

# The Heron

Community Magazine

March 2021

Delivered to homes in Christchurch, Euximoor and Tipps End

No. 83

## In this issue!

Townley School	2
Community Info/Editorial	3
Advertising Rates	4
Heron News/Fen Bookworm	5
Welsh Rarebit Recipe	6
World Book Day	7
A Year on the Farm - Feb	8
Daffodils	8
Look After Your Eyes	9
Kids Corner	10
Hot Cross Buns Recipe	11
Hungry?	12
St David's Day Poem	14
Local Covid Update	14
How Observant Are You?	14
A Year on the Farm - March	15
Whooper Swans	17
Arthritis Action	20
NHS - Life on the Front Line	21
Meet a Parish Councillor	22
Church News	23
Thoughts from the Rectory	23
Green Dog Walkers	24
Census 2021	25
Useful Numbers/Answers	26
Christchurch Small Business	27
British Gardens	28

happy st david's day!



dydd Dewi Sant hapus!

## COMPETITION!

Calling All Children!

(Early Years, KS1 and KS2 categories).

Write a few sentences, a poem, or make a picture  
on the theme of:

***"WHAT I AM MOST LOOKING FORWARD TO  
DOING AFTER LOCKDOWN".***

Email your entry and contact information to  
[editor@theheron.info](mailto:editor@theheron.info), or put it through the letter box  
of Grasshopper Cottage, 5, Upwell Road,  
Christchurch **by March 20th.** Winners announced  
in the April edition of The Heron.

### EDITORIAL TEAM:

Annie Nason—Editorial Team Leader

Elaine Reed-Hughes—Treasurer & Ad. Manager

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

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

### ENQUIRIES

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[adverts@theheron.info](mailto:adverts@theheron.info) Tel: 01354 638310

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

**March 2021**

As I write this, we are preparing to return to school after a much needed, peaceful, half term break! I hope that we will all be back in school on the 8<sup>th</sup> March, everyone has been amazing with their engagement with our remote learning, but it is not the same and we know how hard many families are finding it. As many of you are aware we have been touched by covid this term and as a close staff, we have found it hard to see colleagues struggle. The kindness we have been shown by our community has really kept us going, thank you. We also have concerns about the spreading the virus. We have tried extremely hard to keep everyone safe in school, but have felt frustrated when families have not followed the guidance, as we want to keep our children safe.

A new bathroom facility is being put in over the break, will ensure our disabled bathroom provision is fit for purpose and with it, the removal of the last known asbestos from the site which means the library is being rehoused in the original school kitchen.

The first six weeks of the new year have been rather different; not following the guidance has put the school community at further risk.



Emperor Class  
cooking  
Mexican food  
as part of Hola  
Mexico topic  
this term.



Emerald Class  
have been  
learning about  
the Stone Age.  
They even  
made their own  
interpretation of  
Stonehenge



Early Years each have their own tub of playdough as part of our safety measures. They also spend a lot of time outside, as it is impossible for the younger children to maintain social distance.



We discovered early on in this lockdown that Mrs Blakeway-Long has a hidden talent!

Our weekly celebration assemblies are much nicer with her playing, rather than my iPod!

Hawker Class have been working hard in their temporary new classroom! The children have been writing their own stories for our new library.



Virtual teaching is something we are all getting used to. The staff have been determined to keep some of the intervention groups running for children working from home!



# 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.

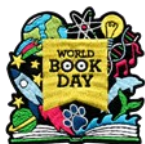
ANYONE WISHING THEIR ITEMS TO BE POSTED,  
ON THE DAY, WILL NEED TO GET THEIR POST TO THE  
VAN BY 4.40PM - WHICH IS WHEN IT IS COLLECTED.

Use it or lose it!

## 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.

## Mobile Library:



**World Book Day March 4<sup>th</sup> 2021**

**OUR MOBILE LIBRARY COMES ONCE A MONTH, ON THE FIRST TUESDAY, AT 12 NOON.**

The van parks in the lay-by on Upwell Road, opposite to the entrance of Fen View. **USE IT OR LOSE IT?**  
The next visit is March 2<sup>nd</sup>.

It appears that there are currently fewer than 6 people in Christchurch who use this facility.

### A MESSAGE FROM OUR MOBILE LIBRARY

We have two new vehicles and a fresh selection of books etc for all the family.

Access to the vehicle will be limited to help keep staff safe. We will be providing books selected in advance. If

you forget to order any, just ask the Library Van official to choose a few for you.

- The service is free to join and use.
- Each Mobile Library vehicle carries up to 3,000 items of stock including fiction, non-fiction, large print, books on CD & cassette and books for children of all ages.
- You can request books/cassettes/CDs/DVDs. We have access to all the books in Cambridgeshire Libraries. You can also request books online to collect from the mobile Library on our next visit.
- Any books borrowed from the Mobile Library can be returned to any other Cambridgeshire Library and you can return books from other libraries to us, so no need to worry about missing your due date.
- You can renew and order books online, please ask onboard for your 'PIN' to get you started.
- Download the Spydus mobile app to keep track of your library account using your smart phone.
- Books are issued for 5 weeks and you can renew for up to three months.
- Unfortunately, there are charges when books are returned late.
- All vehicles have a lift for wheelchair users or those who find stairs difficult (in non-Covid times. At the moment, no one can enter the vehicle).
- We also supply free Hearing Aid batteries, sell stamps and reading glasses.

You can use the Select and Collect service online, or by calling 0345 045 5225.

***Please support your local Library Service, right in the heart of your community.***

## Editorial

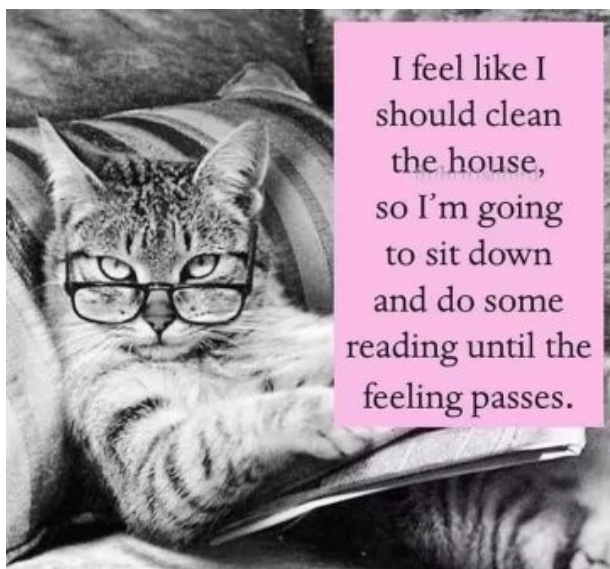
### EDITORIAL MARCH 2021

Welcome to our March issue of The Heron. We hope you enjoy it.



Have you taken to reading more during Lockdown? **March 4<sup>th</sup> is World Book Day.** You will notice that we have reading as a theme running through this issue. I wonder what kind of books you like to read? My favourites are Detective stories. I mostly use Audio Books myself. Also, this month, we have a number of contributions from our community. Keep them coming! It's your magazine, after all! One more thing – be sure to check out the article on p25 about the CENSUS. It's very important we all fill in our forms once we receive a letter about it...in fact, it's a legal requirement.

Annie Nason



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

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

**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](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.

## Granary Studio

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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 March edition of the Heron is 22 March 2021.

**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.**





## Confessions of a Fenland Bookworm

My first confession is that I am not a good reader (my favourite subject has always been maths). My second is that I get very tired and often find books quite sleep inducing. However, I love a good story and can become immersed in it and lose myself to a different time and place - this is bliss! When I was regularly travelling to London by train I would always take a book and thoroughly enjoyed the time spent with Miss Marple, Mary Queen of Scots or even Michelle Obama. However, carrying a book along with my luggage was not always so easy ("Becoming" by Michelle Obama is a huge tome!) so I switched to Kindle. I could use my phone for this and it meant I had less to carry.

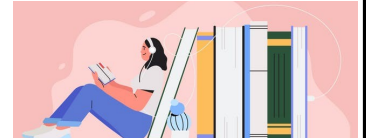
The next break-through was when I spotted the tag "add narration" (this can be done via Kindle, or directly through "Audible") - I could have my stories read to me! This appealed - especially with train journeys where I could gaze out of the window and have my "escape" at the same time....on embarking, I would plug in my ear phones and disappear into a complete other world....until one day, the train pulled into a station and everyone got off - I was puzzled, until a fellow passenger nudged me and told me that I had missed an announcement that the train was now terminating and I would have to make other travel

arrangements!

So...I now have a single ear piece (wireless with no leads to tangle me up) and could now travel happily by train - except I can't as lock-down means no visits to family in London!

But where there's a will there's a way - I can now be found at home, all hours of the day - with my ear piece in and my phone in my back pocket. If you saw me you would think I was cooking, cleaning tidying, or any other of a hundred boring but necessary tasks....but in my mind I am at the court of Queen Elizabeth 1<sup>st</sup>, or cruising up the Nile with Hercule Poirot or trying to rid the world of some pesky Martians!

**Notes:** Kindle and Audible are apps which can be downloaded onto a phone or tablet.



Kindle is free, you just pay for what you use, Audible is £7.99 per month For that you get one book credit (sound only) and can purchase others - generally I find the £18 for three books credits good value, but they often have freebies as well. There are also a good number of free apps including YouTube, which also have audiobooks and podcasts which make good listening.

Sheila Day

## Heron News

We have had a few comments about only being on line the last few months ...this month included. The question comes up: "Why, when it's fine to receive letters and parcels?" It's important to remember, we are a voluntary group. The thinking has been that there could be a possibility of cross-infection from letter box to letter box, now that a very contagious variant of the virus has reared its ugly head. Our volunteer deliverers would need to sanitise their hands between each house delivery; also, we don't want them to be accused of making a journey which is "not essential". BUT we plan to be back to normal for the April issue.

We are very pleased to announce our competition for younger children. Details on the front cover. There will be prizes....and the winning entries will be published in our April issue. GOOD LUCK!

Annie Nason

## "Thank You"

We would like to thank the children from Townley School for the wonderful pictures they have created for Mental Health Week. Graham and I were lucky to be nominated to receive two of them, which are now displayed on our fridge.

Special thanks to Hugo and George Bayliss for making us feel happy and for bringing Spring into our home.

Peggy & Graham Warby

## 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!

# P R PARKER

Established 1978

## General Building and Maintenance

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### WELSH LEEK & CHEESE RAREBIT

#### INGREDIENTS

- 1 fresh Ciabatta loaf or rustic sourdough
- 2 medium leeks (trimmed, washed and finely shredded)
- 2 oz./55 g. butter
- 1 oz./25 g. plain flour (all-purpose flour)
- 1 teaspoon mustard powder
- 1/2 cup/150 mL milk
- 4 oz./110 g. creamy goats' cheese (preferably Welsh)
- Sea salt and freshly ground black pepper

#### METHOD

Cut the Ciabatta or sourdough loaf into 2 cm (1 inch) thick slices. Place in a hot oven for 5 to 8 minutes to crisp and lightly brown (do not overcook or the bread will become hard, it should still be slightly chewy).

Rest the toast on a cooling rack to keep crisp while preparing the rarebit.

Melt the butter in a medium-size saucepan and add the leeks. Gently sweat the leeks for 2 to 3 minutes to soften but not brown; taking care to make sure they do not burn.

Stir in the flour and mustard powder—the leeks will become very thick but do not worry. Gradually stir in the milk, constantly stirring, and bring to simmering point to make a thick sauce. Continue to cook the sauce for a few minutes, keeping a close eye on the sauce (to cook out the flavour of the flour as not cooking will leave a raw flavour to the sauce).

Stir in your chosen goats' cheese until melted. Season well.

Generously spoon rarebit onto the toasted Ciabatta. Brown under the grill until bubbling and serve immediately.

Enjoy!





## **WORLD BOOK DAY MARCH 4<sup>TH</sup> 2021 RNIB – Royal National Institute of Blind People**

Reading is important to all of us!  
If you're struggling to read  
because of your sight, we've got

plenty of solutions to help, whatever your tastes and reading preferences. Our book library is the largest in the UK for people with sight loss, with digital, audio, braille and giant print books for adults and children.

### **How the 'Talking Book' was born.**

Thousands of soldiers lost their sight on the First World War battlefields. They returned to Britain no longer able to read and not all of them had been able to learn braille. Some found the code too difficult, while others had injured their hands.

Captain Ian Fraser lost his sight at the Battle of the Somme in July 1916, after being shot through the eyes by a German sniper. A single gunshot had robbed him of one of his greatest passions: reading. Fraser tried to put his life back together in England. He worked hard

to learn braille at St. Dunstan's, a hostel built to help blinded veterans like him. One day, frustrated at how slowly he could read, he cried out, "If books could only talk!" It was while listening to a gramophone at St. Dunstan's that he was inspired to record an entire "Talking Book".

RNIB set up its own recording studio in London in 1934. By narrowing a shellac record's grooves and playing it at a reduced speed, Fraser's team successfully made records that could play for 25 minutes per side. Over a decade before the birth of the music industry, RNIB blazed a trail in audio innovation.

Read more about the history of Talking Books here  
[Celebrating the history of Talking Books - RNIB - See differently](#)

Will you help change the story? You can help to end isolation for blind and partially sighted people with the freedom to read again. Register with the RNIB to sponsor a Talking Book and give a lifeline to someone locally with sight loss. <https://www.rnib.org.uk>

*\*Thank you to all who saved their stamps for the RNIB\**



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We will always try and be the best price around - with local deliveries scheduled for most weeks throughout the month.

This comes with an abject apology from me for not putting Jill's article in the February Heron.... I would like to blame the computer, but it's more likely old age is the reason ... so sorry to Jill and readers alike. The plus side is that we have two of Jill's articles in this month. *Annie Nason*

## A YEAR ON THE FARM - FEBRUARY



*Drilling (sowing) Spring Wheat*

February brings the farm workers back and, weather permitting and land conditions favourable, **Spring Wheat and Barley** drilling commences on the very light land (in the Brecklands, for example). Also, the vegetable specialists start drilling their **Carrots, Parsnips, and also Onions**, if weather conditions allow. There's no January drilling in The Fens, especially this year with the amount of rainfall we have endured!

Some aphids have been found in **Sugar Beet**, which is still in the ground and destined for the annual digester plants. There is a fear that this will carry over to this year's crop, due to be drilled in March 2021, if the Beet is not harvested and dealt with well before this date. There is light on the horizon for us sugar beet growers - Defra have just approved a sugar beet seed dressing which will wipe out the aphid problem to a greater extent, if we are given the go-ahead to use it. In the EU, this dressing has not been banned, as was the case in the UK; hence the fiasco regarding the 2020 crop, which was decimated with the virus, resulting in low tonnage per acre and poor sugar content.

Here's hoping the powers that be make a favourable decision in all haste, for the usage of dressed seed for this year's drillings -- fingers crossed!

**Potato** grading is taking place to a degree; owing to Lockdown, the potato chip trade has fallen back big time, although January is traditionally a slowish month for the potato trade.

Odd jobs that have previously been put on the back burner, now come to the fore, most of which are being sorted. Preparing equipment for sugar beet and pea drilling and also making sure all machinery is ready for potato planting, when the time comes, is also being attended to.

Well, that's about all, until next time.

*Jill Bliss*

**"REMINDER. Farms are private property. Dog walkers who go down farm tracks are tolerated as long as the dogs are kept on the lead."**



## DID YOU KNOW?

The UK is the world's biggest daffodil grower, harvesting an astonishing 90% of the total global production, according to the National Farmers' Union.

And they might be cheap and cheerful to buy but they are big business too, with a retail product value of £71.5m.

An army of around 3,000 pickers nationally are needed to harvest the stems and each field is picked many times to select the flowers at exactly the right time

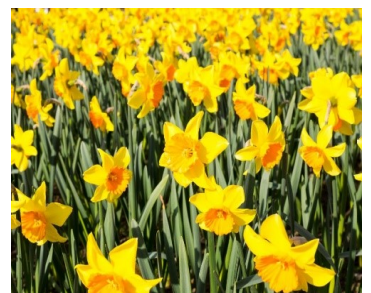
**Here are some recent comments made by an East Anglian Daffodil Farmer:**

"We're producing about 70 million stems in our own business but harvesting north of a 100 million," says

Matthew Naylor, farmer and managing director of Naylor Flowers in Lincolnshire.

His family has farmed in South Lincolnshire since the 1600s and has been producing flowers since the 1940s. "Daffodils are probably the cheapest flower you can buy in a supermarket, at less than £1 in some retailers," he told BBC 5 Live's "Wake Up To Money".

But, he warns, that price can't last. "We're constantly held to this £1 retail price that just seems locked in everybody's head, everybody knows that that a bunch of daffodils is £1 - but our costs go up and up".







Paul Braybrooke

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### LOOK AFTER YOUR EYES!

Millions of people are using screens more than ever before. Many who are working or studying from home are staring at laptops and other devices all day. Most schoolchildren currently have no other way of accessing classes. For some, the new ways of working are taking a toll on their eyes. Itchiness, blurry vision and headaches - or eye strain - are among the common problems.

More than a third (38%) of respondents to one survey, carried out for the charity Fight for Sight, said their eyesight had worsened since the start of the pandemic. Another survey put the figure at 22%. Eyesight experts say people with persistent problems should visit an optician, which are open in lockdown. But there are things that many of us can do to keep our eyes healthy.

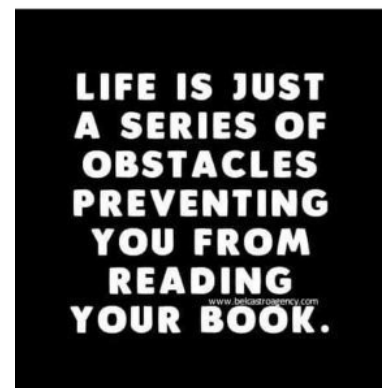
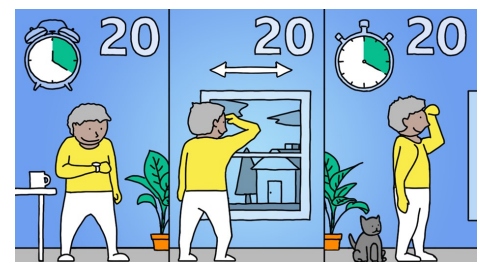
"Relaxing the muscles in and around your eyes is crucial," says Daniel Hardiman-McCartney, clinical adviser to the College of Optometrists. It's simple to do.

Every 20 minutes, just look at something at least 20ft away, that's about six metres, for 20 seconds.

"It stops your eye muscles getting overworked," says Mr Hardiman-McCartney.

(\*\*Funny ... the cartoon looks as though it is suggesting spending 20 minutes in the hour looking at your watch, 20 minutes in the hour looking out of the window, and 20 minutes in the hour looking for the cat ... much like most people's lockdown experience? \*\* Comments from my son Laurie Nason).

Annie Nason



# Kids Corner

World book day is on 4<sup>th</sup> March - your school should be in touch to let you know about the on-line book tokens which will entitle you to get a £1 book (these tokens are also on McDonald Happy meal boxes!).

Famous children's author word search (look for words up/down diagonal/back to front - any direction!)

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



## I Opened a Book By Julia Donaldson

I opened a book and in I strode.  
Now nobody can find me.  
I've left my chair, my house, my  
road,  
My town and my world behind  
me.

I'm wearing the cloak, I've  
slipped on the ring,  
I've swallowed the magic potion.  
I've fought with a dragon, dined  
with a king  
And dived in a bottomless  
ocean.

I opened a book and made some  
friends.  
I shared their tears and laughter  
And followed their road with its  
bumps and bends  
To the happily ever after.

I finished my book and out I  
came.  
The cloak can no longer hide  
me.  
My chair and my house are just  
the same,  
But I have a book inside me.

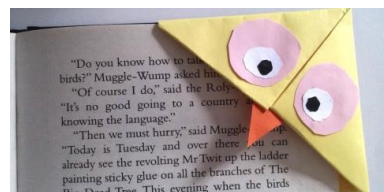
**ENID BLYTON**  
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**C S LEWIS**  
**JUDITH KERR**  
**LEWIS CARROLL**

## How to make a Paper Owl Bookmark

### What you will need:

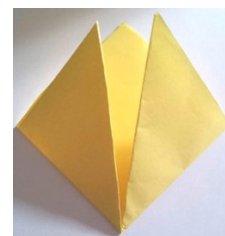
- One square paper of any colour
- White, black and any other coloured paper for the eyes and wings
- Orange paper for the beak
- Glue
- scissors
- Pencil or pen for details



1. Firstly halve the square piece of paper to make a triangle:



2. Next, halve the triangle twice from both ends to make a diamond shape as shown in the image:



3. Open the diamond shape up and fold the middle shape into a triangle:



4. This is the tricky bit. Tuck the two triangles on the side into the middle pocket to make a diamond shape, see image:



5. Finally, ask an adult to cut out some circles for the eyes and glue them on. Next cut out the beak and some wings for the owl. Then with a

pen or pencil add some details of the owl's feathers and any other final details you want. Now your paper owl bookmark is complete and ready for use!





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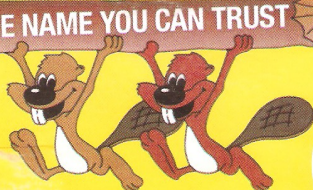
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## Hot Cross Buns

### Ingredients

- 450g Strong White Bread Flour
- 1 teaspoon Salt
- 1 teaspoon Mixed Spice
- 2 teaspoons cinnamon (sift the above all together)
- 50g Butter or margarine
- 50g caster sugar
- 15g dried yeast (use according to instructions on tin or sachet)
- 175ml milk (slightly warmed)
- 1 medium egg
- 100g currants
- 25g finely chopped mixed peel.

### Method

- Place all sieved ingredient in a bowl, rub in butter/ margarine finely.
- Mix in sugar.
- Beat egg, add to dry ingredients with prepared yeast and slowly add warmed milk making a soft dough.
- Knead and put in a clean bowl cover with a clean cloth and leave until dough is well risen, time will depend on the room temperature - approximately 1 hour.
- Remove dough and place onto a lightly floured board and lightly knead in the mixed fruit, divide into bun size pieces and place on a baking tray, cover and prove for approximately 15 minutes.
- To make cross either cut a cross on top of the bun or make a very stiff batter using flour and milk and pipe or carefully spoon a cross on top of each bun.
- Bake at approx. Gas 6 – 200c or fan 180c
- Baking time approx. 15 – 20mins
- Mix a tablespoon of sugar with a little hot water stir until sugar is dissolved and brush buns (known as glazing)

Happy Easter Baking!

Margaret Sparrow



# Sunday Curry Club

For a truly tasty, authentic and traditional Indian meal - which is also healthy and vegetarian - why not try a takeaway from the *Sunday 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 a full menu** and more information please phone 07775 336727 or Email: vyasfoods@outlook.com

**Sadly, due to home-schooling, Deepa has had to change the Curry Club evening. She is happy to take bookings for a Sunday takeaway, by 7pm on the Friday beforehand. Sorry for any inconvenience.**

*The true taste of India*



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## Hungry?

We continue our monthly food article - thanks to Pat Rigby for submitting this.

I was asked if I would write a review. Well, I am actually eating a takeaway from there as I write!

Whenever we fancy a takeaway, after having the usual debate whether to have Indian or Chinese food and after at least half hour has passed (we could have collected it in that time) we always settle on our favourite The Purple Diamond Chinese restaurant in Station Road, March.

Neither of us are particularly adventurous when it comes to the menu which like most Chinese restaurants is quite extensive, but tend to settle on our favourites being crispy beef (not too spicy), sweet and sour chicken Hong Kong style, prawn and chicken balls and egg fried rice along with a pot of satay sauce. Now this sauce is a bit special, but a bit too hot and spicy for us so we ask them to tone it down a bit which they are happy to oblige, but we just like to dip the complimentary prawn crackers in it. It is easily the best satay sauce we have tried.

We have always found the service good, and friendly staff with delivery waiting times around 45 minutes to an hour, expect this to be more at weekends as they get very busy. You can order over the phone and pay by card if you wish, and like most takeaways we have found, there is a delivery charge to our village. The food is piping hot by the time we receive it which hasn't always been the case with other takeaway deliveries we have had from the same town.

Being a bit chilly at the time of writing this review, we are pleased that deliveries have now resumed to Christchurch delivering every night of the week other than Wednesday when they are closed. Once covid restrictions are lifted where we can resume eating in restaurants again, we are really looking forward to booking a table there.

For those on Facebook they have their own page, or you can visit their website [www.purplediamondmarch.co.uk](http://www.purplediamondmarch.co.uk) where you can check out the menu, and order for delivery and collection. Their telephone number is 01354 661333. Their menu also states they cater for gluten free.



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# LOCAL COVID19 UPDATES

Extracts from a briefing email from Dr Liz Robin  
Director of Public Health – Cambridgeshire and  
Peterborough. 16/02/2021

"We have continued to see some reduction in Covid-19 rates in the past week in the majority of areas in Fenland, showing that the current restrictions are working. However, the number of people infected remains high, and it is essential that people continue to follow the lockdown rules. Our case rates in Fenland remain above the Cambridgeshire, East of England and England averages. The number of patients in our hospitals also remains high, and sadly we have seen increased numbers of Covid-19 related deaths during the month of January, although this is starting to reduce.

At the time of writing, the rate in Fenland is 278 cases per 100,000 population, for the week ending 6th February, which is a 7% reduction on the previous week.

**The local Community Rapid Testing Programme**, using lateral flow tests (LFTs), has launched successfully over the past two weeks, and we are encouraging people aged 18+ who are key workers or are having to leave home to go to work, to access rapid tests at sites across the county. The final two sites opened this week, and they are in Huntingdon and Cambridge, meaning we now have a site in each of the district and city areas. From next week we will be broadening the list of people who can access the rapid testing sites, tests to include a wider range of adults who are leaving home regularly.

Please can I ask you to share messages about the Community Rapid Testing programme, which is now available at the following locations:

- The Hub, High Street, Cambourne, South Cambridgeshire, CB23 6GW.
- Queen Mary Centre, Queen's Road, Wisbech, Fenland, PE13 2PE.
- Soham Town Rangers Football Club, Julius Martin Lane, Soham, Ely, East Cambridgeshire, CB7 5EQ.
- The Coneygear Centre, Butts Grove Way, Huntingdon, PE29 1PE.
- The Meadows Community Centre, 1 St Catharine's Road, Arbury, Cambridge.

All sites are open Monday to Saturday, 8am to 8pm. People should book in advance online at [www.cambridgeshire.gov.uk/rapidtesting](http://www.cambridgeshire.gov.uk/rapidtesting). Together we can continue to reduce rates of Coronavirus in Fenland and ensure that our health service can cope with the demands being placed upon it".



## St David's Day

A land of rugged mountains  
A land of finest slate  
The sound of rushing rivers  
Gives us cause to celebrate.

A land of ancient forests  
Green valleys, grazing sheep  
Gives the people of St David  
A land they wish to keep.

Follow the red dragon flag  
In parades led by Welsh bands  
Raise voices in the choirs  
To salute this lovely land.

For here in Wales, or far away  
The Welsh remember still  
And on St David's day with pride  
Wear leek or daffodil.

By Brenda Williams



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## How Observant Are You?



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

Answer next month.

Answer for last month: The Little Local Shop wall, Church Road, Christchurch.



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## A YEAR ON THE FARM – MARCH

The old saying "February fill dyke, be it black or white", has raised its head once again big time, together with some sub

-zero temperatures. I understand that there has been some ice skating on flooded fields near Ely, as a result. At the time of writing, snow has reverted to rain and the lakes of water on farmland which had started to recede are now being replenished. All under drains on the farm are running 'full tilt', culverts have been unblocked and all manner of rubbish has been recovered from road side dykes (tractor tyres, wooden pallets, a bicycle, plastic sheets etc etc). The dykes are running at a much higher level than normal, eventually the water from these arrives in the 16 ft river via the web of drains to pumps, situated mostly by the river bank at Bedlam Bridge, near the top of Padgetts Road and one at Bridge Farm, which pumps water from Euximoor. These pumps are all powered by electricity.

Modern farming is causing some of the farm land flooding with the use of large heavy machines such as self-propelled sugar beet harvesters and potato harvesters etc, compacting the soil, where as in the era of the horse and cart and farm workers working manually in comparison, meant little or no soil compaction took place. This meant that the soil was

not padded down, so aided free draining. Climate change also comes into the equation, to an extent, but cannot be blamed entirely for the flooding etc that we are enduring in modern times.

Hopefully we will soon have some warmer weather and some drying winds to help things along on the land - we should be looking to start drilling peas, sugar beet and onions, towards the end of March, as soon as land conditions allow. Although the beet seed dressing for the virus has been approved by 'the powers that be' we as farmers, (at the time of writing) have not been given permission to use it. Reason for this is we are waiting for Defra to declare whether we have had enough hard frosts in succession to kill off the virus carried over from last season or not. If they say that the recent frosts were not hard enough to 'kill off', then we will be allowed to order the specially coated seed and drill as usual. Time will tell. Wissington Sugar Beet Factory has finally closed for the intake of the 2020 crop, any remaining beet from this area to be delivered for processing, has to be transported to the factory at Newark, which will be closing soon.

Potato grading is still in progress fulfilling regular orders, hopefully trade will really pick up when the promised 'Lockdown-Unlocks' and some sort of normality is realised for everyone. Fingers crossed!!

That's all until next time.

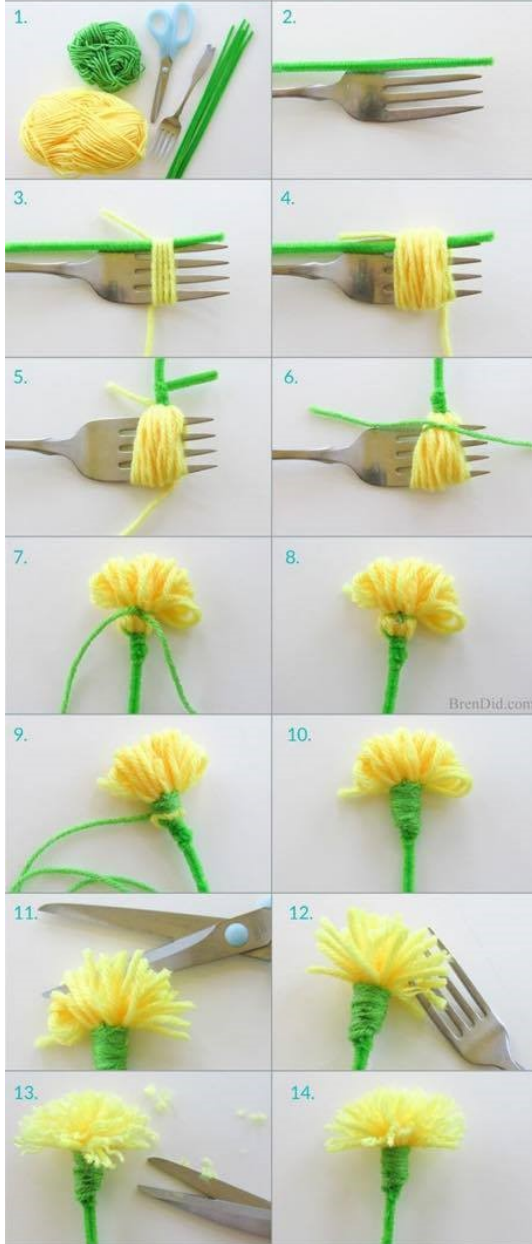
*Jill Bliss.*



# Christchurch Craft Club

Here are some lovely, easy ideas for some things for our younger readers to make, for their Mums, for Mother's Day on Sunday 14 March.

## EASY TASSEL FLOWERS DIY Dandelion Bouquet from BrenDid.com



**Tassel flowers** require pipe cleaners, scissors, a fork, and some wool.

**Personalised Vase** requires a large glass or plastic jar, some paint or pretty tissue paper and a photograph.

**Eggbox Bouquet Picture or Card** requires an old cardboard eggbox or two, some old buttons, paint, ribbon, PVA glue and some pipe cleaners.



**Decorated Pebbles and Stones** require a nice flat pebble or stone and some bright acrylic paints or craft pens.

**Remember to ask for help from an adult before trying any of these crafts.**



**theWI**  
INSPIRING WOMEN

I just wanted to remind all Christchurch members that they can enjoy individually or share with other members the various activities in *My WI* (more details to be found on <https://mywi.thewi.org.uk>):

- **Create a card for the Queen's Birthday**
- **Walking Netball**
- **Cookery**
- **Crafts**
- **Gardening**
- **Well-being projects and many more.**

I know it's been nearly a year since we had our last meeting but it's beginning to look more positive with many of us having our Covid vaccinations so I really hope to see you all soon. Meanwhile, keep safe.

Peggy Warby



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## Whooper Swans spotted in Christchurch

Living in The Fens, we are very fortunate to see a large variety of wildlife, and with us being in quite close proximity to the Wildfowl and Wetland Trust (WWT) in Welney, at this time of the year we see not only some of the more unusual bird visitors, but a lot of larger ones - migratory swans. In the UK, we generally see three types of swan:

- The MUTE SWAN is a large swan which mostly resides in the UK all the year round, and is normally found in rivers and lakes. Locally, they can often be seen on the 16ft bank, and are easily identifiable with a bright orange bill with a black base.
- The BEWICK SWAN is a migratory swan which flies around 2500 miles into the UK at the start of winter, from its breeding grounds in Siberia, and is the smallest of these swans. It has a mostly black bill with a smaller amount of yellow at the base, and a shorter neck than the whooper swan.

- The WHOOPER SWAN is another migratory bird and is the largest of these swans. It has a mostly yellow bill with a black tip. They fly into the UK at the start of winter from its breeding grounds in Iceland where like the Bewick, it will remain until it flies back in Spring.

It is quite a common sight to see large flocks of swans normally whooper swans, sometimes in the hundreds in the fields surrounding our village feeding off leftover beet, potatoes, winter wheat or grain. They can be quite noisy making a deep honking sound and can be seen flying off early evening in the Welney direction to roost on open water.

Swans and geese can also be the cause of power cuts when they fly into overhead power lines. Some areas in the country have fitted bird diverters which are reflective tags, brightly coloured balls or coloured line to power lines where there are known flight paths. There has been research with power companies and WWT to identify areas of bird collisions.

These pictures of around a hundred whooper swans were taken a few weeks ago. They were in a field along Green Lane.

*(Author's name supplied but withheld on request)*





# The Dun Cow

Green Lane, Christchurch, PE14 9PG  
01354 638323



## TAKEAWAYS ARE BACK!

**4.30pm - 8.30pm**

Friday food takeaways from the Dun Cow. As before there will be 15 minute time slots to enable us to keep you safe. Please message me or call on 01354 638323 or 07483282869 to book your slot and place your order. We have:

Fish ~ Scampi ~ Calamari  
Steak & Ale Pie ~ Balti Chicken Pie  
Steak & Kidney Pudding  
Southern Fried Chicken

All served with Chips or Mash and accompanied with either;  
Mushy or Garden Peas; Baked Beans or Curry sauce.

We look forward to seeing you again.  
Paul & Sue

**Hello Christchurch Stargazers!** Hope you are all well.

March 2021 will bring a poorly positioned **Mercury**, a morning planet. It will be at its greatest Western elongation on March 6th.

**Venus** is unlikely to be seen, as it reaches superior conjunction.

**Mars** will be an evening planet which will be dim to the naked eye. It will be positioned south of the Pleiades, at the start of the month.



**Jupiter and Saturn** are morning planets, close to each other, but badly positioned for viewing, despite rising 70 minutes before sunrise by the end of the month.

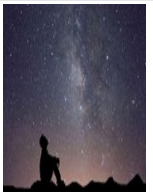
**Uranus** observation is closing as the planet drifts towards evening twilight. **Neptune** will not be visible this month.

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

**The Pliades star formation** is often called **The Seven Sisters**. Here is the story of their name. It comes from Greek Mythology. The Pleiades, companions of Artemis, were the seven daughters of the titan Atlas and the sea-nymph Pleione, born on Mount Cyllene. They were the sisters of Calypso, Hyas, the Hyades, and the Hesperides. Together with the seven Hyades, they were called the Atlantides, Dodonides, or Nysiades, nursemaids and teachers to the infant Dionysus.

After Atlas was forced to carry the heavens on his shoulders, Orion began to pursue all of the Pleiades, and Zeus transformed them first into doves, and then into stars, to comfort their father. The constellation of Orion is said to still pursue them across the night sky.

## Christchurch Stargazers



Mark Andrews

- Our focus is to explore and experiment with the various painting and drawing media.
- To enable participants to develop their own style.
- Above all to have fun and enjoy the sessions.

## Christchurch Art Group



The sessions are planned and adjusted to suit, depending on the experience and interests of the group.

The group leader is experienced in a wide range of media, and has some art materials for you to try out if they are new to you\*.

We have suitable paper for a reasonable cost to purchase and materials can be borrowed until you have your own\*.

Our group is friendly and relaxed and we love to welcome new folk.

**We normally meet on the 2<sup>nd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> Tuesday of the month 1.30-3.30 in the Village Hall** (term time)  
Hopefully in the summer we may be able to sketch outside again.

Please contact **Sandra 01354 638478** or **Jan 01354 638217** for more information, or come along and see what we do.

*\*(Please note when we are able to start back we may still have to follow 'Covid' rules, so may not be able to offer equipment to borrow.)*

Jan Clifford

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## A MESSAGE FROM 'ARTHRITIS ACTION' March 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup>

My name is Marc and I am Area Coordinator for UK charity Arthritis Action. We give hands-on, practical help to combat the pain of arthritis through self-management and lifestyle advice. We provide a range of free resources, including fact sheets, exercises, recipes and videos. To support people living with arthritis, we also run online Arthritis Action Groups, including groups for the East of England. We know that all the changes in people's lives this past year have made managing arthritis more challenging, and our groups are great place for people to meet others with the condition, share experiences and learn about self-management.

### Online Arthritis Action Groups

Arthritis Action Groups are an opportunity for people with arthritis to talk with others and share their tips on how to manage their arthritis and stay active whilst at home, and we actively welcome new attendees. We discuss a variety of self-management techniques. Participants will need to contact us directly for the log in instructions for the meeting, and we have produced 'How To' guides for those not familiar with using Zoom.

### East Anglia Groups:

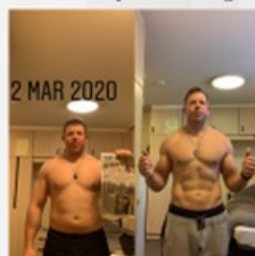
Evening: 4<sup>th</sup> March 6pm or Morning: 5<sup>th</sup> March 10:30 am

For joining details see <http://www.arthritisaction.org.uk/media-centre/events>

Best Wishes. Marc



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## NHS - LIFE ON THE FRONT LINE: PART 1

*I am Ellie Garlick, and I live in Christchurch. These are some of my personal thoughts about my experience as a nurse, on the job, during Lockdown. My views do not necessarily represent those of any organisation.*

I'm a Specialist Nurse for a long-term neurological condition working in a community NHS Trust. My work involves supporting people to manage their symptoms and live well with their condition. Before Covid, I saw people face to face in clinics at various sites across my patch, or visited them at home if they weren't able to come to me. I also ran telephone clinics and kept in touch with my patients by email. The service consists of me and one other Specialist Nurse, both of us part-time. During the first wave of Covid, the service was suspended, and my colleague and I were redeployed to District Nursing teams to support with the extra workload they encountered. There was a lot of fear of the unknown at this point. We didn't know how bad things might get and what we might be asked to do. We had to get used to wearing PPE for all patient contact and there were worries about whether we would have enough. We were hearing from our colleagues in the acute hospitals about services stretched to breaking point and the need for community nursing to take on even more in the "ward without walls" as more people needed to be discharged and cared for at home.

I was also worried about the effect of our redeployment on my usual patients as their usual source of advice and support was unavailable, just at a time when everyone suddenly had an increase in stress and anxiety! If it wasn't for the worry about my patients and the general anxiety of the situation, I would have quite enjoyed working with the District Nurses. It's a job I used to do years ago and, in some ways, it was nice to revisit it. I did come across some people with Covid, but mainly, I was dealing with the bread and butter of District Nursing; things like wound care, catheter care and palliative care.

As the first wave receded, and the pressure on local services reduced, I was able to return to my usual role and we started to develop a new way of working. We needed to be able to offer care, while keeping the risk of picking up the virus and taking it to our vulnerable patients, as low as possible. This meant getting used to new technology and embracing video consultations! We would still visit people at home, if there was need for us to be physically in the same place, but it's a constant balancing act with the need to reduce the risk of transmission by reducing contacts. This isn't just contact with patients; we've been working from home, and when we do need to go into a base, we stagger it so that we're not there at the same time. It's been challenging. I much prefer seeing patients face to face and I miss seeing colleagues, but we've made it work in the best way we can, and generally our patients have been very understanding and given us good feedback.

(We look forward to Part 2 in the April Issue.)

## Fire service staff pitching in to support vaccination rollout

**29/01/2021** - Vaccination sites around the county are being supported by Cambridgeshire Fire and Rescue Service staff pitching in to help with getting residents immunised against COVID-19.

Staff from across all areas of the Service, from emergency call handlers and support staff to fire officers and both on-call and wholetime firefighters, have all been giving help at vaccination sites.

Group Commander Wayne Swales, the officer coordinating the support project, said: "The response from our staff has been really impressive so far, it's been great to see colleagues from different parts of the Service wanting to get involved. We are really proud of our staff and what we have achieved already. "We've been asked to provide help in various ways. For example, assisting staff at some of the primary care network sites with things like marshalling in the car parks and showing patients where they need to go. We've also been helping with the setup of the two large-scale sites in Cambridge and Peterborough. Now these are open we'll have volunteers at these centres giving support. Clearly, we need to balance our core responsibilities as a fire and rescue service with helping with the national vaccination effort. We've made sure that we have enough crews available to respond to emergencies while offering our partners this level of support."



"The pandemic has presented us all with unprecedented challenges. Rolling out a vaccine to everyone around the country is massive challenge, so we are determined to pitch in and do our bit to help."

"Our staff have already shown their enthusiasm and willingness to step forward and help their communities and will continue to support this vital programme over the coming months."

[cambsfire.gov.uk](http://cambsfire.gov.uk)





## Meet a Christchurch Parish Councillor ... Roger Gladwin

*Thank you to Belinda for helping us to get to know Roger a little better.*

Roger was born in Thornton Curtis - a tiny village in North Lincolnshire. He is the youngest of three brothers and was born into a farming family and is now a third-generation farmer. He attended the small village school which was made up of two classrooms, infants and juniors and he was in the choir - singing or miming ... not quite sure which! During his adolescent years Roger made good use of the potato chitting greenhouse and grew tomatoes which he sold on the roadside to earn his pocket money. After leaving school he attended Bishop Burton Agricultural College in Yorkshire. Roger returned from college to work on the family farm which grew sugar beet, wheat, potatoes and vining peas. The peas were on a contract for Birds Eye and only living 20 minutes from the factory, they really do get from farm to frozen in two hours. The farm also had a suckler herd and over 700 head of fattening cattle.

Roger knew Belinda for many years before they were married in 1989. They have two grown up children - Rebecca and William - who both work on the farm. When the Lincolnshire farm expanded into Cambridgeshire, Roger and his family moved to Christchurch to farm independently of his brothers. The farm has seen many changes over the past 25 years, mainly its cropping. We once grew sugar beet, oil seed rape and harvest peas. Today we grow wheat, barley, beans and chamomile and have just introduced mint. The latter two being grown for their essential oils.

Roger and the family really enjoy the odd game of rugby and horse racing and are hugely interested in wildlife and love the outdoors. They have taken the opportunity to install several bird boxes on their own farm and neighbouring farms, which have attracted barn owls, little owls and kestrels. There is a vast amount of wildlife on our doorstep - deer, foxes, rabbits, hares, cranes, kingfishers, woodpeckers and marsh harriers to name just a few. We get great pleasure watching and listening to the swans which fly through our wonderful skies at dawn and dusk.

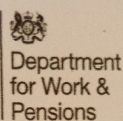
When Roger and the family moved to Christchurch in 1995, they were very warmly welcomed as they joined various activities and great friendships have been made. Roger is a member of several committees (farming and non-farming); he is a member and past chairman of the over 65s lunch committee and a member and past chairman of the Christchurch outdoor bowls club.

Roger joined the Parish Council in 2013 and is focused on finance and road safety through and around the village, recently focusing on the road safety issues on the Padgetts Road/Church Road junction. The Sixteen Foot road is always of major concern - the speed at which people travel along it and the visibility at junctions.

During Roger's time on the Council he has met with the police regarding local issues and with Stephen Barclay to discuss rural issues. Roger is always available if you need to contact him.

*To be sure, the village struck lucky in 1995 when the Gladwins moved here - thank you to Roger for all your dedication and hard work on our behalf!*

Sheila Day



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## SCAM ALERT

One of our villagers recently received a letter purporting to be from the Department for Work & Pensions. It was entitled "Notice of a compliance telephone interview". The villager (name and contact details supplied, but withheld on request) said he was very nearly taken in by it. However, as he looked closer at the letter, a number of things looked very suspicious.

1. A sub-heading stated it was from a Job Centre place in Wolverhampton. The villager is retired.
2. It was a very threatening letter. "If you do not answer when we call you, your benefit payments will stop". "...you may get a Criminal Record.." etc.
3. "We can be contacted by textphone 0000 000 0000" - ??
4. The letter asked for the recipients to have the following documents handy for the call: Bank Accounts, Savings/Investments, Private pension(s), Earnings, Property Ownership, Immigration Status.

The villager thought to ring the real W&PA, NOT using the numbers provided in the letter. They were told that it is a SCAM, and to pass on the message to everyone to watch out. He has asked us to put this in The Heron, which we are very pleased to do. **The advice is DO NOT CALL ANY TELEPHONE NUMBER ON THE LETTER.** Instead, call the number on your own historical papers from the W&PA and tell them about the letter.



# Church News

## SUNDAYS

For March, it is likely that the church building will remain closed until such time as the current lockdown is lifted or eased. Should there be a significant lifting of conditions during March we will reopen for private prayer again on Sundays from 10-11:30, with hopefully some services as well.



Until then, Revds Ian and Lynda are continuing to host a weekly Sunday service on Zoom for those that can access it, or by telephone, for those that don't have a phone that supports Zoom. This will be from 11 until about 11:45, details for access can be obtained from Sheila Day on 07946 635908 or via Facebook messenger.

## DURING LENT

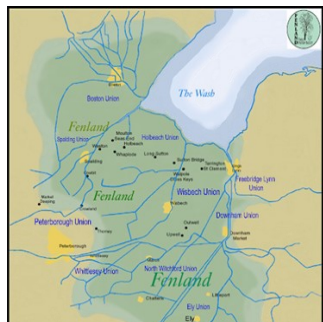
As I write, we have just completed our 1st weekend of

the foodbank collection on 20/21 February. Many thanks to those that have contributed already. We will continue to put out a box for March foodbank **each Saturday and Sunday (noon to 5pm) until Easter Day (4th April)**. Paul Simpson has kindly agreed to let us put the box in front of the pub, and donations will be taken to March on the following Monday morning. The Food Bank have asked specifically for: Sauce for pasta, tinned veg, tinned fruit, teabags (foil packs of 40 preferably), UHT semi-skimmed milk, small jars of instant coffee. *However - they are grateful for all contributions!*

During Lent we also pray, in our own homes, for our community. We are using a leaflet to help us focus. If you would like to join in with our Lent Prayer Project and would like a leaflet, please contact Annie on 638088



Daphne and Andrew



## Thoughts from the Rectory

### A Map Can Make A Difference

Since the 'Lock down', like most of my neighbours and church folk, I have come to enjoy my daily outing; a walk along one of our many public foot paths with our dog. I have not yet tried venturing into the world of running round the village, or exercising in front of the TV. No. A good honest walk in the beautiful Fen countryside is good enough for me. At such times, my mind returns to the pre-Covid days on our day off,

which meant putting on hiking boots, packing a rucksack, putting on a sturdy coat and exploring the great outdoors of this beautiful part of the country. All that space, all that freedom to wander where we wanted, no traffic to worry about - what a feeling!

But things can turn a little scary though, if suddenly we find ourselves somewhere other than where we should be, or do not know where we are. I can remember times when my sense of direction deserted me; Betws-Y-Coed in Wales comes to mind. The scenery is suddenly unfamiliar, the shadows have moved, the sun has gone in, and the landscape has suddenly changed. Where once I was walking without a care in the world, taking in God's beauty, now I am in trouble. No map, no compass, no idea. Some people imagine that wisdom was born with their generation, and that technical advances have made ancient wisdom redundant. Satnavs and GPS personal navigation aids are all well and good. But just because they are the latest technology it does not mean that knowing how to use a map and compass is suddenly useless.

For many people, the Bible is a map on which to base their journey through life. It contains instructions and warnings from God. It charts where people have followed in Jesus footsteps. It also sets out instances of where people haven't. As we lead into the next few months, months with the sign posts of 'Palm Sunday', 'Holy Week' 'Maundy Thursday', 'Good Friday' and 'Easter Sunday', let us be aware of the Bible guiding, directing, showing us the way to Easter's journey's end, which is at the foot of the Cross.

The Quaker poet John Greenleaf Whittier put it well when he wrote:

*"We search the world for truth; we cull  
the good, the pure, the beautiful  
from grave stone and written scroll.  
From all old flowers' fields of the soul.  
And, weary seekers of the best,  
we come back laden from our quest.  
To find that all the sages said is found in the book our mothers read".*

Keep safe, keep well.

Ian



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Hello all. So those out on your daily walk may spot a new dispenser next to the dog poop bin on the junction of Fenview. This is part of **Christchurch Street Pride** and the **Green Dog Walkers Campaign**.

Kindly supplied by **Fenland District Council** and supported by the **Christchurch Parish Council**.

The poop bag dispenser is another tool we were hoping will encourage more people to pick up after their pets, and be more responsible. They're only to be used in an emergency and not for people to just take handfuls. (Please don't abuse this, otherwise it will be removed.) It's not open yet, we're still waiting for supplies so I will let you all know when it's officially open.

Thanks all and any questions please ask. PS - If you are a dog owner and want to be part of the green dog walkers campaign, go check out our website and pledge your support:



<https://christchurchstreetpride.co.uk/christchurch-green.../>

Thanks for your support.

Nate Lansdell

## Parish Council Snippets - 3rd Feb 2021

There is very little to report after the Parish Council meeting in February. Lockdown meant it was again held over Zoom, no members of the public were present.

As expected during this time, there has been no progress on the bus shelter plans. Trees along Green Lane have been trimmed by the power company, but householders are to be sent a letter to trim back vegetation that is their responsibility. No progress to report on the new section of path on Upwell Road.

The clerk reported that the new bin ordered for the road outside the community centre should be installed imminently. Cllr Hughes reported that a statement about neighbourhood watch had been submitted to the Heron.

The clerk also reported that CCC will be cleaning out the drains on Wayside Estate, some of Upwell Road and some of Church Road, in the near future. Once this is done, the PC will undertake to identify the route of underground drainage pipe work on Church Road with a view to help prevent flooding in that area. Unfortunately, Highways do not have a map.

A resident has reported potholes on the junction of Ha'penny Toll Road and Upwell Road, this has been reported to highways.

Finally, in a confidential section of the meeting, discussions were had on the grass cutting contract, and the proposed canopy extension to the Community Centre.

James Hughes

### REMINDER!

The clocks go forward at 01:00 on Sunday 28th



# Christchurch Book Club



Book club had another zoom meeting on 23<sup>rd</sup> February - with 7 participants including a very welcome "zoom visit" from Viv Haresnape who used to be a member until she moved away from the area.

We have been reading "Three things about Elsie" by Joanna Cannon. This book had been recommended to us and most of the group very much enjoyed it. The setting is a senior citizens sheltered accommodation complex. Florence has fallen and we learn of her memories and some buried secrets from her past.

The three things you should know about Elsie are:  
"1. She's my best friend."  
"2. She always knows how to make me feel better."  
...and the third thing...you'll need to read the book!

Our next book is "Elephant Song" by Wilbur Smith.

Our next zoom meeting is on Tuesday 23<sup>rd</sup> March 7,30pm.

Future meetings are 20<sup>th</sup> April, 18<sup>th</sup> May, 22<sup>nd</sup> June, 20<sup>th</sup> July, 24<sup>th</sup> August, 21<sup>st</sup> Sept...hopefully some of these will be face-to-face!

If you are interested in joining us, please contact Sheila Day on 07946635908.

## CENSUS 2021

Census Day is Sunday 21 March 2021 and will continue to happen on that date.

The Census happens every 10 years, the first having been held in 1801. If you are interested in Family History, you will probably have used the Census Archives for research.

**THE CENSUS IS VITAL TO ALL OF US. THE CENSUS HELPS US UNDERSTAND WHAT OUR SOCIETY NEEDS NOW AND WHAT IT'S LIKELY TO NEED IN THE FUTURE. THE INFORMATION IT COLLECTS HELPS PLAN AND FUND SERVICES IN YOUR AREA. THIS COULD INCLUDE TRANSPORT, EDUCATION AND HEALTHCARE.**

**You will receive a letter** that will tell you everything you need to know about how to complete the Census on line. Paper copies of the Census are available if you need one.

**YOU MUST COMPLETE THE CENSUS BY LAW. IF YOU DO NOT, OR IF YOU SUPPLY FALSE INFORMATION, YOU COULD BE FINED UP TO £1,000. NB. SOME QUESTIONS ARE CLEARLY LABELLED AS VOLUNTARY. IT IS NOT AN OFFENCE IF YOU DO NOT ANSWER THESE.**

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

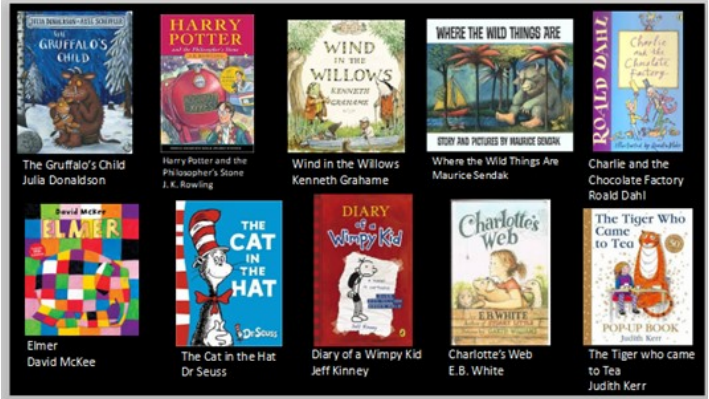
# Useful Telephone Numbers

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



## Answers from Kids Corner on Page 10

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



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



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



**Vyas Foods:** From the beginning...

My name is Deepa and I live in Christchurch. I was born in Tanzania, and moved to England at 25 years of age. I grew up around, and had, healthy food when I was living in Tanzania during my childhood. My mother and father are passionate about food and are very skilled at the art of cooking. From a young age, I've adored all varieties of pickles and chutneys. My love for chutneys and pickles made me realise that I wanted to share my love for them, so I created a business making a wide variety of pickles and chutneys for all to indulge in. I had to terminate the business in 2010 to focus more on my family.

### **SUNDAY CURRY CLUB (Check out my advert on page 12)**

In my current location, it is hard to find a job, and for a few years now, I have not worked, in order to provide my young children with the support they need. Originally, I am from the Gujarat region of India. Now that my children are older, I want to pursue my passion for food and cooking once again; not through pickles and chutneys, but through traditional Gujarati food. Family and friends who have tasted my cooking have complimented my food highly, and have repeatedly suggested that I make a business out of it. I took their advice, and in November 2020 I started my new cooking adventure. My family are very supportive.

The meals I make are those which Gujarati people have on a daily basis: simple, fresh, healthy and flavoursome! I make pure vegetarian Gujarati meals. I don't mix my recipes with other regions' foods, like some restaurants do. I sought information from the Council, and they did an inspection, from which I got a **5-star review**. The last few months have been the beginning of my journey. I have had fewer orders due to lockdown (I am sure many other businesses have too) which has seen me make less profit. However, I am certain that after lockdown my business will be booming and back up and running once again!

I plan on expanding to captivate a larger group of people who are interested in trying traditional Gujarati cooking, which is 100% vegetarian. I hope to hire more people to help me to share my love and passion.



Eventually, I plan to be in the position I was last in, with my pickle business (also called Vyas Foods) when I was getting large orders from major retailers and from other parties. I wish to stay local (East Anglia). However, if, in the future, order numbers increase, or people outside of the region discover my business, I could spread out to a national level.

Email [vyasfoods@outlook.com](mailto:vyasfoods@outlook.com) or call me on 07775 336 727 for menus and order/collection information.

## Snowed in on Padgetts Road!

I know we all experienced a little smattering of snow recently, which probably caused some of us a few minor set backs but back in the early 90s the village had a massive fall of snow which was a bit of a problem for some residents! Peggy and Graham Warby remember it well and took photographs of the deep snow drifts surrounding their house on Padgetts Road.





# Christchurch Gardening Club

## British Gardens 1945 to 1960



Between the wars, the arrival of the motorcar in greater numbers, with more accessibility to the average family, made visiting gardens a new pastime. The national gardens scheme was started in 1927, while the first BBC gardening program started airing in 1934. After the war ended in 1945 several fine gardens came to fruition including Sissinghurst Castle Garden, near Cranbrook in the Kent Weald. This garden was created by Vita Sackville-West, a poet and author, along with her husband Harold Nicholson, a noted author and diplomat. The national trust now own Sissinghurst along with Hidcote Manor Gardens, an "Arts and Crafts Garden" with its then revolutionary ideas of "garden rooms", as well as Great Dixter House and Gardens (photo), which was planned by Nathaniel Lloyd and nurtured by his son Christopher. The house at Great Dixter was built between 1910 and 1912 by the renowned architect Sir Edwin Lutyens.

At this time however, perhaps the most lovingly created gardens were to be found in the suburbs behind the mock-Tudor semis' and detached properties, that remained untouched from the Blitzkrieg. These long sprawling patches, overlooked by French windows, tended to feature manicured lawns and flowers with trellis, fruit trees as well as vegetable patches and greenhouses. Even as housing stock damaged in the war was replaced and the garden towns began to appear, the rear garden became a major selling point to the developers and councils. Indeed, gardening became a key feature of the post war revival, promoting the idea of a better, healthier Britain.

As the 1960's dawned gardening journalism and gardening books became popular as did radio and TV shows like "Gardeners Question Time" which began to encourage a new generation to test out their "Green Thumbs." These were quickly followed by the now ubiquitous Garden Centre selling their containers, Grow Bags and easy maintenance planting and Foliar Feeding, a method of spraying the fertilizer onto the leaves rather than the soil. This method was an idea that was first mooted during a study at Michigan State University in the 1950's. Designs and materials for Patios, Crazy Paving and the now all conquering Barbecue could all be found in garden Centre's, which became another venue for a family outing.

The earlier idea of the garden as, "another room" almost an extension to the house began to take root in the British minds as the modern garden began to emerge.

Hopefully we may soon be able to fire up the barbie and welcome friends and relatives back into the outside room we call a garden. *Stay safe...*

Steve (Photo Below - Sissinghurst )



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