



# The Heron

Community Magazine

June 2022

Delivered to homes in Christchurch, Euximoor and Tipps End

No. 98

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## God Save Our Gracious Queen Long Live Our Noble Queen



In the July issue we plan to have a Christchurch Platinum Jubilee Souvenir pull-out in full colour. Please send your photos to [editor@theheron.info](mailto:editor@theheron.info) and they could feature. All photos received will be displayed on our website ([theheron.info](http://theheron.info))

### EDITORIAL TEAM:

*Editorial Team Leader* - Annie Nason

*Treasurer, Advertising Manager, Publisher* - Elaine Reed-Hughes

*Editorial Team Members:* Sue Norman, Liz Scott, Elaine Reed-Hughes

*Deliveries Manager* - Annie Nason

*Support*—Lewis Bennett (IT), the Delivery Team and Printers

### ENQUIRIES

[editor@theheron.info](mailto:editor@theheron.info) Tel: 01354 638088

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



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



# Christchurch Community Centre

in association with

## Christchurch Village Church

and



### *The Dun Cow*



presents

## **Christchurch Platinum Jubilee Celebrations**

### ***Thursday 2 June - "Queenie Quiz" at the Dun Cow***

Starts at 6.30pm £2.00 per person. No more than 4 to a team. Nibbles provided.

### ***Friday 3 June - "Fun Dog Show" at the Dun Cow***

£2.00 per class (payable on the day). Judging starts at 12pm. Hot Dogs for humans on Sale!  
**LIMITED EVENING MENU AVAILABLE ON THIS DAY.**

Class categories as follows:

Any Variety: Gundog & Hound, Working & Pastoral, Terrier & Toy, Utility, Veteran (over 7 years)  
Best Handler, Best Young Handler, Handsome Dog, Prettiest Bitch, Best Condition,  
Best Rescue/Rehome, Best 6 Legs, Best Sausage Eater. Fancy Dress (Dog & Handler),  
Best Christchurch Dog (Dogs from the village only)

Tel: 07719 277937 for more information about the Dog Show.

### ***Friday 3 June - "Buffet and Ceilidh" at the Community Centre***

Doors and bar open and buffet served from 6.30 pm. Dancing to "Frog on a Bike" from 7.30pm till 11.30pm.  
There will be a minimal charge of £3.00 per ticket (to include food and dancing).  
Numbers are limited due to hall capacity so first come, first served.  
Payment on booking please. **Ticket Entry Only.**

For Tickets please call Pat Rigby on 07776 142642 or Geoff Harper on 01354 638681 or 07504 691509.

### ***Saturday 4 June - "Platinum High Tea" at the Dun Cow***

Starts at 3.00pm. £17.50 per person - small deposit required when you book.  
**WEAR SOMETHING RED, WHITE AND BLUE.**  
**BOOK EARLY AS LIMITED SPACES. TEL: 01354 638323.**

### ***Saturday 4 June - "Vinyl Music Night" at the Dun Cow***

Starts at 7.30pm.

### ***Sunday 5 June - "Royal Breakfast Special" at the Dun Cow***

Starts at 9.30am till 11.30am.  
**BOOK AT TIME SLOT TO AVOID DISAPPOINTMENT. TEL: 01354 638323.**

### ***Sunday 5 June - Christchurch "Songs of Praise" at the Community Centre***

Starts at 11.30 till 12.30pm. Come along and sing in honour of Her Majesty.

### ***Sunday 5 June - From 2.00pm. Street Party and Fun Day at the Recreation Ground and Community Centre***

Please bring along a picnic and enjoy the afternoon's festivities.  
Fun for all the family - entertainment, bouncy castles, kids games, races, hog roast (limited so first come, first served). The Community Centre bar will be open all afternoon for you to be able to purchase drinks.



# 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.**



## A PLEA FROM OUR LOCAL FARMERS TO ALL DOG OWNERS AT THIS TIME OF YEAR

Please be sure to keep you dogs on the lead when walking them down farm tracks. Even the slightest fun-run-around on recently sown or planted crop fields seriously damages both the crops and the soil.

**DO NOT ALLOW YOUR DOG TO WORRY SHEEP OR OTHER LIVESTOCK.**

Apart from the fact that it causes much distress to the animals, and can cause miscarriages or death, it is against the law for you to allow your dog to be loose in fields with livestock. If your dog worries livestock you may end up being sued for compensation and, in some circumstances, as a last resort, a farmer is legally allowed to shoot a dog who is threatening their animals. Dogs (Protection of Livestock) Act 1953 - [Legislation.gov.uk](http://Legislation.gov.uk)

# Useful Telephone Numbers

Age UK Cambridgeshire	0300 666 9860
Alzheimer's Society (Fenland)	01945 580480
Churchwarden - Mrs Helen Chappell	01354 638092
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 - James Hughes (Chair)	01354 638310
Parish Councillor - Peter Owen	01354 638847
Parish Councillor - Kay Miller	01354 638232
Police - Emergency	999
Police - Non Emergency	101
Telephone Preference Service	0345 070 0707
Townley School	01354 638229
Trading Standards	03454 040506
Train Information	03457 484950
Upwell Health Centre (and out of hours)	01945 773671
Upwell Health Centre - Pharmacy	01945 774934
Veterinary Centre - The Crossings (D'Mkt)	01366 382219
Vicars - Ian & Lynda Brady	01354 740627
Water Emergencies	03457 145145
<b>Club Contacts</b>	
Art Club - Jan Clifford	01354 638217
Book Club - Liz Scott	07841 381555
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



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](mailto: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](http://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](mailto:adverts@theheron.info) and we will send them a subscription form.

The cost is £25.00 per year (including P&P).

## Diary Dates

DATE	EVENT	TIME	PLACE	PAGE
<b>**June 2,3,4,5 - ALL VILLAGE JUBILEE EVENTS - PAGE 2</b>				
Tues 7th	Mobile Library	12 noon	Lay-by (Fen View)	3
Weds 8 <sup>th</sup>	Lunch Break	12-2pm	CCC	20
Mon 13 <sup>th</sup>	PC Meeting	7.30pm	CCC	6
Tues 14 <sup>th</sup>	Art Club	1.30pm-3.30	CCC	19
Tues 14 <sup>th</sup>	WI	7pm	CCC	21
Weds 22 <sup>nd</sup>	Lunch Break	12-2pm	CCC	20
Sun 19 <sup>th</sup>	Holy Communion Service	10.30am	Church	11
Tues 21 <sup>st</sup>	Gardening Club	7pm	CCC	20
Fri 24 <sup>th</sup>	National Cream Tea Day	12-3pm	CCC	12
Sun 26 <sup>th</sup>	Jazz Club	12.30-2.45pm	CCC	
Tues 28 <sup>th</sup>	Art Club	1.30-3.30pm	CCC	19
Tues 28 <sup>th</sup>	Book Club	7.30pm	41 Fen View	19
<b>MON JULY 4th</b>	<b>HERON AGM</b>	<b>7 for 7.30-8.30</b>	<b>CCC</b>	<b>5</b>
<b>Every Mon</b>	Short Mat Bowls	7-9pm	CCC	
<b>Every Weds</b>	Chair-based exercise class Kathleen Henderson	10-10.50am 07880 543821	CCC	
<b>Every Thurs</b>	Coffee, Cake & Chat	2-3pm	Church	
<b>M,T,W,TH</b>	Mobile Post Office	Various (See p3 for times)	Lay-by (Fen View)	3
<b>ALSO CHECK DUN COW EVENTS page 19</b>				

**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 midsummer issue of The Heron. I think John Steinbeck nailed it when he described the month. **“In early June the world of leaf and blade and flowers explodes, and every sunset is different.”** (From ‘Winter of Our Discontent’.)

As for Christchurch – well, it’s looking beautiful! And our gardens will be even more so, since so many people bought plants at the Plant Sale. Our village certainly punches above its weight. What a tremendous total we raised! Thank you for all the support. It means a lot to all of us on the Heron team. And Nate Lansdell has risen to great heights and been given a grant to develop his business; there are some young sixth-formers and Year 11s who have been accepted on courses at University and College. Well done. Add to that, the great OFSTED result by our village school. Not to mention all the Platinum Jubilee events taking place in the village. I shall be at some of those, but probably not trying out the Bouncy Castles... ((-: There are several articles about Her Majesty and all things related to the Jubilee. Enjoy! She is a renowned horse-lover and we have horses in our community, so there are others around.

Make the most of summer in The Fens!

Annie Nason

## Upwell Pharmacy



# Heron News

A huge thank you to all those that supported our Fundraiser last month and to all those who helped make the Plant Sale the success that it was - especially Sandra Kay and her helpers. Thanks to you all, we made a whopping £538.80 which is a huge amount for such a small village.



### SAVE THE DATES:

**JULY 4<sup>TH</sup>: HERON AGM. 7 for 7.30pm – 8.30, in the Community Centre.**

Please come along and support the Heron Team. At this meeting, the Chair, Treasurer and Secretary of the Heron Executive Team will be elected, along with any other folks who would like to be on the Executive Committee. The Editor will be appointed, plus the Editorial Team. Friends of The Heron will receive their documents in the next few days. If you would like to be on a team, or vote at the meeting, you need to become a Friend of The Heron. No cost – just a formality.

**AUGUST BANK HOLIDAY WEEKEND: A village Scarecrow Festival to celebrate the 100<sup>th</sup> edition of the New Heron.** A FUN-RAISER as opposed to a Fundraiser. Just to say that there will be help available for you to construct your scarecrow, if you would like it. Further details in the JULY issue. Start planning and just enjoy the village togetherness. Prizes too!

**PHOTOS NEEDED PLEASE!** In the July Heron, we are planning to have a 4-page colour pull-out Christchurch Platinum Jubilee Souvenir booklet, with lots of your photos of the village celebrations, so get clicking! Send your photos to: [editor@theheron.info](mailto:editor@theheron.info).

All photos will get on to the website.

**Copy Deadline - The deadline for copy for the July edition of the Heron is Friday 24 June 2022.**

## Letters to the Editorial Team

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

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

The team look forward to hearing from you!

## PC SNIPPETS

### May 9<sup>th</sup> 2022 was the Annual Meeting of the Christchurch Parish Council.

Mr Peter Owen, stood down as The Chair of the PC, so there was an election to fill the post. Mr James Hughes was elected as Chair. As he had formerly been the Vice-Chair, there was then an election for that post. Mrs Kay Miller was elected as the Vice-Chair.

At an Annual Meeting, there has to be a review and confirmation of Standing Orders and Financial Regulations, and also confirmation of Insurance arrangements. These were passed, as was a review of the Council's subscriptions to other bodies. The dates of the PC meetings for the Municipal Year were decided: Mondays - June 13<sup>th</sup>, July 11<sup>th</sup>, No meeting during August, September 12<sup>th</sup>, October 10<sup>th</sup>, November 14<sup>th</sup>, December 12<sup>th</sup>, January 9<sup>th</sup> 2023, February 13<sup>th</sup>, March 13<sup>th</sup>, April 17<sup>th</sup>, May 8<sup>th</sup>.

The new Chair, James Hughes, thanked Peter Owen for his years of service on the PC.

Various Financial matters were approved, including the Internal Audit Report. Details will be on the PC website soon.

Other matters discussed included the establishment of a Steering Group to develop the site plan for the Recreation Ground Extension. (See James Hughes' article below). Benches will appear at some stage. Church Road: road drains still not sorted, and the matter will be followed up. FDC Councillor Will Sutton spoke about the proposed FD Boundary changes....apparently the DC has abandoned the idea of Christchurch joining with Doddington and Wimblington. RESULT! ..except it isn't, as there is a proposal now to put us with March South. The PC doesn't see how a town plus a country ward grouping could work as their needs are very different. All a bit of a mess at District level, by the sound of it.

Annie Nason

## New Field Project

By now, many people will have heard that the Parish Council, who own the field next to the playing field on the other side of the willows, have stopped renting out the field for agricultural use, and are intending to convert it in to a dog walking area, plus a naturewalk, woodland, picnic area and orchard.

At present the plans are very tentative, even the name of the field is yet to be decided! We need to put together a steering committee to oversee the development of the field, including planning out where things are going to be put and planted, applying for grants, recording the development and all the myriad of things a scheme like this needs to be successful. The Parish Council will provide a lot of the funding, but we also expect to be able to source a lot of the materials needed from grants from various bodies who support such projects.

If you are interested in being in this group, the PC will have a stand at the Street Party and Fun Day on Sunday 5th June, as part of the Queen's Jubilee celebrations. Come along, have a chat with members of the PC about the project, and put your name down to help! The PC wants to be fairly hands-off on this, although we'll have one or two people on the committee to give advice and be points of contact between the PC and the field team.

So, to paraphrase Liam Neeson, *if you have the skills, perhaps acquired over a long career. Skills that will make you stand out when designing a wood or dog walking area, we will look for you, we will find you, and we will welcome you!*

James Hughes  
Chair, Parish Council

## Vacancy for a Parish Councillor

The Parish Council has a vacancy following the resignation of Cllr Geoff Harper. The vacancy will be filled by co-option at the next meeting, which takes place on Monday 13 June. If you would like to be considered for this vacancy, or would like to know more about what is involved, please contact the Clerk, Dave Gibbs, at least a week before the meeting.

Dave's phone number is 01945 870083 or email [clerk@christchurchparishcouncil.org.uk](mailto:clerk@christchurchparishcouncil.org.uk)



## Queen of Puddings

This nostalgic pud is dessert royalty, with its creamy baked custard base, bright layer of jam and toasted, golden crown of marshmallowey meringue. Easy to master, this classic old-school pud should be a go-to for weekend lunches and special occasions. Enjoy!

### INGREDIENTS:

- 575ml whole milk
- 125g fresh white breadcrumbs
- 90g caster sugar (2 tbsp for the custard + 60g for the meringue)
- 1 lemon zested
- 25g unsalted butter
- 3 medium eggs, separated
- 6 tbsp raspberry jam

- Preheat oven Gas6/200C/fan 180C.
- Put milk in a medium sized pan and bring to the boil. Remove from the heat; stir in breadcrumbs, 2tbsp caster sugar, the zest of 1 lemon, 25g unsalted butter. Set aside to cool.
- Add 3 yolks (reserving the whites for the meringues) to the breadcrumb mixture and beat with a wooden spoon until combined. Divide the mixture between 6 ovenproof ramekins on a baking tray. Transfer the baking tray to the oven and cook for 15 minutes, or until set or slightly golden.
- Remove the tray from the oven and reset the oven temperature to Gas 4/180C/fan 160C.
- Put 6 tbsp raspberry jam in a small pan and gently heat until runny. Spoon it out evenly over the puddings, spreading it out until the custard bases are completely covered. Set aside while you make the meringue.
- Put egg whites into a clean mixing bowl and beat with an electric beater to stiff peaks. Add 60g sugar and continue whisking until the mixture is stiff and glossy.
- Spoon the mixture into a piping bag and cut a 1cm hole at the end. Pipe it over the puddings, working from the outside-in, until the jam is completely covered.
- Bake in the now-cooled down oven for 5 minutes, or until the peaks are lightly golden.

### Delicious spins

You can easily swap the raspberry jam in this pudding for another of your choice, or try with tangy marmalade or lemon curd instead. For some other twists, try one of these ideas:

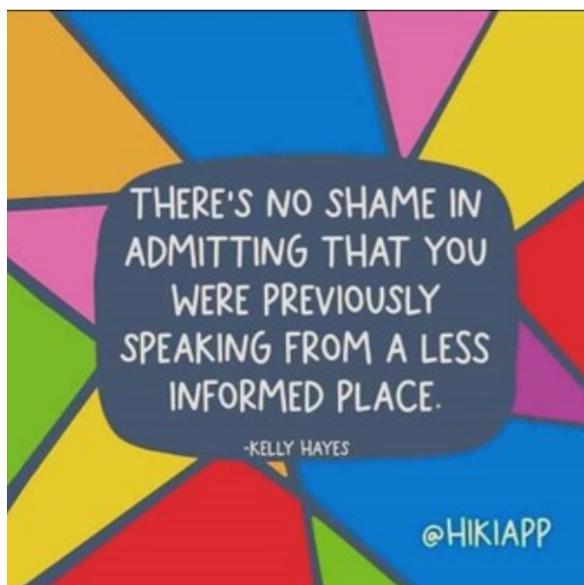
*Whole queen of puddings:* To make a whole pudding instead of individual ones, put the custard mixture in a 1 x 1.5ltr baking dish and cook for 25 mins. Spread with jam and bake the piped meringue topping for 7-8 mins.

*Chocolate and coconut:* Replace the whole milk with a carton of drinking coconut milk. Add 50g desiccated coconut and 100g chocolate chunks to the breadcrumb mixture before stirring it into the warm milk. Scatter 15g desiccated coconut over the piped meringue topping before baking. *Cherry and Madeira:* Instead of breadcrumbs, use 150g of crumbled Madeira cake with the sugar, lemon zest and butter. Swap the raspberry jam for cherry.

Source: [realfood.tesco.com](http://realfood.tesco.com)

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

## Point of View





## We live in Farming Country. Spare a thought for farmers in Ukraine.

One reason Ukraine's economy is struggling to support itself is because of the sharp fall in commodity exports. Before the war it was one of the world's top producers of crops such as sunflower, corn and wheat but it is now a lot more difficult to earn money by selling those to the rest of the world. Russia now controls the majority of Ukraine's port

cities and with the country's harbours blocked off an increasing amount of what it can still export is leaving by trains, which have a smaller capacity. "The key question for us is how to unblock the seaports of Ukraine," Mr Marchenko said. Doing so could help reduce soaring global food prices by increasing supplies.

Russian troops seized the city of Kherson 200 km (125 miles) to the East and its navy is believed to have up to 30 war ships stationed in the waters, from where they fire missiles on land and threaten to stage an amphibious landing. Thirty-eight-year-old Boris (pictured) sent his wife and two sons abroad for fear of a possible occupation. He stayed to keep the farm running through the war and as he opens a vast warehouse the size of two or three football pitches, he reveals just how tough his job is. Stored in a massive pile is about 1,000 tonnes of black sunflower seeds, used to make cooking oil. Ukraine is the world's biggest exporter of seed oil. But right now, Boris cannot sell his harvest because, he says, "the Black Sea is closed and there is no way to sell products. Existing channels for sale unfortunately offer very low prices, which are not profitable."

(BBC NEWS)

## Hats off for the volunteer truck drivers, taking help to Ukraine!

Do you know how far away that country is from the UK? Well done all!

The total straight-line distance between UK and Ukraine is 4442 KM (kilometres) and 462.57 metres. The miles-based distance from UK to Ukraine is 2760.4 miles. This is a straight line distance and so most of the time the actual travel distance between UK and Ukraine may be higher or vary due to curvature of the road.



### E-WASTE RECYCLING – VERY IMPORTANT, SAYS THE ROYAL SOCIETY OF CHEMISTRY (RSC)

The recycling of e-waste must urgently be ramped up because mining the Earth for precious metals to make new gadgets is unsustainable, scientists say. One study estimated that the world's mountain of discarded electronics, in 2021 alone, weighed 57 million tonnes.

The Royal Society of Chemistry (RSC) says there now needs to be a global effort to mine that waste, rather than mining the Earth. Global conflicts also pose a threat to supply chains for precious metals.

The RSC is running a campaign to draw attention to the unsustainability of continuing to mine all the precious elements used in consumer technology. Waste electronics outweigh Great Wall of China.

Millions of old gadgets 'stockpiled in drawers'. It points out that geopolitical unrest, including the war in Ukraine, has caused huge spikes in the price of materials like nickel, a key element in electric vehicle batteries.



### Quote from Her Majesty

On their Golden Wedding Anniversary in 1997, she said this about her husband, Prince Philip:

"He is someone who doesn't take easily to compliments but he has, quite simply, been my strength and stay all these years, and I, and his whole family, and this and many other countries, owe him a debt greater than he would ever claim, or we shall ever know".



## HAPPY PLATINUM JUBILEE TO THE QUEEN!

Well. How will the Horrible Histories document this great event, do you think?

### QUIZ

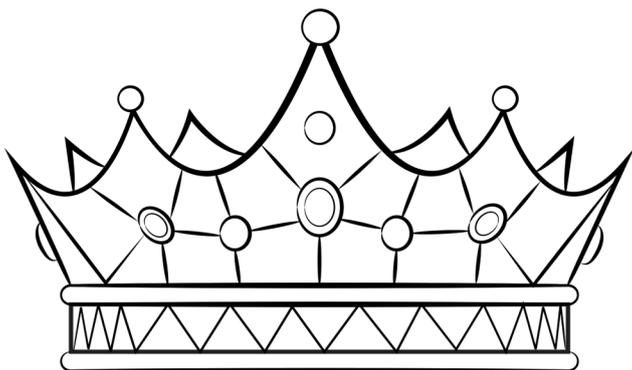
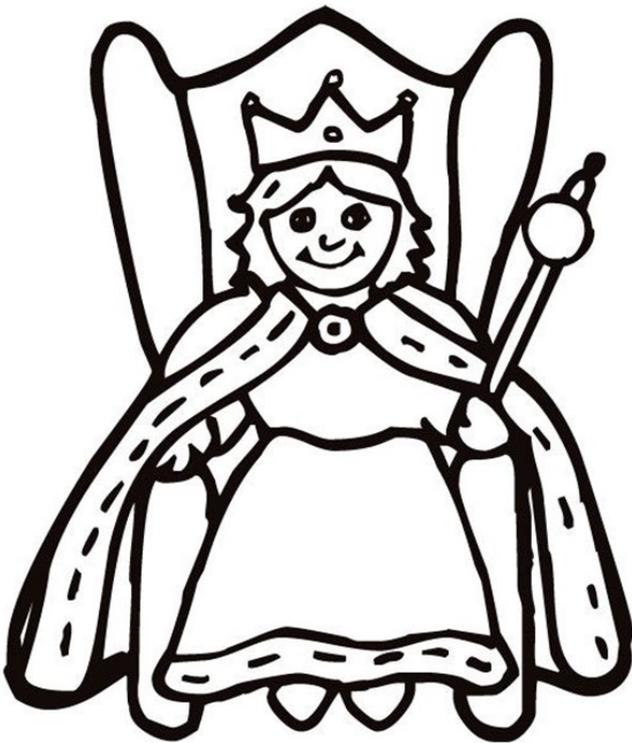
Here are some crazy quiz questions about a few kings and queens of England. How many can you get? *All but one of these are true. One may or may not be....* Ask your grown-ups to do the quiz too.

1. This king had a very bad temper and is said to have said "Behead the messenger" after someone broke bad news to him.
2. This queen proposed to her future husband.
3. When this king captured Cyprus, he made all the men on the island shave off their beards.
4. This king wore two shirts to keep warm on his execution day as he didn't want anyone thinking he was shaking with fear, if he was shivering with the cold.
5. This king died from eating too many eels.
6. This king believed that he was so powerful that he could tell the tide not to come in on to the beach.
7. This Queen was almost executed by her half-sister.

## HORRIBLE HISTORIES



*Have some fun colouring in these pictures.*





## My Christchurch Story

I don't normally write stories, but I was asked to contribute to The Heron by writing an article on my experience of moving to the village. So here goes.

Just a bit about me and my husband Austin. I was a social worker and worked with Essex County Council for 31 years. Austin managed a Wedding Venue for approximately the same length of time, but worked on the same private estate for 10 years prior to this. We lived just outside a small town called Ongar (between Harlow and Chelmsford) in Essex. I come originally from the West Country, and Austin was born and raised in Sunderland. We have two daughters; one remains in Essex, and one lives in Christchurch, which is how we came to visit the village and decided this is where we wanted to live when we both retired in December 2021.

In 2019, we looked at several bungalows in the village, before eventually deciding on our current home in Fen View. The sale took a while to go through as the bungalow was in probate and, coupled with this, it required a lot of work internally to get it to some sort of presentable and a modern condition. We had a great team of local professionals. A builder and plumber from the village and an electrician and others from slightly further afield. Eventually, on 14<sup>th</sup> January this year, we moved in. There was still some further work needed, including decorating, but it was liveable in, and we have been able to do things bit by bit. The garden is an on-going project, but I'm sure we will get there.

My biggest concern about moving, was my three small rescue dogs and two cats, one being an ex-feral. We lived rurally before, and they had not seen many people walking around. They all settled well, however; one being very nervous of people, one nervous of dogs and one being kind of ok, has caused their acceptance of others difficult. Unfortunately for my neighbours, they do tend to bark when anyone goes past, and for this I can only whole heartedly apologise. I have tried an air can, sonic noise remote and a water pistol, but to no avail.

Whilst being out and about in the village and in the garden, we have met a lot of our neighbours, who have been very friendly and welcoming. As we moved in the height of winter, most locals were tucked up in the warm, but with the coming of the spring, we have made many more acquaintances. I participated in the table-top sale, having overestimated the size of my bungalow, coming from a 3-bed house! Also, at the quiz night at the Community Centre, which was a real good laugh. Needless to say, we came last, which came as no surprise to any of our team. However, we did have a banquet of snacks on our table, which made for an exceptional evening.

One thing that we have found refreshing was the diversity of demographics within the village and surrounding areas. This was in relation to age range, geographical origin and cultures. Everyone has a good story to tell and there is a great mix of individuality which all seems to enhance the atmosphere and acceptance of the village.

We have recently found The Dun Cow, (not literally) having managed to find a bit of spare time. We have had a couple of good evenings meeting other locals and, of course, Paul and Sue. Not to mention the wonderful fish and chips! which were hot, fresh and cooked to perfection. We are now both looking forward to all the forthcoming events for the Queen's Jubilee celebrations, and everything else we have been made aware of, and those that we are not yet aware of that will happen in the future.

Well, assuming anyone is still awake, having read through this, we just want to say a big thank you to everyone for your warm welcome and helping us feel accepted in the village, and we hope to meet many more of you over the coming months, at various venues, activities, and most probably dog walks. Or of course, The Dun Cow.

*Jenny Garrett - A Christchurch Newbie*

### **Christchurch Over 65s Parish Lunch Committee Afternoon Tea Christchurch Community Centre Saturday 2 July 2022 - 3.00 for 3.30pm**

If you (or your partner) live in the Christchurch Parish and are 65 or over, we would love you to join us for Afternoon Tea. Please call Ruth Ingram on 01354 638419 for more information and to book your place. We hope you can join us.

Parish Lunch Committee

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

## Church News

We would like to thank everyone who supported our 'Big Brekkie' on May 15th. We raised £180.60 for Christian Aid. Brilliant result! More than 20 people attended. Particular thanks to our chefs, Sheila and Karen.



A couple of the 'Coffee, Cake and Chat' (C, C, and C) hours on Thursdays in church had to be cancelled in May. This was due to various works being carried out in the Nave.

Watch the notice board/Facebook for information as to when the Nave ceiling is to be refurbished, so keep an eye out for C, C, and C in any Church notices.

**Services in June at Christchurch:** 5<sup>th</sup> June, 11.30am in Christchurch Community Centre: there will be a 'Songs of Praise' to celebrate the Platinum Jubilee of Queen Elizabeth II. We may well be singing your favourite hymns! Later in the month there is a service of Holy Communion in the church at 10.30am on the 19<sup>th</sup> June.

Also, this month, we say farewell to Andrew as Church Warden, and we welcome Kay Miller as our second Church Warden. Many congratulations to Kay on her appointment! It is good to know that Andrew will be at the end of the phone to help us as we settle into our roles. We are also very grateful that Daphne (with her wealth of experience) is still around to guide us.

Please see the Church Noticeboard and Christchurch Community Page on Facebook for updates.

*Helen and Kay*

## Thoughts from the Rectory

### Don't forget the birthday!

When I was a curate, which seems like a life time ago now, I was asked to cover a service in a neighbouring Benefice. I was met by the churchwarden of that church, who was rather harassed, trying to juggle far too many jobs on that Sunday morning. He greeted me with the words 'I hope you've remembered it is Pentecost. The preacher last year forgot!'. He then went off to light the candles, get the collection plate out and set up the altar for communion. (Does this sound familiar to some of our churchwardens?).



**Pentecost** is celebrated on the 1<sup>st</sup> Sunday of this month. It lacks the commercialism of Christmas and Easter, and it is a festival that we might easily forget. At Pentecost, we give special thanks for the Holy Spirit who was poured out on His disciples in the Upper Room, fifty days after the death of Jesus. The Holy Spirit is God's power in the world today, continuing to give life to everything.

The first Christians' witness that God, who once descended in fire on Sinai (Exodus 19:18), was now giving the visible gift of the Spirit in the form of tongues of fire (Acts 2:3). So, we may not be surprised that Pentecost continued to have a special significance in the early church, as it does for us today. Pentecost is a foretaste, and the promise, of the work of the Spirit among all the nations of the world. The message of Pentecost is still relevant for today's church. The church will always need the life-giving power of the Spirit for communities, families, individuals - people like you and me. Pentecost Sunday is too important to be forgotten.

Pentecost; no wrapped gifts at the bottom of the tree, or the singing of carols; no chocolate egg hunt or hot cross buns. But Pentecost is just as much of a reality. A reality for each of us.

*Keep well, keep safe.*

*Ian.*

## Church Mouse

### Nice one, young Faith (my grand-niece)!

It reminds me of another crumb from the Good Book I came across once. That itinerant preacher (J) said, "Don't worry about tomorrow... each day has trouble enough of its own" !!

(Matthew 6:34)





## From across the Pond ... "We didn't have this 'green thing' back in my earlier days".

Checking out at the store, the young cashier suggested to the much older lady that she should bring her own grocery bags, because plastic bags are not good for the environment.

The woman apologized to the young girl and explained, "We didn't have this 'green thing' back in my earlier days." The young clerk responded, "That's our problem today. Your generation did not care enough to save our environment for future generations."

The older lady said that she was right; our generation didn't have the "green thing" in our day. The older lady went on to explain; back then, we returned milk bottles, soda bottles and beer bottles to the store. The store sent them back to the plant to be washed and sterilized and refilled, so it could use the same bottles over and over. So they really were recycled.

But we didn't have the "green thing" back in our day. Grocery stores bagged our groceries in brown paper bags that we reused for numerous things. Most memorable besides household garbage bags was the use of brown paper bags as book covers for our school books. This was to ensure that public property (the books provided for our use by the school) was not defaced by our scribbings. Then we were able to personalize our books on the brown paper bags. But too bad we didn't do the "green thing" back then.

We walked up stairs because we didn't have an escalator in every store and office building. We walked to the grocery store and didn't climb into a 300-horsepower machine every time we had to go two blocks. But you are right. We didn't have the "green thing" in our day.

Back then we washed the baby's diapers because we didn't have the throw away kind. We dried clothes on a line, not in an energy-gobbling machine burning up 220 volts. Wind and solar power really did dry our clothes back in our early days. Kids got hand-me-down clothes from their brothers or sisters, not always brand-new clothing. But that young lady is right; we didn't have the "green thing" back in our day.

Back then we had one TV, or radio, in the house -- not a TV in every room. And the TV had a small screen the size of a handkerchief (remember them?), not a screen the size of the state of Montana. In the kitchen we blended and stirred by hand because we didn't have electric machines to do everything for us. When we packaged a fragile item to send in the mail, we used wadded-up old newspapers to cushion it, not Styrofoam or plastic bubble wrap. Back then, we didn't fire up an engine and burn gasoline just to cut the lawn. We used a push mower that ran on human power. We exercised by working so we didn't need to go to a health club to run on treadmills that operate on electricity. But she's right; we didn't have the "green thing" back then.

We drank from a water fountain when we were thirsty instead of using a cup or a plastic bottle every time we had a drink of water. We refilled writing pens with ink instead of buying a new pen, and we replaced the razor blade in a razor instead of throwing away the whole razor just because the blade got dull. But we didn't have the "green thing" back then.

Back then, people took the streetcar or a bus and kids rode their bikes to school or walked instead of turning their moms into a 24-hour taxi service in the family's \$45,000 SUV or van, which cost what a whole house did before the "green thing."

We had one electrical outlet in a room, not an entire bank of sockets to power a dozen appliances. And we didn't need a computerized gadget to receive a signal beamed from satellites 23,000 miles out in space in order to find the nearest burger joint.

But isn't it sad the current generation laments how wasteful we old folks were just because we didn't have the "green thing" back then?



## National Cream Tea Day

Friday 24th June 2022

12.00-3.00pm

Christchurch Community Centre

Come and enjoy scones, cream and jam, hot refreshments and maybe a cheeky Pimms!

For further information or to book your place, please call Pat Rigby on 07776 142642.

We hope you can join us.

## NATURE NOTES: JUNE

Many creatures are raising young or giving birth at this time of year Hedgehogs in particular are very active, and if you are lucky, you may see or hear them foraging for food at night. If you want to encourage a particular species of bird into your garden, try leaving out their favourite food.

Dunnocks: fat and small seeds on the ground. Robins: live mealworms. Starlings: peanut cakes. Finches berry cakes. Sparrows, finches and nuthatches: sunflower heads. Tits: insect cakes. Wrens: prefer natural foods but will take fat and seed. Thrushes and blackbirds: fruit, such as over ripe apples, raisins and songbird mix scattered on the ground.



## The Birds Outside My Window

In September of 2021, in a light bulb moment, it hit me that having a birdfeeder in the back garden would mean I would rarely get to see the winter birds, as my living room faces the front.

So the future was sealed, and a second feeder appeared in the front garden, where I could see the daily activity.

I've seen robins, goldfinches, blue tits, great tits and bullfinches, to name but a few. Goldfinches stole my heart (pictured).

These beautiful little birds have bright red faces and a yellow flash on the sides of their bodies. They are seed-eating specialists, and are able to access food that other birds can't. Its fine beak is perfectly adapted to eat seeds from thistles and teasels.

They nest in dense cover, a couple of meters above the ground. Typically, they lay 5 eggs in June and 2 weeks later welcome their brood. Where there is one Goldfinch there will be many more, because they live in small colonies. Their melodic twittering call is easy to identify, and they have a shrill warning call. From my feeder the Goldfinches favourite food has to be sunflower hearts, for which they have challengers, and which makes for excellent competition. The Goldfinch have to be my favourite bird.

If you have a favourite bird and maybe a photo, send your story to the editor@theheron.info.

*Liz Scott*




CAMBRIDGESHIRE & PETERBOROUGH COMBINED AUTHORITY

### Start and Grow programme

Case study

**Nö** Language Made Visual

Nate Lansdell  
Managing Partner & Founder  
Nate Lansdell Design



## CONGRATULATIONS!

Nate Lansdell, of Fenland business Nate Lansdell Design, got grant funding and free planning support to help grow his business thanks to our Start and Grow programme with the Cambridgeshire & Peterborough Combined Authority Growth Hub!

Want to see if your business could benefit? Read more

<https://cpcagrowthhub.co.uk/with-a-smile-a-day-we-are-certain-this-fenland-business-can-change-the-world/>

Nate is no longer able to do recycling in Christchurch, as he is now very busy. Thank you from everyone, and all the very best with your business, Nate. You did – and still do – the village proud!

## German Shepherd Dog Welfare Fund

We've been to some places, Hortus Marine and I. He doesn't say much, but he's a good listener. He's also excited at the prospect of finally being honoured with a name. And as he's grown to know Wellington, he feels that it's his duty to help raise money to save others like him.

Several paid £5 to enter the competition to name Hortus Marine and help the German Shepherd Dog Welfare Fund rescue and re-home vulnerable GSDs.

**STOP PRESS! Competition now closed and our winner, Dan Grubb, came up with the name of Ulf Wolfvargr (loosely means Earl Wolf-Spear) but do feel free to continue to donate to the Charity at any time even though the competition is now closed. Thanks to all who entered the competition and all who have donated so far.**

<https://gsdwelfare.blogspot.com/.../hortus-astartes...>

Michael Brookes



**Royal Jubilees** are an occasion to celebrate the life and reign of a monarch, and are significant events which are celebrated around the world.

Though the concept of the jubilee began in biblical times, today the term is most closely associated with the Royal Family, and the ceremony and spectacle which the term symbolises.



### George III

The celebration of the Sovereign's jubilee years really began in the long reign of King George III. The beginning of the fiftieth year of his reign, on 25 October 1809, was marked both in Britain and the Colonies. The King and other members of the Royal Family

attended a private service in Windsor and a grand fete and firework display at Frogmore. In London the Lord Mayor and Corporation processed to St Paul's Cathedral for a service of thanksgiving before holding a dinner at the Mansion House.

### Queen Victoria's Golden Jubilee

The longest-reigning British monarch until the current Queen surpassed her in 2015, Queen Victoria celebrated Golden and Diamond Jubilees marking 50 and 60 years of her reign.

Queen Victoria's Golden Jubilee was celebrated on 20 and 21 June 1887. On 20 June the day began quietly with breakfast under the trees at Frogmore, the resting place of her beloved late husband, Prince Albert. She then travelled by train from Windsor to Paddington and across the parks to Buckingham Palace for a royal banquet in the evening. Fifty foreign kings and princes, along with the governing heads of Britain's overseas colonies and dominions, attended the feast.

She wrote in her diary of the event: "Had a large

family dinner. All the Royalties assembled in the Bow Room, and we dined in the Supper-room, which looked splendid with the buffet covered with the gold plate. The table was a large horseshoe one, with many lights on it.

The King of Denmark took me in, and Willy of Greece sat on my other side. The Princes were all in uniform, and the Princesses were all beautifully dressed. Afterwards we went into the Ballroom, where my band played."

On the following day, Queen Victoria travelled in an open landau to Westminster Abbey, escorted by Indian cavalry. The procession through London, according to Mark Twain, "stretched to the limit of sight in both directions".

### Victoria's Diamond Jubilee

Ten years later, Queen Victoria's Diamond Jubilee was marked by celebrations, including, on 22 June 1897, a procession to St Paul's Cathedral, where a short service of thanksgiving was held outside the building, as the Queen was too frail to manage the steps.



Eleven colonial Prime Ministers were in attendance. The Queen's progress continued via the Mansion House across London Bridge and through South London, before returning over Westminster Bridge, past the Houses of Parliament to Buckingham Palace.

In her journal the Queen wrote: "No one ever, I believe, has met with such an ovation as was given to me, passing through those 6 miles of streets . . . The cheering was quite deafening and every face seemed to be filled with real joy. I was much moved and gratified."



## TOWNLEY SCHOOL AND PRE-SCHOOL

Christchurch, Wisbech, Cambs. PE14 9NA  
office@townley.cambs.sch.uk  
Website: [www.townley.cambs.sch.uk](http://www.townley.cambs.sch.uk)  
01354 638229



Facebook—Townley School  
and Pre-School

Remember that our website has  
lots more information about  
school.

May 2022

We are still celebrating our recent OFSTED report - if you had not heard we received a 'GOOD' judgement! For me, the opening paragraph of the report sums up everything we have been trying to achieve as a school;

*"What is it like to attend this school? Pupils at Townley enjoy coming to school and do not want to leave at the end of Year 6. They trust in the adults around them. This helps pupils to learn well. Pupils are well prepared for their future. Pupils are respectful and caring towards their friends. Everyone's differences are celebrated and valued. Pupils learn about the different needs of others and show empathy from these experiences. Pupils behave well in lessons and on the playground. If there are instances when pupils need reminding about their behaviour, they quickly settle back to their work or harmonious play. Pupils say that they feel safe in school. Pupils say that bullying used to happen a long time ago but not now. Pupils know who they can talk to if they need help or have any worries. Parents are particularly complimentary about the way staff support them in their role as parents. For example, staff supported them during the pandemic and the period of home learning and when settling pupils back into school. The nurturing ethos is the reason why many parents choose to travel to take their child to Townley School." (OFSTED March 2022)*

I am so proud of our school; the children are amazing, every member of staff and the governors is driven by the children to do the very best they can to support every child and their family. However, we couldn't do it without the continued support of you, our community, always there supporting us no matter what, thank you. I know I have said it before, but I truly believe 'It takes a village to raise a child' and we are so grateful to you all for your support.



### Forest School

You may recall that we were given matched funding by the LA to become a Forest School. Well - staff were so keen we found funding to train a third member of staff! They have just spent the last four days (even giving up their valued weekend) completing the first part of the training! They have had an amazing time and are full of ideas for new rope swings, bridges and fires! We cannot wait to develop this further with the children!

### Art Project

Emerald Class and their parents have been working with a local artist, Nicola Murray-Woods, this term on an art/history project to create a lasting timeline in our school hall. It has been amazing to finally have parents back in school. We would like to thank the community for their suggestions we cannot wait to share the final piece of work with you. We are very grateful to the Opportunity Area for funding the project.



### Governor Vacancy

Would you like to support the work of the school? Our Governing Body needs a new member as our LA governing is stepping down when her term of office finishes as she is going to support other schools. If you would like to know more contact the school office or email [chair@townley.cambs.sch.uk](mailto:chair@townley.cambs.sch.uk).



## ALL THE QUEEN'S HORSES.....

Always gleaming, endlessly patient and a valuable attraction for tourists - the **Household Cavalry's** horses, known as **Cavalry Blacks**, are a uniquely British institution.

### 11 things you might not know about Household Cavalry horses:

1. The horses have been helping to guard our royal family and taking part in ceremonial occasions since Charles II was restored in 1660.
2. A ceremonial horse has to carry about four stone (25kg) in dead weight of kit, plus a man.
3. Cavalry Blacks tend to be geldings — there are no stallions — and are at least 16hh, but are often bigger.
4. The Riding Master, who oversees all selections, looks for horses that are preferably unbroken, of good weight, good attitude, clean-limbed, good outlook, no blemishes, and straight movers.
5. Most horses are purchased when they are three or four, and are then sent to the Royal Army Veterinary Corps Depot, at Melton Mowbray in Leicestershire, from where they are forwarded to the Household Cavalry Mounted Regiment in London, for selection by squadron leaders.
6. They are usually named after battles or significant places, and each year the new horses' names begin with a particular letter.
7. When a horse joins the Household Cavalry, a regimental number is stamped on its hooves.
8. In 1982 four men and seven horses of the Household Cavalry were killed in the Hyde Park bombing. Whenever the Household Cavalry now rides from Knightsbridge Barracks to Horse Guards to change the guard on duty, they salute the memorial.



9. During the summer the regiment spend four weeks in Norfolk as part of their annual Regimental Training Camp – and the horses are taken for a splash in the sea.

10. Since 1997 all regimental horses have been fitted with a microchip for identification purposes.

11. The average age of retirement for regimental horses is about 17 or 18, but a few make it well into their 20s.



## The Gold State Coach

The Gold State Coach will appear as part of the Platinum Jubilee Pageant on Sunday 5 June, 2022. It has been a splendid and beloved sight at royal coronations, jubilees, and events since it was built in 1762.

To mark the beginning of the Platinum Jubilee Pageant, the bells of Westminster Abbey will peal as they did on Coronation Day. As they do so, the Mounted Band of the Household Cavalry will lead The Gold State Coach, drawn – as it always has been – by eight Windsor Grey horses. The Gold State Coach transported The Queen to her Coronation 75 years ago, and has not been seen on the streets of London for over twenty years.

However, on this occasion, the Gold State Coach will play a very particular role in the Pageant - not transporting Her Majesty The Queen but showcasing in the coach windows, original film footage recorded on Coronation Day, evoking the image of The young Queen on that day.

# Names of Unusual or Obsolete Occupations QUIZ

## Part 1 (Part 2 next month)

The English language abounds with words describing occupations and professions that are rare or obsolete or are otherwise unusual and hence obscure. How many can you get?

- |                  |               |                  |
|------------------|---------------|------------------|
| 1. ackerman:     | 10. currier:  | 19. ironmonger:  |
| 2. alewife       | 11. draper:   | 20. joiner:      |
| 3. arkwright:    | 12. drayman:  | 21. keeler:      |
| 4. brazier:      | 13. eggler:   | 22. lapidary:    |
| 5. catchpole:    | 14. farrier:  | 23. lector:      |
| 6. chiffonier:   | 15. fletcher: | 24. milliner:    |
| 7. cobbler:      | 16. hawkler:  | 25. pinsetter:   |
| 8. cooper:       | 17. hobbler:  | 26. ploughright: |
| 9. costermonger: | 18. hooper:   |                  |

Answers on page 20.

## DOCTORS' SURGERIES IN CHRISTCHURCH?

### I wish.....

Did you know that there was once a time when the doctors from Upwell visited Christchurch to hold weekly surgeries?

Before the old Memorial Hall was built the doctors used to hold the surgery in Syringa House, then the home of Mrs. Corke, the Postmistress. Patients had to queue up outside, in all weathers, to go into the front room to see the doctor. The prescriptions were also delivered there to be collected.

In later years the surgery was held in the kitchen of the Memorial Hall with patients waiting in the main hall. The patients went in to see the doctor in the order that they arrived, everyone seemed to remember what that order was! On occasion, if children became too noisy and

boisterous the doctor opened the door and gave a bellow with a threat that they would have to be taken outside along with their family and they would not be seen that day!

The Upwell Health Centre opened in 1977, but the Christchurch visits continued on a Monday, Wednesday and Friday at 12 o'clock. Sometimes the visit would last until 2 p.m. or start later than the 12 p.m. If the doctor was going to be late, he would normally ring the lady who lived in the cottage opposite so that she could inform the people that were waiting. She would also bring over the doctors' refreshments.



Gradually the visits were reduced to Wednesdays only, and eventually, in the 1980s, they stopped altogether.

Sue Norman

### The Last Bee

After the last bee  
had buzzed its last buzz,  
the birds and the butterflies  
did what they could.

But soon the fields lay bare,  
few flowers were left,  
nature was broken,  
and the planet bereft.

Rian Ilston

## With all this talk about The English Cream Tea – how do you make your cuppa? Yorkshire Tea has this advice...



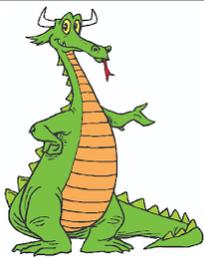
### MIFFY OR TIFFY?

So - when should you add the milk? It's an issue that divides tea drinkers into two camps: those who pour the milk into their mug first (Miffys) and those who pour their tea in before the milk (Tiffys). Like the Montagues and the Capulets, these warring factions may never see eye to eye – but the truth is that this great debate can be solved in less time than it takes to dunk a digestive.

It's all a question of heat. Tea brews best in very hot water, but adding milk cools things down. So, if you're brewing tea directly in a mug, it's better to add the milk last, after it's brewed. And if you're brewing in a teapot, the order doesn't matter at all – it's just a question of personal preference!

<https://www.yorkshiretea.co.uk/our-teas/how-to-make-a-proper-brew>

(Ed. Might have guessed The Bard would get in there somehow!)



## The Queen's English?

**THINGS THAT NATIVE ENGLISH SPEAKERS KNOW, BUT DON'T KNOW THEY KNOW.....**  
Adjectives in English absolutely have to be in this order: opinion-size-age-shape-colour-origin-material-purpose Noun.

So, you can have a 'lovely little old rectangular green French silver whittling knife'. But if you mess with that word order in the slightest, you'll sound like a maniac. Try it! It's an odd thing that every English speaker uses that list, but almost none of us could write it out. And as size comes before colour, green great dragons can't exist....

English speakers love to learn this sort of thing for two reasons. First, it astonishes us that there are rules that we didn't know that we knew. That's rather peculiar, and rather exciting. We're all quite a lot cleverer than we think we are! And then, there's the shock of realising that there's a reason there may be little green men on Mars, but there certainly aren't green little men. Second, you can spend the next hour of your life trying to think of exceptions, which is useful as it keeps you from doing something foolish like working. Actually, there **are** a couple of small exceptions. Little Red Riding Hood may be perfectly ordered, but the Big Bad Wolf seems to be breaking all the laws of linguistics.



Why does Bad Big Wolf sound so very, very wrong? What happened to the rules?



Well, in fact, the 'Big Bad Wolf' is just obeying another great linguistic law that every native English speaker knows, but doesn't know that they know. And it's the same reason that you've never listened to 'hop-hip' music. You are utterly familiar with the rule of ablaut reduplication. You've been using it all your life. It's just that you've never heard of it. But if somebody said the words 'zag-zig', or 'cross-criss', you would know, deep down, that they were breaking a sacred rule of language. You just wouldn't know which one. All four of a horse's feet make

exactly the same sound. But we always, always say clip-clop, never clop-clip. Every second your watch - or the grandfather clock in the hall, which makes the *same sound* - we say tick-tock, never tock-tick. You will never eat a Kat Kit bar. The bells in Frère Jacques will forever chime 'ding dang dong'. Because.....

Reduplication in linguistics is when you repeat a word; sometimes with an altered consonant; lovey-dovey, fuddy-duddy, nitty-gritty, and sometimes with an altered vowel; bish-bash-bosh, ding-dang-dong. If there are three words, then the order has to go I, A, O. If there are two words then the first is I and the second is either A or O. Mish-mash, chit-chat, dilly-dally, shilly-shally, tip top, hip-hop, flip-flop, tic tac, sing song, ding dong, King Kong, ping pong. Why should this be is a subject of endless debate among linguists? After all, it might be to do with the movement of your tongue, or an ancient language of the Caucasus. Anyhow, it really doesn't matter, when you think about it. It's the law, and, as with the adjectives, you knew it, even if you didn't know you knew it. And the law is so important that you just **can't have a Bad Big Wolf!**



**Carers Week 2022 is from 6 to 12 June.**

The week is an annual campaign to raise

awareness of caring, highlight the challenges people looking after a family or friend face and recognise the contribution they make to communities. The theme for Carers Week 2022 is 'Make caring visible, valued and supported'.

**Caring Together** have a range of activities, workshops and information sessions planned for throughout the week. There are also fun activities planned for young carers in the half-term week before Carers Week. If you look after a family member or friend, see how you can get involved. Find out more at [caringtogether.org/news/](http://caringtogether.org/news/)

[carers-week-events-activities-countdown](http://caringtogether.org/carers-week-events-activities-countdown)

If you or someone you know look after a family member or friend who would benefit from support, please contact **Caring Together** on 0345 241 0954, at

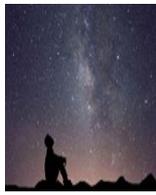
[hello@caringtogether.org](mailto:hello@caringtogether.org) or see [caringtogether.org](http://caringtogether.org)

If you would like monthly updates on the support available to carers, you can sign up to 'inside news' from **Caring Together** by going to [caringtogether.org/keepintouch](http://caringtogether.org/keepintouch)

Kind regards,

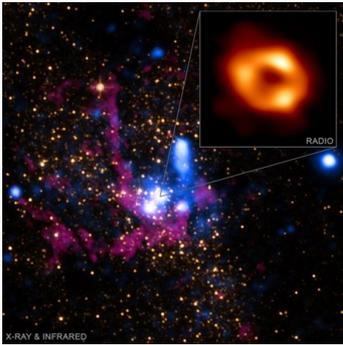
**Jeanette Threadgold,**  
**Communications Officer (engagement)**  
Tel: 0345 241 0954 or 01480 499090  
Mobile: 07843 327573

# Christchurch Stargazers



Hello Stargazers,

This month I am going to talk about **Sagittarius A** – the supermassive black hole at the Galactic Centre of the Milky Way. It is estimated the object's mass is 4.31 +/- 0.38 million solar masses! Stellar mass black holes and medium mass blackholes form when massive stars cease nuclear fusion and can no longer support themselves against complete gravitational collapse. But the mechanism that forms supermassive black holes like Sagittarius A isn't clear, as there are no stars directly large enough to collapse into a black hole of this size.



This is not the only black hole in our galaxy. Roughly, there could be anywhere between 10 million to 1 billion individual black holes! The black hole was discovered by using 8 radio telescopes at 6 different places across the globe.

*Remember – never look at the sun without using the correct protective equipment.*

Mark Andrews

## Christchurch Book Club



Just a small turnout at the last book club meeting, but enough to discuss the book of the moment "Me" by Elton John. Whilst I guess we all knew it was going to be a bit of an ego trip down memory lane for the 'rocket man', we all seemed to find it an interesting read. Most saying that it was well written and really interesting to learn more about Elton's rise to fame and fortune.

Comparing it to our read of Rod Steward's autobiography a few months ago, we all said that we preferred this one as it covered lots of aspects of Elton's life, whereas Rod seemed to favour talking about his various wives and conquests!

Our next book is *The Lost Man* by Jane Harper. Jane, an Australian author, is a crime novelist and this book is about two brothers who meet in the outback after the third brother is found dead.



Our next meeting is on Tuesday 28 June, 7.30pm at Liz Scott's - 41 Fen View.

## Christchurch Art



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

- 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. (clifford.jjr5846@gmail.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.)*



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## Jubilee Weekend at The Dun Cow

**Thursday 2nd June @ 6.30pm**  
Queenie Quiz - Teams of 4, £2 per person including nibbles.

**Friday 3rd June from 11.00am**  
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£2 per entry.

**Saturday 4th June @ 3.00pm**  
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£17.50 per person - book your seat.

**Sunday 5th June - 9.30-11.30am**  
have your usual breakfast or a Right Royal one.  
Book your table.



## A Welney Welcome

Have you missed our craft club? If you have, then this is for you.

Following the sad demise of Christchurch Crafty Crafters, a small group of us have been warmly welcomed into The Welney Craft Group. They are always happy to meet new members. The group is run by Vince Ford and his friendly crew. It takes place at Welney Village Hall every Friday (including some bank holidays), from 10 until 1pm. Take

along your own crafts, or learn something new with the support of other group members. Crafts range from crochet, knitting, embroidery and sketching as well as water colour work, and many more.

For £2.50 a week you will be welcomed with a hot drink and friendships galore. Before you leave you are offered another hot drink, as well as a choice of sandwiches, cake and crisps. A warm welcome is always guaranteed with friendships to forge. Just turn up – give it a try!



## “A LITTLE CHINESE MAGIC”

The Chinese started creating miniature landscapes over 2000 years ago. The smaller the reproduction, the more magical it was thought to be. Move forward in history to last Tuesday evening and change China for the community centre and a little Chinese Magic came to the Gardening Clubs monthly meeting, with the arrival of Mark Mooney and his Bonsai Trees. Mark and Gilly brought many fine examples of the craft and went on to fascinate the club members for over an hour.

It seems that during the Kamakura period (700 years ago) the Japanese copied the artform of Bonsai from the Chinese, from that point on a distinctive Japanese style emerged.

## Christchurch Gardening Club

Instead of entire landscapes the Japanese concentrated on individual trees, and thus Bonsai was born. The word Bonsai simply means, to grow in a container. This was an ancient Chinese horticultural practice, which was rediscovered under the influence of Zen Buddhism, before being appropriated by the Japanese and then the world. Mark and Gilly hail from Welney and can be contacted by email at [gillymark2@gmail.com](mailto:gillymark2@gmail.com) or 07985066972.



June 21<sup>st</sup> at 7pm in the Community Centre

This Month the meeting is given over to one of the clubs' social highlights the Summer Buffet. Should you wish to join the club please call 01354638230.

Steve

## LUNCH BREAK

### Lunch Break this month

June 8<sup>th</sup> and 22<sup>nd</sup> 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.

***NEW! Crafters ...why not bring along your craft and enjoy crafting time with friends?***

**Always the 2<sup>nd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> Wednesdays of the month.**

Our Covid plan is to be cautious.

Contact: Annie on 01354-638088



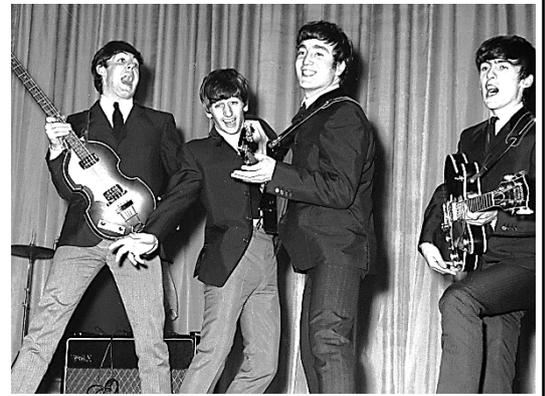
## Indoor Short Mat Bowls

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.

Each year, the National Federation of Women's Institutes (NFWI) backs one campaign that tackles an issue that matters to members, chosen by members. Sheila Day gave a short and very interesting presentation at our May meeting, detailing



the Resolution that has been chosen for 2022. **“Women and Girls with ASD & ADHD - under-identified, under-diagnosed, misdiagnosed, under-supported.** Women and girls presenting with autistic spectrum disorder (ASD) and attention deficit hyperactivity disorder (ADHD) are going undiagnosed. The NFWI calls on the government and funding bodies to fund research into the female presentation of ASD and ADHD, and for action to be taken to improve the diagnosis process for women and girls, to ensure that they are equipped to better manage these conditions and do not suffer in silence”.

Our next meeting is on June 14<sup>th</sup> at 7pm in the CCC. The speaker will be Mr Kevin Rogers, and his subject will be Music of the 1960's. *Our WI committee would like to remind ladies who come, but are not members, that the limit for the number of meetings you can attend is 3. They would like to encourage all interested parties to join our WI to enjoy further meetings in the future.*

After a bit of business, the meeting ended with a fun Beetle-drive! (Not a Beatle-drive ((-: )  
Competition winners: Peggy (1), Margaret S (2), Ann H (3). Next month's colours; red-white-and-blue (combined for each item).

Answers from Page 9

**KINGS AND QUEENS OF ENGLAND QUIZ ANSWERS:**

1. Henry VIII - True
2. Queen Victoria - True
3. King Richard the Lionheart (Richard I) -True
4. Charles I - True
5. Henry I -True
6. King Canute – Probably false, but it makes for a good story!
7. Queen Elizabeth I - True

Answer to Sudoku from Page 7

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

**ANSWERS from page 17**

1. a ploughman or ox herder
2. a proprietor of a tavern
3. a carpenter specializing in wooden chests
4. a brass worker
5. an official who pursues those with delinquent debts
6. a wigmaker
7. a shoemaker
8. a maker or repairer of barrels, casks, and tubs
9. a fruit seller
10. a leather tanner, or a horse groom
11. a cloth dealer
12. a driver of a heavy freight cart
13. an egg seller
14. someone who trims horse hooves and puts on horseshoes
15. a maker of arrows
16. a peddler
17. a person who tows boats on a canal or river
18. a maker of hoops for barrels, casks, and tubs
19. a seller of items made of iron
20. a carpenter who specializes in furniture and fittings
21. a crew member on a barge or a keelboat
22. a jeweller
23. someone who reads to factory workers for entertainment
24. a designer, maker, or seller of women's hats

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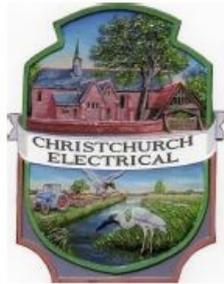
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Saturday 23rd July 9.30–1.00

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frances@poplarartsandcrafts.co.uk for more information.

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# A Week in a Fenland Teenagers Diary (AKA: GCSE's, Exam Stress and Being a Teen!)

*(Written at the end of April)*



Dear reader, as you will probably realise, it is exam time for all us teens. A time that is full of stress, self-doubt and worry.

All of which impede upon what matters in life like social media, playground gossip and of course going out. As such I thought I would give a little insight into what we, the adults of the future are going through by way of a week of diary extracts:

**Monday:** Dear diary, I cannot believe how quickly the holiday has gone, when it started daffodils were in bloom and now, sadly they are fading. Spent an hour packing my school bag and then another repacking it! Note to self: School books at the bottom, pens in the middle so they do not get broken and mobile phone at the top – or better still in my hand! Must also hide make up somewhere so I can do it on the school bus.

**Tuesday:** Today was crazy! I cannot believe how much gossip there was to catch up on at school! I mean, I thought they knew I knew about what happened but really? They didn't know I knew and I thought they knew so how is it that they didn't know I knew? Crickey, just imagine if they knew I knew they knew I knew it would get seriously complicated. Can't remember what happened though!

Huge pile of revision books given out – well there goes my bag packing plan, guess I'm stuck with broken pens and more ink stains on the bag! I can't believe, diary, that there are only a few weeks until my GCSE's. Like everyone else, I know revision is non-stop (at least, that's what the official line is, but video calls are important, when you need to check on others progress). My thoughts are turning to college, WOW! I'm growing up (unless you ask Dad!)

**Wednesday:** Successfully persuaded the girls to go for a walk round the school grounds at break instead of revising. We do, after all need a little downtime. The sun was shining, we had a nice stroll on the field and discussed revision .... some of the time. More importantly we were able to get to the bottom of what they and I knew. We were able to think more clearly about our revision and I'm overjoyed to find out that lots of us are all going to the same college. End of break bell rang but at least we were all smiling and laughing.

**Thursday:** Another walk round the school field – revision at lunch break. A big change in the girls, myself included. Discussing our worries, reassuring each other, just talking is making a difference, we're all laughing and smiling a lot more instead of looking, as Dad would put it, "like you've been grounded for a month with no tech!" Much more relaxed for lunchtime revision now, after checking on the latest gossip, of course. Chatting with the girls makes me realise none of us are calm about our upcoming exams, and that

we're all in need of a "revision sort out", especially regarding suggestions on how to unwind - must speak to Mum on this one, as long as she does not tell me to take up knitting, or something similar that oldies do!

**Friday:** Went to see the drama teacher today, he agreed to let us use the drama studio at lunchtimes so we can act out some of the scenes from Macbeth which we are studying. Jen thought it might help with our revision. Act out a scene or two, then discuss what we have done. Jen said it would make the important scenes unforgettable – not sure if that is in a good way, though!

Trying to think of ways we can all relax and unwind but still revise; currently, I have succeeded in turning my mind into something resembling pea soup! The girls have all agreed to meet up after school and at weekends for walks, perhaps to see some wildlife. Dad told me I have to point out that wild life does not include boys!

Decided to focus on relaxing first, a nice long bath, a good read perhaps. I did think of watching a good chick flick, or something funny on YouTube, but Mum AND Dad both said TV and tech is not helpful for relaxing – what do they know? Adults! Gardening and craft might be better options they said. Guess they might have a point, but suspect it is a ruse to get me to do more chores. I bet gardening will be to mow the lawn and craft will be to make great aunty Ethel a new bonnet for the Easter Faye!

Well, dear reader, there you have it. A Fenland Teens "working week". So next time we come home looking grumpy, just get into the car without a word or go straight up to our room without saying "hello" when we get in, please remember, we have so much more important things to think of right now!



*Tracey Jenkins*

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## More Fenland Water! MIDDLE LEVEL ... what's that?

Middle Level, as I'm sure many of you already know, is managed by The Middle Level Commissioners, who are responsible for providing flood defences within the Middle Level District. It is their responsibility to make sure that excess rain water and other water is effectively managed. They also have a duty to maintain conservation and ensure a safe environment. The 14 people who are elected as the commissioners are farmers, land owners, representatives from industrial organisations, and nominees of local authorities. The Middle Level covers 120 miles of major water courses and is dependent on artificially pumped water. Middle Level Drain was used for leisure boating and now allows fishing by permit along parts of its waterway.

Middle Level is the central, and the latest, section of the "Great Level of the Fens", reclaimed by drainage during the mid-17<sup>th</sup> century. It does not form part of the Ouse Washes, but lies to the West of the Old Bedford River. However, excess water is transferred to and from this area to aid flood defences.



Between 1977 and 1983 a series of improvements were made, including new pumping stations and raising the banks of the Old Nene, and puddling clay was used to retain the water. Major improvements were made to 16 Ft, 20Ft, and 40Ft rivers in order to maintain water for navigation. All of the bridges on 16 Foot were demolished in order to widen the waterway to allow it to carry away water, following heavy rainfall. Pumping stations have needed to be regularly updated to increase the volume of water able to be managed.



Our local Drain, 16 Foot, is now used occasionally for leisure craft, but by far its biggest recreational draw is for fishing. Such has been the success of conservation that fish remain plentiful as well as waterfowl both during the winter and the Summer. In fact, its success means that otters are found around The Poulters Drove area, as well as Heron and Shags, all of which have an appetite for fish. The competition between man and nature continues, but permission has to be sought to fish in the waters of Middle Level in order to allow for continued ecological success.

Liz Scott



### One of our planet's most stunning sights - a super blood Moon was brought about by a full Lunar Eclipse on May 16<sup>th</sup> 2022.

In the year's only full lunar eclipse, our Earth came between the Sun and the Moon. Falling fully into Earth's shadow, the Moon slowly darkened before turning dusky red.

The Moon appeared larger than usual because it was at its closest point of its orbit, to the Earth, giving it the name 'Super Moon'. It is also called a 'Super Flower Blood Moon'. In the Northern Hemisphere, a full moon in May is often called a Flower Moon because it coincides with the Spring flowers. But why does it look red?

Well, the only sunlight reaching the Moon during the full eclipse will be passing through the Earth's atmosphere. "This light will be blood red, from all Earth's sunrises and sunsets reflected on to the Moon's surface", explained Dr Gregory Brown, astronomer at the Royal Observatory in Greenwich, London. "You'll actually be seeing every sunrise and every sunset occurring around the Earth at once. All of that light will be projected on to the Moon." How cool is that!

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.

