

The Heron

Community Magazine

November 2021

Delivered to homes in Christchurch, Euximoor and Tipps End

No. 91

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Meet Freddie Steward – one of our own. Freddie plays Rugby Union for Leicester Tigers and earned his first England Cap in July 2021.



**Full story on
Page 13**



EDITORIAL TEAM:

Editorial Team Leader - Annie Nason

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Elaine Reed-Hughes

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TOWNLEY SCHOOL AND PRE-SCHOOL

Christchurch, Wisbech, Cambs. PE14 9NA
 office@townley.cambs.sch.uk
 Website: www.townley.cambs.sch.uk
 01354 638229



Facebook—Townley School
and Pre-School

October 2021

Remember that our website has
lots more information about school.

Have I told you lately that I think this community is the best? You support us so well, we could not do it without you. Just today we received a cheque from Bags2School for £75, as if by magic, your clothes donations will become reading books! Thank you!

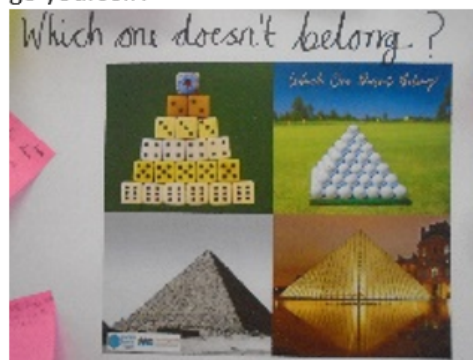
In Early Years we have been very busy looking at pumpkins and signs of autumn. We have explored pumpkins – inside and out! We were extremely lucky that a local farmer let us walk to the pumpkin field and pick our very own pumpkins. The children have been developing their upper arm strength on our new and improved rope swing and making hot chocolate for the polar express in the mud kitchen. We had a visit from a lovely police officer who let us look in his car and arrested Mrs Higgins!

We are in search of some pestle and mortars for our mud kitchen and potion station. Do you have one you would be happy to donate? Thank you to those of you who have already donated.

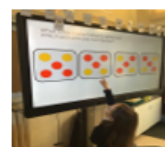


In Emperor Class (Year 5 and 6)

The children have been developing their 'Maths Eyes' - Which one doesn't belong? The children studied each of the four images carefully and then decided which one doesn't belong with the others and why. Why not have a go yourself?



In Hawker Class (Years 1 and 2)



All children have settled back into school brilliantly and we have had a great first half-term. Children have been focused on the theme of "our wonderful world". They started by learning about the 7 continents and 5 oceans, before moving on to the UK and its 4 countries. Children know that they live in Fenland, England and we have been investigating harvest time and farming in Fenland. This has involved lots of hands-on activities and exploring food! There were also mini tractors which harvested the 'fields', leading to an infestation of crows and children then had to build a scarecrow.

Pupils have learned about rhymes in poetry, how to describe a setting in a story and what verbs, nouns and adjectives are. They have explored number to 20/100, counted in 2s, 5s and 10s, and started to work on addition. We are also exploring seasonal changes and trees in the local area.



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:

**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?**

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

https://cambridgeshire-self.achieveservice.com/service/Select_and_Collect

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



Heron News

THANK YOU!

Many thanks to Sheila Day for all her contributions to our magazine. She has decided to stand down from writing articles for The Heron as she and Andy are preparing to move away. We wish you both all the very best for your move, and we will miss you!

NATURE AND NURTURE IN OUR CORNER OF THE FENS - PHOTOGRAPHY COMPETITION

We are delighted to announce the winners of our photography competition:

GOLD AWARD - Sam McGonagle - your stunning close-up of a dragonfly left us completely stunned. Well done Sam!

SILVER AWARD - Joanne Cooper - the colours captured in your butterfly picture were truly amazing. Stunning!

BRONZE AWARD - Sophie Miller - this picture made us smile time and time again. This gives the viewer a tiny insight into some of the fun things that clearly go on in your paddock! Lovely, fun picture Sophie - well done.

FULL DETAILS ON PAGE 28

There were dozens of other absolutely brilliant pictures and we have displayed a good cross-section of them in our Heron 2022 Calendar. It really is worth a look. Calendars can be obtained from Elaine Reed-Hughes at advert@theheron.info or on 01354 638310. They are £6 each or 3 for £15.

Many thanks once again to Rex for his involvement with creating the calendar.



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

Advertising in the Heron

Quarter Page (14cm High x 9.5cm Wide)

Portrait Format

6 x issues £50

12 x issues £90

Eighth Page (6.5cm High x 9.5cm Wide)

Landscape Format

6 x issues £34

12 x issues £64

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

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

Do you know someone who would like to receive a Heron each month, who doesn't live in the village?
Contact us at adverts@theheron.info and we will send them a subscription form.
The cost is £25.00 per year (including P&P).

Copy Deadline - The deadline for copy for the December edition of the Heron is **24 November**.

Diary Dates

DATE	EVENT	TIME	PLACE	PAGE
Nov 2 nd	Mobile Library	12 noon	Lay-by (Fen View)	3
Nov 4 th	Christmas Tree Festival Planning meeting	7pm	Church	5
Nov 7 th	Morning Prayer Service	10.30am	Church	23
Nov 9 th	Art Club	1.30-3.30pm	CCC	17
Nov 9 th	WI Open Meeting	7pm	CCC	17
Nov 10 th	Lunch Break	12-2pm	CCC	17
Nov 11 th	Remembrance event	11am	War Memorial	23
Nov 13 th	Quiz Night	6.30pm	CCC	6
Nov 20 th	A Vinyl Night	7.00pm	Dun Cow Pub	19
Nov 23 rd	Art Club	1.30-3.30pm	CCC	17
Nov 22 nd	Craft Club Wreath Making Workshop	10-3pm	CCC	11
Nov 24 th	Lunch Break	12-2pm	CCC	17
Nov 26 th	Christmas Tree Festival set-up	12-6pm	Church	5
Nov 27 th	Christmas Tree Festival	10am – 2pm	Church	8
Nov 28 th	Christmas Tree Festival Advent Sunday Service	2 – 3.30pm 3.30pm	Church Church	8
Every Mon	Short Mat Bowls	7-9pm	CCC	8
Every Tues	Pilates	6-6.50pm	CCC	26
Every Wed	Chair-based exercise class	10-10.50am	CCC	26
Every Thurs	Coffee, Cake & Chat	2 – 3pm	Church	23
M,T,W,TH	Mobile Post Office	Various	Lay-by (Fen View)	3
ALSO CHECK “FANCY A DAY OUT?” Page 7 + DUN COW EVENTS Page 19				

**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.

Editorial

Welcome to our November Heron! "Dull November brings the blast; Then the leaves are falling fast".

So far, no sign of the promised heavy falls of snow here, but lots of colour from the fallen leaves.

There are several events this month that we celebrate. Guy Fawkes Fireworks on November 5th, although this year the exact date seems to vary, with plenty of events in the locality.

Remembrance Sunday a week later, and many cooks will be looking forward to "STIR UP SUNDAY", which always falls on the last Sunday before Advent Sunday. This year it will be on Sunday 21st November.

Later in the month, there will be the start of our Christmas Tree Festival on Saturday 27th November, with the trees being decorated the day before. This promises to be a lovely sight and is a reminder that Christmas is just around the corner.

Sue Norman

Christmas Tree Festival

There will be a meeting on Thursday 4th November at 7pm in the church for anyone interested in decorating a tree for the festival and for those who have already volunteered to decorate one. If you are unable to make the meeting but would still like to decorate a tree, please contact me on 01354 638092 or 07702 225259.

Please remember you will need to provide your own artificial tree and decorations. Battery powered LED lights only. No edible decorations. If you would like to, there is a theme of Christmas Carols this year but this is not compulsory. Individuals and groups are welcome. Trees will be decorated between 12-6pm on Friday 26th November ready for the festival on the 27th November and will remain in the church throughout Advent and Christmas.

Many thanks.

Helen Chappell



**QUIZ
NIGHT**

Christchurch Community Centre Quiz Night

Saturday 13th November 2021

Doors Open 6.30pm Quiz Starts 7.00pm

Maximum to a team 6 people

£8.00 per person includes Fish or Chicken and Chips

Bar Open

To book your tickets no later than 6th November please call

Geoff Harper 07504 691509 or 01354 638681

Or Pat Rigby 07776 142642

All proceeds go to Christchurch Recreation Ground Charity.

Letters to the Editorial Team

The Editorial team welcome letters from its readers. Please email letters to: editor@heron.info or post them to *The Editor of The Heron, Grasshopper Cottage, 5 Upwell Road, Christchurch, PE14 9LF.*

PLEASE NOTE: Letters will only be considered for publication if they are accompanied by name and contact details - names will be published, but not contact details. The Heron will not share any contact details unless given permission.

The team look forward to hearing from you!

In Yorkshire and Lancashire, Bonfire Night would be unthinkable without Parkin, a type of dark, spicy, solid gingerbread made with oatmeal. In 19th-century Leeds, 5th November was even known as Parkin Day.

Makes 16 squares

INGREDIENTS

- 200g butter, plus extra for greasing
- 1 large egg
- 4 tbsp milk
- 200g golden syrup
- 85g treacle
- 85g light soft brown sugar
- 100g medium oatmeal
- 250g self-raising flour
- 1 tbsp ground ginger

Method

STEP 1

Heat oven to 160C/140C fan/gas 3. Butter a deep 22cm square cake tin and line with baking parchment. Beat the egg and milk together with a fork.

STEP 2

Gently melt the syrup, treacle, sugar and butter together in a large pan until the sugar has dissolved. Remove from the heat. Mix together the oatmeal, flour and ginger and stir into the syrup mixture, followed by the egg and milk.

STEP 3

Pour the mixture into the tin and bake for 50 mins – 1 hr until the cake feels firm and a little crusty on top. Cool in the tin then wrap in more parchment and foil. *Keep for up to five days before eating if you can – it'll become softer and stickier the longer you leave it, up to two weeks.*



Taken from BBC Good Food



La Pasada in Christchurch this Advent is going to be a VIRTUAL event, which anyone can be part of...

You may remember (pre-Covid), in Christchurch, the figures of Pregnant Mary riding on a donkey, led by a very tired-looking Joseph, travelling and trying to find a place to stay for the night on their way to Bethlehem. During Advent, these figures were passed from home to home of people interested to take part. Whilst the Holy Family rested for the night in their home, prayers were said, or thoughts offered up, for today's homeless people and for refugees.

This year, Christchurch Parish Church invites you to take part virtually. All you need to do is email, call or message Annie Nason to say which date you would like to book the family for. (Contact details below). She will then contact you on your chosen day, with a photo of the Holy Family, and a prayer which you may like to use as you think about homeless people and refugees.

YOU DON'T DO THE INTERNET? *Never mind.* You can still take part, as she will get an A4 piece of paper with picture and the prayer to you. Just call her to book a date. (Leave a message if she isn't in.) Dates available from ADVENT SUNDAY November 28th this year until Christmas Eve.

(And as it's virtual, dates can be double booked, of course). Choose your date.

Annie's contact details: Facebook Messenger; annie_nason@yahoo.com tel 01354-638-088

Fancy a day out? Here's what's on in November

6 November 2021 Friday Gates open 5.00pm- Fireworks from 7.00pm

Firework Display at Priory Golf and Activity Centre, March Rd, Wimblington PE15 0RW

Bar, Café open, advance tickets adults £4 children £3 under 2s go free (on the night add extra £1 to price of tickets) Booking required email priorygolfcentre@hotmail.com

5 & 6 November 2021 Friday and Saturday 9.00am-3.00pm

Christmas Treats Fair, Downham Conservative Club Function Room opposite Market Place

Confectionary and Sweet Treats, Handmade Christmas Cakes, Local Honey, Jams and Chutneys, Artwork and Cards, Jewellery, Crafts and Unique Christmas Gifts

6 November 2021 Saturday at 7.30pm

Motown Night at March United Services Club 1 New Road March PE15 9AN

Tickets £10.00 or call 07526 664949 or whittleseymusicnights@gmail.com

6 November 2021 Saturday from 5.00pm-8pm

Christmas Late Night Shopping Skylark Garden Centre, Manea Road, March PE15 0PE Call 01354 741212

Christmas Gifts, decorations 20% off for 1 night only on loyalty cards,

get one on the night. Food and drink samples - Café serving Autumnal Feast requires booking at café/till

7 November 2021 Sunday doors open 1.30pm- Film starts 2.00pm

Welle Cinema Three Holes Village Hall showing film 'The Mule' starring Clint Eastwood. Tickets £3.50 pp - bar and refreshments available, no need to book

12 November 2021 – 19th December 2021 4.30pm- 8.30pm

Sandringham Estate Spectacular Winter Light Trail, Sandringham Estate, Norfolk PE35 6EH Tel: 01485 544212 or sandringhamestate.co.uk for tickets – ticket only event

Henry Chipperfield Vintage 1906 Fairground, Christmas shopping in Sandringham Shop

13 November 2021 Saturday doors open 6.30- Quiz at 7.00 Christchurch Community Centre

(See page 6 for details)

27 November 2021 Saturday from 8.30pm

Wisbech St Mary Community Centre, Beechings Close, Wisbech St Mary, Wisbech PE13 4SS

Carnaby Street 60s Covers Band, music from 50s,60s and 70s. Bar and Food available

Tickets £7 tel: 01945 410432 or info@wsmcommunity.com

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

BACKWORDS: The finished grid will be symmetrical from top to bottom and from left to right. When you have found all the words, block in the remaining squares.

ACROSS

- Goad (4)
- Release (a knot) (4)
- Bike's toothed disc (9)
- Very shy (5)
- Supervisor (4)
- Period 1811-1820 in Britain (7)
- Prima donna (4)
- Container for a plant (9)
- Surrender, give in (7)
- Hill top (4)
- Put in a file (7)
- Curly cabbage (4)
- Without pity (9)
- Unfriendly (4)
- Clear headed (5)
- Aver (7)
- Of no merit (9)

DOWN

- Style from the past (5)
- Synthetic (3-4)
- On the open waves (2,3)
- Alert, vigilant (7)
- Group of cottages (6)
- Dressing-down (7)
- Very weird (5)
- Lout, Hooligan (3)
- Unit of genetic material (inits) (3)
- ___ de cologne perfume (3)
- Nonsense (7)
- Hard, cruel (7)
- Long-necked animal (7)
- Insignificant (3)
- Phantom (7)
- Speed up (an engine) (3)
- Turn out to be (3,2)
- Shelled creature (7)



Christchurch Gardening

WINTER GARDENS

As the nights draw in and the weather turns, it's quite possible to become more insular and inward looking, trapped by all those gardening jobs that just have to be done. Sometimes however, it could be time for a little break and some inspiration. There are numerous gardens open to the public at this time of year, some reasonably local to us in the Christchurch area.

One such garden is at Houghton Hall and garden close to Kings Lynn. Renovation of the five-acre walled garden was begun in 1991. The former kitchen garden had fallen into disrepair and Lord Cholmondeley decided to restore it as a memorial to his grandmother. Although an area of the kitchen garden has been retained and is once again productive, the larger part has been laid out as a series of ornamental gardens in various styles. The rose garden is of particular interest with getting on for 150

varieties of flowers old and new. The central section is based upon the William Kent design for the ceiling of the white drawing room. There is a sunken pool, an Orchid collection and a Jeppe Hein Water flame. We mustn't

forget Houghton Hall its-self a beautiful Palladian mansion open to the public. Contact info@houghtonhall.com telephone 01485528569.



Watch this space for news of the gardening club.

Steve



Indoor Short Mat Bowls

New club meeting every Monday 7-9pm at Christchurch Community Centre.

ALL WELCOME! (Spare bowls available to loan.)

For further details call Janet Harper on 07941 465319.

Christmas Tree Festival

and Coffee Morning

Saturday 27th November 10am - 2pm
in the Church of Christ, Christchurch.

The church will also be open on Sunday 28th November at 2pm to see the trees followed by a service at 3.30pm.

All welcome

Come and see the trees to celebrate the start of Advent.

Enjoy a cuppa and some home baked cake.
Have a look at the stalls and maybe find a Christmas gift or two.

Play some fun games to win prizes and meet one of Father Christmas's helpers.



The Heron team are looking for musicians and singers who would be interested in being part of some sort of Heron fundraiser event next year.

If you are interested in being part of a musical event, in support of your village magazine, then please get in touch with Elaine at adverts@theheron.info

Thank you.

A word search ...

Can we reduce waste? Discuss these ideas with your family.

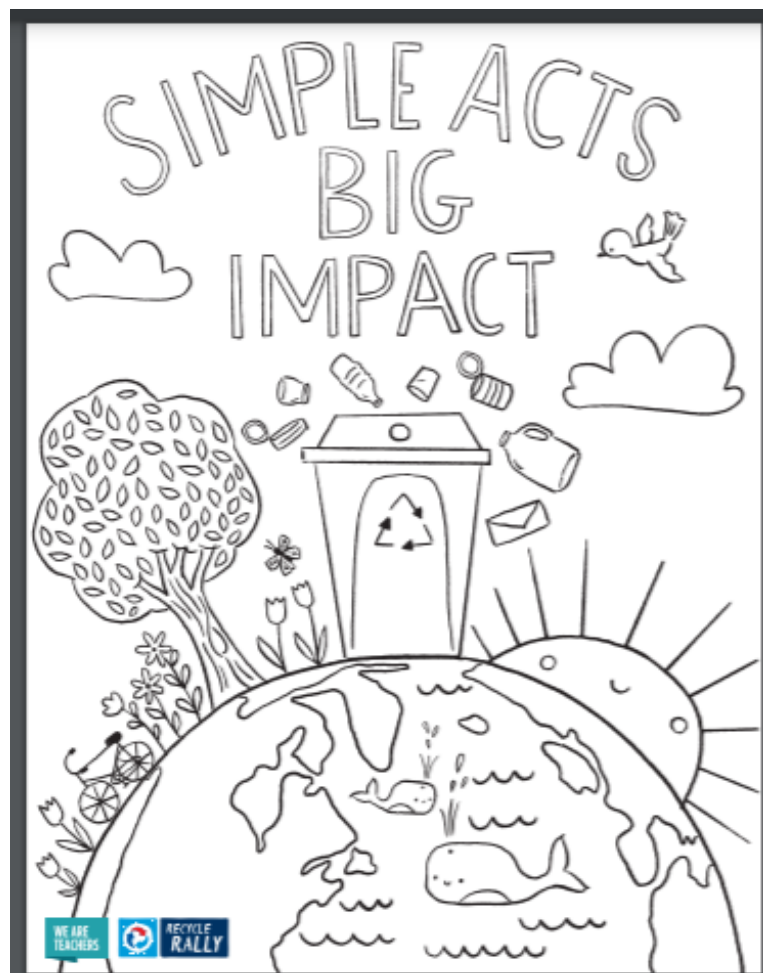
T	Q	M	M	E	K	J	I	B	N	T	C	H	N	I
O	N	K	A	A	B	J	Z	T	B	B	L	F	O	R
W	C	E	Y	D	A	Y	X	B	J	C	I	Z	I	S
B	E	I	M	T	B	D	C	Y	N	C	M	E	T	Q
H	R	N	F	N	Q	I	S	O	E	X	A	E	U	A
V	E	C	O	L	O	G	Y	L	M	H	T	C	L	H
C	A	Z	M	Z	N	R	C	Q	A	P	E	L	L	T
O	M	V	O	E	O	Y	I	B	N	P	O	N	O	R
P	E	R	E	K	C	T	I	V	R	V	Q	S	P	A
O	C	R	D	E	A	T	N	W	N	C	P	W	T	E
C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

CLIMATE
DAY
ENERGY
HABITAT
RECYCLE

COMPOST
EARTH
ENVIRONMENT
OZONE

CONSERVATION
ECOLOGY
GREEN
POLLUTION

Colour this poster about caring for our planet...



WASTE LESS PLASTIC

Refusing to use plastic wherever you can is a great first step to cutting down on plastic pollution. Here are our top tips:

1 Bring your own bottle

2 Bring your own bag

3 Bring your own cup

4 Bring a packed lunch

5 Use a cloth not a wipe

6 Say no to plastic straws

7 Choose loose fruit & veg

8 Choose glass packaging

9 Recycle your plastic waste

Find out more ways to cut down on plastic
www.tamworth.gov.uk/wasteless

Tamworth
Borough Council

Do you recycle your cans? Then read this!

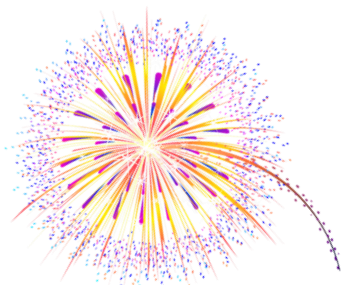
1. Aluminium cans are lighter than steel, and the base of an aluminium can is shinier. A magnet will stick to a steel can, but it will not stick to an aluminium can.
2. Making one can from raw materials uses the same amount of energy that it takes to recycle 20 cans.
3. The average UK household uses around 600 steel cans every year.
4. The aluminium drinks can is the world's most recycled packaging container – worldwide over 50% of aluminium cans are recycled.
5. Recycling one aluminium can saves enough energy to power your TV for three hours.

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October's Craft Club was quite a sedate affair. Having taken the choice to set up in the main hall this time we were definitely well spaced out as there were only 7 of us. This was quite disappointing given the number of people who came to the Cheese and Wine evening in September. However, we were delighted to welcome two new people. We had planned to do some Origami and 3 of us attempted this, two were painting glass and the two new members brought along their own projects.

We hope to welcome a few more people to the November meeting on 3rd as we would be sad to have to see the Club close due to lack of interest. We will be providing materials for Christmas Paper Craft/Card Making at the November meeting and, of course, your own project are also welcome. Entry is £3 which includes materials and refreshments.

We are also running a "Wreath Making Workshop" on Monday 22 November at 10.00 am till 3.00 pm. Please bring your own lunch. Tickets are £22.15 from Eventbrite. Follow the link to get tickets:

<https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/.../christmas-wreath-making...>

What Happened in November 1991?

- Freddie Mercury dies of AIDS on November 23rd aged 45 years old
- The Croatian city of Vukovar surrenders to Yugoslav People's army and allied Serb paramilitary forces after an 87 day siege.
- November 18th Muslim Shiites release hostages Terry Waite and Thomas Sutherland

Top Ten Chart 10th Nov 1991

1. Dizzy – Vic Reeves and the Wonder Stuff
2. Get Ready for This – 2 Unlimited
3. Rhythm is a mystery - Klass
4. If you were with me now – Kylie Minogue
5. The Fly – U2
6. (Everything I do) I do it for you – Bryan Adams
7. World in Union – Kiri te Kanawa
8. Is there anybody out there? – Bass Heads
9. No son of mine – Genesis
10. It's Grim up North – Justified ancients of Mu Mu

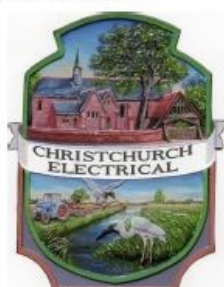
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England Rugby Union Autumn Internationals 2021

England v Tonga

Date: Saturday 6th November 2021

Venue: Twickenham Stadium, London

Kick-off: 3:15pm

TV Coverage: Live on Amazon Prime (UK) and Premier Sports (ROI)



England v Australia

Date: Saturday 13th November 2021

Venue: Twickenham Stadium, London

Kick-off: 5:30pm

TV Coverage: Live on Amazon Prime (UK) and Premier Sports (ROI)



England v South Africa

Date: Saturday 20th November 2021

Venue: Twickenham Stadium, London

Kick-off: 3:15pm

TV Coverage: Live on Amazon Prime (UK) and Premier Sports (ROI)



PROUD GRANDPARENTS HERE!

Freddie Steward earned his first England Cap playing for England against the USA on July 4th 2021. He gained his second Cap playing against Canada a week later, on July 10th.



England

70 - 14

Canada

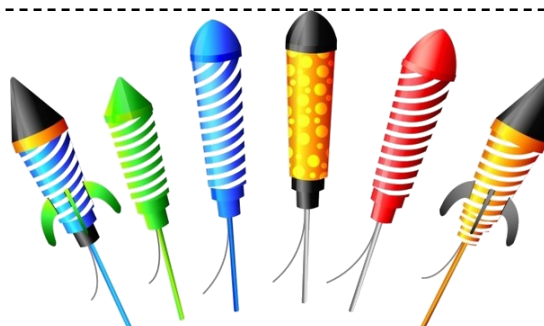


Farmers Jill and Gabriel Bliss are his proud grandparents, as Freddie is the second son of their daughter Jane and her husband Ben Steward. Jane and her sister Vicky attended our very own Townley Primary School, and went on to study at Downham Market Grammar.

Journalist Mike Austin wrote this about Freddie in the programme for the Canada match: *"Freddie Steward was rewarded for his highly successful season by being among 12 new Caps against the USA at Twickenham. His Premiership debut for The Tigers was against Sale Sharks in March 2019, at the age of 18. He played twice in The Challenge Cup that season and became the Tigers' second youngest try scorer in European games. He is secure under the high ball, a solid kicker, and an adept communicator. In June he was named as the **Young Player of The Year** in the 2020/21 Tigers supporters awards. Educated at Norwich School, he joined Swaffham RFC aged 6, and then played for Holt, and has represented England at U18 and U20 levels. He is now studying at Loughborough University".*

Freddie was called up for the 45-strong England squad and was in the 35-strong squad. On Monday October 18th Eddie Jones, England's Head Coach, announced the final squad to play in the Autumn Internationals. Freddie is in there! Brilliant achievement. England has not lost a match so far (14 October) this season.

ALL THE BEST FOR THE SEASON, FREDDIE, from all of us at The Heron!





DID YOU HAVE A HAPPY HALLOWE'EN?

Perhaps the festivities have inspired you to read books in these series.. So - hands up who has actually READ these books? OK, OK ... Hands HALF up if you have only seen the films, or the stage or TV productions! These books, amongst many others of course, are best sellers, and rightly so. Well written and

very entertaining 'page-turners'. They are difficult to put down, once you have begun to read them. But what do you know about the Authors, one of whom has recently died?

Jill Murphy (5 July 1949 – 18 August 2021) was a British author and illustrator of children's books. She was best known for the *Worst Witch* novels and *Large Family* picture books. Her books have also been adapted for television and stage. She has been called "one of the most engaging writers and illustrators for children in the land". She started to write *The Worst Witch* — "the magical tale of an accident-prone girl attempting to navigate the magical codes and murky corridors of Miss Cackle's Academy for Witches" — while still at school. Later, all the publishers she asked, rejected her book. In 1970 when she was 21, she decided to try the new young company Allison and Busby, and, she said, was "thrilled to find the publishers were quirky like me". "They accepted it immediately, and printed 5,000 copies, and I remember wondering how many aunts and uncles I had, and what we would do with the rest," she said in an interview with *The Telegraph*. However, the book proved an instant success, selling out within two months of publication in 1974.

J.K. Rowling first had the idea for Harry Potter while delayed on a train travelling from Manchester to London King's Cross in 1990. Over the next five years, she began to plan out the seven books of the series. She wrote mostly in longhand and amassed a mountain of notes, many of which were on scraps of paper. Like many first-time authors, Rowling struggled to get her first book, *Harry Potter and the Philosopher's Stone* published. (The name was changed to *Harry Potter and the Sorcerer's Stone* in the United States). The book was rejected by over a dozen publishers. Finally, a small British publisher, Bloomsbury, said yes. And "The rest is history", as they say.



Have a go at these quiz questions:

Harry Potter - questions

1. What subject does Professor Slughorn teach at Hogwarts?
2. Gwenog Jones is the captain of which Quidditch Team?
3. What is the first name of Hogwarts Founder, what is inside the Ravenclaw.
4. According to Legend, what lies within The Chamber of Secrets?
5. What spell does Ron use to knock out the troll loose in Hogwarts Castle
6. What was the name of the pet that Lily Potter gave Professor Slughorn?

Answers on page 26.



What do you call these cuties? Spug, puggy, spur, sprig, sparr, sparrer, spadger...?

Their friendly little faces are a common sight in many parks and gardens, chirping away in a

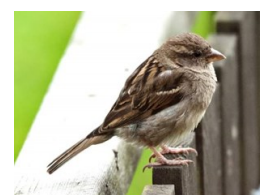
hedgerow, or happily hopping around outdoor cafes - hoping to steal any scraps!

There are two UK species but several others in Europe, Asia and Africa (American 'sparrows' are not closely related). They are social and loosely colonial when breeding. Most nest in cavities but some may nest in bushes or trees, building untidy nests of grass and assorted rubbish. They have no well-developed

songs, but several variations on loud chirps and cheeps. Some species are closely associated with people. Sadly, both these species have been in decline, but are showing slight signs of increase in numbers.

House Sparrow: Noisy and gregarious, these cheerful exploiters of man's rubbish and wastefulness have managed to colonise most of the world. The ultimate avian opportunists, perhaps.

Tree Sparrow: Smaller than a house sparrow and more active, with its tail often cocked. They are shyer than house sparrows in the UK and rarely associate with people. (RSPB)





'FORGOTTEN CORNER OF FENLAND' BECOMES SAFE AT LAST

Congratulations, and a big thank you from us all to Euximoor resident, Graham Chappell, for his persistence and hard work over some years which has finally produced the outcome he has been waiting for. Graham has been the driving force behind this project coming to fruition, but, as you will see further on in the article, he could not have done it on his own, as there have been a number of Local Councils and Businesses which have contributed significant amounts of money and support towards this end.

(Photo above; Graham Chappell)



A safety barrier has been installed at the Southern Honey Farm Bend on the Sixteen Foot Bank Road near March following two deaths. Graham Chappell, of Fenland Road

Safety Campaign Charlotte's Way, described the bend as a "forgotten corner of Fenland". Graham said his campaign stepped up four years ago following the death of Sharon Taylor, of Sutton in the Isle. *"She was involved in a single vehicle immersion accident when on her way to a Sunday car boot. We've finally achieved this vital safety measure for the benefit of the community and all future travellers on the road."* The campaign, coordinated through FRSC Charlotte's Way as a joint Local Highways Improvement (LHI) bid scheme in July 2019, had support from businesses, with some donating to the fund. *"Mick George Ltd donated £10,000 and the Police and Crime Commissioner's Office matched funding of up to £25,000,"* said Graham. *"Additional donations were kindly received from the charitable fund of the Mayor of March (Cllr Rob Skoulding) and March Amateur Boxing Club".*

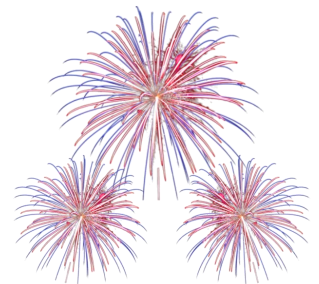
Approval of the Southern Honey Farm Bend barrier was confirmed by Cambridgeshire County Council in March 2020 with a projected cost of no more than £38,000, with £15,000 coming from Cambridgeshire CC. They also promised to explore the feasibility of the installation of barriers on the northern bend of the road further.

(From an article by Katie Woodcock: Wisbech Standard October 7th 2021)

Graham adds, *"A huge thank you to Cllr Will Sutton and Cllr Maureen Davis, who were so important to the success we have achieved. It really was a Team effort, with Will and Maureen at the heart of it all. I would also like to acknowledge the vital backing and financial support we received from our own Christchurch Parish Council, the PCs of Wimblington and Manea, FDC and The Middle Level Commissioners. Local Businesses which helped: Fenland Online Playgrounds, Skylark Garden Centre, Judd's Coaches, Allpress Farms, The Garage March Autocare, Maxey Grounds, Peter Humphrey Associates, Swann Edward Architects, Metal Craft Chatteris, and Alan Bartlett & Sons. Covid related delays to the scheme saw the original cost quoted by Cambs County Council for just the southern bend installation spiralling out of control until support from local County Cllrs, David Connor and John Gowing, and crucially, our local MP, Steve Barclay, ensured the final cost would be no more than around £60,000. The campaign Team remain unconvinced by technical concerns cited by CCC Highways as obstacles to proceeding with barrier installation on the northern bend".*



THE NEXT STEP? There's to be a site meeting on Nov 12th to reconsider the viability of constructing a similar barrier on the Northern Honey Farm Bend.



WATCH THIS SPACE!



What can we do to reduce Climate Change?

Here are three tips from our Christchurch Eco Warrior, Nate Lansdell.

Climate change is happening sadly, and at a rate far greater than we humans are doing things to slow it down. Our children and our children's-children will suffer the consequences of our actions if we do not find ways to reduce our carbon footprint and it doesn't need to leave you out of pocket. Here are my 3 tips, that you can do, to help make a drastic improvement to your carbon footprint:

Plastic waste - Reuse bottles and tubs, and if you are finished with them rinse them out and remove contaminants. Contaminated items are more likely to be rejected for recycling and end up in a landfill. It only takes a few seconds.

Cardboard - Remove sticky labels, flatten them and, if possible, keep them as dry as possible. Wet cardboard is difficult to recycle.

Reduce your lust - Ask yourself "do I need it?" Or "can I make do with what I have?". Reducing just one item a week from your shopping or your daily use is not only great for your wallet but also reduces the burden on the environment from making your item and producing your item.

Nate Lansdell – Christchurch Eco



Christchurch New Zealand parts ways with its wizard.

The New Zealand city of Christchurch has cast its official wizard from the payroll after 23 years of service. Ian Brackenbury Channell, 88, was paid NZ\$16,000 (£8,200; \$11,280) a year to provide "acts of wizardry" and promote the city. However, the city has now ended his contract, saying it is going in a more modern and diverse direction. Christchurch is the only city to have had an official Wizard since 1982, the city council's website says.



Mr Channell told local media that he no longer fitted "the vibes" of the city because he was a provocateur. "They are a bunch of bureaucrats who have no imagination," he told the New Zealand news website, Stuff. Since he started as the official wizard more than two decades ago, Mr Channell has been paid some \$368,000 under a unique tax-free status.

Thanks to Dave Gibbs, our PC Clerk for flagging up this item. Here is the to-and-fro email conversation between him and the Editor:

Dave: Hi Annie. What ceremonial positions should we have? I can picture ----- in a wizard's costume. Could be the man for the job!

Annie: Now there's an idea!

Bureaucracy being what it is, I imagine his spells would have to be subjected to scrutiny by the authorities before they could be cast. A new twist on 'Spellcheck'...

Dave: Brilliant! In local government, for every Wizard we'd also need a Spells Contract Manager, a Health and Safety Manager and a Human Resources Specialist to handle the employment and equal opportunities issues. This is starting to sound expensive!

FRIENDS FROM WAY BACK MEET UP IN CHRISTCHURCH ON A SUNNY SEPTEMBER DAY



90-year-old Doris Allerton (nee Cawthorn), who lived in Christchurch many years ago, in Orchard House, came with some of her family and friends to meet up with a number of long-term residents of the village. It was such a nice day that the gathering moved out of the Meeting Room at the Community Centre and enjoyed chatting over tea and biscuits in the sunshine. Here she is, with Neville Chamberlain, and Susan Quail who still live in the village.

you all. Meeting friends I thought I would never see again was unbelievable. Being able to sit outside and talk and have refreshments in

Doris wrote: "Thank you for the unforgettable time we spent with the sun was also a bonus". Doris has now subscribed to receive the Heron each month by post and said "I shall look forward to receiving The Heron each month and catch up with the Christchurch news".

It was a lovely occasion.

Photos by Malcolm Hicks





Christchurch Art Group



We meet on the 2nd and 4th Tuesday of the month 1.30-3.30 in the Village Hall (term time).

- 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

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.

If you would like a programme, please contact Jan and one will be sent with any further information. Please contact Sandra 01354 638478 or Jan 01354 638217 (janandcliff@brimstone46.plus.com) .

**(Please note we may still have to follow 'Covid' rules, so may not be able to offer equipment to borrow. Items can be ordered for use if requested)*

theWI INSPIRING WOMEN

The WI met on 12th October and had an extremely interesting presentation by Ann Purt. The subject was "Autumn Planting" and Ann gave an interesting demonstration of the planting of

tubs containing a variety of plants including bulbs to flower in the spring. She explained the different care needed for terracotta and plastic pots and the different types of compost. She demonstrated how to ensure correct drainage and the depth bulbs needed to be planted and described the after-care when bulbs have finished flowering. The tubs Ann

planted and the spare plants and bulbs were our raffle prizes. These were won by Annie Nason, Helen Chappell, Margaret Sparrow, Pat Rigby and Sheila Day.

OPEN MEETING! On November 9th we will be welcoming our very talented local florist Caroline McGonagale who will be demonstrating preparing a Christmas wreath and a table decoration. All are welcome (male and female!!!) - tickets for non-members £4. Contact Sheila Day to book your place on 07946635908.

LUNCH BREAK

[Annie Nason 01354 638088]

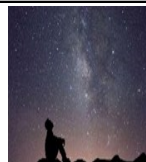


Put the date in your diary – Wednesday 10th and 24th November 2021 from 12 noon – 2pm, in the Community Centre. IT'S FREE!

BYO Lunch. Catch up with old friends, make new ones. Chat over lunch with Tea or Coffee and relax.

Always the 2nd and 4th Wednesdays of the month.

Please note ... Many of our regulars are in the Age risk category for Covid, although most will have had both their vaccinations a while back, so our plan is to be cautious - Hands, Face, Space, Ventilation.

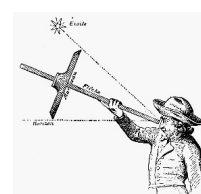


Christchurch Stargazers

Here's something a bit different for this month - The North Star, also known as Polaris. Hundreds of years ago, people made tools to navigate the seas which could measure angles between stars and horizon. This way, they could do calculations and determine their latitude, but it was hundreds of years before longitude could be figured out due to not having an accurate enough clock which did not come along till the 1700s. The most important star was the North Star to ancient mariners. They used to use such tools as The Cross Staff (pictured), the Astroblade, and eventually the Quadrant, Octant and Sextant.

The North Star can be located at the tip of the handle of the Little Dipper. The easiest way to find this: find the Big Dipper (The Plough constellation) and follow its pointer stars in a line across the sky to the North Star. No matter where you are in the Northern

Hemisphere, you know you are facing North if you are looking at the North Star. Don't forget this month, the Leonids will peak on the night between 17–18 Nov. **Remember - never ever look at the sun without the correct protective equipment.**



Mark Andrews

Another small business enterprise in Christchurch



Hi all! Thought I'd introduce myself and give you information about my little rising business! My name is Josh Wood and I sell Diecast collectibles/toy vehicles. They range from Hotwheels, Matchbox, Corgi and many more brands; also - tractors, trucks, army vehicles and regular cars. I bring in new collectible items and toy cars every other week. To view many of the vehicles I list, head over to Diecast Fanatics on Facebook. I will be creating a website soon, but I will keep everyone updated via Facebook.



PC SNIPPETS

From the Parish Council Meeting on Monday October 11th.

Public Time: *Here's an item of note for our readers...*

The Heron handed in their request for a Grant to cover 3 months of publication costs = $\frac{1}{4}$ of a year's printing expenses. This will be on the agenda of the next PC Meeting. Fingers crossed.

Some other topics discussed: Everything, everywhere still seems to be only just grinding into gear after the Pandemic difficulties. Hence, the drain clearance in the village is on-going (the PC deemed it not to be on-going fast enough), as are the Bus Shelter surround, streetlight issues and other matters.

Outdoor Gym: The PC is to visit other Parishes to see what they have done with regard to installing Outdoor Gym equipment, with plans to make this happen in Christchurch.

Padgett's Road: A bid has been made for a 50mph speed limit on Padgett's Road for 600m either side of the Church Road turn. The PC wants our MP Steve Barclay to come and talk to residents, which will give this issue good publicity as the press will doubtless arrive as well.

Grants for youth work projects: Cambridge CC is offering £1000 towards any scheme deemed feasible for developing Youth Work. There are also other sources of income for grants.

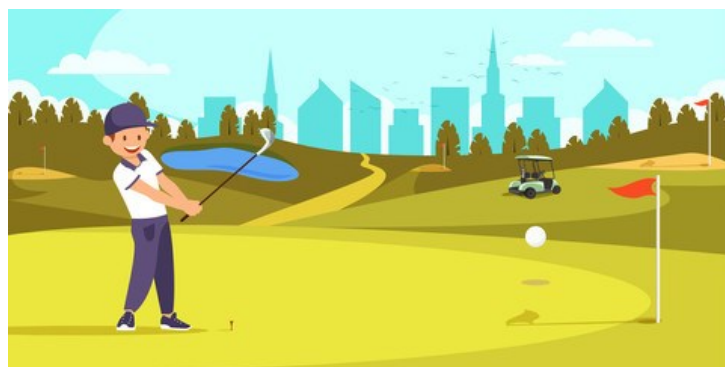
New Foster Carers needed: Cambridgeshire County Council. Anyone interested in providing this very valuable service, please get in touch with them.
<https://www.cambridgeshire.gov.uk/residents/children-and-families/fostering-and-adoption>

Affordable Housing: The PC were strongly and in total agreement that there needs to be much more affordable housing within our Parish boundaries, as young people are forced to leave the village to become home owners. Whilst there is a fair amount of building going on here, these homes are way beyond any budget of younger people. The PC plan take advantage of a scheme which has a lot of Government support, and which guarantees Affordable Housing to be built. Long story short – Green field sites can be used; they are bought for a price less than general building land but more than the price for the sale of agricultural land. A Housing Association would build appropriate housing. At each stage, the local community will be consulted.

(WAY TO GO, Christchurch PC! – Ed)

PS: *It was pointed out that more acreage of Green Belt land is used for building new Golf Courses than is being used for the house building boom. Think on that!*

(Annie Nason)



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Saturday 20th November—"A Vinyl Night" - 7pm

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Children's menu: Stuffed 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**

Please place your order by Wednesday 7pm for your Friday Curry.

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is a way of being church but not as you know it - for families involving fun! Its values are about being Christ-centred, based on creativity, hospitality and celebration. We typically include: a welcome, a creative time to explore a biblical theme through getting messy; i.e. Craft, painting etc., a short celebration time involving story, prayer, song; finishing with 'refreshments', together at tables. All elements are for people of all ages - adults and children (children must be accompanied by an adult). **FREE!** Although donations help us to keep going.

***Why not come and join us? at St
Peter's Church, Upwell
Sunday 21st November 2021 2.00-
4.00 pm***

***Usually on the 3rd Sunday of every second month,
look for dates here
or contact Raine on 01945 774322***

Church News

During November we will be continuing to observe social distancing within the church building and strongly encourage mask wearing.

- On 7th November at 10:30, we will hold a service of Morning Prayer
- On 14th November at 11:00 we will hold a service of remembrance by the memorial followed by Holy Communion.
- On 28th November at 15:30 we will hold a service of Evening Prayer at the conclusion of the Christmas tree festival. See elsewhere for more details about the festival on the 27th and 28th.

A big "Thank You" to all those that supported the Harvest Supper on Saturday 9th October in the Community Centre, and especially to the cooks and table preparers.

Coffee, Cake and Chat recommenced on Thursday 14th October 2pm-3pm in the church. Future sessions continue each Thursday and all are very welcome.



See the church noticeboard or the updates on the Christchurch community Facebook page for any further news.

Complementary to the live services, throughout November (but NOT on 14th) we will continue to host a weekly Sunday service on Zoom for those that can access it and also 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.

Helen and Andrew



Thoughts from the Rectory

You're a real Saint!

Pack up the pumpkins, pack up and put away the scary masks, witch's outfits and cut the cackle. Hallowe'en is over. For the saints are marching in, and the **1st November is 'All Saints Day'**, a day when the church commemorates all the saints, well known and unknown throughout history. Dedicating a specific day in the year to remember certain saints has been a Christian tradition since the 4th Century AD. However, it was not until 837AD that the 1st November was allocated as a day to remember the saints, including those people who might otherwise go unnoticed. But what is a saint? Over the centuries the church has honoured people of outstanding moral character, Christian virtue and those who gave their lives and were martyred for the faith. You often see them in the stained-glass windows of churches and cathedrals, but not all the saints are commemorated in stained glass. For in our general conversations that we have with each other we often describe ordinary people as 'saints'. For instance, a

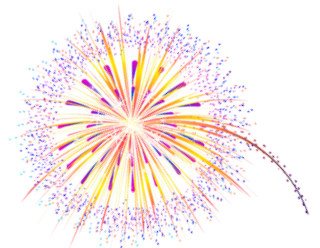
person may do us a good turn and we might say to them, 'You're a saint'.



'All saints day' offers us a good opportunity to remember those people who have had, or still have, a saintly influence upon us. Maybe we know someone who always seems able to speak wise words; perhaps there's a person who helps us keep a perspective on our problems. Or maybe we see a quality in somebody that makes us say, 'I want to be like them'. The idea that anybody can be a saint is found in the Bible, where Paul, a Christian writer, wrote letters to the early church and referred to them as 'saints (Philippians 4:21 NIV). These were people who, having recognised their lack of saintly behaviour, asked God into their lives, and God placed His power within them and they became new people.

With God in our lives, we become that new person who will be numbered among the saints when they go marching in.

Keep well, keep safe. *Ian.*



HARVEST SUPPER – WHAT A TREAT!

Our Parish Church's Harvest Supper in the CCC (Oct 9th) was a great success and much enjoyed by all the 42 people that attended. A HUGE thank you to Helen Chappell, Karen Beers, Sheila Day and their team. The homemade food was **The Best**. It was a lovely occasion, finishing with a great performance by entertainer and musician Simon Rodgers. Thanks to all who supported the event. £375 was raised for our Church funds.



Photo: Anne Williams

An organic city garden set up in 2019 has donated more than 10 tonnes of freshly-grown produce to community food hubs during the pandemic.

CoFarm Cambridge was created to "rethink" climate change, biodiversity loss and health inequalities. It has attracted more than 300 volunteers who farm the seven acre (three hectare) former field in the north of the city. Their mantra? 'Be part of something bigger'.

"If you had told me at the start of the year I'd be doing what I'm doing at the moment, I'd have laughed at you," said James Dore. The 32-year-old moved to Cambridge to begin a clinical psychology degree in 2019, while working in a nightclub to fund his studies. When the pandemic struck he was furloughed twice and spotted some "great fresh veg" grown by the co-farm - short for community farm - as he picked up supplies at a food bank. "My degree had gone online so I stopped that. My flat didn't have a garden and I needed to get strength back in my body after being badly beaten two years earlier - so in February I began volunteering at the farm," he said. Mr Dore has been astonished at what he has learned since, including "the taxonomy of the botanical names of the flowers, horticulture, permaculture, looking after the soil and composting". "Pivotal" to his experience are the farm's horticulturalists, Peter Wrapson and Dominic Walsh. He credits their teaching with helping him develop a new career as a freelance gardener.

Read the full story here: <https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-england-cambridgeshire-58116115>



In our November 2021 issue of The Heron, there are articles which are connected with the Climate Change theme. However, for actual policies we suggest you look in the national press. There will be plenty to find!

COP26 explained:

The word 'COP' stands for 'Conference of the Parties'. In the climate change sphere, 'the Parties' are the governments which have signed the UN Framework Convention of Climate Change (**UNFCCC**). The COP brings these signatory governments together once a year to discuss how to jointly address climate change. The conferences are attended by world leaders, ministers, and negotiators but also by representatives from civil society, business, international organizations, and the media. The COP is hosted by a different country each year and the first such meeting – '**COP1**' – took place in Berlin, Germany in 1995.

COP26 is the 26th climate change COP and is hosted

by the UK in partnership with Italy. COP26 was originally scheduled to take place in November 2020 in Glasgow in the UK but was postponed by one year due to the COVID-19 pandemic. It is now due to take place 31 October-12 November 2021.

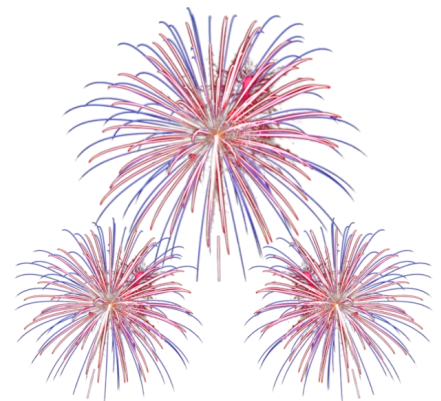
What is the Paris Agreement?

The Paris Agreement is an international treaty signed by almost all countries in the world at **COP21 in Paris in 2015**. Its aims are to keep the rise in the global average temperature to 'well below' 2 degrees above pre-industrial levels, ideally 1.5 degrees; strengthen the ability to adapt to climate change and build resilience; and align all finance flows with 'a pathway towards low greenhouse gas emissions and climate-resilient development'. The Paris Agreement has a 'bottom-up' approach where countries themselves decide by how much they will reduce their emissions by a certain year. They communicate these targets to the **UNFCCC** in the form of 'nationally determined contributions', or '**NDCs**'.

Here's how we can all help prevent sewer blockages!

love every drop
anglianwater

A message from Marco. "My job is protecting the environment by keeping the sewers in tip top condition. Today we removed over 100 blockages, helping reduce pollution and avoid flooding. But we need your help to save our sewers too – 80% of blockages are avoidable. They are caused by unflushable things like wipes, sanitary items and nappies, and when they meet fats, oils and grease they stick together to cause "fatbergs" which block pipes. You can help by flushing only pee, poo and paper, and stop to think about what goes down the sink too".

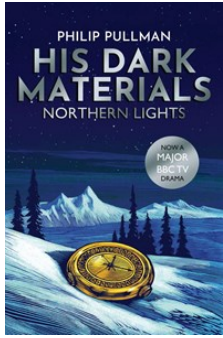


Christchurch Book Club



Book club met on 19th October. We had been reading "Wuthering Heights by Emily Bronte.

As we embarked on this book, many of us felt that this would be a challenge - we were not wrong! One member recalled trying unsuccessfully to read it in the past but had found hearing it on "audible" much easier. Most members did not finish the book and those that did found it "hard going".



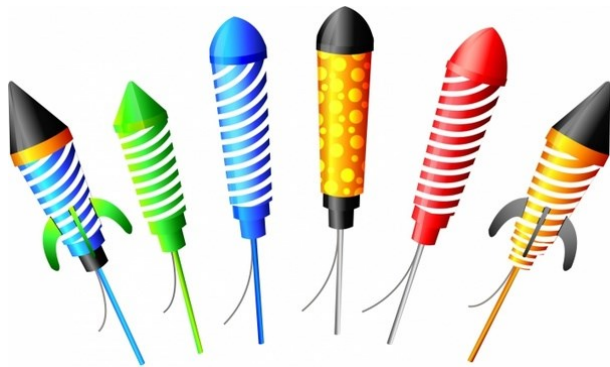
In the words of Monty Python...."and now for something completely different". Our next book is "Northern Lights: His Dark Materials" by Philip Pullman.

Our next meeting is on Tuesday 23rd November 7.30pm at Sue Norman's house, 5, Fen View.

New members are always welcome.

We now have an increased number of copies of our books - so we may have spares. Do contact Sheila Day if you would like to borrow one.

If you would like more information, please contact Sheila Day on 07946635908.



A POINT OF VIEW

What do you think of this?

Universal Soldier

Donovan 1965

He is five feet two, and he's six feet four
He fights with missiles and with spears
He is all of thirty-one, and he's only seventeen
He's been a soldier for a thousand years

He's a Catholic, a Hindu, an Atheist, a Jain
A Buddhist and a Baptist and a Jew
And he knows, he shouldn't kill
And he knows he always will
Killing you for me my friend, and me for you

And he's fighting for Canada, he's fighting for France
He's fighting for the U.S.A.
And he's fighting for the Russians
And he's fighting for Japan
And he thinks we put an end to war this way

And he's fighting for democracy
He's fighting for the Reds
He says it's for the peace of all
He's the one who must decide
Who's to live and who's to die
And he never sees the writing on the wall.

But without him, how would Hitler have condemned them at La Val?
Without him Caesar would have stood alone
He's the one who gives his body as a weapon of the war
And without him all this killing can't go on

He's the universal soldier and he really is to blame
His orders come from far away, no more
They come from here and there, and you and me
And brothers, can't you see?
This is not the way we put the end to war

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=wHWfVfWhBc>

REMEMBRANCE DAY began to remember casualties and the terrible things that happened in WWI. But there have been many conflicts that our country has been involved in since then, notably WWII. This year – 2021 – we especially remember the conflict in Afghanistan, as our troops were withdrawn from there very recently.



Afghanistan war: Services mark 20th anniversary of UK operations.

Commemorations were held in early October to mark the 20th anniversary of the start of UK military operations in Afghanistan. Wreaths were laid in the UK at exactly 11:00 in Afghan time in remembrance of 457 British personnel killed there. UK troops left Afghanistan at the end of August, bringing an end to the 20-year war. "The hurt never goes away," said Claire Hill, whose only son James was killed in 2009. "We have to believe he did make a difference."



The war in Afghanistan began on 7 October 2001, with American-led coalition airstrikes against airports and terrorist training camps in response to the 11 September terror attacks in the US.

Two small wreath-laying ceremonies took place in the UK at 07:30 BST - which was 11:00 in Afghanistan, the traditional time for military remembrance. The Ministry of Defence said the ceremonies were planned to honour "the courage and commitment of its people" during the two decades of conflict.

Useful Telephone Numbers

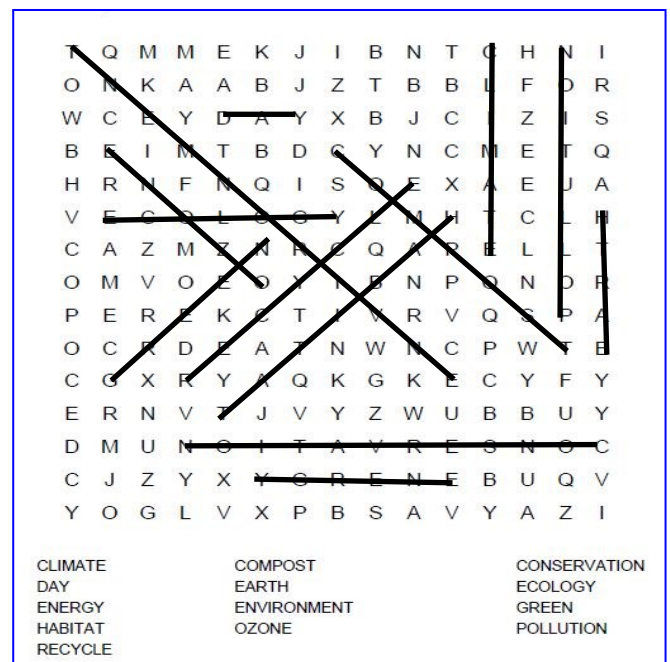
Age UK Cambridgeshire	0300 666 9860
Alzheimer's Society (Fenland)	01945 580480
Churchwarden - Mr Andy Day	07740 056563
Citizens' Advice Bureau, Wisbech	03442 451292
Community Car Scheme (to book a journey)	07902 316360
Community Centre Bookings (Bryan Burfield)	07918 664402
Community Fire Safety Officer	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
Pilates/Exercise Class - Kathleen	07880 543821
Police - PCSO Sue Clarke	07738 025220
Police - Emergency	999
Police - Non Emergency	101
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
Vicars - Ian & Lynda Brady	01354 740627
Water Emergencies	03457 145145
Club Contacts	
Art Club - Jan Clifford	01354 638217
Book Club - Sheila Day	07946 635908
Craft Club - Sandra Lloyd	01354 638956
Gardening Club - Marion Hawthorn	01354 638230
Short Mat Bowls Club - Janet Harper	01354 638681
WI - Sheila Day	07946 635908
Jazz Club - Nigel Smith	01945 773121
Christchurch Eco - Nate Lansdell	07568 192940
Christchurch Stargazers - Mark Andrews	07425 165415

Answers from Page 14.

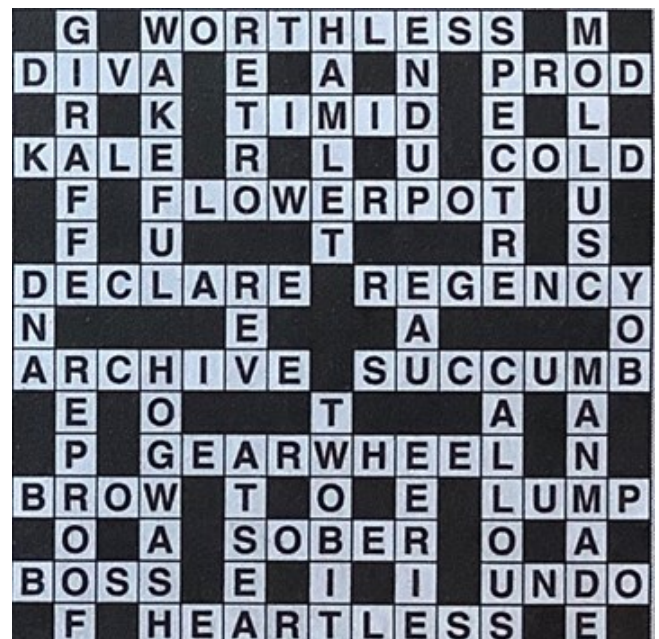
Harry Potter - answers

1. Potions
2. Holyhead Harpies
3. Rowena
4. A monster
5. Wingardium Leviosa
6. Francis

Answers from Kids Corner on Page 9.



Answer from Page 7.





Do we have any Scots in our village? Glasgow is in the news this month, but here is something that is happening in the Highlands of Scotland. See what you think of it.

REWILDING PROJECT FOR 500,000 ACRES OF HIGHLANDS

A major new project aims to rewild an area of more than 500,000 acres (202,343ha) in the Highlands.

Over a period of 30 years, mountains, hills, glens and forests would be left to natural processes. The area could stretch from Loch Ness, across the central Highlands to Kintail on the north west Highlands coast. Moray-based charity Trees for Life is working with Rewilding Europe, along with 20 landowners and six organisations on the project. The charity said the initiative followed three years of consultation and its work was continuing towards bring more landowners and communities on board. It also said it would work with local people and businesses to create "a more resilient area" in the future. The plan is to link up a network of landholdings to create "one vast nature recovery area", which would include glens Cannich, Affric, Moriston and Shiel.



A YEAR ON THE FARM - NOVEMBER

Autumn has arrived with mild temperatures and a little showery rain with some chilly nights and early mornings. At the time of writing this, corn drilling is well under way, with some winter barley and wheat already through the ground and forming a nice green carpet. This is due to the warm weather we have been experiencing recently. As a result, there seems to be a large influx of aphids this year, which carries the virus BYDV (Barley Yellow Dwarf Virus). This, if left with no spray treatment, can reduce the crop yield by 50-60%. The Onion harvest has been and gone, yielding a good crop in general. The Potato harvest is now in full swing, mostly put into long term storage and, generally speaking, good crops are being lifted. However, not quite so good on the lighter sandy soils. Worldwide, potato yields/stocks will be lower, down to the weather. Prices are expected to be more expensive throughout the season. "The fields of orange" (Pumpkins) are being harvested, millions of which are grown locally, and are destined for Halloween and Guy Fawkes



celebrations, while some are destined for processing. Large pumpkins sold locally are £1, however, in a local supermarket, I saw the asking price was £3, and believe it or not, delivered from Ireland!!

The Sugar Beet harvest has begun, and is being delivered to our local factory at Wissington, where a

large plume of white steam can be seen to the east of the village, in the distance and on a clear day. Delivery from farms this year is expected to go through to at least February, as weather conditions allow. Yields appear to be average with sugar content around 17% at present. Overall tonnage delivered to the 4 existing sugar beet factories, will be below 1 million tonnes for the first time, due to the 10% reduction in the acreage grown, which in turn is due to the low price paid by British Sugar to us as farmers, and makes growing the crop not worth the bother at all for those producers from poorer and less productive land.

Farm costs have gone through the roof --fertiliser prices are now up to £700:00 per ton, which is 300% increase on last year. This is due to a world shortage of gas which is mainly obtained from Russia. Tractor diesel is also up in price by 30%+, which is costing us some £200:00 per day **extra** for potato harvesting this year, and likewise for all other harvesting, cultivating, ploughing, and drilling etc. Diesel has to be ordered well in advance (3 weeks or so in some cases, depending on the supplier); ie, at least before expected need to use. Farm chemicals are unavailable as there is very little or no stock in the country, next year's prices are well up in the air, as is availability. Machinery spares are also very expensive, tractor tyres prices - £2,000-£3,000 each; trailer tyres £750 each.

Jeremy Clarkson only made £144:00 profit from a 1,000-acre farm last year. It will be very interesting to see what losses he makes this year??!

Jill Bliss

The Heron, Christchurch 2022 Calendar

'Nature and Nurture in our corner of the Fens'



GOLD AWARD



SILVER AWARD



BRONZE AWARD

You will be delighted with the new robust wire bound Heron 2022 calendar. It will make a great gift for Christmas. Calendars are now on sale for £6 each or 3 for £15. These can be reserved by calling Elaine on 01354 638310 (please leave a message if no reply) or by email at adverts@theheron.info. Payments are accepted by cash, cheque or BACS.

The excellent variety of photos submitted this year have given calendar pages new interest. My role as judge was far from easy; images were all very good. However, it is a huge "Well done" to Sam! Your outstanding dragonfly photo won Gold this year. You managed to get him to pose for you so well. Did you stun him or hypnotise him? Joanne, you captured your butterfly beautifully. Your shot shouted out for our Silver award. I smile every time I look at Sophie's sheep. Absolutely magic. Well deserving our Bronze award.

The age of the smart phone has really enriched our lives. The quality of the images taken just gets better and better. Local amateur photographers are also getting better. It's an art—and you're all artists. Thank you to all who entered this years competition.

Rex Ockenden
Granary Studio, Christchurch

Any views expressed in The Heron do not necessarily reflect the views of The Heron Editorial Team. The team aim to provide a balanced view of village opinions where such views are expressed. We reserve the right to edit any submissions where we feel this is appropriate.



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