



The Heron

Community Magazine

January 2022

Delivered to homes in Christchurch, Euximoor and Tipps End

No.93

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TOWNLEY SCHOOL AND PRE-SCHOOL

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 office@townley.cambs.sch.uk
 Website: www.townley.cambs.sch.uk
 01354 638229



Facebook—Townley School
 and Pre-School

Remember that our website has
 lots more information about
 school.

December 2021

Wishing you all a safe and happy 2022, thank you all for your tremendous support during the past year. I feel so proud to be part of this community and am grateful for all you do to support our children. If you think you can support us, always get in touch, from the donated pine cones to the volunteer readers – it keeps our school being the best it can be. If you have a skill or talent you could teach our children we are always looking for people to run after school clubs, even if it is just for six weeks.

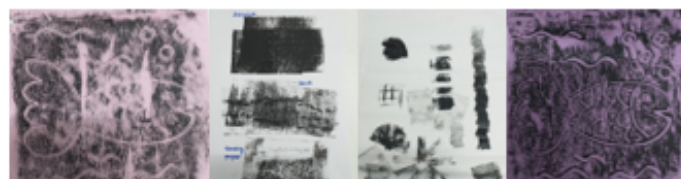


Outdoor learning is a vital part of the **Early Years Curriculum**, we wanted to share with you some examples of outdoor activities that the children in Early years get up to. Even on chilly, wintry days they love being in our outdoor area exploring, playing and learning. Some of the learning they enjoy outside: Making an obstacle course – many thanks to Michael Pearson for the donation of crates, they are very well used! The children design the course themselves, discussing what should go where and working as a team to make the course using crates and planks. One child found travelling over the upturned log difficult so his friend helped him across. Later he became more confident and was very proud to tell me he could now do it by himself. So many skills are involved in the activity- designing, working together, communicating thoughts and ideas, gross motor skills like balancing and jumping and turn taking. The children have access to a rope swing in our garden and this was very carefully thought about. The rope is the correct width for the children's hands and at the correct height. Rules are in place which the children can articulate. Swinging builds upper arm strength which in turn helps develop fine motor control. Of course, turn taking is very important too!

In Emperor Class (Year 5 and 6) for DT, we have made our automata Christmas toys. We focussed on mechanisms (including specific cams) and the materials we would like to use. In Guided reading sessions have been based around Charles Dickens's *Oliver Twist* and a biography about Dickens. We compared sentence-lengths and discussed the impact of differing sentence lengths, converted archaic language to modern versions and found out that a footnote is an additional piece of information printed at the bottom of a page (usually marked using an asterisk '*')

We are pleased to announce that we have organized another clothes & shoe collection with **Bag2School**. As well as raising vitally needed funds for us, it also helps the environment by helping to divert unwanted textiles away from landfill. By getting involved, you have an opportunity to sort through your cupboards and wardrobes and donate unwanted textiles – this can include adults' and children's clothes, shoes (tied together please), hats, belts, handbags and soft toys, scarves and ties, jewellery, lingerie, socks. Also - Household linen, curtains, towels, bedding (bed sheets, pillow cases and duvet covers). You can fill any bag to donate your items, bring your bag (or bags!) before 9am on 26th January. Call if you need us to collect from you!

In Emerald Class (Years 3 and 4), In Art, we have started a unit on 'printmaking'. The children have used water-based ink and rollers to do some mark making and see what can be done with a roller. They have used textured objects from the classroom (ruler, scissors) and other objects (hessian, tree bark) to take rubbings. After this, the children have designed and created their own monoprints using ink on a tile and scratching it off the tile with the tip of a paintbrush. We also looked at the work of the printmaker Neil Bousfield, who is a contemporary artist. His work explores landscape and the changes that take place over time. Many of his prints and engravings show the geographical changes of the North Norfolk coastline and the Broads National Park. They provide a visual record of the vulnerability of these places.



In Hawker Class (Years 1 and 2)



Children have been working really hard and growing their brains! They have been learning all about verbs, nouns and adjectives so that they can write interesting sentences in English. Year 2 children have also learned about adverbs and using these to add more detail to their writing. Year 1 children have been learning their phonics letters and sounds, whilst year 2 have learned some of the different spelling rules. Our maths focus has been on tens and ones, place value and numbers to 20. Year 2s have explored money. We have also had additional daily "number sense" lessons to enhance pupils' maths understanding in both year groups. In music children have been taught about pitch. In art they have been working on painting in the style of Piet Mondrian. In R.E. children have investigated the question "why are birthdays important?" with a focus on a special December birthday.

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](https://cambridgeshire-self.achieveservice.com/service/Select_and_Collect)

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

Fenland Rapid Testing Sites

Free onsite lateral flow test for adults with no symptoms or collect test kits to do at home.

Please arrive 45 minutes before closing time.



**Former Frankie & Bennys
Cromwell Leisure Park
Wisbech PE14 0SN**

**Monday to Friday 8am - 7pm
Saturday 9am - 5pm**



**GER Sports & Social Club,
Robingoodfellows Lane,
March PE15 8HS**

**Tuesday and Thursday
9am to 5pm**



**Childers Sports & Social Club
Station Road, Whittlesey, PE7 1SA**

**Monday and Wednesday
9am - 5pm**

**Do the right thing,
play your part:**



**Rapid
test**



**Get both
vaccines**



**Remain
cautious**

www.cambridgeshire.gov.uk/rapidtesting



CHRISTMAS TREE FESTIVAL

Well done to all who took part. We hope it has brought a nice warm glow into people's hearts this Christmas.

DATE FOR DISMANTLING THE EXHIBITS:

Thursday 6th January the church will be open from midday until 4pm to dismantle Christmas trees.

Coffee, cake and chat as usual on that day, from 2pm until 3pm. Come along for that too!

Contact Helen 07702225259 to arrange a different time if necessary.



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 February edition of the Heron is **25th January**.

Diary Dates

DATE	EVENT	TIME	PLACE	PAGE
Jan 2 nd	Holy Communion	10.30am	Church	23
Jan 4 th	Mobile Library	12 noon	Lay-by	3
Jan 4 th	Christchurch Crafters		Dun Cow	15
Jan 6 th	Christmas Tree Festival Ends	12 – 4pm	Church	3
Jan 9 th	Welle Cinema—Little Women	1.30pm	3 Holes VH	22
Jan 10 th	PC Meeting	7.30pm	CCC	8
Jan 11 th	Art Group	1.30-3.30pm	CCC	17
Jan 11 th	WI	7pm	CCC	18
Jan 12 th	Lunch Break	12 – 2pm	CCC	18
Jan 14 th	FDC Boundary Changes Deadline		On line/phone	
Jan 16 th	Morning Prayer	10.30am	Church	23
Jan 18 th	Book Club	7.30pm	Old Police House	17
Jan 25 th	Art Group	1.30-3.30pm	CCC	17
Jan 26 th	Bags2school deadline	Before 9am	School	2
Jan 26 th	Lunch Break	12 – 2pm	CCC	18
Jan 28 th	FDC 'Have your say' ends for cycling, walking		On line	25
Jan 30 th	H C – Benifice Service	10.30am	Church	23
Every Mon	Short Mat Bowls	7-9pm	CCC	26
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	
M,T,W,TH	Mobile Post Office	Various	Lay-by (Fen View)	3
ALSO CHECK OUT THE DUN COW EVENTS ON 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.

Editorial

Welcome to our first Heron of 2022. All good wishes for 2022 from The Heron Team. Thank you for all your support in 2021.

Can you believe it? Suddenly we are in 2022 and 2021 seems far away already; and, by the way, where did 2020 go? Just when we thought things were improving, Omicron raised its ugly head. You will notice that things are beginning to get going in our village, but please be aware that everything is "Covid Rules Permitted", so things may change. Stay safe.

Every January, we have a chance to take account of ourselves and our life in the previous year, and maybe make some decisions about how to go forward in the New Year. I wonder whether you have made some NY Resolutions? Have a look at Kathleen's advice on page 21. I resolve to get my Christmas stuff planned and begun in November this year! Too much stress in December, otherwise!

Annie Nason



WHAT'S YOUR NEW YEAR'S RESOLUTION?

Lucy is on a mission...



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!

Heron News

Another successful Calendar Fundraiser for the Heron. We've managed to sell out—all bar a few copies. Have you bought one yet?

PRICE CUT! £5 each and 3 for £12. We still have a few left if you would like to grab one.

Contact Elaine on adverts@theheron.info or call 01354 638310.



An old favourite for many, but a lovely surprise for newcomers!

ANGLESEY ABBEY, GARDENS AND LODGE MILL

Snowdrop season

30 January - 28 February - Daily - Normal admission applies.

The snowdrop collection here at Anglesey Abbey hosts over 270 individual varieties of snowdrop, with some found right here in our gardens and as such, are named after people and places with links to Anglesey Abbey. Also known as Candlemas Bells. Candlemas, the Christian feast of purification, falls on 2 Feb each year. Snowdrops are common in the grounds of old religious communities, and it's possible that Anglesey Abbey's snowdrops go back to the time when it was a priory. The first snowdrops to appear are usually found beneath the splendour of the Winter Garden. Generally visible from mid-December, this is a favourite pathway to spot the delicate white flowers whilst also enjoying the sensory planting surrounding them.

This route is currently one-way to allow for social distancing, please follow the directional signage. Along with daffodils and hellebores, the Woodland Path and Hoe Fen access path provide a natural setting for small clumps of some of our more common snowdrops. If you're heading through either of these paths, keep an eye out for them on the paths as they can often spread with each passing year.

<https://www.nationaltrust.org.uk/anglesey-abbey-gardens-and-lodge-mill>

NEW BEGININGS

"The old year is tired; he is limping away,
His shoulders are fallen; his tresses are grey,
He goes to his rest, he is weary and worn,
And a beautiful, bonny-faced New Year is born".

Pam Ayers



"The first step towards getting somewhere is to decide you're not going to stay where you are."
- *J.P. Morgan*

"New year—a new chapter, new verse, or just the same old story? Ultimately, we write it. The choice is ours." - *Alex Morritt*

"I like the dreams of the future better than the history of the past." - *Thomas Jefferson*

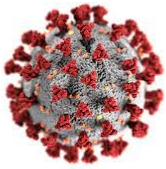
"Your present circumstances don't determine where you can go. They merely determine where you start." - *Nido Qubein*

African Proverbs

"If you want to know the end, look at the beginning."

"Tomorrow belongs to people who prepare for it today."

COVID. Why do Boosters work, if two doses struggle?



Two doses of some vaccines offer almost no protection from an Omicron infection, although they should still greatly reduce the risk of becoming so ill you need hospital care. The vaccines were all developed to fight the first form of the virus that emerged two years ago.

So - can a third or "booster" dose of those original vaccines make the difference, or has Omicron already outwitted the protection they can give? Fortunately for us - while the contents of the syringe may be identical, a booster is not just more of the same for the immune system. The protection you're left with after the third dose is bigger, broader and more memorable than you had before.

Fighting coronavirus is something your immune system has to learn.

One option is to figure it out on the job when you encounter the virus for real. However, there is a risk of getting it wrong and ending up seriously ill. Vaccines are more like a school - a safer environment to further your immune system's Covid education. The first dose is the primary school education that nails the fundamentals. Your second and third doses are comparable to sending your immune system to secondary school and then university to dramatically deepen its understanding. It's not just repeating primary school over and over. "The immune system is left with a richer knowledge and understanding of the virus," said Prof Jonathan Ball, a virologist from the University of Nottingham. He said for all the talk of the dastardly tricks of Omicron, a highly-trained immune system is "an incredibly difficult and hostile environment" for the virus and its variants.

James Gallagher - Health and Science correspondent. BBC.

Read the full article here: <https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/health-59639973>

WHO KNOWS WHO?

Tipps End – a bit different to London? Having lived and worked in London for 40 odd years, I knew my way round and knew a lot of people. Moving here we knew no one, but we've been here now for over three years and it feels as if we've lived here forever.

In our early days, I spoke to someone in the pub and she pointed out someone else from my homeland of Lancashire. When I went to speak to her, I discovered that her mum worked in the college where I did my teacher training many years ago.

A few weeks later, this same lady knocked at the door and asked to borrow our barn to shelter her sheep as the Environment Agency had taken back some of their grazing land. The ewes weren't thriving and were due to lamb. The shepherd was concerned that they'd start to lose the sheep and while chatting it materialized that he was an Essex boy, and had moved from the street next to my school when I worked in Romford. Small World!

The sheep rolled in and soon the beautiful little black lambs appeared. It was a good opportunity to meet the neighbours whose children quickly came to visit. My husband found out that not only was one of the neighbours born in Rhodesia/Zimbabwe as he was, but that both of their Mums actually worked in the same hospital!

And the coincidences don't end there...chatting with Christchurch people on Facebook one popped up on one of my friend's pages – they had both worked for the same company! Another wrote that she was born in Bolton, in the same hospital as myself and the hospital is called 'Townleys', same as our local school!

Moral of my story – be nice to everyone, you never know who they might know but when everyone is so friendly, you might soon find out!

Sue Rudge



Christmas cards, letters, and documents with postage stamps on may come though your letterbox. Save used stamps for Royal National Institute of Blind People (RNIB)



Collect used stamps for RNIB and make a difference to blind and partially sighted people. They will recycle them ... into much-needed funds for RNIB services. Be a stamp collector for a good cause. UK and other countries' stamps - all used - old and not so old; in ones, or in groups. **Leave a good bit of the envelope round the stamp when cutting it out please.** The RNIB will soak them and sort them, but they throw away any which are cut too fine round the edges.

Collect a bunch and then put them through the door of Grasshopper Cottage, 5 Upwell Road, Christchurch. They will be collected and sent off to the RNIB at the end of January. And thanks in advance.

Annie Nason

Wimpole Hall in the New Year

A time to see the changing seasons from January onward with sharp winter frosts and the first glimpse in the gardens of snowdrops and aconites.

Experience getting outdoors on winter walks and for the more energetic join in with our beginners running sessions or parkrun followed by a warming cup of hot chocolate. With the restaurant and shops also open daily there's the opportunity to stroll around the gardens and do a little bit of shopping too. **Home Farm:** The Farm is open on Fridays, Saturdays, Sundays and Mondays from 10.30am-3.30pm. On Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Thursdays discover more on a **Farm Tour** with one of our farm team (bookable in the ticket office on the day). **Explore below stairs in the Hall** for a peek behind the scenes. They say

every picture tells a story; come and find out more about our pictures on our **Picture Tour** on Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Thursdays at 11.30am and 1.30pm (bookable in the ticket office on the day). Join us on a guided tour of the servant areas below stairs, including areas not on the normal visitor route on our **Weekday Basement Tours** on Monday and Friday 11.30am and 1.30pm and **Weekend Basement Tours** on Saturday and Sunday at 11.30am, 1pm and 2pm (bookable in the ticket office on the day).

Walk this way - With a long, guided walk on **Wednesdays** at 11am get your wellies on and discover new views and vistas across the Estate with our enthusiastic Walks Guides.

Meet outside the Stable Block on the day.

Parish Council Snippets

Lots to report this time! The proceedings opened with the Chair wishing everyone a Happy Christmas and a Prosperous New Year.

Public Time:

ROADS. There was much concern expressed over the terrible accident at the junction of The Sixteen Foot and Upwell Road, known as Jackson's Corner, and a number of suggestions were put forward as to what might be done to avoid this happening again. A mirror, signage on the road before the corner, removal of the building blocking sight of traffic coming from Upwell. Stoney Bridge was also discussed, and although this isn't within our Parish Boundary, many people here use that route. Mr Nigel Russell put forward a plea for the Euximoor Drove road to be repaired as it really is in a bad condition. He also mentioned that there are some deep potholes along the Sixteen Foot in that direction which are hazardous and need repairing asap. The Clerk is to write to Highways and put forward the suggestions and requests.



Police matters: a) Mr Russell made a complaint about how the Police had handled a call about the sighting of two vehicles trespassing with apparent intent to steal items. He said that the way the Police had treated the complaint was not at all helpful. b) There is a new Police Commissioner in place who is willing to attend a PC meeting, and hear complaints and take questions. The PC would like that to happen. c) The Police had their NEW TOY appeal again in 2021, for families in need. d) Neighbourhood Watch National Website is focussing on prevention of burglary.

Talking of neighbours - the PC would like to hear from anyone who would be interested being involved with a

loose kind of scheme, keeping an eye on our more vulnerable neighbours. It was considered that green/red signs in windows to say they are ok/not ok are not wholly practical as, if someone has had a fall or something, they might not be able to change the colour from green to red.

The PC are concerned about the FDC Boundary changes for elections. Up until now, Christchurch Ward has been linked with Elm. However, the new proposed changes take Christchurch out of that pairing and into a group with Doddington, Wimblington and Benwick. The official reason given is to make each PC ward of a similar size re population. Some sceptical comments from our Councillors, as it does look as if Independent FD Councillors could be pushed out completely. Deadline for Public Consultation is January 14th.

Here's some great news for the village! The PC owns a field (adjacent to the playing field) which is let out to a farmer at present. When the tenancy is up for renewal, the PC will not renew it, but will instead make it an area for villagers to enjoy. Words used in the deliberations: "Rewilding", "Plant trees", "Orchard", "Pond area", "Paths accessible for wheelchair users, for push chairs", "Benches and Tables", "wild flowers" "dog walking", and others. Plans are at a very early stage. The field is not available yet. Watch this space!

Thanks to our Parish and FD Councillors for their work over the past year. All the best for 2022.



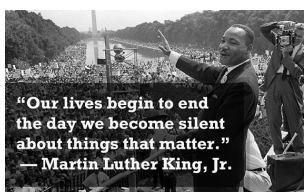
Next meetings January 10th, 7.30pm in the CCC. All welcome to attend.

Annie Nason

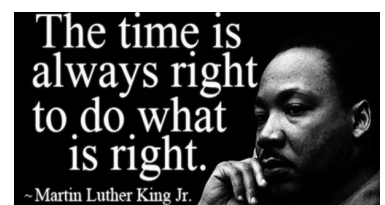
Martin Luther King Day Monday, January 17th.

Martin Luther King Day also called MLK Day, King Day, and Reverend Dr. Martin Luther King Day. It is observed on the third Monday of January, which is close to King's actual birthday on January 15. The earliest Monday the holiday will ever be celebrated is January 15th and the latest is January 21st. The day is a federal United States holiday with all government and most business offices closed.

Martin Luther King, Jr was a Baptist minister and social activist that had a huge impact on the civil rights movement of the 1950's in the United States. King was assassinated in 1968 and will be remembered for his non-violent protests against segregation and his "I have a Dream" speech.



In 1983, President Ronald Reagan signed MLK Day into law and 3 years later it was first observed. By the year 2000, all fifty states officially observed the day. Another related holiday back in 1948, National Freedom Day was signed into law by President Truman as a national observance recognizing the outlaw of slavery enacted earlier during 1865 under President Lincoln during the civil war years.



Kids Corner

THE FESTIVAL OF THE THREE KINGS

In Spanish and Portuguese-speaking countries, January 6th is a holiday, and the 5th is when this festival takes place. Children put their shoes out by the door the evening of the 5th for the Three Kings to put presents in them. There are parades and parties and families all get together for a special meal on January 5th. If the children have been good, they find presents in their shoes the next morning. If they haven't been good? Ah... Well – they just get some bits of coal from the Wise Men's fire. But I have never heard of anyone finding coal in their shoes – have you?



The Wise Men gave 3 gifts to the baby Jesus.; Gold, Frankincense and Myrrh. It is believed that these were important symbols of what would happen to Jesus in his lifetime. Jesus claimed to be a King, but not of a kingdom, with an army, but King of people's hearts, and the King of love. Christians also often refer to Jesus as their 'priest', a religious teacher and helper. The story in the Bible says that Jesus died. *Fit the Wise Men's symbolic gifts to those 3 things about Jesus.*

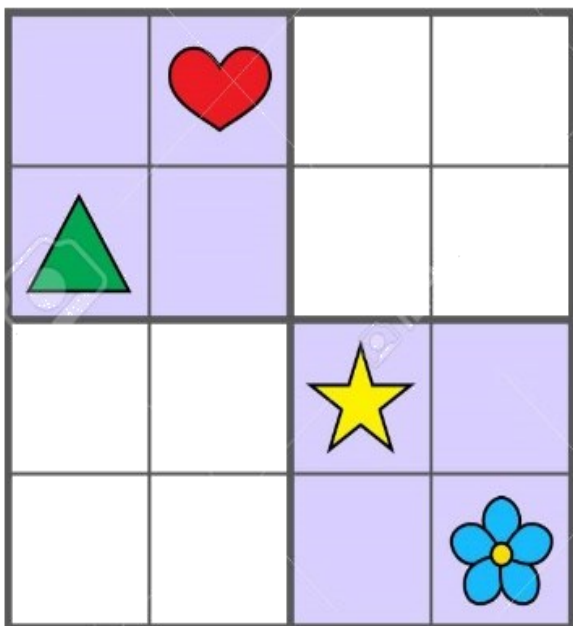
Did you know???

Gold Throughout history gold has often been seen as a symbol of wealth, and kings and rulers had a great deal of it. It is a metal, and is found in the ground. People go underground into Gold Mines to dig it up.

Frankincense and Myrrh These come from the sap of certain trees, which is collected when it is runny, and then allowed to harden. These precious items are prized for their fragrance. Frankincense is a milky white colour and comes from certain parts of Africa and India. Frankincense was used in religious ceremonies in places of worship. Myrrh is reddish colour and comes from countries in the Middle East and North Africa. This was a spice that people used when people had died.



Happy New Year!



SUDOKU: Each line up or across must have only one of each of the 4 pictures in it. Can you solve it?

Unscramble these new year's resolutions:

"This year I will....."

- a) ytid ym moro
- b) eb ikdn ot namaisl
- c) eb pleuhl ta colosh
- d) eevnr prod titrel

**I am a three digit number.
My tens digit is five more
than my ones digit.
My hundreds digit is eight
less than my tens digit.**

What number am I?

**How can a pocket
have something
in it if there
is nothing in it?**

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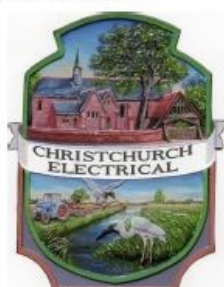
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New plan to pay farmers who protect winter soil

The empty brown fields of England's winter countryside could be transformed under government plans for farming. Cold naked acres will in future be clothed in vegetation as farmers are paid for sowing plants that bind the soil together. The aim is to hold precious topsoil on the land, instead of seeing it washed into rivers during heavy rainfall. But critics say it is not ambitious enough to reverse the UK's nature crisis. The changes are being introduced as part of a broad post-Brexit reform of the subsidies paid to farmers. Under the EU's Common Agricultural Policy, farmers received

taxpayers' cash proportional to the amount of land they owned - the richer the farmer, the bigger the subsidy. Some £1.8bn in grants was dispensed annually under that EU scheme. But now the government is demanding what it calls "public money for public goods". That means payments will only be for protecting species, planting trees and hedges, cutting greenhouse gas emissions, and protecting water courses and the soil.

The UK nations all have their own farm support plans, but ministers expect the scheme in England - the **Sustainable Farming Incentive** - will entice 70% of farmers to smother 70% of land in wintertime with "cover crops" such as grasses, beans, brassicas and herbs. These crops won't be planted for harvesting; they are for improving the soil. It's part of a widespread realisation that soils globally have been neglected, even though they are the foundation for ecosystems and crop fertility.

GRANT PAYMENTS

Many British farmers are already protecting their soils through good practice. They will now be paid for the valuable work they are doing, whereas previously they weren't rewarded with grants.

The new scheme will be rolled out in phases to avoid a "Big Bang" in farming. In future, landholders will be incentivised for reducing the amount of fertiliser and pesticide they use. They'll be encouraged instead to use low-impact methods such as integrated pest management, which uses pheromones to disrupt pest mating cycles, or adopt mechanical control, such as trapping or weeding. Future phases in the scheme - which starts in the New Year - will offer bigger grants to land owners who designate large areas of their properties to protect wildlife or capture CO2 emissions through vegetation.

In the first phase, the government is offering £22 per hectare for farmers to test soil, produce a soil management plan and cover 70% of the ground in the winter. They will get £58 per hectare if they cover 95% of their soil, with 15% herbal planting to nourish the land.

'DESPERATELY UNAMBITIOUS'

Setting out his priorities for the scheme, Environment Secretary George Eustice is expected to say: "I accept that we need to be clear about the policy outcomes we seek.

"These are to halt the decline in species abundance by 2030; to reduce our greenhouse gas emissions; to plant up to 10,000 hectares of trees per year in England, to improve water quality; to create more space for nature in the farmed landscape; and to ensure that we have a vibrant and profitable food and farming industry." Mr Eustice will also announce that farmers will be able to access a free annual vet's health and welfare visit.

Tom Bradshaw, vice president of farmers' union the NFU, complained that much more detail is needed for farm businesses to make informed decisions. He said it's vital the scheme acknowledges the costs farmers could incur during the grant transition. He said: "We have concerns in this area, and it is vital that these are addressed in order to attract the participation [the government] envisages to deliver the environmental ambition of the scheme."

By Roger Harrabin - BBC environment analyst



HISTORY MATTERS

The History of "The Dole Distribution" which happens every year (not 2020) in Christchurch and Upwell. And a big thank you from all the recipients in 2021, to all those kind doners, centuries ago!

This is amazing! The Dole Distribution goes right back to the 1500s. Here is some of the early history; the full history can be viewed on <https://www.british-history.ac.uk/vch/cambs/vol4/pp206-219>

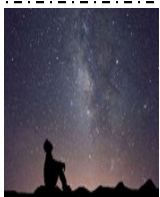
'In 1562 Thomas Lamb bequeathed two small estates: a messuage and 3 acres in Plaw Field, and another house, the rent of which was to be applied for the benefit of the poor of the Norfolk side.

In 1616 William Lynne bequeathed 9 acres in Elm for the benefit of the poor of Outwell. In 1835 the rent arising was £20. This was distributed on Christmas Eve in sums varying from 2s. to 13s. according to the size of the recipient's family. The intended recipients were designated beforehand at a public meeting. The rent of this charity had in 1864 decreased to £17 7s.

In 1626 John Foxe bequeathed 3 houses to charitable purposes. The rents of two of the houses were to go respectively to the poor of the two sides of the parish of Upwell, and the rent of the third to the repair of the church. As a result of drainage and enclosure in the fens, 15 acres in Neatmoor were allotted to the 'church' house. In 1628 a rent of 10s. derived from the Outwell Town Lands, then first mentioned, was being paid annually to the poor of each 'side' of the village, i.e. Norfolk and the Isle. Subsequently the Town Lands must have increased greatly in area, for in 1795-6 the rental was £68 10s. This was applied in roughly equal proportions to the following objects: to the clerk and the sexton for salaries; to the churchwardens, and the overseers of each side (£10 each) to be spent at their discretion; to the poor in bread; to the poor in a general dole'.

Other people added to this fund over the years, and details of these can be found on the link above, some events involving the enclosures of The Fens. It is a fascinating read. You can read about the Enclosures of The Fens here https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/The_Fens

The Chair of the Charity is Mr Chris Crofts. He says that the Charity owns quite a bit of land, and also a one third of a building, sharing it with another Charity, which is rented out: "The Old Fire Engine House" in Upwell, on St Peter's Road. It is not a listed building, but is in a Conservation Area. The monies received from the rent of land and this building go to make up the total which is distributed by the Charity each year.



Christchurch Stargazers

Hello Christchurch Stargazers! Hope you had a great Christmas and New Year.

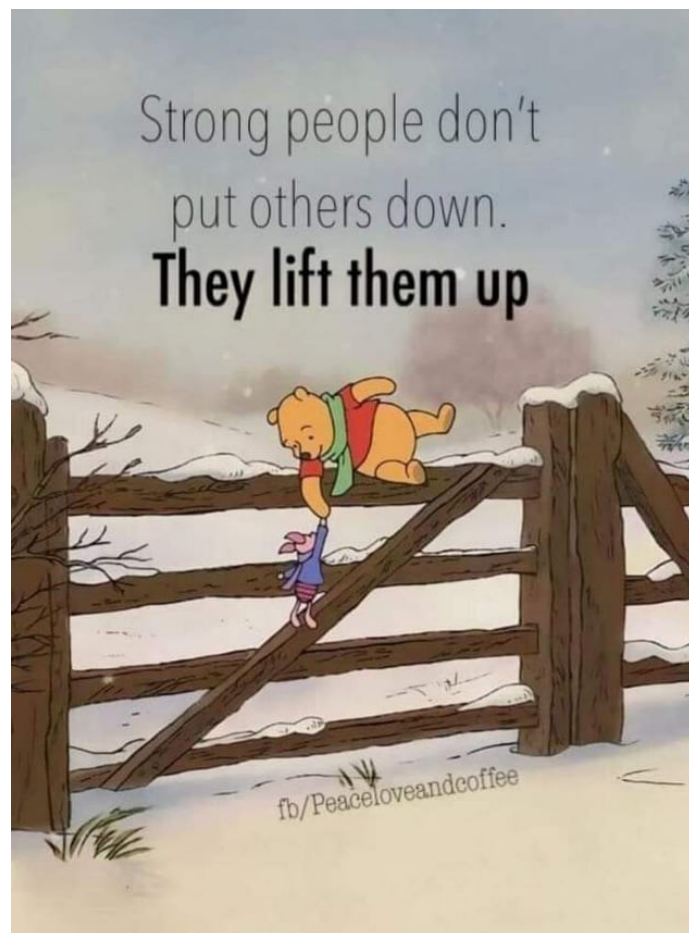
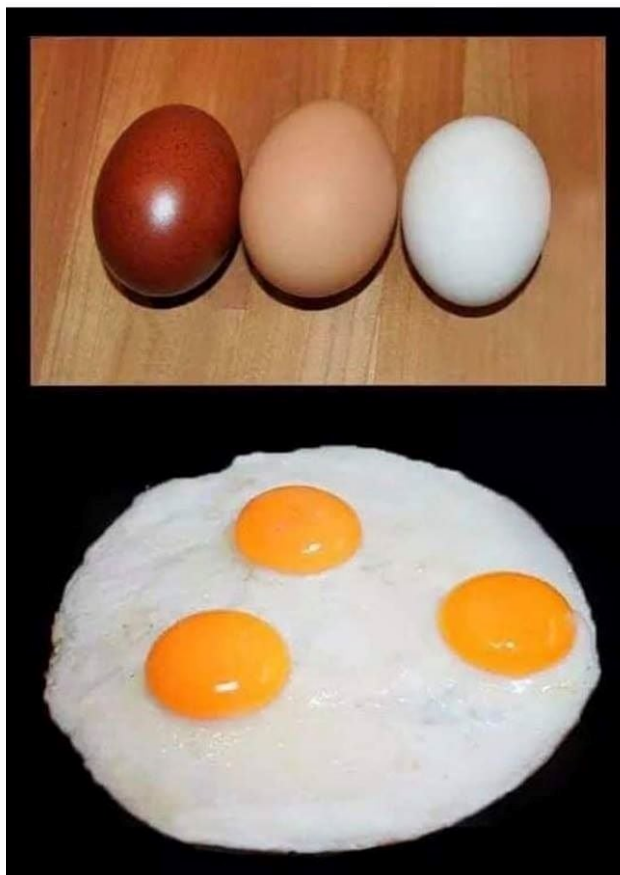
So - something different for January. I am going to speak about the **Constellation of Orion** - also known as **The Hunter**. Orion has been known since ancient times and is associated with Greek mythology. Orion is 1344 light years from earth. Within the constellation is M42; the M stands for Messier. Charles Messier was a French astronomer, born in 1730, who catalogued 110 objects - such as Nebulae and Star Clusters - in the night sky. M42 is better known as the Orion Nebula. This is the most photographed constellation in the sky. The Nebula is visible through binoculars, or a small telescope, and can be seen in the early evening in January, rising in the East. The picture was taken at the Kielder Observatory Northumberland. Not by me, but please have a go, Stargazers.



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

Mark Andrews

On the outside we are all different but
on the inside, we are all the same.



DO YOU HAVE AN ALLOTMENT?

*This will tell you what you already know....
congratulations!*

The Daily Mail carried news that may surprise many struggling allotment holders after the strange weather of the last year. Apparently, their plots are "just as productive as farms" according to a new study from the University of Sussex.

It found that individual allotment holders harvested just over a kilogram of food per square metre - a similar yield to a conventional farm.

Lead researcher Dr Beth Nicholls told the paper that allotments could play a hugely important role in reducing imports of fruit and vegetables - while also improving both nutrition and health.



SNOWDROPS – never been? GO! Been before? Visit again!

The 'Anglo-Dutch' gardens at Chippenham Park are among the best places to see *snowdrops* in the region

SNOWDROPS-EVERYDAY FROM SATURDAY, 22ND JANUARY 2022 – FRIDAY, 1ST APRIL 2022, 10AM–4PM, LAST ENTRY 3PM.

Please note payment on the gate and in the tearooms is by **cash only**. Entry £7, children from 5yrs-16yrs £3. Well behaved dogs welcome on leads. Chippenham Park Gardens will be open to the public for our beautiful array of snowdrops and aconites. Well renowned throughout the county and beyond. Delicious home-made cakes, scones, coffee, tea and barbecued sausages and others refreshments are being laid on in the licensed Potting Shed Cafe.

ENTRY ON OPEN DAYS IS £7 FOR ADULTS, AND CHILDREN AGED 5YRS-16YRS £3. DOGS WELCOME ON LEADS <https://www.chippenhamparkgardens.info/>

NATURE NOTES: JANUARY

Blackbirds, blackcaps, tits, thrushes, robins are all common birds to see in the winter. Look out for redwings and fieldfares too. Many natural food sources, such as seeds and berries, are exhausted by this time in winter, so feeding garden birds is more important than ever.



Ensure there is accessible water and that it has not frozen over. Water is vital for the survival of wildlife. If you have a pond, be sure to provide a slope for any small mammals to get to the water, or climb out if they fall in. Evergreen bushes and climbers, fallen leaves, dead stems and seed heads provide winter shelter for many insects.



A dog is for life

“Hello from Dogs Trust.

Your local Dogs Trust branch at Snetterton would like to briefly make you aware of a few services that we provide free of charge:

First, our Canine Care Card scheme, is a **free** service for dog owners whereby, in the event of their death or illness, we will look after their dog, providing them with all the care they need until we can find a responsible, loving new home for them. Every year, we care for more than 14,000 dogs at our nationwide network of rehoming centres and we never put down a healthy dog.

Second, I would like to make you aware that we provide free talks to local community groups. I cover the whole of the East Anglia region, to talk about the varied work of Dogs Trust, where we come from and where we hope to be in the future. There are no speaker fees or travelling expenses, so please let me know if you believe that your local club would be interested.

If anyone has any further queries, or would be interested in booking in a talk, please contact me by emailing emily.matthews@dogstrust.org.uk or phone 01953 497912.

Emily Matthews

Supporter Relations Officer (Maternity Cover)

Emily.Matthews@dogstrust.org.uk

01953 497912

www.dogstrust.org.uk



MAGPIE CENTRE SEES LAUNCH OF NATIONAL LOTTERY FUND GRANT



It was a red-letter day on Tuesday, November 9, at the Magpie Centre, home of West Norfolk Riding for the Disabled Association, when trustees, volunteers and members of the local community welcomed Heidi Haxeltine, National Lottery Fund Community Funding Officer, Peterborough and Norfolk area, to celebrate the launch of a grant from the National Lottery Community Fund. The grant, payable in quarterly instalments over three years, is to help develop and expand new activities at the Centre, including Equine Assisted Learning Therapy, which benefits people living with mental health challenges; training for a new instructor to deliver this programme; support for 'Tea with a Pony', aimed at people with dementia or age-related reduced mobility, and a new website for West Norfolk RDA.

Keep Fit

NEW, QUICK DISCO, £3, STARTS TUESDAY 4th JANUARY, 6.45 - 7.45pm.

Need somewhere to keep moving and keep fit during the dark nights and winter weather? This is a non-stop dance session for everyone at Three Holes Village Hall. Just turn up, have fun and dance your way, your style for as long or as little as you like. All profits will go to THVH&PF funds. Contact Sue – 07957 444191

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.)

Poplar Arts & Crafts

Workshop places now available to book

Wednesday 19th January 9.30–1.00

An introduction to Alexander Technique with Chris McKay

Friday 25th February 9.30–1.00

Makeup secrets for the over 45s with Caroline Smith

Friday 4th March 9.30–1.00

An introduction to bobbin lace with Kath Brandle

Friday 25th March 9.30–4.00

An introduction to drawing with Tim Oliver

Saturday 9th April 9.30–4.00

Weaving on a simple loom with Frances Wyatt

Friday 27th May 9.30–4.00

Dip pen and colourwash drawing with Tim Oliver

Saturday 18th June 9.30–4.00

Flute Day with Frances Wyatt

For more information and booking go to

www.poplarartsandcrafts.co.uk

or phone Frances on 01354 638374

Christchurch Book Club



At time of writing Book Club has not yet had its December meeting and will not have done so until past the deadline for Heron articles. However - feedback from members indicated an extremely high level of enjoyment in our current book "Once upon a River", by Diane Setterfield. The blurb on the back opens up a world of intrigue and mystery..."*In an Ancient Inn on the Thames, the regulars are entertaining themselves by telling stories when the door bursts open and in steps an injured stranger. In his arms is the drowned corpse of a child. Hours later the dead girl stirs, takes a breath and returns to life. Is it a miracle? Is it magic? And who does the little girl belong to?*" The puzzle of the girl's identity, coupled with the well-drawn characters and a glimpse of spiritual folk-law balance against 19th century scientific thought, make for a fascinating journey.

Our next book is "Where the Crawdads Sing" by Delia Owens.

Our next meeting is at Elaine's, The Old Police House, 40 Church Rd on January 18th 7.30 pm

New members are always welcome.

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



UPWELL JAZZ CLUB: RE-START ON SUNDAY JANUARY 30th

12.30 – 2.45pm
Christchurch Community Centre

£6.50

Our first session will comprise of popular, local musicians.

Accompanied under 16s free.
Bar, fresh rolls, crisps and savouries available.

Above subject to latest covid restrictions and current covid rules will apply.



Christchurch

Crafty Crafters

We are now meeting, on the first Tuesday of the month, in the Dun Cow. For crafts that you can bring along, and easily do at a seat in the pub, without disrupting the other patrons! Last month a few of us had a go at crochet. Why not come along and bring your knitting, crochet, sewing or other 'portable' hobby whilst also supporting our local hostelry.

If we can get a few people, who would be willing to run the Craft Club back at the Community Centre, in the future, then we may consider reopening there once we have the makings of a new committee. Until then, those that are interested would be welcome to join us at the pub from 7 till 9.



The WI met on 14th December.

This was our AGM and the meeting received an address from our president and reports from our treasurer and the

committee, as well as welcoming

a member of the board from the Isle of Ely Federation of WIs who spoke with great encouragement about the welcome she received at Christchurch. The meeting was very positive, reflecting that, although the year had begun with very challenging circumstances, our group, although small, is strong and determined.

...and then on to our Christmas party! We had a wonderful spread of delicious food (telling WI members "don't over cater" is a waste of breath!) and then enjoyed an absolutely ridiculous game of pass the parcel with a new verse of a new version of The Twelve

Days of Christmas in each layer! Quizzes and Charades followed and then we shared out the Secret Santa presents. All enjoyed a wonderful evening of fellowship and fun!

Our next meeting will be held on Tuesday 11th January at 7pm and our speaker will be bringing us a talk on Robbie Burns - and for the brave there will be haggis to taste!.

Visitors are always welcome for a nominal fee of £3....and as our year finishes at the end of March, full membership for the rest of the year is for a very reduced rate.

For more information please contact Sheila Day on 07946635908.



February Re-Start

I'm happy to announce that the Gardening Club is re-starting in 2022 after nearly a two-year hiatus, caused by the pandemic. This

does, of course, rely on lockdown rules being relaxed enough to allow meetings to take place. It goes without saying that the committee will do all in its power to ensure a safe environment for the meetings is put in place. We will announce the full agenda for next year - which our secretary, Marion, is working hard to complete in due course.

Steve

Christchurch Gardening Club

GARDENING CLUB AGM AT
THE COMMUNITY CENTRE
TUESDAY 15TH FEBRUARY 2022
MEETING START TIME IS **7.30**
NEW OR PROSPECTIVE MEMBERS WELCOME.

Current members please note the new start time of 7.30.

For further details call 01354638230.

LUNCH BREAK

Lunch Break this month –
Wednesday 12th and 26th
January 2022 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. Or just come for a cuppa.

Always the 2nd and 4th Wednesdays of the month.
Our Covid plan is to be cautious.

Contact: Annie on 01354-638088



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.

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Fri 3.00 pm – 11.00 pm
Sat Midday – 11.00 pm, Sun Midday – 9.00 pm

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9.30 am till 11.00 am - Cooked breakfasts.

FRIDAY FOOD

4.30 pm till 8.00 pm - Phone to book your timed slot.

SATURDAY FOOD

4.30 pm till 9.00 pm -
A range of freshly cooked pizzas to eat in or takeaway.

**There will be no breakfast on
Monday 4 and 11 January.**

We would like to wish all our customers
a very Happy New Year!

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POSH RECIPE FOR FESTIVE LEFTOVERS – YUMMY!



Caramelised Banana and Hazelnut Galette

70g hazelnuts, roughly chopped
150g dark chocolate, finely chopped
500g block shop-bought puff pastry
3 bananas, sliced
3 tbsp light brown soft sugar
vanilla ice cream to serve (optional)

Heat the oven to 200C/180C fan/gas 6. Blitz 50g of the hazelnuts in a small food processor until they resemble fine breadcrumbs, then tip into a bowl with the chocolate. Roll the pastry out to a round roughly 30cm in diameter on a sheet of baking parchment. Scatter the chocolate and hazelnut mixture over the pastry circle, leaving a 5cm border. Top with the bananas and most of the remaining hazelnuts, then fold the edges of the pastry over. Transfer the galette to a baking sheet along with the baking parchment, then chill in the fridge for at least 10 mins.

Remove from the fridge and sprinkle the sugar over the galette, then bake for 25-30 mins, or until golden and puffed up. Scatter over the remaining hazelnuts and serve with a scoop of vanilla ice cream, if you like.

Taken from BBC Good Food



KEEP UP THAT NEW YEAR'S RESOLUTION

"I resolve to eat less and move about a bit more in 2022"

Well – Kathleen – Pilates and Chair-based Exercise classes - is going to remind us each month this year that moving about and doing exercises will improve our health and wellbeing. Here is her tip for January.

Hello everyone! I expect that like me you may have over-indulged slightly over the Christmas period. Added to that you may not have got out or been as active as you usually are. Well now is the time to get back on it and make some positive changes!!

WALKING IS GOOD FOR YOU. How about keeping up that daily walk which we had to do in Lockdown? This is why a short walk is so good for our bodies and minds

1. It boosts your mood
2. Improves your circulation
3. Strengthens your heart and bones
4. Can help lower your blood pressure
5. Makes you feel good

Perhaps you find walking difficult; here are some chair-based exercises which will help strengthen you muscles and help you feel better in yourself. Have a go!

Seated marching. Sit to stand - you can use your arms to help push you up if you need some assistance for this one. Repeat several times each day.

HAPPY NEW YEAR!

Kathleen Henderson

RANDOM ANAGRAMS

UNBURDENS
NAILER
RENTED
SARK
LEAST
EARP
KIRSTEN
SNIDEST

A PLOVER
NATURES
ROTS
FARES
ETNA
ICEMAN
RED SEA
CARTESIAN

SUES
BUGLERS
ERUPTED
EELS

Answers on page 27

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**WELLE CINEMA
Sunday 9th January
Three Holes Village Hall**

LITTLE WOMEN (PG)

**Starts 2 pm, doors open 1.30pm
£3.50 per person
no need to book
BAR & REFRESHMENTS**

**Contact Anne
01354 638405**

 **creative
ARTS EAST**

www.threeholesvillagehall00.org.uk

Church News

A big "Thank You" to those that participated and supported the Christmas tree festival. It was lovely to see the trees decorating the church throughout December.



At the time of writing the new variant of Covid is very prevalent and as such we will be continuing to observe social distancing within the church building and strongly encourage mask wearing. In January we have services at 10:30am on the 2nd, 16th and 30th, see the table below for other details. Complementary to the live services, throughout January 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.

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

Services in our Benefice during January. All services at 10.30am unless otherwise stated.

Date	CHRISTCHURCH	MANEA	DODDINGTON	WIMBLINGTON
Jan 2 nd	Holy Communion	-	-	Morning Prayer
Jan 9 th	-	Holy Communion	Morning Prayer	-
Jan 16 th Plough Sunday	Morning Prayer	-	-	Holy Communion
Jan 23 rd	-	Morning Prayer	Holy Communion	-
Jan 30 th	Communion Benefice Service	-	-	-
Feb 6 th	-	Holy Communion	-	Morning Prayer

Helen and Andrew

Thoughts from the Rectory

Pipes, Haggis and Poetry

For those who know me, they know I have soft spot for poetry. I once attended a 'Burns Night' many years ago, I loved the poetry; not all that keen on Haggis, and after all these years I can still taste it.

Traditionally 'Burns Night', January 25th, is marked by a meal, the main course being Haggis, which is brought to the dining table to the sounds of a piper and applause from diners. One of Burns' poems 'To a Haggis' is recited as the meat is cut. The evening eventually draws to a close with the reciting of words, popularised by Burns, about happiness, friendship and the good times from the past. 'Auld Lang Syne'.

Burns penned verses on many aspects of life including food, love and loss. Their enduring nature shows how important poetry can be. Good poets are well versed in stirring a range of emotions they can evoke laughter, tears nostalgia and optimism for the future.

Such emotions and poetry can be found in the Bible. The Book of Psalms is a collection of poems, written to

celebrate the encouragement, help and support that can be found in God. One such poem runs, **'I lift my eyes to the hill where does my help come from? My help comes from the Lord, the maker of heaven and earth'**. The Psalmist goes on to say **'The Lord will keep you from all harm, he will watch over your life, the Lord will watch over your coming and going both now and for evermore'**. (Psalm 121: 1-2, 7. NIV) That's quite a promise to go into the New Year with, for He promises to be with us whatever comes our way for this year of 2022 and whatever we find ourselves going through. For he has promised to watch our **'coming and our going'**.

Have a great New Year, keep well keep safe.

Ian





OBITUARY

I have written a poem for my dear friend Jean (Stanhope/Jackson), who died on the 20th October 2021, after a long battle with cancer. The poem was

read at Jean's funeral service, as part of her family and friends' farewell tributes. Jean has lived in her cottage in Tipps End, with Andy and sons Ben and Louis, for about thirty years and has been a familiar figure in the Tipps End, Christchurch, Welney and March communities, as a Mum, Pre-school and Special Needs child educator and playmate, and friend.

Jean loved and was loved by the children that she cared for and educated, at Welney Cygnets, Christchurch Pre-School, Twiglets Nursery at Manea, and at Camplay in March and Ely. She was a capable, trustworthy and loyal colleague who became an invaluable member of each team that she lent her talents to.

Jean's sons, Ben and Louis, went to Townley School in Christchurch, and Jean was a committed parent supporter of the school community, offering her skills when needed; for example, knitting dreadlocks as costume for one of the Christmas entertainments.

When the lads moved up to Neale Wade High School, Jean spent many hours waiting for her sons, outside band practice halls or homes, nipping quickly to the local baker's shop for a favourite sausage roll or bun and coffee with a friend, if the opportunity arose and time allowed. Jean's pride in her two sons was obvious and was an enduring comfort more recently, as she fought her illness. Jean battled hard and suffered cruelly with side-effects of pioneering research treatments for the kidney and lung cancer that plagued her. The Macmillan and Healthcare Teams at Addenbrookes and more local, linked sites in Upwell (particularly Dr Clarke, who Jean trusted to be honest and supportive) and Littleport, helped to carry Jean through her ordeal, always boosting her when fears threatened to overcome her resolve to survive.

When the side effects of the treatments became too dangerous to Jean's holistic health, they had to be stopped and Jean was given an estimation of mere weeks left to live. She chose to have that time at home and, surrounded by loving family and close friends, she died, passing from life gently on the morning of Wednesday 20th October 2021.

Jean will be much missed by those who loved her and remembered by the many whose lives her unique and quirky character touched. Jean died at 6.30am on Wednesday 20th October 2021, at home, as she wanted.

Holly Trundle/Goodwin, former resident of Welney, colleague of Jean at Welney Cygnets, Christchurch Pre-School and Twiglets Nursery, and friend.

Ode to Jean Stanhope/Jackson, the Queen of Welney Cygnets and beyond.

*I've been asked to write one of my questionable odes,
To ease our wonderful Jean along the well-trodden road
Towards, what some may call 'The Pearly Gates'
But, I hope for Jean, to be the home of heavenly cream
cakes!*

*Over our friendship, I've seen Jean grow
From a shy Mum in the shadows
To the Queen of the Playroom;
And then, a shadow of herself, propped up on pillows.
Let's not dwell on decline; at Jean's cruel and premature end;
I want to share some of the fun times and strengths of my
friend.*

*I've watched Jean flourish in the child education realm,
Where she was a trusty professional who square-shouldered
the helm,
Becoming the 'Fun Jean' children loved, and colleagues could
rely on,
Sharing ideas, and listening, as crackpot schemes were run
by
On her scrubbed kitchen table, with coffee mugs and books
piled high,
As we scribbled on dense spider graphs, for termly pie in the
sky.
Plans, carried out expertly, as a well-balanced team,
With scatty, hair-brained, hyper-Holly and steady, capable
Jean.
We finished Cygnets with jelly, moved to Christchurch and
then, again, on,
And Jean joined Camplay, with its broadening horizon
Of further training, in all things Special Needs;
Perfectly suited to Jean, and her skill set of deeds.*

*Outside the Playroom, we had lots of capers,
Such as scoffing cream cakes and rustling noisy sweet
papers
While our Little Angels practised their scales and psalms,
Unaware of our mischief, hidden in pews, behind our
concealing arms.
The hours Jean spent, waiting outside band practise rooms;
And the heart-swelling pride felt at concerts, as her Lads
played their tunes;
Visits to hospitals, parents' evenings and friends;
Doing the list of 'Mum duty' things that never seems to end;
Watching her boys grow into accomplished young men,
Walking their own paths, knowing they've a loving home to
revisit again.*

*Ben and Louis are a credit to Jean and, of course, to Andy
too,
But this ode is for Jean, one of my best and dearest friends,
Who was always there to tell me, truthfully, the score,
And reliably rein me in, gently, with the reminder, "less is
more".*

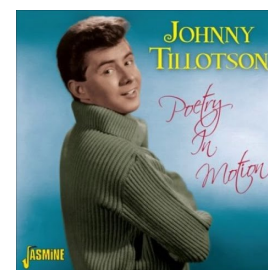
*I can't walk past a wool shop, or rifle through the shelves
Of charity treasure troves, without remembering day-trips
spent having a delve
In Oxfam, Sue Ryder, Scope and very many more,
Pausing in a coffee house for snacks, and that naughty
chocolate store!*

*Our lives have been blessed by Jean, who I've been
honoured to call 'friend'
And, with a wish of eternal happiness for her,
I'll bring my ramblings to an end.*

God bless, Sweetpea. Xxxx

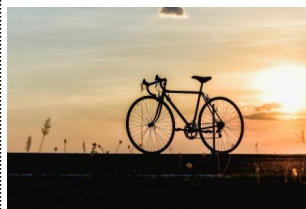
Top 10 singles for January 1st 1961

1. I love you – Cliff Richard
2. It's now or never – Elvis Presley
3. Strawberry Fair – Anthony Newley
4. Little Donkey – Nina and Frederick
5. Save the last dance for me – The Drifters
6. Poetry in motion – Johnny Tillotson
7. Lonely Pup (in a Christmas Shop) – Adam Faith
8. Rocking Goose – Johnny and the Hurricanes
9. Man of Mystery / the Stranger – the Shadows
10. My Heart has a Mind of it's Own – Connie Frances



News Events from 1961

- John F Kennedy sworn in as 35th president of USA
- Berlin Wall is built
- Soviet cosmonaut Yuri Gagarin completes first orbit of earth by a human
- American backed Cuban exiles fail in an attempt to invade Cuba at the Bay of Pigs



 **Have your say!** 

Following your feedback earlier this year, we've drawn up several recommendations for walking, cycling and mobility aid route improvements across Fenland. To find out more, and share your views on the recommendations, visit: www.fenland.gov.uk/FWCMAIStrategy



Our survey is open until 28 January 2022.

Answer on Page 26

5	3			7				
6			1	9	5			
	9	8					6	
8				6				3
4			8		3			1
7				2				6
	6					2	8	
			4	1	9			5
				8			7	9

There's more to January than New Year Celebrations! Some serious and some not so serious National and International days in the USA...

Friday 7th – Orthodox Christian Churches' Christmas Day

Tuesday 11th – Nation "Clean off your desk" Day

Friday 14th – National "Drees up your pet" Day

Monday 17th – Martin Luther King Day

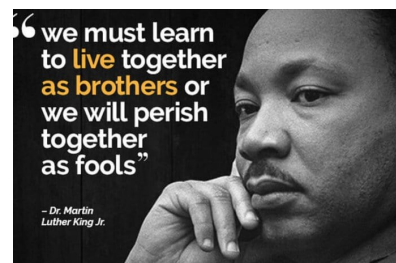
Wednesday 19th – "Museum Selfie" Day (WHAT???)

Friday 21st – National "Squirrel Appreciation" Day

Thursday 27th – International Holocaust Remembrance Day

Friday 28th – National "Lego" Day

Monday 31st – National "Bubble Wrap Appreciation" Day



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
Police - PCSO Sue Clarke	07738 025220
Police - Emergency	999
Police - Non Emergency	101
Telephone Preference Service	0345 070 0707
Townley School	01354 638229
Trading Standards	03454 040506
Train Information	03457 484950
Upwell Health Centre (and out of hours)	01945 773671
Upwell Health Centre - Pharmacy	01945 774934
Veterinary Centre - The Crossings (D'Mkt)	01366 382219
Vicars - Ian & Lynda Brady	01354 740627
Water Emergencies	03457 145145
Club Contacts	
Art Club - Jan Clifford	01354 638217
Book Club - Sheila Day	07946 635908
Craft Club - Sandra Lloyd	01354 638956
Gardening Club - Marion Hawthorn	01354 638230
Short Mat Bowls Club - Janet Harper	01354 638681
WI - Sheila Day	07946 635908
Jazz Club - Cat Johnson	musiciancat@hotmail.co.uk
Christchurch Eco - Nate Lansdell	07568 192940
Christchurch Stargazers - Mark Andrews	07425 165415

Answers from Kids Corner on Page 9

Answers to the question about the Wise Men's 3 gifts.

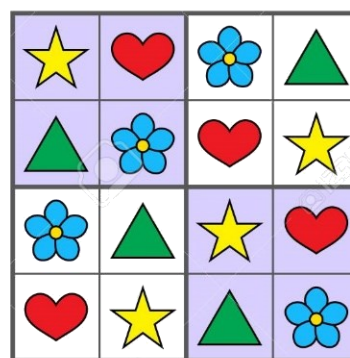
GOLD: Jesus claimed to be a King, but not of a kingdom, with an army, but King of people's hearts, and the King of love. **FRANKINCENSE:** Christians also often refer to Jesus as their 'priest', a religious teacher and helper. **MYRRH:** The story in the Bible says that Jesus died.

Answers to scrambled New Year's Resolutions:

This year I will...

- a) tidy my room
- b) be kind to animals
- c) be helpful at school
- d) never drop litter

ANSWER



A pocket can have a hole in it!

The number is 194.

Answers from Sudoku on Page 25

5	3	4	6	7	8	9	1	2
6	7	2	1	9	5	3	4	8
1	9	8	3	4	2	5	6	7
8	5	9	7	6	1	4	2	3
4	2	6	8	5	3	7	9	1
7	1	3	9	2	4	8	5	6
9	6	1	5	3	7	2	8	4
2	8	7	4	1	9	6	3	5
3	4	5	2	8	6	1	7	9

Did Covid scupper New Year Celebrations all over the UK? Let's hope not!

Wherever you live in the UK, the Old Year is seen out, and the New Year greeted, in one way or another. Every way is noisy! Tradition has it that glasses are clinked and "Should auld acquaintance be forgot" is sung at the top of our voices. But parties probably didn't happen this year. Other stuff did though! First Footing, singing Auld Lang Syne all seems a bit tame Read on!



England - Different parts of the country have their own traditions: Flamborough in Yorkshire hosts the Fire Festival which includes the burning of a Viking longship and torchlight procession. Staffordshire - Barlaston Wassail is an impromptu acted mumming (folk play) and fire torch parade, and seaside towns such as Brighton have a New Year's Day dip in the sea. (You have to be kidding!). Then there's the Allendale Tar Barrell Festival in Northumberland. Whisky barrels are filled with burning tar and people called "Guisers" balance them on their heads and parade around the town. (What price Health and Safety??). And many others!

In Scotland - "Hogmanay" is the name of their New Year's Eve festivities. The word Hogmanay comes from a kind of oat cake that was traditionally given to children on New Year's Eve. Stonehaven, near Aberdeen, holds a big celebration. A parade of sixty Kilt-clad marchers accompanied by pipes and drums whirl 16lb balls of fire on wire ropes above their heads. And what about the Comrie Flambeaux Festival! It's believed to have its origins in a pagan fire-cleansing custom to rid the town of evil spirits and bring luck for the New Year. An outdoor ceilidh takes place in the main Square, before the parade, continuing as the Flambeaux are carried around the streets.



Wales is not to be outdone. The small town of Llanwrtyd Wells enjoy their New Year's Eve tradition of the 'Mari' - a decorated horse's skull carried on a pole marched from the middle of the town to the edge followed by a large crowd carrying flaming torches. At a nearby hotel, the ancient Welsh tradition of 'Mari Lwyd' takes place, where there is an exchange of challenges and banter between the Mari and the hotel's occupants, which must be completed before admission to the bar is allowed. All before returning to the town square in time for the midnight celebrations.

In Northern Ireland, in Belfast, it's all about Fireworks. And Parties...which is where we began...

HAPPY NEW YEAR ONE AND ALL!



ANAGRAM ANSWERS FROM PAGE 21

SUNBURNED
LINEAR
TENDER
ARKS
SLATE
PARE

TINKERS
DISSENT
OVERLAP
SAUNTERS
SORT
FEARS

ANTE
CINEMA
ERASED
ASCERTAIN
USES
BURGLES
REPUTED
ELSE

Christmas Tree Festival



This year's Christmas Tree Festival was a great success, as everyone who went along will agree. Inside our small Parish Church there were a lot of decorated Christmas Trees and also decorations on the windowsills. It had been suggested that people might like to choose a Christmas Carol for a theme. Here is a list of the Carols that were chosen.

- | | |
|---------------------------------|---|
| <i>O Christmas Tree</i> | <i>See Amid the Winter's Snow</i> |
| <i>Silent Night</i> | <i>In the Bleak Midwinter</i> |
| <i>We Three Kings</i> | <i>Ding Dong Merrily on High</i> |
| <i>Little Donkey</i> | <i>Hark the Herald Angels sing</i> |
| <i>O Holy Night</i> | <i>Away in a Manger</i> |
| <i>The Holly and the Ivy</i> | <i>O Little Town of Bethlehem</i> |
| <i>It Was on a Starry Night</i> | <i>One of the trees depicted different Christmas Carols</i> |

Various clubs and individuals took part but this wasn't a competition. However, it was a lovely way to involve lots of villagers. Well done everyone!



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.

