

# The Heron

Community Magazine

Delivered to homes in Christchurch, Euximoor and Tipps End

November 2022

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'When spider webs unite,  
they can tie up a lion'.

*Ethiopian Proverb*

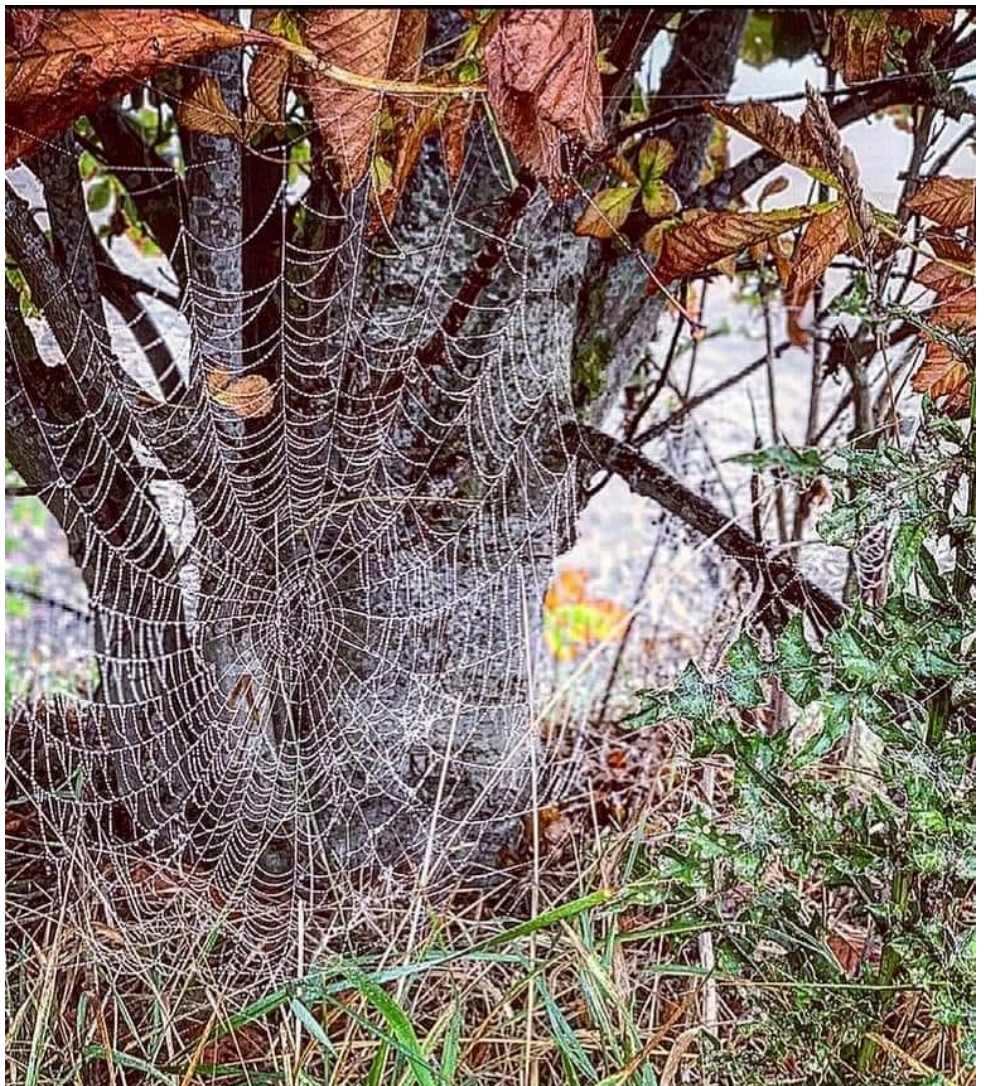


Photo: Taken by Aiden Pye, Aged 17

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# The New Field Project - Through the Seasons

We have this to look forward to in the future – what a lovely project! Some of the trees that will be donated to our Christchurch project next Spring by the Woodland Trust. See the article on page 7 for further information.

## Spring

Hawthorn blossom  
Grey Willow catkins  
Crab Apple blossom



## Summer

Downy Birch  
Elder  
Sessile Oak



## Autumn

Hazel  
Rowan  
Field Maple



## Winter

Holly  
Silver Birch  
Dog Rose hips



English woodlands are so beautiful. We will soon have our own small version in Christchurch. Not only are they beautiful, they are great for soaking up CO<sup>2</sup>. Perhaps we could plant some bluebells underneath the trees?





# 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!

## Mobile Library:

**OUR MOBILE LIBRARY COMES ONCE A MONTH, ON THE FIRST TUESDAY, AT 12.15-1.00PM.**

The van parks in the lay-by on Upwell Road, opposite to the entrance of Fen View. **USE IT OR LOSE IT?**

The Mobile Library visits March, Christchurch and Manea:

March Elliot Lodge 9:30 - 10:10  
March Shaftesbury Lodge 10:20 - 10:50  
March Upwell Park 10:55 - 11:15  
March Fleming Court 11:30 - 11:45  
Christchurch Layby 12:15 - 1pm  
Manea Festival Close 2pm - 3pm  
Manea High Street 3:10 - 4:30pm

As well as a large range of library books, you can get your NHS hearing batteries, replacement walking stick ferrules and you can dispose of old household batteries.

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.**



WENDY GETS PRIVACY BY  
CREATING HER OWN BOOK COVERS

# 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 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 - Kay Miller	01354 638232
Parish Councillor - Peter Owen	01354 638847
Parish Councillor - Andrew Sparrow	01354 638020
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
Water Emergencies	03457 145145

Club Contacts	
Art Club - Jan Clifford	01354 638217
Book Club - Pat Rigby	07776 142642
Gardening Club - Marion Hawthorn	01354 638230
Short Mat Bowls Club - Janet Harper	01354 638681
WI - Margaret Hayes	01354 653240
Jazz Club - Cat Johnson	musiciancat@hotmail.co.uk
Christchurch Stargazers - Mark Andrews	07425 165415

# 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>** SOME LOCAL FIREWORK DISPLAYS – PAGE 15 **</b>				
Tues 1 <sup>st</sup>	Mobile Library	12.15pm	Lay-by (Fen View)	3
Tues 1 <sup>st</sup>	Book Club	7.30pm	Brimstone Manor	19
Sun 6 <sup>th</sup>	Church H/C	10.30am	CCC	11
Sun 6 <sup>th</sup>	Welle Cinema: "ELVIS"	2pm	3 Holes V/Hall	26
Tues 8 <sup>th</sup>	Art Club	1.30-3.30pm	CCC	19
Tues 8 <sup>th</sup>	W I	7pm	CCC	21
Weds 9 <sup>th</sup>	Lunch Break	12 – 2pm	CCC	21
<b>Sun 13<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>REMEMBRANCE SERVICE</b>	<b>10.45am</b>	<b>War Memorial</b>	<b>11</b>
Mon 14 <sup>th</sup>	Parish Council Meeting	7.30pm	CCC	
Tues 15 <sup>th</sup>	Gardening Club	7pm	CCC	21
<b>Sat 19<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>NEW FIELD PROJECT</b>	<b>2pm</b>	<b>CCC</b>	<b>7</b>
Tues 22 <sup>nd</sup>	Art Club	1.30-3.30pm	CCC	19
Weds 23 <sup>rd</sup>	Lunch Break	12-2pm	CCC	21
Sat 26 <sup>th</sup>	Church Christmas Fayre	10am – 2pm	CCC	11
Sun 27 <sup>th</sup>	Jazz Club	12.30-2.45pm	CCC	
Sun 27 <sup>th</sup>	Church E/P	4.30pm	CCC	11
<b>REGULAR WEEKLY EVENTS</b>				
<b>Every Mon</b>	Short Mat Bowls	7-9pm	CCC	21
<b>Every Weds</b>	Chair-based exercise class Kathleen Henderson	10-10.50am 07880 543821	CCC	6
<b>Every Thurs</b>	Coffee, Cake & Chat	2-3pm	CCC	11
<b>M,T,W,TH</b>	Mobile Post Office	Various	Lay-by (Fen View)	3

**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

This month's magazine has so much in it, I hardly know where to begin! But you will notice that some teens in the village have shared their talents with The Heron. That's so exciting to see. Aiden Pye, 17 (front cover) and Manos Maragoudakis, 16 (back cover) are obviously very talented photographers and I am sure you will agree that their photos have captured the essence of November. Tracey Jenkins, 16 (page 12) has written a great article about her experiences leaving school this summer. A number of folks will be able to relate to that, I am certain! Thank you to our creative teens. Keep it up ((-: Perhaps you are one of those people who don't usually read EVERY article in the Heron ... but I suggest you do this month. Each bit is an interesting read. Enjoy!

Annie Nason

## Heron News

### HERON CHRISTMAS CARDS FOR SALE!

Our winter fundraiser this year is a sale of Christmas Cards designed by villagers. They will be sold in packs of 8 selected designs by Rex Ockenden who is doing the bulk of this work. Thank you, Rex, once again, for using your time and talents on our behalf.

The cost will be 1 pack for £4, or 3 packs for £10. You can order your pack(s) from our Treasurer/Ads Manager Elaine Reed-Hughes after November 21<sup>st</sup>. (Elaine's contact details, as is our web site address, is on the front cover).

All designs that were sent in will be on our web site by November 15<sup>th</sup>. There, the 8 chosen designs will be marked as such (two by children and 6 by adults). We will also publish them in the December magazine. Well done all and thank you for your support.

**Copy Deadline** - The deadline for copy for the December edition of the Heron is 23rd November.

### HAVE YOU LOST A CARDIGAN?

A BLACK LADIES CARDIGAN WAS LEFT FOR SAFE KEEPING AT THE W.I. STALL, AT THE CAR SHOW, ON SUNDAY 4 SEPTEMBER.

IF THIS BELONGS TO YOU, PLEASE CONTACT ELAINE REED-HUGHES ON 01354 638310 AND SHE WILL DO HER BEST TO REUNITE YOU!

### REVERSE ADVENT CALENDAR

EACH DAY ADD AN ITEM TO A BOX.  
ON CHRISTMAS EVE DONATE THE CONTENTS TO A  
FOOD BANK.

- December 1 - box of cereal
- December 2 - peanut butter
- December 3 - stuffing mix
- December 4 - boxed potatoes
- December 5 - macaroni and cheese
- December 6 - canned fruit
- December 7 - canned tomatoes
- December 8 - canned tuna
- December 9 - dessert mix
- December 10 - jar of applesauce
- December 11 - canned sweet potatoes
- December 12 - cranberry sauce
- December 13 - canned beans
- December 14 - box of crackers
- December 15 - package of rice
- December 16 - package of oatmeal
- December 17 - package pasta
- December 18 - spaghetti sauce
- December 19 - chicken noodle soup
- December 20 - tomato soup
- December 21 - can corn
- December 22 - can mixed vegetables
- December 23 - can carrots
- December 24 - can green beans

PASSIONATEPENNYPINCHER.COM

### 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!

# YOU'RE NEVER TOO OLD TO EXERCISE

My name is Karen and I have been living in village for last 15 years. Earlier this year my mum was diagnosed with osteoporosis and a hair line crack in her spine. When we spoke to a doctor he recommended that she did light muscle and bone building exercises at least once a week. Being of a certain age she was concerned about exercising.

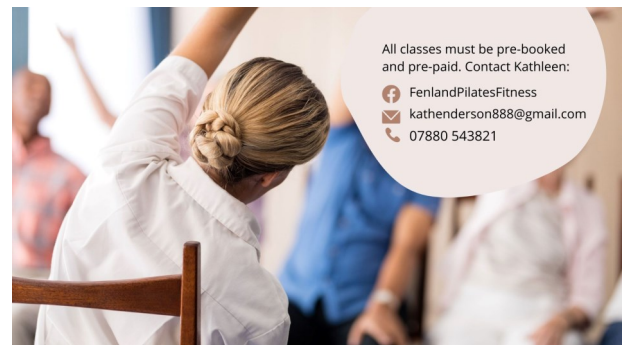
Since I moved here I have been attending numerous exercise classes run by Kathleen Henderson so, remembering that she does a chair-based exercise class in our village, I took my mum along to try it. The class has been extremely beneficial to my mum and I've seen a change in her mobility since she's been attending classes. The exercises that are done are always of a gentle nature. Slow, but controlled movements performed while being sat in a chair. Then a few standing exercises while holding onto a chair - if the person is physically capable. If not, Kathleen adapts exercise to suit the client.

Unfortunately, not many villagers seem to attend this class. Maybe because they are worried about exercising as they get older, or are just shy of walking into a new class.

I would just like to say that I cannot recommend this class highly enough for anyone that just wants to get out once a week, make friends and improve their mobility. Kathleen is such a warm and welcoming person and I know that from my mum's view and obviously mine, makes everyone feel at home. The social aspect of this group has helped my mum enormously. On weeks where Kathleen has had to cancel a session due to lack of numbers, mum has been really disappointed.

So if you're sitting at home and thinking 'I'm too old for exercise classes' then think again and just give it a try. It's a very beneficial class, for people of a certain age in our community, and if we don't use it, we will lose it!

Karen W



All classes must be pre-booked and pre-paid. Contact Kathleen:

FenlandPilatesFitness  
kathhenderson888@gmail.com  
07880 543821

## PC SNIPPETS

The Parish Council met on Monday 10 October, with Vice Chair Kay Miller in charge of proceedings. Members were pleased to note that the long-awaited roadside marker posts along the Sixteen Foot Bank were finally being installed. The Clerk reported on some of the correspondence received, including a Combined Authority Roadshow, a County Council Transport Strategy consultation, and a District Council Review of Polling Districts and Polling Places.

Members discussed the location of the new Anglian Water reservoir, to be situated a short distance away, between Doddington and Chatteris. This major infrastructure project will transform farmland into a major leisure destination. The Council also considered the draft Fenland Local Plan, which will govern development across the district for the next 18 years. They expressed concern about the allocation of development sites and will discuss this with the Planning Officers over the coming months.

The annual audit process has now been completed, with the Council's finances receiving a clean bill of health from both its own auditor and the externally-appointed auditor.

The next PC meeting will take place on Monday 14 November in the Community Centre at 7.30pm. All Parish Council meetings are open to the public.

**EVENT ON NOVEMBER 19<sup>TH</sup>: SEE PAGE 7.**

The PC would like your views on the development of the field alongside the Recreation Ground. Please let us know what you would like to see there. Contact any member of the Council or email [projects@christchurchparishcouncil.org.uk](mailto:projects@christchurchparishcouncil.org.uk)



## **SURGERY ANNOUNCEMENT 21/10/22**

We have reluctantly made the decision to close the surgery between 1 and 2 pm every day. This decision allows our team to catch up with important work and helps our staff in relation to sustained pressure and demand for our service.

Between these times our front doors will be closed, and our phones will not be answered. There will be an option for very urgent matters to come through to the surgery but please be aware we are not an emergency service. Anything medically urgent should be a 999 call. Thank you for your understanding, and sorry for any inconvenience caused.

## **New Field Project**

### ***A call for helpers!***

As some readers will know, the field next to the playing field, on the other side of the ditch, is being converted into a village amenity field. The intention is to provide a dog walking/play area on about a third of the site, along with a woodland/activity area of the remaining two-thirds.

Whilst the Parish Council will be providing funding and ultimately oversee the project, we do need a committee of other villagers to provide the planning and implementation.

**So, we have booked the Community Centre for a meeting where anyone who is interested in helping out can come along, and put their name down. The date is Saturday the 19th of November, at 2pm.**

In other field news, the Woodland trust will be donating 420 saplings to plant in March next year, so we will definitely need some volunteers for that job! The types of tree are:

**Medium Working Wood** (105 saplings) - 15 x Silver birch, 30 x Rowan, 15 x Wild cherry, 15 x Sessile oak, 15 x Field maple and 15 x Grey willow

**Medium Wild Harvest** (105 saplings) - 15 x Elder, 15 x Rowan, 15 x Hazel, 30 x Blackthorn, 15 x Crab Apple, and 15 x Dog Rose

**Medium Year Round Colour** (105 saplings) - 15 x Hawthorn, 15 x Silver birch, 15 x Hazel, 30 Rowan, 15 x Dogwood and 15 Wild cherry

**Medium Wild Wood** (105 saplings) - 30 x Downy Birch, 15 x Hawthorn, 15 x Crab Apple, 15 x Hazel, 15 x Goat Willow and 15 x Holly

We really need to have a planting plan ready for the arrival of these saplings. We also intend to add fruit trees to the site, for example, apples, plums, greengages, pears etc. so that villagers can help themselves when they are ripe.

The field has been ploughed, in order to get it ready for grassing. It will need some debris removal fairly soon as there is a lot of rubbish left from the grubbing out of the ditch.

If you would like to help with this project, but cannot make the meeting, please email:

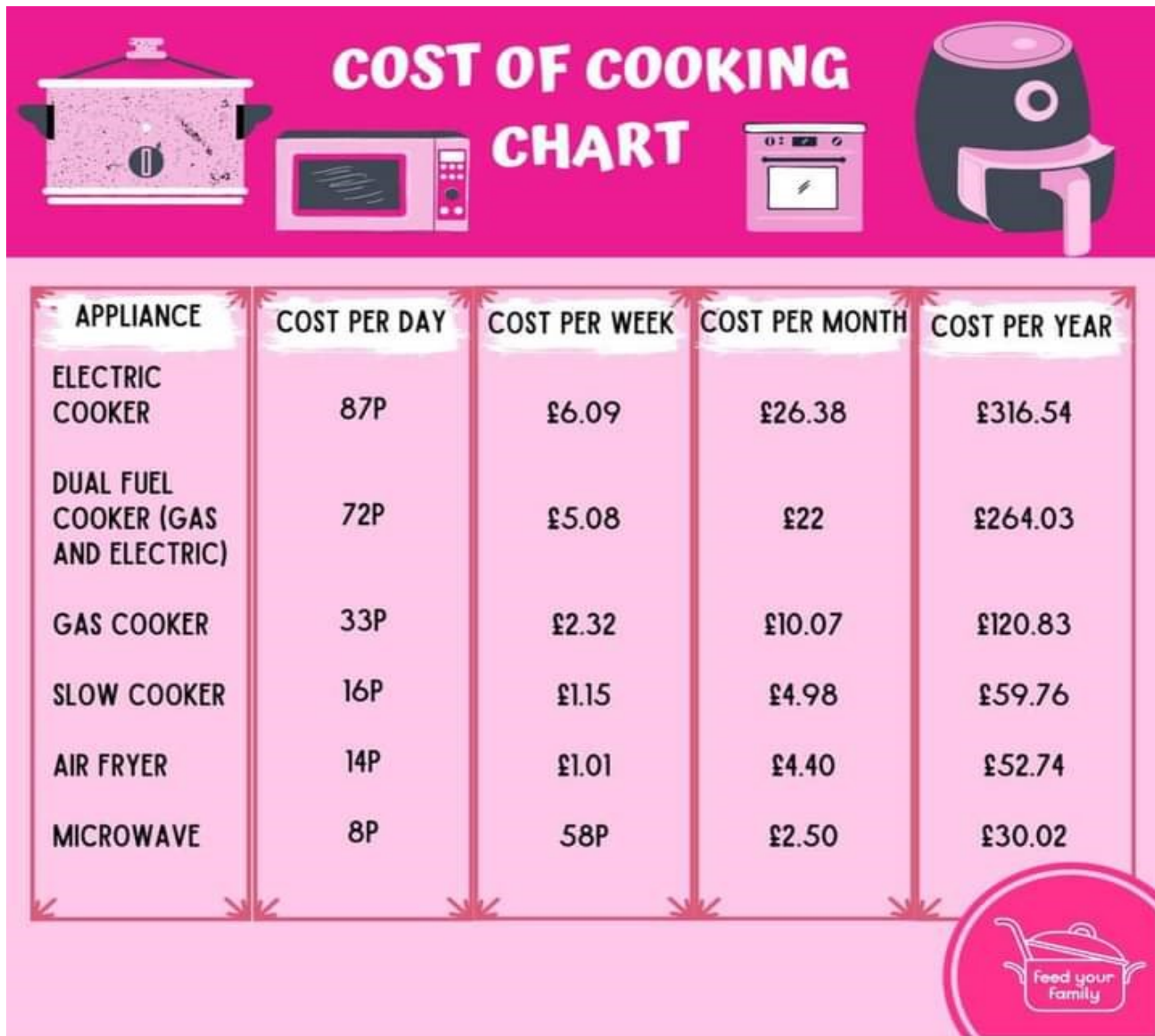
[projects@christchurchparishcouncil.org.uk](mailto:projects@christchurchparishcouncil.org.uk) and you can be put on the list. If you have any specific skills that would help, please include those in the email.

James Hughes



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





## How copying supermarket strategies could save you money when filling your fridge....



What's lurking at the back of your fridge? Packets of once-fresh herbs turned into a sludgy mess? Squelchy cucumbers or mouldy strawberries? It's easy to forget about the items we carefully store and so often that leads us to throwing away rotten produce. This a waste of food and a waste of money, so how do we get on top of the problem?

Author and food blogger Lorna Cooper, knows a thing or two about eking out her family meal budget. She explains the simple rules of storage that so many of us ignore. "I think most people when they come home from the shops, they just put the stuff in the fridge," says Lorna. "But what you've got to do is take out the stuff that's in the fridge first and then pack from the back out so that the stuff that's going to come out is at the front. That's the first thing." Lorna explains that as well as this, the simple act of removing food from plastic packaging can extend the shelf life of items. "Fruit and veg in plastic bags are going to sweat and it's going to go off faster. So, if you can, give berries and fruit a wash with a vinegar and water solution and then make sure that they're dry, and then properly store them either in glass jars or in plastic baskets. "If you can put a piece of kitchen paper on top and underneath that will stop them going soft and mouldy. "And do what the shops do: rotate your stock."

**Get into the habit.** Lorna advises creating a new morning habit to keep across the items you have. "When you put the kettle on and you stick your toaster on... when you're standing there waiting, just open the fridge and have a wee look. Or when you're making dinner at night have a look, and see what's what. "If you've got veg that's starting to look maybe a bit bendy, or you've got leftovers that really can't do another day but you're not going to eat it today, stick them in the freezer." Even when the veg is just on the verge of turning, Lorna advises that it doesn't need to be thrown away. "Bendy veg is perfect in a soup or a pasta sauce," she says.





**Soccer puzzle:** Can you kick the football and score a goal?  
Use each hint to write a word that is only one letter different from the word above.

**B A L L**

The opposite of short

\_ \_ \_ \_

The hind part of an animal

\_ \_ \_ \_

Put to sea

\_ \_ \_ \_

Dirt

\_ \_ \_ \_

Spiral

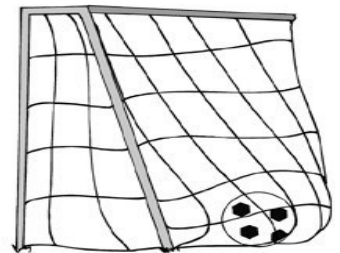
\_ \_ \_ \_

Dark mineral used for fuel

\_ \_ \_ \_

**G O A L**

Answers on Page 19.



## LONG EARED OWLS

Now the clocks have changed, we can often hear various species of owls hooting before we go to bed. Here are some interesting facts about Long Eared Owls.

- The Long-eared Owl's "ears" are not ears at all! Scientists believe these feathered tufts on top of the heads do serve a purpose besides just making the owl look super cute! Ear tufts can be erect or laid flat, as a way to communicate. They also help the bird's camouflage.
- One study showed that over 95% of the Long-eared Owl's diet is composed of rodents. Long-eared Owls often roost together during the winter months.

**So where are their ears??** You can't see them because they are hidden within the feathers that make up the ruff that surrounds the facial disc. The feathers of the ruff are thickened and help to channel sound towards the ears. Interestingly, the two ears are not level in their positioning in most owl species. The left ear is lower than the right, and they are out of line up and down too. This allows very accurate detection of the sound of their prey. **BEWARE, mice!!**

## And the answer is ..... ???

1. Q: You are a cyclist in a cross-country race. Just before crossing the finish line, you overtake the person in second place. In what place did you finish?
2. Q: The number 8,549,176,320 is a unique number. What is so special about it?
3. Q: You're in a cabin and it's pitch black. You have one match on you. Which do you light first: the newspaper, the lamp, the candle, or the fire?
4. Give me food, and I will live. Give me water, and I will die. What am I?
5. What has a spine but no bones?
6. What gets wetter and wetter the more it dries?

Answers on page 19.

# Farming in past times....

## Autumn into Winter

**This month I am portraying life and goings on, on my dad's farm in Autumn/Winters of the late 1940's/50's.**

Following our corn harvest (August/early September), the corn stacks had to be thatched, much the same as some traditional houses and old farm barns are seen today. This was a labour-intensive job for both the thatcher and his mate, as everything was done by hand. Most of the thatching was done by the worker working from a ladder, layering the straw to a certain thickness, binding the layers with string and securing with a stack peg which was made from willow. The whole roof of the stack was made water tight by this method.

Main crop potato lifting was the next job. Potatoes, back in the day, were picked mainly by women. Work started for them at 8am and finished at 3pm, with a 'docky' at 9:30 in the morning, Lunch 12-12:45pm. Potatoes were lifted by horse and specialist plough which brought the crop to the surface. The potatoes were picked into wicker baskets, emptied into the horse drawn cart, the baskets then thrown out to the pickers to be filled again; the same routine took place again and again until the cart was filled. This was then taken to be unloaded at the 'grave' on the field headland (outside storage space), where the cart contents were tipped in a straight line onto an approx. base of 8ft x 6ft in height. The 'graves' were covered with a thick layer of straw and earthed up by the men with spades. This was done to make sure the potatoes would keep dry and frost free during the Winter. Winters were much colder back in those days; climate change was unheard of.

When prices were creeping up, then the 'grave' would be opened up in frost free conditions, the potato 'shaker' would be dragged to the site by horse and be set up for a day's work. We had a McRoberts machine with a Lister engine to belt-drive the main cogwheel to get it to shake the potatoes over a riddle, then up a small elevator and into hessian bags at the end of the machine. The men took it in turns shovelling the potatoes from the 'grave' into the shaker at the other end with one person each side of the shaker picking off any rots or rubbish. The lorry to collect the days order (usually 6 or 8 tons) turned up at about 3pm. The lorry

was loaded using a small elevator, driven by another Lister petrol engine. A man on the lorry would organise the loading. The 'grave' would be well covered up again to keep it frost free.

Sugar beet was the next crop to be lifted. This was done with 2 horses pulling a beet plough. Once lifted the men each using a beet knife, would top the beet and put into small heaps in a row down the field. When this was all done then a horse and cart would be driven in between 2 rows down the field and the men would ladle the beet into it to capacity. This would then be carted to make a large 'grave' along the roadside, making it convenient to load into the lorries to be taken to the factory in Spalding for processing, as and when permits allowed.

Mangolds were the next crop to take up. They were carried out with a horse pulling a lifter. The mangolds were topped by hand and loaded into carts by the men, using 2 tine forks, then put into yet another 'grave' and were covered with straw to keep frost free. Mangolds were used as part of the cattle feed mix during the winter months.

Cattle were brought into yards from their summer grazing in October, usually around Michaelmas (Oct 11<sup>th</sup>). They were fed a ration of cattle cake, chaff, shredded mangolds and molasses, to fatten them up for the spring sales, usually in April/May. They were bedded down daily on wheat straw and fed night and morning with the ration mix.

Ploughing the fields and drilling wheat for next year's harvest was the next job. We grew Hybrid 46, a variety of winter wheat which was found to be a reliable and heavy cropper, back in the day.

We also had laying hens. The eggs produced by them were collected by Sainsbury's egg packers, every 2 weeks; we were only small producers. Other livestock on the farm consisted of 5 Shire horses, 1 Welsh 12:2hh pony, approx' 30 grazing cattle, 22-28 store cattle in the Winter, all Lincoln Reds, and a Jersey cow which produced very rich milk for the house, as I remember.

As time moved on farms became mechanised and farming progressed to the present day - for better or worse?? It was a lovely way of life as I remember it, in my childhood days.

*Jill Bliss.*



## INVESTING IN TWO NEW RESERVOIRS

We are investing in two new reservoirs – one in Lincolnshire, and another in the Fens in partnership with Cambridge Water. They will secure a reliable supply of water for the future and create new opportunities for the region to thrive. These new reservoirs will allow us to store the extra water we need for decades to come,

so it is always on tap when we need it. They will help protect you from future climate events, including hotter summers and potential future droughts. And in doing so we will provide new habitats and areas for wildlife.

Reservoirs also create great natural places to explore, and exciting new leisure facilities for people to enjoy.

<https://www.anglianwater.co.uk/environment>



# Church News

Hello Everybody

The clocks have gone back and the nights are drawing in. Here we are in November.

After a relatively quiet October, I think November is going to be a busy month for the church.

In October, we held our annual Harvest Supper; an enjoyable evening with good food, good company, and great entertainment. We raised £530 for church funds and would like to thank everyone for supporting us at this event.

In November we have a service of Holy Communion on the 6<sup>th</sup> November at 10.30am and a service of Evening Prayer on 27<sup>th</sup> November at 4.30pm, both in Christchurch Community Centre. There will also be a service of Remembrance on the 13<sup>th</sup> November at 10.45am at the War Memorial in the church yard. There is a service every week somewhere in the Benefice. See the list below.

On Saturday 26<sup>th</sup> November we will be holding our Christmas Fayre. There will be lots of stalls and plenty for children and adults to do. Why not come and start your Christmas shopping or just have some fun and a delicious bacon butty? See page 16 for more details. Looking forward, we are planning a Community Carol

Service to be held in the Community Centre on the 18<sup>th</sup> December at 4pm followed by light refreshments. We are hoping this will also be an 'all age' event. Everyone will be very welcome. I am looking for anyone who would like to read at this service; please do contact me (07702225259 or 638092) if you would like to take part in some way in the service. Please do let us know your favourite carol so that we can try to include it in the service.

As I write this, the architect has put out to tender the plans for the repair of the drainage works in the graveyard. Hopefully, we will soon know who will be undertaking the work and how much this first stage of repairs is going to cost.

Finally, it is with disappointment that I let you know that Kay Miller has stepped down from her role as church warden. I would like to thank Kay for all that she has done in her time as church warden.

In God We Trust.

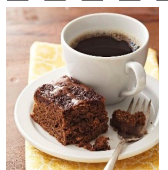
Helen



<b>6TH NOV</b> 3rd Sunday before Advent	<b>10.30 HC</b> Rev S & Stephen Tooke			<b>10.30 MP</b> R Holding		
<b>13TH NOV</b> Remembrance	<b>10.45</b>	<b>15.00</b> R Holding	<b>10.45</b> A Gleave	<b>10.45</b> Rev S Tooke	<b>10.45</b> Stephen Tooke	<b>10.15</b> R Holding
<b>20TH NOV</b> Sunday next before Advent		<b>10.30 HC</b> Rev S & Stephen Tooke			<b>10.30 MP</b> A Carlin	
<b>27TH NOV</b> Advent Sunday	<b>16.30 EP</b> Stephen Tooke			<b>10.30 HC</b> Rev J Webb		

## Coffee, Cake and Chat

Come along on Thursday afternoons from 2-3pm and catch up with friends and make new ones. Held in the Community Centre while repairs are made to the church ceiling.



## LA PASADA IN CHRISTCHURCH THIS ADVENT

You may remember (pre-Covid), in Christchurch, these small figures of pregnant Mary, riding on a donkey led by a very tired-looking Joseph, travelling and trying to find a place to stay for the night on their way to Bethlehem. During Advent, these figures were passed from home to home of people interested to take part. Whilst the Holy Family rested for the night in their home, prayers were said, or thoughts offered up, for today's homeless people and for refugees. It's a tradition borrowed from the Spanish speaking world, and which originated in Mallorca. It is sometimes also called Las Posadas.

We will be doing this again this year in Christchurch. The church's Advent Season begins on Advent Sunday, which is November 27<sup>th</sup> this year. If you would like to take part in this village event, please let Annie Nason know. [editor@theheron.info](mailto:editor@theheron.info) or call 638088. We will have a list of dates for the travellers' rest places and folks can pass them on to the next people for the next day.

## A Fenland Teenager's Big dilemma: time to splash that cash or saving for a rainy day?

Dear reader,

It's been a while since my last article and you're probably wondering what has been taking my attention away from writing. Well, surprisingly it's not a boy, (well that kept granddad happy!); so what has this Fenland Teen been up to?

Well readers, let's start with what I last spoke about: GCSE exams results. Before I continue, I'd like to reassure you all that, despite my earlier convictions, the world did not stop spinning. I know. Shocking, but true!

Let me explain what happened. It was a rainy, cold Thursday afternoon as I made my way up to the school holding my not so fashionable umbrella (that, for reasons I'll explain later, was a necessity to keep my hair dry). I opened the door to the school hall (*dramatic background music: Skyfall by Adele*), and I went to collect a flimsy A4 piece of paper that would change my life forever. OMG!!!!!! I PASSED ALL OF THEM!!! As if that wasn't shocking enough, I have also recently taken up an apprenticeship with a local Hairdressing Salon. It was such a relief to know I have a steady job and all my GCSE'S – who knew!

But the trouble is that now I have this big dilemma! Do I splash my cash? Well, dear reader, being a teenager it's quite simple: the answer is yes, yes and YES. Now, as do other members of the working population, I have to travel to work, partly by scrounging a lift from one of my grandparents, and then a quick train journey, all of which costs, as I am sure you know only too well. Of course, I do put aside transport money, and similarly, I put aside some money for necessities. That just leaves me with deciding about savings. Oh yes - savings? Now, why spend money immediately for one pair of shoes when I could save up and buy the shoe shop? Well, maybe not, but you get the idea.

So there it is, my dilemma. I guess the sensible thing when all is said and done is to do both. I can go wild, but just a little bit, each month. After all, there are some great quality and unique clothes in charity shops to make my money go further, but it will also mean I can save. As my grandparents keep reminding me, there will be driving lessons, a car, maybe even a place of my own one day, all of which mean I need to save. I do, however, get the impression my grandparents' encouragement to save for such things is partly because they want my bedroom to use for other purposes... or am I being paranoid? Mmm; may have to give more thought to that one. Anyway, dear readers while you finish reading, I'm off to enjoy a brief shopping spree and also to save some pennies.

Tracey Jenkins



## ANOTHER SMALL BUSINESS ENTERPRISE IN CHRISTCHURCH!

Introducing Emma Saunders and her business, 'The Wavelength Group'

Hi all. I am new to the village of Christchurch and wanted to say 'hello'.

I have two dogs - Scamp, a Chocolate Labrador, and Gigi, a Romanian Rescue. Scamp is 8 and has been working alongside me as a Canine Therapy Dog for dogs since 2017. He is the soppiest dog, who loves everyone. He is well socialised and trained, although if you have treats in your pocket, I have no control!! Gigi is approximately 3 and was found on the side of the road with her dead puppies. She was nervous, anxious and terrified with no social skills when she came to us in August 2021. She has made incredible progress in that time and continues to grow every day.

I am a spiritual and soul healer and energy clearer and have a passion for animals and healing. My business is 'The Wavelength Group', trading as 'Animal Wavelength and Healing Wavelength'. 'Animal Wavelength' offers Dog and Puppy Training, Animal Reiki, Dog and Puppy play sessions, and I specialise in working with dogs with behavioural and emotional issues, as well as other services.

'Healing Wavelength' is more for people and helps aid your healing journey with therapy sessions; I also clear energies from buildings and land as well as other services.

I am qualified, DBS checked and insured.

All information can be found on the website [www.thewavelengthgroup.co.uk](http://www.thewavelengthgroup.co.uk) or contact me on 07434153002.

Thanks. Emma

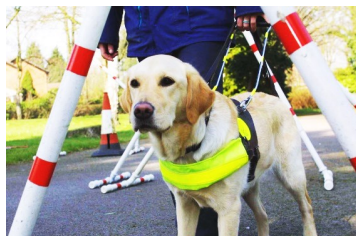




## Why the cost-of-living crisis is having a bigger impact on people with sight loss.

Rapid rises in the cost of living are having a bigger impact on blind and partially sighted people. People with sight loss already face additional, unavoidable costs like taxi journeys, assistive technology and support in the home. Society isn't designed with blind and partially sighted people in mind, which means they're less likely to be able to find the best money-saving deals or choose the cheapest options. Even before prices began to rise, one in five blind and partially sighted people said they had some, or great, difficulty in making ends meet. The cost-of-living crisis has made this situation worse. People with sight loss are also more reliant on benefits than the general population; only one in four registered blind and partially sighted people of working age in employment. In April 2022, the UK Government increased benefits by just 3.1 per cent – despite bills and prices rising far faster and inflation predicted to reach 11 per cent later in the year.

<https://www.rnib.org.uk>



## BONFIRE NIGHT

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

cold	cup of soup	plot	smoke
candy floss	parliament	guy fawkes	wooley hat
treason	penny	hot potatoes	gunpowder
orange	toffee apples	fairground	bonfire
display	catherine wheel	november	bang
safety	treacle toffee	scarf and gloves	fireworks
sparklers			

## New Year's Eve Party!



**Come along and see in the New Year with us  
at the Community Centre  
on Saturday 31 December 2022  
From 7 till late.**

**Please come along and support this village event  
and let's make some memories!**

**Tickets available from:**

Pat Rigby - 07776 142642 or  
Geoff Harper - 07504 691509

Fancy Dress  
Optional

Fun!

Buffet

Dancing



Prize for the  
best costume

£10 Adult  
£5 Child

## CHRISTMAS AFTERNOON TEA AT THE DUN COW 1.30-3.30PM



**SELECTION OF SANDWICHES - TURKEY & STUFFING, CHEESE & PICKLE,  
PRAWNS IN COCKTAIL SAUCE  
CHEESE STRAWS - PORT & STILTON SAUSAGE ROLLS  
QUICHE - FRESH TOMATOES  
SCONE WITH CLOTTED CREAM & JAM  
MINCE PIE  
CHOCOLATE CHRISTMAS PUDDING CUPCAKE  
CHRISTMAS SHORTBREAD  
MULLED BERRY TRIFLE**

## 10<sup>TH</sup> NOVEMBER & 8<sup>TH</sup> DECEMBER

**BOOKING AND PAYMENT ESSENTIAL £15**

**ADD UNLIMITED HOT DRINK £1.50**

**PROSECCO £6.25 SMALL OR £17 BOTTLE**

**OR DRINK OF CHOICE**

**MESSAGE OR TEL : NIKKI 07521 080505**





## TOWNLEY SCHOOL AND PRE-SCHOOL

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



Facebook—Townley School and Pre-School

Remember that our website has lots more information about school.

**October 2022**



### EYFS Class

We had a Story Café in Early Years based on the theme of Autumn. Children listened to the story Tidy - a very tidy badger gets cross when leaves start to fall in the forest. The children loved sharing their learning with their parents- making dough hedgehogs, leaf printing, drilling then threading conkers, using natural objects to create pictures, making things with clay and re-enacting the story. We then visited our forest area where the children painted with mud, swung, climbed, balanced, raced and chased.

### Hawker Class

The focus book Stick Man was used in **English** this week for a bespoke unit. Children have worked on sentence level to correct jumbled sentences; have written their own captions for images from the books; and then they wrote and illustrated their own Stick Man adventure sentences. Year 2 pupils had to use the features of grammar that have recently been taught to write a full new adventure story for Stick Man.

In **History** we looked at online artefacts, including maps of London from 1666 on the National Archives website, and Christopher Wren's designs for the rebuilding of London after the fire using the British Library online resources. We also used website software to "layer" maps of London from before and after 1666. The learning was completed when some children wrote "fact files" about the event.

### Emerald Class

This half term in Emerald, we have learnt about greetings in French. We have talked about 'la bise', which is the kisses on the cheeks that French people do to greet each other. The children were amazed to find out that the number of kisses varies from region to region. It can be 1, 2 or even 3 kisses. We practised both formal and informal ways of greeting people in the school hall and we use these greetings every day when the children answer the register. Since the 26th of September, which was the International day of languages, we also use greetings from other countries such as Portugal, Germany or Spain.



### Emperor Class

In **English** we have started a new unit: Myths and Legends. The class have been reading a myth and focussing on how the dialogue shows the characters' personality traits. They have also been using relative clauses. In **Maths** we have begun working on multiplication. They have been looking at patterns within times tables and finding common multiples and factors. In **History** the class have learned about how the Greeks invented theatre. We looked at the how important theatre was to the Ancient Greeks, the theatres that they built, and they decided on how the theatres could be improved. In **Computing** we learned about online bullying. The class has some really good discussions about it and showed a good understanding about how damaging it can be. They looked at some websites that can help support those who are being bullied online. In **Science** we continued to learn about invertebrates and classified some by creating their own Dichotomous key (a special sorting diagram). In **RE** they learned a Hindu story and discussed whether the man in the story should be forgiven.



# Not with a whimper, but a bang! An animal guide to Bonfire night. By Hollie Dorward

In recent years, bonfire night has been quite controversial, with some people calling for the sale of fireworks to be banned and others defending their traditional celebration. Whatever your views, here are some ways to make bonfire night more enjoyable.



## How to calm pets

1. **Exercise** - If you have a dog, try to tire them on a walk well before dark. This can help relieve anxiety and lessens their chances of needing the toilet when stuck in the house. If you take your dog outside when fireworks might go off, please make sure they are securely on a lead, as pets can run away and hide from fireworks.
2. **Create a safe space** - We put a blanket over the coffee table for our rabbits, but an open crate covered in a towel or even under the duvet works! Allow them to go wherever they feel safest.
3. **Try to mask the sounds** - A TV or radio works for this (- studies have shown that classical music can have a calming effect, so that is worth a shot). Also, close all your windows if you can. Most pets have sensitive ears, but this should lessen the impact.



4. **Draw the curtains** - Often, the fireworks' lights can contribute to the stress, so try to cover your window and leave the lights on inside.

5. **Distractions** - If your pet is

calm enough to be interested in treats, maybe buy a puzzle toy such as a kong or treat ball to distract them. Or perhaps even just their favourite toy or chew.

6. **Relax** - Our pets are very perceptive and often become more distressed when they think we are. So, as much as possible, try to behave as you usually do.

7. **Escape-proof their home** - Whether outside or inside, it's important to check windows, doors, cat flaps, and fencing to ensure your pets can't run off.

8. **Keep microchips up to date** - Animals often escape on bonfire night due to the stress, so it's a good idea to check your pet is chipped and that the details are all up to date. So that if it does happen, you can find them again.

9. **Consult your vet** - If this is an ongoing issue for your pet, it could be worth consulting your vet for advice. They may be able to recommend products or medication to help. Some over-the-counter plug-in diffusers, such as pet remedy and Feliway (for cats), can help with anxiety. Firework phobia can be treated, so your vet may be able to refer you to a behaviourist.



## How to reduce our impact

1. **Go to an organised event** - Some local fireworks events are:
  - 4th - The Walks (Park) in King's Lynn (free)
  - 4th - Soham Town Rangers Social in Ely (£5 per person)
  - 5th - Stradsett Hall in King's Lynn (Tickets online £8 for adults and £4 for children)
  - 5th - Wisbech Saint Mary Church of England Academy in Wisbech (£6 for adults and £4 for children)

Displays often have much more impressive fireworks than those you can buy from the shops and have other entertainment and stalls so you can make an evening of it! Most events also raise money for good causes. There are plenty of displays, so please look online for extra information.

2. **Limit to celebrated dates** - If you are setting off fireworks, try to limit them to the celebrated dates (Diwali, Bonfire Night, New Year's eve and Chinese New Year). That way, pet owners will expect the noise. If you set them off outside these times, it may be worth letting your neighbours know so they can prepare.

3. **Buy low-noise fireworks** - Low-noise fireworks can be purchased online. You can also find them in supermarkets like Asda, Tesco, Aldi, and Lidl.

4. **Never set off fireworks near livestock** - Frightened animals, such as horses, can injure themselves or each other when frightened, so it is best to keep your distance.

5. **Check any bonfires** - Hedgehogs love to hibernate in piles of leaves and twigs. So, if you're lighting a bonfire, build it on the day or check for hedgehogs having a nap before lighting.



**Avoid habitats** - Avoid setting fireworks off near bodies of water or trees with roosting birds, as this will disturb the wildlife.

**The most important thing is to be safe!** Fireworks can cause severe harm and fires. So please supervise children carefully and follow guidance on how and where to set up bonfires and fireworks.



Christchurch Parish Church  
Christmas Fayre  
Fun for all the family  
Saturday 26<sup>th</sup> November 2022  
10am until 2pm



Christchurch Community Centre

Adult Tombola

Children's Tombola

Christmas Crafts,  
card making kits and  
decorations

Jams, chutneys and  
fruit liqueurs

Meet Santa in his  
grotto



Cake Stall

Bacon butties,  
cheese toasties, tea,  
coffee and cakes

Lucky Dip

Raffle, bottle stall and  
Christmas hamper



Fun games, decorate  
a Rudolph cake, win  
prizes







## King Charles III's accession to the throne ushers in a new Carolean Age.

In the English-speaking world, "The Carolean Era" refers to the reign of Charles II (1660–1685) and usually refers to the arts. It is better known as The Restoration. It followed the Interregnum when there was no king. The period was noted for the flourishing of the arts following the demise of The Protectorate. It ended with the Glorious Revolution of 1688 when James II of England & VII of Scotland went into exile. The Carolean era should not be confused with the Caroline era which refers to the reign of Charles II's father, Charles I (1625–1649).

Our new King is setting his own mark on the Monarchy, as did his mother before him. He has been in the "waiting Room" for many years. He has developed as a much more approachable royal than Queen Elizabeth II, who was of the "Old School" monarchy, though much loved for it, as was shown in the outpouring of grief and respect for her after her death. He served in the military, the Royal Air Force and the Royal Navy in the 1970s, and will no doubt be on hand for many military parades and events during his reign. King Charles has shown keen interest in environmental causes including organic farming, architecture and urban planning, and fighting climate change. As King, Charles is expected to "slim down"

the monarchy – reduce the number of working senior royals supported by taxpayers – and reduce the overall multimillion-pound annual cost of the royal show.

The private pursuits and interests of the King are as varied as his concerns - like the welfare of young people and the disadvantaged, the quality of our built environment and sustainability - to which he devotes his public life. The King is a keen watercolourist and paints whenever his schedule allows. Lithographs of his paintings have been sold with proceeds going to The Prince of Wales's Charitable Foundation, in pursuing some of his interests. The King has been able to give support to organisations in the worlds of art, music and theatre - as he does in many other fields - through becoming Patron or President. In total, as the Prince of Wales, he was Patron or President of around 400 organisations, for example The Birmingham Royal Ballet and The BBC National Orchestra of Wales. He and The Queen Consort regularly attend theatre and opera performances and symphony concerts, sometimes as part of a fundraising event and sometimes in a private capacity. On 12th February 2019, as the Prince of Wales, President of The Royal Ballet and Patron of The Royal Opera House, he attended the World premiere of The Cunning Little Vixen, in honour of his 70th birthday at The Royal Opera House, Covent Garden.

Over the years His Majesty has taken part in many different sports including racing, scuba diving and sailing. Up until November 2005, he raised money for charity by playing polo. He decided to retire from the game after playing it for over 40 years.

**GOD SAVE THE KING!**



## Are you a Blood Donor?

The blood-donation service has been inundated with offers of help after putting out an alert in early October, warning NHS stocks were running critically low in England. More than 10,000 appointments to donate blood over the next few weeks were booked in the first 24 hours. Amazing!

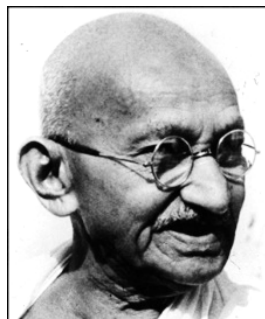
People can check how and where to donate, at [blood.co.uk](http://blood.co.uk) but should be prepared for online queues, NHS Blood and Transplant says. 'Phone lines also saw a spike in calls. The NHS usually has six days' worth of blood to use for operations and transfusions but levels were due to fall below two.

## POINT OF VIEW

Spider webs feature this month, both in life and in The Heron. Here are a couple of spider web quotes to think about – from the... Web!

Laws are spider webs  
through which the big  
flies pass and the little  
ones get caught.

Honore de Balzac



Truth is by nature self-evident. As soon as you remove the cobwebs of ignorance that surround it, it shines clear.

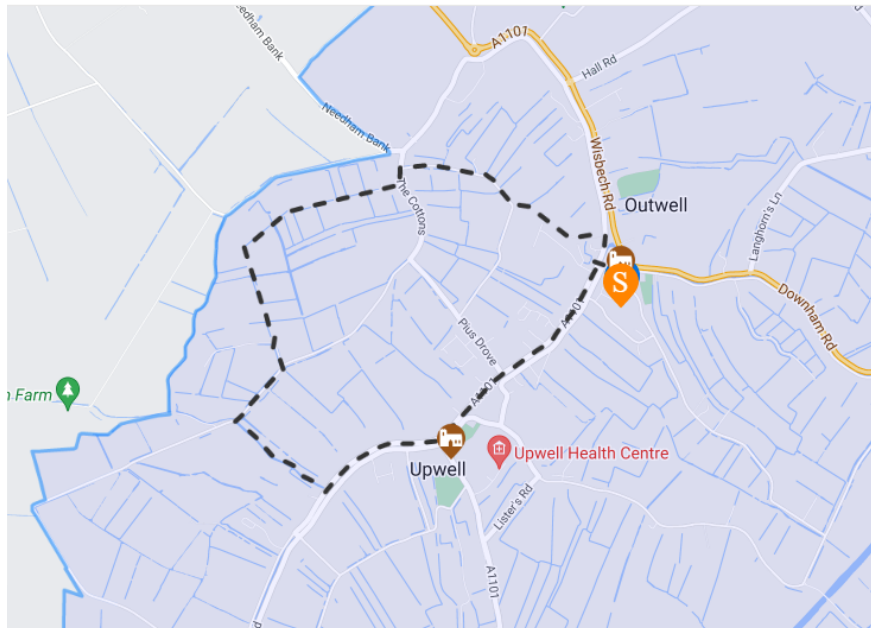
— Mahatma Gandhi —

# Fancy a change of scenery on your daily walk?

Here are three local walks, that are not too far away, and are not too long. Why not give them a try? All are dog-friendly so treat your pooch to a change of scenery and try somewhere different.

1. Upwell/Outwell circular walk. 3.4 miles, takes just over an hour and is a mixture of grass track, gravel track and road/path. Very pleasant on a sunny day. I usually park outside Stotts Fish & Chip Shop and walk across the bridge and over the main road onto the path the other side (just outside The Crown Pub), walking towards Wisbech. After a few 100 yards you will come to a "Public Footpath" sign which will take you left, past some houses and onto a grass footpath. Follow the route below which will bring you back out on the main road, at the bottom end of Upwell. You will then need to just follow the main road path back to your car.

(<https://www.explorewestnorfolk.co.uk/trails/outwell-and-upwell-walk-15/>)



2. Rings End Nature Reserve walk. Another dog-friendly walk just over a mile each way - but this time on the outskirts of March. Accessible either from Station Road, heading out towards HMP Whitemoor, and taking a left at the T-junction just past the prison. About a mile or so along here there is a right turn - signposted Nature Reserve. Or you can go via the main Wisbech Road (A141) heading towards Rings End/Guyhirn and then taking a right turn towards HMP Whitemoor and the Nature Reserve will then be on your left. There is parking. It's a straight walk with a small wooded area on your left as you walk down. I am not sure whether there is a circular route (don't think so) but we just walked to Rings End and then back again to the car.

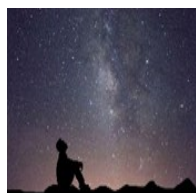


3. Manea (Pit) Nature Reserve walk. Again, dog-friendly but owners need to be mindful of the wildfowl on the lake when walking around. Just under half a mile if you walk all the way around, this is a lovely little walk where you can do a bit of wildlife spotting, fishing (if you have the appropriate permissions), picnic lunch on the few picnic benches dotted around the orchard area and a bit of fruit picking in the summer when the trees are ripe with pears, greengages, plums and apples. Nice to wander around a few times and maybe pop down one of the little paths and sit by the water and watch the birds. A good spot for painting as well. Accessed through Manea, past the primary school and round the corner (where the Indian restaurant is) and taking a left turn past the village shop and playing fields. Ample free parking.





# Christchurch Stargazers



Hello Christchurch Stargazers.

This month is all about which planets are visible.

**Mercury** will be a poorly placed morning planet at the start of November, and a poorly positioned evening planet at the end. **Venus** will be too close to the Sun in the evening sky to be seen safely.

**Mars** is a brilliant orange planet. Rises early evening, reaching 60° altitude in dark skies.

**Jupiter** is a bright evening planet. **Waxing Gibbous Moon** near Jupiter on the night of 4/5 November. **Saturn** is well placed at the start of the month, losing altitude by the end. **Waxing Moon** nearby on 1 and 29 November. **Uranus** reaches opposition on 9 November in southern Aries. Should be visible to naked eye. **Neptune** is well placed for observation. Mag. +7.9 **Neptune** and -2.5 **Jupiter** appear 6.2° apart mid-month.

## Meteor showers:

The Leonids, 17-18 November, 6-30 November: 10 Fast bright **meteors** with fine trains. Associated with Comet Tempel-Tuttle. Remember - never ever look at the sun without the correct protective equipment.

Mark Andrews

# Christchurch Book Club



Book Club met on 4th October, and we had been reading *The Giver of Stars* by Jojo Moyes. Feedback from the group was that it was a very enjoyable book and is based on a true story about the lives of five women who become travelling librarians - delivering books, by pack horses, to mountain dwellers in Kentucky during the Great Depression of the 1930s.

The book we are now reading is *Eleanor Oliphant is Completely Fine* by Gail Honeyman. Some members of the book club had already read it and really enjoyed it so will see what the feedback is from others who have not read it yet.

The next meeting will take place on Tuesday 1st November at 7.30pm - again at Kay Miller's house at Brimstone Manor, 16ft Bank (almost opposite the old Wheatsheaf) where we will discuss *Eleanor Oliphant is Completely Fine*.

The next book will be *The Lantern Men* by Elly Griffiths. New members always welcome. For further details please contact Pat Rigby on 07776 142642.

# Christchurch Art Group



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)

## Answer to Soccer Puzzle from Page 9.

Opposite of short = **TALL**  
Hind part of an animal = **TAIL**  
Put to sea = **SAIL**  
Dirt = **SOIL**  
Spiral = **COIL**  
Dark material used for fuel = **COAL**



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## And the answer is.....

1. Second Place. If you pass the person in second, you take second place, and they become third.
2. It's the only number including every digit arranged in alphabetical order.
3. You light the match first!
4. Fire.
5. A book.
6. A Towel.



Our talk in October was by Collette Parker from Anglian Water. Having worked for them over the past 17 years she said she finds the work interesting, and is excited for the future. She talked of the new reservoir which is to be built, and explained that it will be situated between Doddington and Chatteris. It will be the same size as Rutland Water, covering approximately 10 miles. It is hoped that it will give 20 opportunities for employment, for local people. Activities such as sailing, fishing, nature, cycling and boating are some of the things which people would be able to participate in.

Over the last few years. Anglian Water have dramatically cut the leaking of pipes. A considerable amount of water is also lost through leaky toilets. Other ways to save water in the home is to be careful with it when showering, washing clothes, rinsing veg, using a dishwasher, and the use of hose pipes. Sewage pipe blockages are a real concern. Plastic, fat, cotton wool buds, sanitary wear, kitchen roll and plastic straws are but a few of the items that cause blockages and should be binned, not put down the toilet! She was thanked by the President for her very interesting presentation.

Our next meeting will be held on Tuesday 8 November at 7pm in the Community Centre. Margaret Sparrow will be doing a Flower Arrangement Workshop. Please bring along scissors/secateurs, greenery (which has been soaked overnight), any berries you can find. Also, remember to bring your round board (covered).

Refreshments: Sharon and Pat. Competition: something BLACK. Prizes in October: Margaret H. and Peggy W. As always new members are welcome.

*Ann Hicks*



## Christchurch Gardening Club

### "Bringing New Plants to Market"

We members of the Gardening Club, consider ourselves fortunate to have made many friends in the industry, who are always welcome to the club. So it was that last Tuesday October 18<sup>th</sup> at the Community Centre, we were pleased to welcome Janet and Don Potten. Don has been a leading figure in the process of bringing new variations and the latest colour combinations of flowers and house plants to market. In a fascinating insight into the machinations of this undoubtedly efficient process, Don kept the members' close attention for over an hour, as he explained how these plants and flowers find their way to the shelves of the Garden Centres and Supermarkets. The sheer scale of the premises where production takes place is mind boggling as well as the fact that all these species come from cuttings, in much the same way as a local gardener might do so. The UK cuttings industry accounts for 40 billion plants while Microbiology Labs contribute between 7 and 8 million plants per week. An evening well spent for the club.

Next Month a Club tradition comes around again with the annual Fish Supper - the last meeting of the year on 15 November. For more information on the club call 01354638230.

Steve

## LUNCH BREAK

Lunch Break this month – 9th and 23rd November 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 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. 20



# THINGS THAT NATIVE ENGLISH SPEAKERS KNOW, BUT DON'T KNOW THEY KNOW..... Part 3

Some rules we really should know. It's surprising and dispiriting how many English people don't know the rules of **stress**, because that's how all our poetry works. It's quite easy really, and we can hear it in other languages. Everyone knows that Italian has rhythm, it goes *MAM-a MI-a; BUON-a SER-a*. But so does our language. And that's how verse works. I can illustrate this with a favourite limerick. Try reading it aloud:

**There was a young man from Dundee  
Got stung on the leg by a wasp  
When asked does it hurt  
He said 'Yes it does.  
'I'm so glad it wasn't a hornet.'**

That has no rhymes, but it still works as a limerick because rhymes aren't nearly as important as rhythm. And the rhythm goes:

de-DUM-de, de-DUM-de, de-DUM  
de-DUM-de, de-DUM-de, de-DUM  
de-DUM-de, de-DUM  
de-DUM-de, de-DUM  
de-DUM-de, de-DUM-de, de-DUM-de

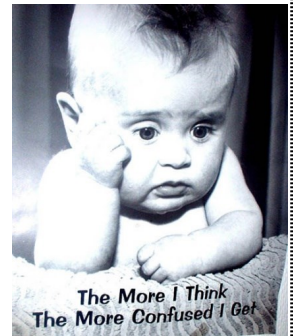
Which only works because we know to pronounce Dundee as 'dun-DEE', and not to rhyme with Grundy or the Isle of Lundy. It's the subtle difference when we record a record or present a present or tell a rebel to rebel. It's a difference that is very hard for people to learn.

English is an immensely complicated language to get right, and native speakers often have no idea of its strangeness. We understand the sentence "I can't put up with the guy I'm putting up at my house, his put-downs really put me out and I'm feeling put-upon". Or "I'm doing up my house and it's doing me in." Literally, that should mean "I'm performing my house skywards and it's performing me towards the interior". These are called phrasal verbs and they are the nightmare of every would-be

English speaker. Somebody once said of Ian Fleming that he got off with women because he couldn't get on with them. To us that's a simple joke; to a learner who also has to get through, get by, get down, get with it, get up... it does their head in.

English is largely made up of the rules we don't know that we know. And actually, the rules we know we know are a rarity. We can cling to a few of them at least. At least we all know that we know that adjectives have comparatives and superlatives. Big, bigger, biggest. Hot, hotter, hottest. Easy, easier, easiest. It's comforting. It's reliable. It's something we know that we know. But can you do it with an adjective that's three syllables long? Curiouser and curiouser.

*Mark Forsyth,  
author of 'The  
Elements of  
Eloquence:  
How to Turn  
the Perfect  
English  
phrase'.*



## Why is the NHS Waiting List so long?

The waiting list for hospital treatment has hit a record high of seven million in England, latest figures show. But a BBC analysis shows the rise is being driven by the inability of hospitals to get back to full strength rather than lots more demand. Hospitals are carrying out 12% fewer operations and treatments than they were before the pandemic.

Surgeons said it was really frustrating as operating theatres were not being used due to a lack of beds and staff. They say it is not unusual to find surgery cancelled at the last minute as staff are unavailable or intensive care and ward beds are full with other patients.

"It's tough on patients and tough on staff who want to get on and treat patients," said Tim Mitchell, vice-

president of the Royal College of Surgeons of England.

"Without treatment, the health of patients can deteriorate. "Not only do we need to get back to where we were before the pandemic, we need to do more if we are going to tackle the backlog."

NHS England data shows that in the past year an average of nearly 257,500 inpatient treatments, including hip and knee replacements, have been performed each month. That is 12% lower than the year before the pandemic. Outpatient clinics, which include minor procedures, tests and assessments, are down by 4% to just over one million a month on average. The struggle to return services to full strength is why the backlog is growing, because the number of new referrals for treatment has not actually gone up above its average before the start of the pandemic. There has been no new surge in new patients.

*Source: NHS England*

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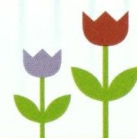
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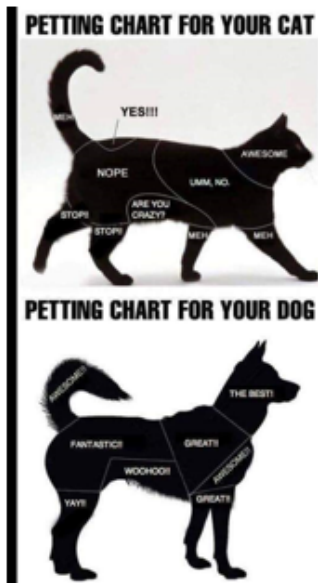
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## Cats....

Dogs get a lot of press in this magazine. It's our turn...

We are definitely individuals and are nothing like dogs. We rarely come when called, unless for food. We choose to live with our owners, not the other way round, as some people might think. If we find another home with more home comforts to our liking, we will move house. We catch mice and all sorts of little rodents and give them to our owners as presents, because we love them. We either like you, hate you or are not at all interested in you. We do not oblige vets very often, especially

when they try to look at our teeth....and we make use of those teeth at lightning speed. Most dogs don't like us much. That might just be because we sit just out of reach and annoy them; or perhaps they have had their ears boxed too often by one of our number so dare not approach us.

But hey – who can resist a kitten at play?



We are beautiful, purring, intelligent pets that love and entertain you every day (when we aren't asleep). Even the biggest cynics can't resist smiling when a playful cat chases a laser toy or frolics in catnip. You love your cats and, unlike dogs, cats are low maintenance. We don't require a lot of space and we are cheap to feed, but we can be very fussy about food....beware!



We came into our own during the Pandemic. And did you know? Cats sleep an average of fifteen hours a day, and some can sleep up to twenty hours in a twenty-four-hour period. Yawn. Sleep well.



**At this time of year, in our part of The Fens, we often see migrant birds flying overhead. They come from the Arctic and cold, North European and Russian areas to spend the winter here - the weather being much warmer than in their homelands. So, why do geese fly in a V formation?**



As each bird flaps its wings it creates an uplift for the bird immediately following. By flying in a V formation, the whole flock adds 71% greater flying range than if each bird flew on its own. When a goose falls out of formation it suddenly feels the drag and resistance of trying to go it alone and quickly gets back in formation to take advantage of the lifting power of the bird in front. When the head goose gets tired it rotates back in the wing, and another goose moves into its place. Geese honk from the back to encourage those up front to keep up their speed. When a goose gets sick or wounded by gunshots and falls out of formation, two other geese fall out with that goose and follow it down to the ground and stay with it to lend help and protection. They stay with the goose until it is able to fly again or it dies. Only then do they launch out on their own, or with another formation, to catch up with their group. *People could learn a lot from geese!*



*Photo: Taken by Manos Maragoudakis, aged 16.*

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.

