding, and ships and planes can't get into the island for days. And bad weather can affect performances. So, out of the blue, that evening's Panto of 'Puss in Boots the Musical' was cancelled, but I hadn't got the message. I was about to head off home, when the leading character, dressed up in his full cat outfit, shouted out to me "Don't go! We'll still do the performance, just for you". I was handed a copy of the script and, because I'd been at the rehearsals, I was asked to choose which songs I liked the most. So I had the Musical Panto highlights played just for me, I suppose that it will never happen again. I was impressed that the cast of 'Puss in Boots the Musical' highlighted the value of one person.



It was refreshing to meet people who were not motivated simply by the numbers game; about having a good crowd in. It's an attitude to life we can all have. But in those one-to-one encounters that life brings our way, we can make someone's life better by what we say and do, and how we say and do it.



The Brady Family  
Ian, Lynda, Benjamin and Joseph

Though he often spoke to crowds, Jesus did some of his most important work through conversations with individuals. He spent time speaking and listening to people who were alone, or even lonely. Sometimes they approached him with a problem, and he healed them or forgave them. Sometimes they came to him with a question, and he showed them a different way of living. Jesus told people to follow his example; 'You should do for each other exactly what I have done for you'. (John 13:15).

When we care about people and their struggles, the time we spend listening to them can make a difference, especially with all that we have gone through of late thanks to Covid 19. The words of comfort we offer may be music to their ears. This coming year, let's make space for people, and give some special time for each other.

A Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year from us all. Take care, keep safe.

Ian

## Meet a Christchurch Parish Councillor ...

Born in Romford, Geoff has spent most of his life in Essex. He began work at 16 with a tool-making apprenticeship at the Ford Motor Company. Having completed his apprenticeship, Geoff sought to pursue a career within the industry and so moved into a more commercial role within the supply chain management. He then transferred from the Dagenham car plant to the Tractor plant at Basildon and then continued to progress his career as a commercial buyer/contracts manager. Geoff initially specialised in purchasing engine castings and components and later became senior buyer managing covering a whole range -of plastic tractor components. So he had a vast knowledge of a tractor's make-up.

When the Ford Tractor Plant ownership was taken over by Fiat, Geoff found himself reporting directly to Turin, and in 2009 it was obvious that the position he held was better served in Italy and was offered a position and to re-locate. Although this was a very generous package - he also saw this as an opportunity to suggest voluntary redundancy. This enabled him to take a year out, and catch up with his two sisters and brother in Australia and for the first time, meet his nieces and nephews and their families.

On return, and as a stop gap, he then took a position as purchase manager for a logistics company, before joining The Caterpillar Company situated in Peterborough. It was this move in 2011 which brought him and his wife Janet to the Fens. It is the first time Geoff and Janet have lived in a village and they found it a real contrast to the Greater London/Essex area that they were used to. However, they soon learned how welcoming the Christchurch community are and since moving here have made very many friends.

Back in Havering, Geoff had been an active member of "Romford Lions" for around 15 years, fundraising and helping people in the community who were less fortunate,

and project managed and coordinated an annual Christmas party for around 80-120 pensioners.



In 2014, Geoff was persuaded to stand for the Christchurch Parish Council. He initially, took on the role of vice-chairperson. During this period of office, the PC engaged Geoff to use his purchasing skills to manage the tendering process for many of the major acquisitions needed for our new village Community Centre, which was under construction at that time. The new building opened in April 2016. This then led to Geoff being elected as chairman of the "Christchurch Recreation Ground Charity" which is responsible for managing our Community Centre.

Geoff has stated that he has a great team of people within the charity committee, who have not only been vital in organising and supporting many fund-raising events, but have also been successful in securing grant funding on top. This has allowed continued investment in, and improvements to, our village Community Centre. Evidence of this will be seen once the Community Centre is reopened.

New ideas and support are always very much appreciated, so anyone interest in joining us please contact us and you will be made very welcome.

Geoff recalls some years ago hearing the quote "Give a busy man a job to get it done!" - it is clear that Geoff is a very busy man, holding down a full-time job in Peterborough (although currently working from home due to Covid) and contributing a huge amount to the village which he and Janet now call home.

Thank you for all you do Geoff - we are lucky to have you in our village!

Sheila Day



Paul Braybrooke

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## OH YES THEY ARE!

Many pantomimes have been called off this Christmas, but some theatres are making sure that, despite coronavirus restrictions, Jack can still climb his beanstalk, Puss can get in her boots and Cinderella can go to the ball.

Iain Lauchlan (below) and Craig Hollingsworth in the streamed Jack and the Beanstalk.

Jack and the Beanstalk was filmed in Iain Lauchlan's studio in October.



## OUR LOCAL HEALTHWATCH SURVEY JANUARY 2021



**Your feedback helps NHS  
and care teams support us all.**

Have you seen your GP lately? Had a hospital or dental appointment? Perhaps you have care services at home or visit a loved one in a care home.

If you, a family member or friend have used a local health or care service, Healthwatch Cambridgeshire/Healthwatch Peterborough (please choose the appropriate Healthwatch name for your area) wants to hear about your experience – good or bad.

We're the local health and care champions. And by sharing your feedback with us, local NHS and care services can find out what's working well or needs improving.

**Please support our new campaign 'Because We All Care' by giving your feedback about the services you are using.**

It's being run with the Care Quality Commission and follows on from our big Covid-19 survey across Cambridgeshire and Peterborough earlier this year. It only takes a few minutes to share your views with us. And your feedback helps services to continue providing the right support to local people.

Share your views online at:  
[www.healthwatchcambridgeshire.co.uk/share-your-views](http://www.healthwatchcambridgeshire.co.uk/share-your-views) OR [www.healthwatchpeterborough.co.uk/share-your-views](http://www.healthwatchpeterborough.co.uk/share-your-views)

You can also call Healthwatch on 0330 355 1285, text your views on 0752 0635 176 or email [enquiries@healthwatchcambspboro.co.uk](mailto:enquiries@healthwatchcambspboro.co.uk)

# A.R. CLINGO

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# 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
<b>Club Contacts</b>	
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

## Guess Who? Answers

1. Michel Barnier
2. Lorraine Kelly
3. Patrick Dempsey
4. Sir Ian McKellen
5. Jennifer Aniston & Courtney Cox
6. Jennifer Lopez
7. Lewis Hamilton
8. Jennifer Hudson
9. Gary Neville
10. The Duchess of Cambridge

## References to a Pantomime - How many did you spot?

Ali Baba and the 40 Thieves – Page 17  
 Aladdin - Page 16  
 Babes in The Wood\* - Page 12,16  
 Beauty and The Beast - Page 16  
 \*Children of the Wood - Page 12,16  
 Cinderella - Page 1,2,10,16,25  
 Dick Whittington - Page 2,5,12,16  
 Goldilocks and the Three Bears - Page 16  
 Hansel and Gretel - Page 13,16,25  
 Horrible Histories - Page 12  
 Jack and the Beanstalk – Page 2,16,25  
 Little Bo Peep - Page 15  
 Little Red Riding Hood - Page 16  
 Mother Goose - Page 12  
 Peter Pan - Page 8,16  
 Puss-In-Boots - Page 23,25  
 Robin Hood - Page 12  
 Robinson Crusoe - Page 21  
 Sleeping Beauty - Page 3,16  
 Snow White - Page 16,19  
 The Three Little Pigs - Page 16  
 The Wizard of Oz - Page 2

## FOR SALE

**Boyd of London Baby Grand Piano.**

**Very good condition with very light wear and tear marks. Comes complete with stool (with under-seat storage).**

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Web links in the Heron are active when viewed in our online version [www.theheron.info](http://www.theheron.info)



## Hungry?

We continue our monthly food article - thanks to Andy Day for submitting this.

### The Dun Cow

Well yes, if you didn't know our village pub *does* serve food too. During the recent restrictions of Covid tier 2, Paul and Sue have only been able to serve alcoholic drinks if you are having a meal as well. At the time of writing we are still waiting to see what the next Covid rules will be for us but in the meantime I have sampled the food.

If you don't like to go into a pub because it's "not for you" you can order a takeaway on Friday evenings. I nearly always go for cod, chips and mushy peas which for around £6 is less than any local chippy. Other options are usually scampi, calamari, home-made steak and ale pie, southern fried chicken strips. Last Saturday, my wife had minted lamb shank and I had sirloin steak, both were delicious. Other items available were rib-eye steak, chicken Balti curry or Russell's 6oz beef burger.

On Monday mornings, breakfast is available which is served from 9:30 to 11am and on Sundays 10am to 12 noon. You can choose from a full English to rolls with sausage, bacon etc.



I've not mentioned drinks as I'm specifically plugging food here but I cannot finish without mentioning the warm welcome you will receive from Paul and Sue (when she manages to get out from the kitchen). Since the pub reopened in July after "lock-down 1" it has strictly observed social-distancing, recording details of customers, taking temperature on entry and with a one-way system in place to minimise contact. We hope that any future changes in the Covid restrictions will allow the Dun Cow to continue to serve the village with delicious food, great drinks and friendly faces behind the bar.

As I write this Paul has just shared on Facebook that the pub will be closed over Christmas - nothing specific has been added about plans for food in the future - but whatever they are I am sure they will be greatly appreciated by the village.

We are so lucky to have such a couple running our village pub and they deserve your custom and support. Paul and Sue, we wish you all the best for the year ahead.

*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!*

Andy Day



## Gingerbread House

I have attempted to make several gingerbread houses over the years. Most have failed miserably! This recipe is the one that has been the most successful. Even if the building collapses, the gingerbread is still delicious, and you can always smoosh it up and use as the base of a trifle. Full disclosure - mine did NOT look like the picture!

Karen Beers

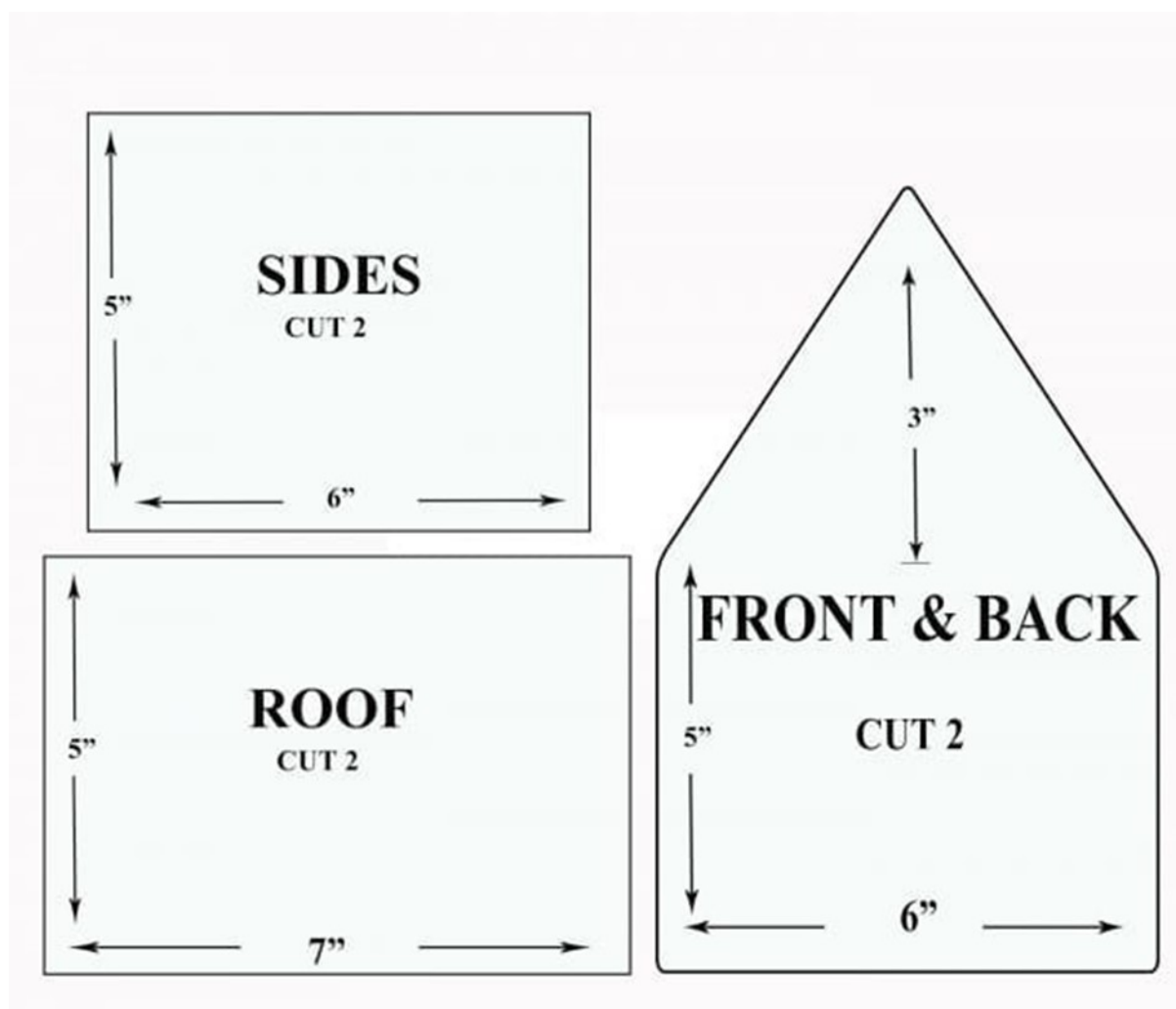
### Ingredients

750g plain flour  
½ tsp bicarbonate of soda  
1 tsp mixed spice  
½ tsp salt  
4 tsp ground ginger  
4 tsp ground cinnamon  
170g room temperature, unsalted butter  
300g dark brown sugar  
2 large eggs  
240ml black treacle  
4 tbs water  
Royal icing to stick the panels together  
Sweets and icing for decoration

Method and dimensions on the next page.

## Method

1. Cream together the butter and brown sugar until smooth and fluffy.
2. Beat in the egg, black treacle and water.
3. Sift in the flour, bicarb, salt and spices.
4. Mix to form a thick dough.
5. Divide the dough in two.
6. Wrap each half in cling film and chill in the fridge for at least 2 hours (it can be left for up to three days).
7. Pre-heat oven to 170c.
8. Cut out templates.
9. Line 3 baking trays with parchment.
10. Roll out dough between to pieces of parchment to stop the dough sticking to your surface.
11. The dough should be rolled out to about ¼ inch thick.
12. Using a sharp knife or pizza cutter, cut around the templates. You will need two of each shape.
13. Place on the baking trays, making sure that they are at least 3 inches apart.
14. If you have any dough left over, it can be used for extra decoration, cookies or can be frozen.
15. Bake for approximately 18-20 minutes, until the edges are lightly browned.
16. Leave on the baking tray until thoroughly cold.
17. The panels may be kept in an airtight tin for up to a week before construction.
18. Using royal icing stick the panels together.
19. Run a line of icing down the edge of the panels and stick together, one at a time, holding each in place for a minute or two until they hold together.
20. Once the walls and roof are stuck together, the fun bit begins!
21. Decorate, using sweets (dolly mixtures, mini candy canes, jelly beans or anything you like really) sprinkles and icing, let your imagination run wild. But most importantly have fun!



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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.