

# The Heron

## Community Magazine

Delivered to homes in Christchurch, Euximoor and Tipps End

February 2023

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## The Beautiful Avocet

WWT Welney Wetland Centre

*[See article on page 16]*

Photo: Simon Stirrup

### EDITORIAL TEAM:

Editorial Team Leader - Annie Nason

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



# Christmas and New Year's Eve Pictures



Christmas Sing-Along at The Dun Cow  
Photo: Dun Cow



Christmas Carol Service at the Community Centre  
Photo: Graham Chappell



Nicmar Entertainment putting on a great Disco on  
New Year's Eve at the Community Centre  
Photo: Andy Lansdell



A few from the Photo Booth  
at the Community Centre on  
New Year's Eve

Photos: Andy Lansdell





# 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.

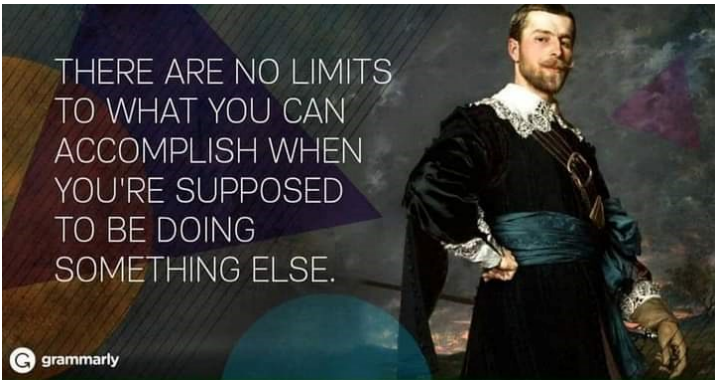
Use it or lose it!

## 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?**

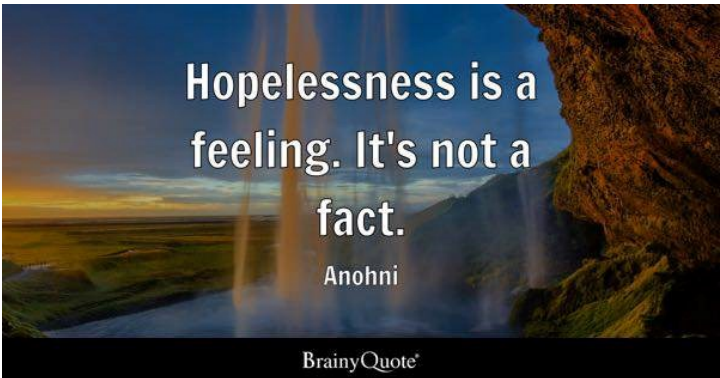
**Please support your local Library Service, right in the heart of your community.**



## Community Advice and Chat Event

Join us for **FREE** tea, coffee and cake and to meet organisations which can support you with the rising cost of living.

**Queen Mary Centre, Queens Road, Wisbech, PE13 2PE**  
 **10am to 12pm** **Monday 6th February 2023**



# 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 Dial-A-Ride	01354 661234
Fenland District Council	01354 654321
Floodline	0845 988 1188
Library - March	0354 045 5225
MIND (Mental Health Crisis Line)	116 123
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
Samaritans	116 123
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
<b>Club Contacts</b>	
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
Sun 5 <sup>th</sup>	Church M/Prayer	10.30am	CCC	11
Sun 5 <sup>th</sup>	Welle Cinema	2pm	3 Holes V/Hall	26
Tues 7 <sup>th</sup>	Mobile Library	12.15pm	Lay-by (Fen View)	3
Tues 7 <sup>th</sup>	Book Club	7.30pm	Glynan, Crown Road	19
Weds 8 <sup>th</sup>	Lunch Break	12-2pm	CCC	21
Sat 11 <sup>th</sup>	70s, 80s, 90s music Disco	7pm – 11pm	CCC	7
Mon 13 <sup>th</sup>	Parish Council Meeting	7.30pm	CCC	10
Tues 14 <sup>th</sup>	Art Club	1.30- 3.30pm	CCC	19
Tues 14 <sup>th</sup>	W I	7pm	CCC	21
<b>Thurs 16<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>YOUTH CLUB</b>	<b>5pm – 9.30pm</b>	<b>CCC</b>	<b>9 &amp; 14</b>
Sun 19 <sup>th</sup>	Church Holy Communion	10.30am	CCC	11
Tues 21 <sup>st</sup>	Art Club	1.30- 3.30pm	CCC	19
Tues 21 <sup>st</sup>	Gardening Club AGM	7 pm	CCC	21
Weds 22 <sup>nd</sup>	Lunch Break	12-2pm	CCC	21
Weds 22 <sup>nd</sup>	Ash Wednesday Service	7pm	Wimblington Ch	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	
<b>Every Thurs</b>	Coffee, Cake & Chat	2-3pm	CCC	11
<b>M,T,W,TH</b>	Mobile Post Office	Various	Near Lay-by (Fen View)	Q3
Sun 5th March	<b><u>SAVE THE DATE</u></b> Lent Lunch	TBC	CCC	11&17

**At the time of going to press, all information is as accurate and up to date as we can make it. Changes and updates may be published subsequently. All information contributed by outside agencies, including dates etc., will be assumed to be correct.**



# Editorial

Welcome to our February 2023 Heron. As I write, it's freezing and foggy outside, but beautiful to look at, you have to admit. My usual habit is of looking at February as a "nothing" sort of month, as it's still very much winter, and nature doesn't get going, really, until March, in spite of climate change effects. Well! I couldn't be more wrong when it comes to Christchurch. There are lots of things going on in the village this month.

Of particular joy and interest to us *all* is the forthcoming Youth Club night. Do encourage your youngsters to take part. Well done to Robbie, Nikki and Brenda for taking the initiative here (p 14) and thank you. We wish you all the very best in this venture.

I am sure many of our more "senior" residents will have a chortle at the Flanders and Swan parody (p 12) of Sara Coleridge's 'Weather Poem' (p 8). I had forgotten that Michael Flanders was a wheelchair user. He had suffered from Polio as a child, I believe.

I belong to the WI and the speaker in January was great. Check out their report (p 21) and also the Blood Bikes article (p10).

Happy Valentine's Day, if you keep it. (p 20).

Annie Nason



## Heron News

**50% OFF HERON CHRISTMAS CARD PACKS!**

**Now £2 per pack, or 3 packs for £5.  
Contact the Editor**

### Heron Deliveries - Postal Copies

Some of you may not be aware that we have a list of people who receive postal copies of the Heron each month. Some of them are subscriptions and the majority are addresses along the Sixteen Foot (which is obviously still classed as part of Christchurch). Last year, our volunteer who used to deliver the Sixteen Foot copies, moved out of the village and a committee decision was made to not find a volunteer to replace them. The committee felt that the route along this busy road was deemed too dangerous to even contemplate handing this over to someone else and so we sent out a letter to all those people, explaining the situation, and asking them to say whether or not they would still like to receive a copy of the magazine by post. We received a response from most and those that said yes were added to the postal list.

I would like to make it clear that we post these copies of the Heron out to both our subscribers, and those along the Sixteen Foot, by 2nd Class mail. However, the stamps we use are a mixture of denominations, which make up the cost of a 2nd Class Large Letter Stamp (some of which are 1st Class small letter stamps). I appreciate this may be confusing and might look like we are being extravagant but as long as the amount adds up to the cost of a 2nd Class Large Letter stamp, Royal Mail doesn't mind how this is done.

If any of our postal recipients would prefer to come and collect their copy of the magazine, I am sure we can come to some sort of arrangement (please contact [editor@theheron.info](mailto:editor@theheron.info) or telephone 01354 638088).

Elaine Reed-Hughes, Treasurer

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

### 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!



# Dun Cow Forthcoming Events



**BOOK YOUR VALENTINES DINNERS – 14 FEB**

**AT THE DUNCOW CHRISTCHURCH**

**CONTACT – 01354 638323**

**OR MESSAGE OUR FB PAGE – THE DUN COW**

**£20 PER HEAD PAYMENT ON BOOKING**



**DUN COW**

**CHRISTCHURCH**

**01345 638323**

**VALENTINE DISCO**

**SATURDAY 18<sup>TH</sup> FEB**

**8PM TILL LATE**



## Maple-bacon buttermilk scones

*Recipe from Tesco Real Food*

This savoury scone recipe is really easy to make. Using buttermilk to make the dough gives the scones a light, soft texture, and the sweet-smoky bacon adds punchy flavour. Ready in about 40 minutes. Makes 18; takes 20 mins to prepare, 20 minutes to cook; freezable.

### Ingredients:

- 300g pack of smoked streaky bacon, diced
- 2 tbsp maple syrup
- 430g self-raising flour, plus extra for dusting
- Half teaspoon fine salt
- 4 spring onions, finely chopped
- 170g butter, cut into cubes
- 240ml buttermilk
- 1 egg, lightly beaten

### Method:

1. Preheat oven to gas 6, 200C, fan 180C and line a large baking tray with non-stick baking paper. Fry bacon over a medium heat for 5-7 minutes until golden and crisp. Stir in the maple syrup and fry for 1 min. Transfer to a plate lined with kitchen paper and set aside to cool completely.
2. Meanwhile, sift the flour and salt into a large mixing bowl and stir in the spring onions. Add butter and rub with your fingertips until the mixture resembles large breadcrumbs. Stir in the cooled bacon. Gradually mix the buttermilk with a table knife to form a slightly sticky dough.
3. Lightly dust a work surface with flour, then tip out the dough and roll out into a rough 22cm square, about 2.5cm thick. Cut the dough into 9 squares, then cut each square into 2 triangles and place on the baking tray. Lightly brush the tops of the scones with egg and bake for 18-20 mins until golden

***Is it Scone (rhymes with gone) or  
Scone (rhymes with stone)?  
Well. Does it matter? They taste  
very good, either way!***



70's, 80's, 90's

# DISCO

Saturday 11<sup>th</sup> February

7.00-11.00pm

Christchurch Community Centre

Dancing to DJ Si Knight

Bar available

Light refreshments

Tickets £10.00

All proceeds towards Church restoration fund

For tickets, contact Helen 638092 or Karen 638781



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

## APOLOGY FROM THE HERON TEAM

The punch line from Martin Luther King Jnr's "I have a dream" speech somehow fell out of the box on page 17 of the January Heron. Sorry. Here it is....

He ended his speech with these words: *"From every mountainside, let freedom ring. And when this happens... we will be able to speed up that day when all God's children, black men and white men, Jews and Gentiles, Protestants and Catholics, will be able to join hands and sing, in the words of the old Negro Spiritual: 'Free at last. Free at last. Thank God Almighty, we are free at last'."*



Someone asked the question – whereabouts is the March Food Bank and when is it open?

This happens on a Tuesday at lunchtime, in the downstairs room of the Centenary Baptist Church in March. The church was founded in 1700. Please only turn up if you are on their list. I have receipts for cash doners.



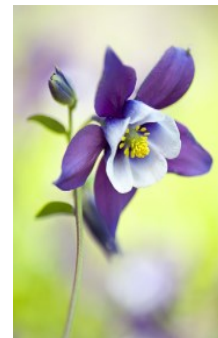
Annie Nason

## Your Letters

We would like to say a big  
**"THANK YOU"**

to all those who showed us so much kindness and for all the cards, flowers, plants and condolences on the loss of our beautiful dog Sophia.

Trish & Keith



## GOOD LUCK FREDDIE STEWARD IN THE SIX NATIONS 2023!

## DEFIBRILLATORS IN CHRISTCHURCH

There are currently 5 defibrillators in the village, the locations are listed as follows:

- The Community Centre, Upwell Road
- Townley School (rear of), Crown Road
- The Dun Cow Pub, Green Lane
- Padgetts House (The old Farmers Boy)  
\*Padgetts Road - due to the cold weather which can quickly affect the life of the batteries without electricity keeping them warm, Vince Sanders has kindly agreed to keep them inside his house until the warmer weather. Otherwise, the closest to there is the one at The Dun Cow.
- Bridge Farm, Euximoor (just over the bridge) - thank you to Nigel Russell who has kindly put up the defibrillator.

Lucy Pye

# WEATHER IN THE EARLY 1800s

## 'The Months' - by Sara Coleridge

January brings the snow,  
makes our feet and fingers glow.

February brings the rain, Thaws the frozen lake again.  
March brings breezes loud and shrill, stirs the dancing daffodil.

April brings the primrose sweet, Scatters daisies at our feet.  
May brings flocks of pretty lambs, Skipping by their fleecy dams.

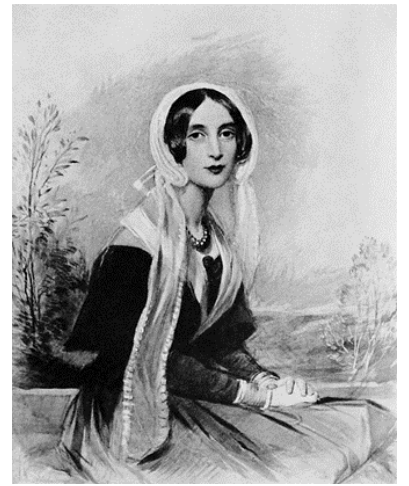
June brings tulips, lilies, roses,  
Fills the children's hand with posies.

Hot July brings cooling showers, Apricots and gillyflowers.  
August brings the sheaves of corn, Then the harvest home is borne.

Warm September brings the fruit, Sportsmen then begin to shoot.  
Fresh October brings the pheasants, Then to gather nuts is pleasant.

Dull November brings the blast, Then the leaves are whirling fast.  
Chill December brings the sleet, Blazing fire, and Christmas treat.

***Sara Coleridge (23 December 1802 – 3 May 1852) was an English author and translator. She was the third child out of four and the only daughter of the poet Samuel Taylor Coleridge and his wife Sara Fricker. She gained further popularity with instructive verses for children.***



## FELINE FACTS...

**Cats are believed to be the only mammals who don't taste sweetness.** Cats are near sighted,

but their peripheral vision and night vision are much better than that of humans. Cats are supposed to have 18 toes (five toes on each front paw; four toes on each back paw). Cats can jump up to six times their length.

### Drinking water from different cups

Cats do not necessarily drink water only from the bowl that is left beside their food. They find forgotten cups, try to drink water from the running tap and sometimes look for sources of water of other kind. This behaviour is entirely rational and has taken shape during the evolutionary development. Whether or not cats eat an animal killed by them or by another predator, they avoid drinking water that is near the carcass. This way they keep clear of microbes and infections. If your cat drinks water on other places and avoids the bowl intended for it, you should find another spot. Putting it up on a higher but accessible place is an option. This way you would satisfy the feline instinct to seek out clean water.

### Carrying food out of the bowl

When cats carry food out of the bowl, they probably touch it with their whiskers and experience discomfort. This is because the bowl is too narrow. It must be wide and shallow to fit to the feline physiology. The cat's whiskers are a vital organ playing an important role in the spatial sense of direction of cats. Cats use them to assess the short distances and the scopes around them, like for example whether a hole is wide enough to get through. Cats have whiskers around their mouth, over their eyebrows and on their lower limbs. They are fitted with sensors (nerve endings) that send information to the brain about the surrounding objects. They help cats choose how to move and complete the whole picture of the rest of the senses: sight, smell, taste, hearing, touch and equilibrium.

### Sleep

Sleep occupies an important place in the cat's life. Cats spend 15 percent of their time sleeping and 50 percent napping.





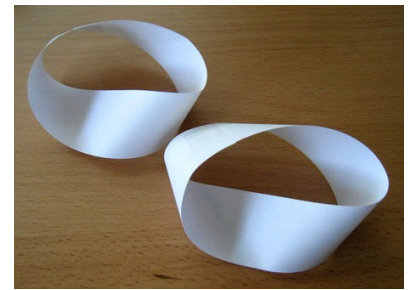
## Weird Maths!

CREATE AN OBJECT THAT ONLY HAS ONE SIDE – KNOWN AS A MOBIUS STRIP.

### What you need:

- A reasonably long strip of paper (maybe 50cms x 4cms)
- Sticky tape
- Scissors
- Pen/marker

<https://www.fleet.org.au/blog/mobius-strip>



### What to do:

- Take the strip of paper and bring the ends together.
- Twist one of the ends over 180 degrees and then stick the ends together.
- You have now created a Möbius Strip. To prove it only has one side, take the pen or marker and draw a line along the middle, without allowing the pen to leave the paper. You will find that you can draw along the entire length of the shape.
- Cut along the line you have drawn. What shape do you end up with?
- Cut along the centre of the shape again. What happens this time?

Are you enjoying the winter weather? Not long now until Spring. Look out for the signs of Spring in nature. Snowdrops will be out, and the daffodils will follow on very soon. Look at the branches of trees and bushes. Many of them have leaf shoots beginning to show. The weather may be a bit changeable, but nature has adapted. How many signs of Spring can you see in Christchurch?



Whether the weather be cold,  
Whether the weather be hot,  
We'll weather the weather,  
Whatever the weather,  
Whether we like it or not!

ANON



**16<sup>th</sup> FEB 01354 638323**

**CHRISTCHURCH COMMUNITY CENTRE**

**YOUTH GROUP UP TO AGE 10 YEARS 5-7PM**

UNDER 8S A PARENT NEEDS TO ATTEND

**PRETEEN/TEEN GROUP 10 YEARS + 7.30-9.30pm**

Can come unattended

**£5 PER PERSON**

**FREE BUFFET**

**PREBOOKING ESSENTIAL**



DISCO TIME



FACE PAINTING



BOARD GAMES



LAZER TAG



DODGE BALL



LIMBO

**SUDOKU**  
for kids

	1		3
2	3	4	
3		1	
	4	3	

1		3	
	4		2
2			3
	3		1

		1	4
4	1		
2			1
1		4	

	3		4
1		2	
	2		1
3		4	

## PC Snippets

remainder of the minutes of the last meeting were agreed. The tree issue did raise its head again briefly, but the conversation was pretty much a repeat of what Annie reported on in the last edition; however there has been representation in support of the trees.

**Matters Outstanding.** Photos of the skate park to a repair company in Manea who should be making a site visit in the next couple of weeks. Hopefully this is good news for the skaters amongst us.

**Affordable Housing** was again discussed. ACCENT Housing Association is still interested in developing in Christchurch as reported in last month's edition. They need to be sure that there are viable sites within the village before they take their proposals any further. The PC talked at some length about potential sites that they thought may be worth investigating. The consensus of opinion seemed to be that land would need to consist of 1 – 2 acres, have road frontage and that flood zone 3 should be avoided.

**Sixteen Foot Bank.** Fingers crossed that by the time this edition is circulated the roadworks on 16ft will have been completed! I use the term 'completed' loosely. It's probably more appropriate to say bigger patches over the patches that are already there.

**Police report.** Although there was nothing specific to the village it was interesting to note that the Christmas drink drive campaign "broke records" and there were "scary" numbers of drug driving offences.

**Clerks Report.** Interesting points were made. These were: a) the new watercourse guidance issued by

**Public Time** at this meeting had no representation. The

Cambridgeshire County Council, to remind people of their responsibilities where water courses are concerned, and b) that Fenland District Council has a support line for tenants (public and private) who are suffering issues with damp or mould in their properties.



### *Other matters of interest*

The new field, or extension to the recreation ground, was discussed. A meeting to organise or form a steering committee was organised for 22<sup>nd</sup> January, 11am at CCC. (See also page 15). There should be lots more to report about progress in future editions.

*Now - don't shoot the messenger on this one!* I know Christmas has only just gone and we're still getting over the overdrafts and excess waistlines, but the PC have been offered a 'Santa Run'. Built for fund raising by Fenland Farmers Group, the sleigh has been offered to surrounding villages following a successful run in Manea during December 2022. I'm sure any offers of Elves to help will be gratefully received.

Finally, it was agreed that the Precept should be increased. This is the amount of money that each household within the village contributes to the Parish Council funds, and is collected through our council tax bill. The increase works out at about £6.85 per household for the next financial year. That's 13.17p per household per week for those of you who like to break things down.

*Shaun Potter*



## NATIONWIDE ASSOCIATION OF BLOOD BIKES

"Our mandate is to actively work towards parity with other front line emergency services in terms of legislative support and recognition by various government departments and agencies on national topics. We are also active in promoting the professional activities of our members to the Public and our wider NHS 'clients'. The service provided by our members adheres to professional standards as defined by the MHRA, NICE, and all road traffic and transport legislation, such as UN3373.

Visit our [YouTube channel](https://www.bloodbikes.org.uk/about-nabb) to find out more and meet our members". <https://www.bloodbikes.org.uk/about-nabb>

**Colin Steenson, one of our villagers,** was a volunteer for the organisation for a while in the 1970s, in Leyton, London. Blood Bikers was then, and still is, a purely voluntary service. He says he wanted to do something for the community, and, as he had a motorbike, it was the obvious thing to do. He paid for his own petrol. The local coordinator would be called by a hospital, given directions, and they would then pass those on to whomever was on call at that particular time. He says he never knew exactly what was in the box that he had strapped to his motorbike. He only knew that it was very important to get it to the hospital concerned, and as quickly as possible. It was life-saving. On one memorable journey, he was (he admits) speeding, and was pulled up by a police car! The officer asked him about his journey. He explained that he was a Blood Biker, and had collected the box on his bike from a hospital, and had to deliver it to another as soon as he could. The officer then said "Follow me", and shot off at speed, all lights and siren blazing, and gave him a police escort to his destination!



# Church News

Hello All

In February, our services will continue to be held on the first and third Sundays of the month, at 10.30am in Christchurch Community Centre. All welcome. Below are the times and places of other services in the Benefice.

## 5<sup>th</sup> February

10.30 Morning Prayer, Christchurch  
10.30 Holy Communion, Doddington

## 12<sup>th</sup> February

10.30 Holy Communion, Manea  
10.30 Morning Prayer, Wimblington

## 19<sup>th</sup> February

10.30 Holy Communion, Christchurch  
10.30 Morning Prayer, Doddington

## 22<sup>nd</sup> February

19.00 Ash Wednesday Service, Wimblington

## 26<sup>th</sup> February

10.30 Morning Prayer, Manea  
10.30 Holy Communion, Wimblington

Fund raising for the repairs continues. We raised £287 at the Afternoon Tea and Bingo, taking our total since September to just over £3,000. We have already spent around £13 000 on investigation, planning and preparation. The estimate for the work on the drainage alone is around £108,000. So we will be holding many more fund raising events, contacting local businesses and making applications to grant awarding bodies.

Dates for your diary:

February 11<sup>th</sup> -70s, 80s and 90s Disco (see page 7)

March 5<sup>th</sup> – Lent Lunch (*Fundraiser for The Ferry Project in Wisbech and March Food Bank*)

March 24<sup>th</sup> – Quiz Night

April 22<sup>nd</sup> – Concert

We thank you for your continued support at this very tricky time. In God We Trust

Helen.

## 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.



## Crumbs from The Good Book

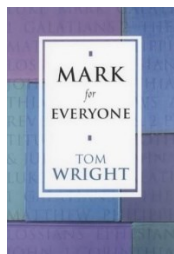
by our very own Church Mouse

Ahem. Crumbs have been in short supply for some time now! Fortunately, the Mouse family was able to gather a good store of grain last harvest, so we are managing in this very cold weather. If my memory serves me right, this time of year there is usually something called a “Lent Lunch”(with crumbs!). My young nephew wanted to know why anyone would want to lend someone their lunch? And can that even be done? Hey-ho! Kids, eh?

I remember hearing that the itinerant preacher JC, way back 2000 years, talked a lot about kids. He loved them. His pals got a bit fed up with them and would have sent them packing once, but JC said “No! Let them come over!” People were bringing little children to JC to place his hands on them. “God’s Kingdom belongs to such as these.... if you don’t become like a child, you have no chance of entering that kingdom!” Apparently, he took the kids in his arms and blessed them. Aw. Bless.. wonder whether they screamed? Some probably did. Dinner time or something? So - we need to be like a kid....?? Maybe trusting and accepting? There’s a crumb that needs a bit of chewing on.



Ebenezer

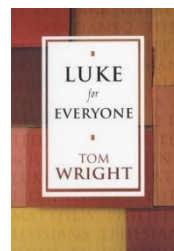


How often have you sat in a church, at a wedding, a funeral or another occasion, listening to Bible readings and not really knowing what they are about, or the meaning of what they are trying to say. Even for regular churchgoers, this is often the case. Some time ago, I was browsing in a second-hand bookshop and I saw the book “Mark for Everyone” by Tom Wright. I bought the book and read it. I have since read “Luke for Everyone” by the same author. These books are written as guides to the books of the Bible; each passage is followed by a highly readable discussion with background information, useful explanations and suggestions.

I have found that reading these books has given me a greater understanding of the life and teachings of Jesus, and how the text of the gospels is relevant to our lives today.

Tom Wright is a highly respected theologian and has written similar guides to all of the books of the New Testament. These books are available through online sellers such as Amazon, and I would recommend them to anyone for an enjoyable, informative read.

Andy Street



## WEATHER IN THE 1970s

### A Song of the Weather

Song by Flanders and Swann

January brings the snow  
Makes your feet and fingers glow  
February's ice and sleet  
Freeze the toes right off your feet  
Welcome March with wintry wind  
Would thou wert not so unkind  
April brings the sweet Spring showers  
On and on for hours and hours  
Farmers fear unkindly May  
Frost by night and hail by day  
June just rains and never stops  
Thirty days and spoils the crops  
In July the sun is hot  
Is it shining? No, it's not  
August cold and dank and wet  
Brings more rain than any yet  
Bleak September's mist and mud  
Is enough to chill the blood  
Then October adds a gale  
Wind and slush and rain and hail  
Dark November brings the fog  
Should not do it to a dog  
Freezing wet December then.....

B\*\*\*\*\* January again!



Flanders and Swann were a British comedy duo. Lyricist, actor and singer Michael Flanders (1922–1975) and composer and pianist Donald Swann (1923–1994) collaborated in writing and performing comic songs.

They first worked together in a school revue in 1939 and eventually wrote more than 100 comic songs together.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=eT40eV70Oil> Please - can someone give us a poem about the weather in 2022?



CAMBRIDGESHIRE

## Fly-tipping along Green Lane 09.1.2023

### We will take action against people who fly-tip

Fenland District Council

Fly-tipping is the illegal dumping of rubbish or bulky items on land where it shouldn't be left. It pollutes land and waterways. It costs the tax payer significant amounts of money to clear away. We take reports of fly-tipping very seriously and aim to prosecute the people responsible. It is a criminal offence that carries an **unlimited fine** and a **potential prison sentence**. *It is also an offence to allow fly-tipping.* Householders have a duty of care to make sure their waste is disposed of correctly. Failure to do so could lead to a Fixed Penalty of £400.

### Report fly-tipping

You can help us by:

- reporting all fly-tipping. Make a note of its exact location, the day, date and time you saw it (or someone leaving rubbish, the day, date and time it happened and other details of people, vehicles; what the rubbish looks like)
- not touching it. Fly-tipped waste can be dangerous - it might include syringes, broken glass, asbestos, toxic chemicals or other dangerous items
- not disturbing any fly-tipping you have discovered. It may have evidence that could help find those responsible and lead to prosecution

Please report fly-tipping by completing our online form – [www.fenland.gov.uk](http://www.fenland.gov.uk) OR - You can call our telephone contact centre on 01354 654321. Lines are open 9am-4pm (Monday to Friday) and 9am-noon (Saturday).





## Wildlife Watching in February

Young male blackbirds can be heard starting to sing in February. Blackbirds are a type of thrush and have a beautiful song. The male's mating call is made up of short bursts of song, with brief pauses in between. It's a remarkably rich and loud call. When they sing, they tend to perch themselves up on a post to clearly claim their territory. They are early birds and sing first thing in the morning. In the later months, when they are gathering food for chicks, they can often be seen in pairs picking through the garden for worms - a black male with a yellow beak, and a brown female. They are monogamous and usually stay together for life, which is around 3 years. They'll eat lots of different food but seem to favour worms and bugs and enjoy the odd apple or strawberry.



Frogs will be coming out of hibernation at the end of this month and will quickly appear in ponds. If we're lucky and have milder weather, there might be frogspawn by the end of February. A few ways to tell a common frog from a toad are that frogs have smoother, wetter skin and a distinct brown patch behind their eyes. Did you know that frogs breathe through their skin? It's a common trait in amphibians. Their skin is so thin that oxygen can diffuse through and into the blood. This is useful during winter when they hibernate in oxygen-rich water and allows them to breathe. If you have any water in your garden, why not go on a frog hunt!

Goat willow or pussy willow should come into flower in February. It produces little green or fluffy grey catkins, which slowly turn yellow with pollen. It flowers before coming into leaf later in the year. Not only is it quite a pretty sight, but it's also fantastic food for insects in late winter. You can sometimes hear them buzzing with life on warmer February days - Bumble bees, solitary bees, and flies love it. It is also great for night time pollinators like moths. When the goat willow comes into leaf, it is also the food source for the caterpillars of the stunning purple emperor butterfly and many different kinds of moths.



Hollie Dorward



### If English is not your First Language...

and you are trying to learn it... Or you are struggling with spelling, reading and pronunciation at school.

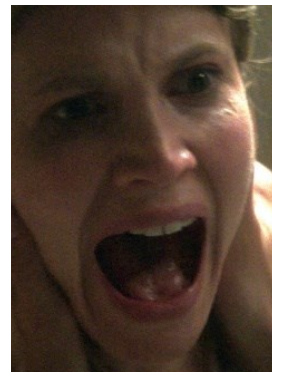
*Note the spelling of 'pronunciation'... not the same as 'pronounce' root  
Note the pronunciation of 'pronunciation' ... not the same etc etc...*

Be encouraged to know that native English speakers also struggle!!

Check these words out. Spelling and pronunciation.... Ugh

COUGH - pronounced to rhyme with OFF  
PLOUGH - pronounced to rhyme with COW  
THOUGH - pronounced to rhyme with GO  
THOUGHT - pronounced to rhyme with SORT  
ROUGH - pronounced to rhyme with PUFF  
THROUGH - pronounced to rhyme with DREW  
THOROUGH - pronounced to rhyme with ....HER

Good luck .....





## ANNOUNCING THE FIRST EVENING OF MANY FOR THE NEW CHRISTCHURCH YOUTH CLUB!

As well as running the Dun Cow Pub, we are a small Community Interest Company (CIC) called **Allsorts Community**.

Our previous job roles before moving to Christchurch were running groups for local children. When we arrived in the village, we realised there was no group for children and teens, so we decided to carry on our previous business here.

Our intention is to provide school holiday activities and, hopefully fortnightly, after school sessions. To offer this, we do need funding. We fundraise ourselves to offer these groups.

*Nicola Williams, Robert Williams, Brenda Moss*

**Join us for Disco Time, Face Painting, Board Games, Laser Tag, Dodge Ball, Limbo: Thursday February 16<sup>th</sup> in CCC.**



**16<sup>th</sup> FEB 01354 638323**

**CHRISTCHURCH COMMUNITY CENTRE**

**YOUTH GROUP UP TO AGE 10 YEARS 5-7PM**

**UNDER 8s A PARENT NEEDS TO ATTEND**

**PRETEEN/TEEN GROUP 10 YEARS + 7.30-9.30pm**

**Can come unattended**

**£5 PER PERSON**

**FREE BUFFET**

**PREBOOKING ESSENTIAL**



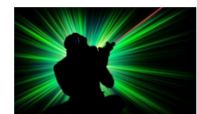
**DISCO TIME**



**FACE PAINTING**



**BOARD GAMES**



**LAZER TAG**



**DODGE BALL**



**LIMBO**



## LGBT+ history month is celebrated in February across the UK. Here are a few key points in the movement's UK history:

**1885** - The Criminal Law Amendment Act – This made any male homosexual act illegal. The legislation was so vaguely worded it was called the 'Blackmailer's Charter'. A letter between two men expressing affection could bring prosecution.

**1895** - Oscar Wilde, one of the most famous playwrights, was arrested and tried for gross indecency. He was sentenced to 2 years hard labour. He died at age 46, 2 years after being released.

**1951** – Roberta Cowell, a former WWII Spitfire pilot, became the first transgender woman to undergo reassignment surgery in the UK.

**1952** – Prosecution of Alan Turing, the WWII cryptographer who helped break the German Enigma code, and saved as many as 2 million lives, and laid the foundations of modern computers and artificial intelligence.

**1967** - Sexual Offences Act – An Amendment partially legalised same-sex acts in the UK between men over 21 and conducted in private.

**1972** – First ever pride march organised, now an annual event.



**1988** - Section 28 of the Local Government Act – The legislation prevented discussing LGBT issues in schools. Section 28 was repealed in 2003.

**2004** - Civil Partnership Act – This allowed same-sex couples to enter into partnerships similar to marriage.

**2005** - The Gender Recognition Act - Gave trans people full legal recognition of their gender, allowing them to get a new birth certificate.

**2010** - The Equality Act - Gave LGBT employees protections from discrimination, harassment and victimisation at work.

**2013** - Marriage (Same-Sex Couples) Act – The act allowed same-sex couples in England and Wales to marry.

**September 2020** - religious leaders from every major faith came together in 'a rare show of unity' to urge the UK government to legislate a ban on conversion therapy.

**February 2021** - the Ministry of Defence introduced the Armed Forces Bill 2021 that automatically pardons all gay sex criminal records within the UK military. It was also announced that military personnel dismissed on grounds of homosexuality will be able to have their service medals restored if they had been taken away.

**10 May 2022** - the Queen's speech included an announcement of legislation within the coming Parliamentary session to ban conversion therapy within the UK for sexual orientation.







**On February 24, 2022, at 4am local time, Russian troops invaded and launched a full-scale assault on Ukraine. Missile attacks, artillery bombardment, cyberattacks, troop movements, and tank battles are taking place across the entire country.**

Instead of A Point of View this month, we are marking the one-year anniversary of the invasion of Ukraine by Russia. Perhaps you would like to reflect on that, with the help of this picture of a sculpture in a Kharkiv park, put there, a long time before the invasion.

## New Field Project

There was a meeting of villagers on the 22nd of January, primarily to select a steering group but also to do a field walk and debris pick. The turnout was great, and we now have people willing to plan and run the project.

It was a very cold morning and the ground was rock hard, but that didn't stop people from walking around the field to get an idea of the site, and helping pile up all the debris that was removed from the ditch when it was grubbed out. The debris just needs to be collected and the field will be ready for ploughing and drilling!

During the visit a fencing contractor arrived, to take notes in preparation for a quote for fencing. So that is also on its way.

The steering group will be meeting in the next week to try and finalise the basic plan of the site.

If you are interested in helping out with the project, in any way, please contact [projects@christchurchparishcouncil.org.uk](mailto:projects@christchurchparishcouncil.org.uk).



## WWT Welney Wetland Centre – why visit your local wetlands?

Less than six miles from Christchurch lies an internationally important wetland and incredible visitor centre at WWT Welney. Our team of staff and volunteers welcome visitors year-round, to enjoy exploring the facilities and access we provide across our wetlands and the wildlife experiences we take care of and love to share with people.



*Pochard Splash – Photo by David Featherbe*

Well known for the Swan Spectacle each winter, the Ouse Washes provide a safe place to feed and rest for

many species of bird that come to the UK for the relatively mild winter experienced here. The swans themselves are the most obvious of the wetland species and their daily routine of flying from wetland to farmland means that they actively come out into the wider fen landscape becoming part of the daily lives of many local communities. At Welney the daily commentated swan feeds are a great experience, the guide talks a bit about the reserve and the species that we see, how the landscape changes with the seasons and how our conservation work to identify threats to

wildlife and their homes as well as some of the ways we are working to reduce them has benefits not just for swans and wetland species but for us humans too.



*Whooper Swan - Photo by Simon Stirrup*

Whilst we enjoy the wildlife and landscape changing

through the seasons, the team of staff and volunteers are always on hand with a friendly hello, a helping hand and most importantly some delicious treats on offer in the wigeon café. The access we create across the site balances the needs of wildlife with opportunities for people to connect with it and the landscape. Our various walks, viewpoints, hides, pond-dipping stations trails are available when the season is right for the best experience. At this time of year, we are heading towards the end of our winter swan season. Daily commentated swan feeds take place until the end of February with additional floodlit feeds at weekends.

We have an exciting week planned for February Half Term, with a new event, 'The Big Hideout', so join us for a range of activities inspired by birdwatching. A brilliant day out for youngsters with even the slightest interest in nature, sharing ways to engage with and take care of your local wildlife.



Across the wetlands it is not just wetland species that benefit as we have been treated to some fantastic sights and numbers of owls this winter. Up to six short-eared owls have been using Lady Fen, in addition to our resident barn owls.

As we head into summer, we open during the day seven days a week, with a range of special events and workshops, some of which take in early mornings or evenings. The likes of pond-dipping and bug-hunting will be available as the days become warmer, from the Easter holidays in April.

Take care and we hope to see you soon.

The Welney Team

<https://www.wwt.org.uk/wetland-centres/welney>



## U.S. GOVERNMENT NOTICE:

To help save the economy, the Government will announce next month that the Immigration Department will start deporting seniors (instead of illegals) in order to lower Social Security and Medicare costs.

Older people are easier to catch and will not remember how to get back home.

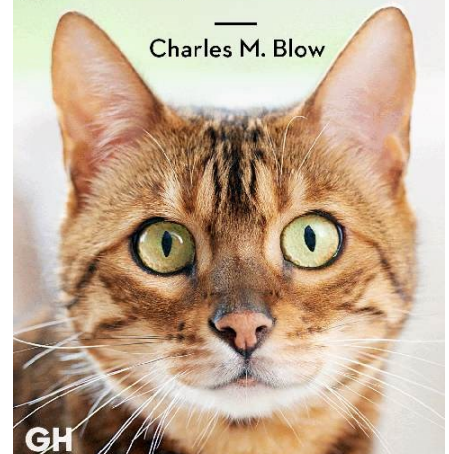
Be sure to send this notice to your relatives and friends so they'll know what happened to you.

"I started to cry when I thought of you. Then it dawned on me ... I'll see you on the bus!"

*A spoof.... of course ....*

A lie is like a cat:  
you need to stop it before  
it gets out the door or  
it's really hard to catch.

—  
Charles M. Blow







You now need  
photo ID to  
vote at a  
polling station

## VERY IMPORTANT NOTICE FROM FDC

For the first time, Fenland residents will need to show photo ID at polling stations to vote at local elections in May. Residents are being urged to check now they have an accepted form of photo ID. It's important that everyone understands what types of ID they can use, and how to apply for free ID if they need it."

**The requirement to show photo ID at the polling station, is a new requirement, introduced by the UK Government's Elections Act, which was passed last year.**

Elections take place on Thursday, 4 May 2023, for the 18 Fenland District Council wards as well as for 16 town and parish councils in the district.

### Accepted forms of ID include original (not photocopied):

- Passport
- Drivers' licence
- Blue Badge disability parking badge
- Proof of age Identity card with PASS mark (Proof of Age Standards Scheme)
- UK Government funded concessionary travel passes, such as a council issued older person's bus pass
- Other Government issued documents such as biometric immigration document, defence identity

card, national identity card

- **Voter Authority Certificate - a free form of photo ID available on application to people who do not have another accepted form.**
- Voters will be able to use expired ID if they are still recognisable from the photo.
- Original ID is required. Photocopies or pictures of ID on phones will not be accepted.

Anyone who does not have one of the accepted forms of ID will be able to apply for free ID, known as a Voter Authority Certificate. To apply for the Voter Authority Certificate, voters will need to provide a photo, full name, date of birth, the address at which they are registered to vote and their National Insurance number. The easiest way to apply for a Voter Authority Certificate (free photo ID) is online at: *Apply for free photo ID*. The deadline to apply is 5pm on Tuesday, 25 April 2023.

**People can contact Fenland District Council for help to apply and to request paper applications. Just email [elections@fenland.gov.uk](mailto:elections@fenland.gov.uk) or call 01354 654321.**

### Postal and proxy voting

For people who have nominated a proxy or emergency proxy to vote on their behalf, the proxy must have their own photo ID. If you already have a postal or proxy application in place you do not need to apply again.

**To apply for a postal vote**, the deadline for new applications or cancelling an existing postal voting arrangement is 5pm on Tuesday, 18 April 2023. The deadline for changing an existing proxy arrangement is also 5pm on Tuesday, 18 April 2023.

**To apply for a proxy vote** the deadline is 5pm on Tuesday, 25 April 2023.

<https://www.fenland.gov.uk/article/17198/Fenland-residents-need-photo-ID-to-vote-at-elections-in-May>

## Lent 2023 begins on Ash Wednesday, February 22<sup>nd</sup>, and ends on Maundy Thursday, April 6<sup>th</sup>

Do you mark the season of LENT in any way? Perhaps you give up eating something you love, or make some space in your day for reflection?

Christchurch Parish Church has a Prayer Project each year during Lent. People are invited to join in with praying for our community, road by road, each week. This can be done individually in our homes, or together with a friend. Your choice. The Church produces a leaflet with ideas to help us in this venture. If you would like to be part of this village initiative, please ask Annie Nason for a leaflet. 638088.

Please come and join us at the community centre for our Lent Lunch on Sunday 5th March, 12.00 noon (after the service). More details to follow in next month's magazine.





## Confused over Royal Mail stamp swap deadline?

**Don't be as you will still be able to use non-barcoded stamps until 31 July 2023.**

You will still be able to use non-barcoded 'everyday stamps' after 31 January for another six months, [MoneySavingExpert.com](https://www.moneysavingexpert.com) can confirm. The deadline to use these stamps is 31 July. This is despite a series of misleading adverts from Royal Mail saying otherwise.

**There are 20 romantic movies depicted below. How many can you name?**

**Answers on page 20.**



**CAN YOU FIND THE CORRECT SHADOW?**





## Christchurch Book Club



Christchurch Book Club was held over WhatsApp in January and we discussed the last book, 'A Song for the Dark Times', by Ian Rankin. Feedback from the group was that it was an enjoyable book; but some felt his books are best read in chronological order to see how the characters fit in. Featuring John Rebus, a retired detective, his daughter contacts him after her husband goes missing, who had been investigating a Scottish WWII prisoner detention site in a small town. When another case comes up in the city, Rebus realises there is a connection. The group enjoyed this book, and some, who have not read Ian Rankin books before, will look out some of his other books to read.

The next meeting will take place on Tuesday 7th February at 7.30pm at Sue Street's house, Glynan, on Crown Road, where we will discuss the current book, 'The Burning Girls' by C.J. Tudor.

The next book in February will be 'The Glass House' by Eve Chase. New members always welcome. For further details please contact Pat Rigby on 07776 142642.

## Christchurch Art Group



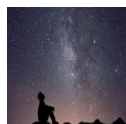
We meet on the 2<sup>nd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> Tuesday of the month 1.30 -3.30 in the Village Hall (term time).

- 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)



## Christchurch Stargazers

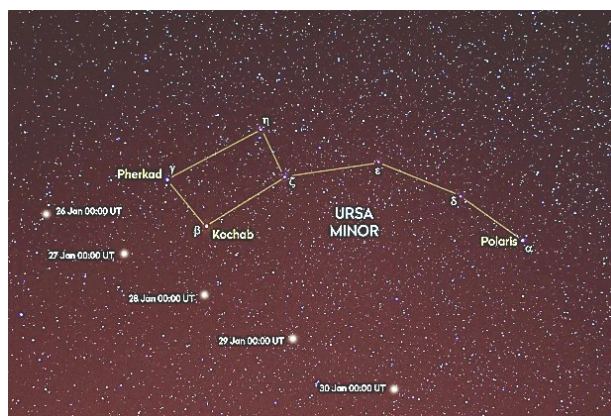
to light up our sky since the Neowise comet in the summer of 2022. E3 was discovered last year by the Zwicky Transient Facility, a public-private partnership that examines the night sky, in March 2022.

Comets are "cosmic snowballs" made up of frozen gases, dust and rock that orbit the sun. As they approach our star (the sun), these objects are blasted with increasing amounts of radiation, and release gases and debris. The green comet colour can be explained by the presence of certain compounds in the coma - primarily, diatomic carbon, but also cyanogen. I have added a sky map so you can look in the right direction. You will have to be in a dark sky area to see it and possibly use binoculars. Its path lies below the Plough constellation.

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

*Mark Andrews*

This month, our article is about a green comet, last visible during the Ice Age. The C/2022 E3 comet orbits the earth every 50000 years, and will pass within 26 million miles of our planet! E3 will be the first comet





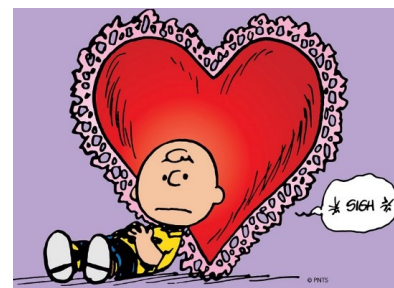
## St Valentine's Day

As soon as Christmas is done and dusted those bright pink and red cards start to appear in shops and supermarkets. The cost of flowers goes up, and the spotlight falls firmly on those who are 'in love'. The cynics amongst us may see it as simply another way to extract money. The romantics may see it as a way to express their love to their partner and to the world. The lonely may see it as a reminder that they are alone, and excluded from the 'love fest' surrounding them.

The origins of St Valentine's Day are unclear, but one of the most popular theories is believed to be from the 3<sup>rd</sup> century, where a Roman priest and physician was imprisoned in a nobleman's house during the persecution of Christians, ordered by Emperor Claudius II. It is said that Valentine befriended and healed his captor's daughter from blindness, inspiring the whole family to convert to Christianity. He also conducted secret wedding ceremonies which were forbidden by Claudius, who believed that being married created poor soldiers! Valentine was condemned to death for his faith, beaten with clubs, and finally beheaded on Feb. 14, AD 270. Not a romantic ending!

In Britain and France during the 14<sup>th</sup> Century, it was widely believed that birds chose their mates midway during the second month of the year. Chaucer refers to this in his "Parliament of Fowles" (in Old English): **"For this was on Seynt Valentyne's day, When every foul cometh ther to choose his mate."** And from then on Valentine's Day was decreed the day for lovers throughout the world – except in the countries such as Iran, Saudi Arabia and Malaysia where it is banned!

Being alone is not always a choice, and feeling excluded from public and widespread celebration can, for some, increase a sense of isolation, loneliness and unhappiness. But not all meaningful relationships need to be romantic ones. We can offer love, friendship and kindness to friends and family, to workmates, to neighbours and to pets. And the vast majority of us do just that. We form many successful – non-romantic – relationships that are fulfilling and important to us.



But probably the most important relationship that we have, and one of the hardest to nurture, is the one with ourselves. If we can offer ourselves what we try to offer to others, we can recognise that we don't need validation from outside, we don't have to be part of a couple and we don't have to meet the expectations of others. We are often so much harder on ourselves than we would ever be towards anyone else. Particularly to someone we care about.

This year, if you are feeling alone, or excluded from the general 'romance' of the day, reach out to someone who might also feel the same way; say hello to someone you often pass in the street; smile at the person who serves you; ask how someone's day is (and be interested in the reply). Do something that makes you feel happy, whether it is reading a book or going for a walk. Focus on what you would like within your life, and seek help to find that, if you need to. Valentine's Day is really just another day.

Linda Potter

## PUZZLE ANSWERS FROM PAGE 18

The answer is A. The differences in other puzzle images are marked below:



1. The Shape of Water (2017)
2. Titanic (1997)
3. La La Land (2016)
4. Amelie (2001)
5. Grease (1978)
6. Pretty Woman (1990)
7. My Big Fat Greek Wedding (2002)
8. 500 Days of Summer (2009)
9. Eternal Sunshine of the Spotless Mind (2004)
10. Say Anything (1989)
11. A Star is Born (2018)
12. There's Something About Mary (1998)
13. Breakfast at Tiffany's (1961)
14. 10 Things I Hate About You (1999)
15. Brokeback Mountain (2005)
16. The Notebook (2004)
17. Juno (2007)
18. Ghost (1990)
19. Casablanca (1942)
20. When Harry Met Sally (1989)



The January AGM Meeting of the WI started with an excellent and informative talk by Mr Michael Parkinson, who is a member of the "Blood Bikers", or SERV -

Suffolk and Cambridgeshire, (also known as "Bloodrunners"). This branch of the Countrywide organisation was launched in May 2011. It's a group of volunteer motorbike enthusiasts who deliver life-saving vital supplies of blood, plasma and blood platelets directly, and by the fastest route, to wherever they are needed. Margaret Ryson and her husband founded the concept in the early 1960s in London. In our area there are 150 volunteers who provide their own petrol. They rely entirely on donations. They provide fast deliveries to the 2 Air Ambulances, and to hospitals and are available 24 hours a day, 365 days a year, saving the NHS over a million pounds a year! 2466 completed tasks were made by this branch in 2022. They have also

started delivering donated breast milk to hospital Premature Baby Units, as premature babies cannot tolerate formula made from cows' milk.

They are looking for old mobile 'phones and old satnavs, which can be converted into cash to help with the finances of running such a group.

AGM: The same officers were re-elected for another year. We also voted for which Campaign the WI will focus on in the next 12 months. Our majority choice was for issues around saving water, in view of Climate Change. The result will be passed to the local Federation to see which issue is most popular and that, in turn, is passed to the National WI committee.

The competition for February – bring an item with a rough texture.

*Sue Norman*



## Christchurch Gardening Club

### "There's Nothing New under The Sun"

It occurred to me, as I wandered around a Garden Centre recently, that lots of the processes and tools that we take for granted, must have been arrived at by someone, sometime, in the past. For example, many of the speakers that come and give talks at the club, will at some point in the evening mention compost. But who first thought of spreading such organic matter in the first place? Well, it would seem that it all began when the early civilisations moved from being Hunter-Gatherers into farming and they noticed how and why crops flourished, or did not. We know that early peoples used decomposed organic matters to improve soil. Evidence exists of the use of some sort of natural fertilizer, probably as a result of the observation of nature.

The Scots around 5000 BC planted crops in heaps of rotting manure, while the Ancient Chinese and Hindu also used Manures. Around the same time in the Americas, evidence has been found of the use of fish and fish waste, by the indigenous population to fertilise crops. Methods and resources varied depending on climate and soil properties. It seems likely that most early civilisations would have used some form of compost to improve soil quality and fertilisation.

So, we can see "There really is nothing new under the sun!"

Next meeting - Tuesday 21st February 2023, 7pm. AGM

*Steve*

## LUNCH BREAK

Lunch Break this month – 8th and 22nd 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

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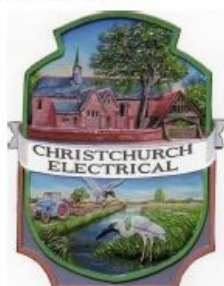
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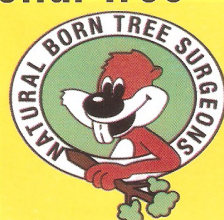
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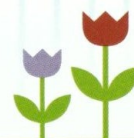
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Facebook—Townley School  
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Remember that our website has  
lots more information about  
school.

**January 2023**

### EYFS Class (Nursery and Reception)

We have been talking about the importance of tooth brushing this week and Reception have finally begun brushing their teeth at school. They have been so excited, choosing a toothbrush and getting started. We made some amazing posters to tell other children to brush their teeth. In **Maths** we have been learning how long a minute is so that we always brush for 2 minutes! Nursery have loved having toothpaste and toothbrushes in the tuff tray. It has smelt lovely and minty in that room! We have been continuing to learn in Forest School as well. We joined the whole school for the annual **Bedtime Read**.



### Hawker Class (Year 1 and 2)

In **English**, we have started a new unit on "stories from other cultures" and have listened to the audio story of Anansi and the Turtle, The Dragon and the Phoenix, and How the Wolf lost its tail. In **Maths**, all children have started to count in 2s in our main maths lesson. We have also introduced a second maths session in the afternoon which focuses on different skills; these are the 'Mastering Number: Number Sense' lessons that support children using various maths skills. In **Science**, we have started our unit on Living things and their habitats. We introduced the acronym MRS GREN which will help children to remember all of the features of living things. Finally, in **PSHE** we had a circle time to start our new unit on anti-bullying and discussed what is and is not bullying. Some of the children were a little unclear as to what bullying is, so we spent some time discussing this in detail and came up with lots of examples for what is/is not bullying.

### Emerald Class (Year 3 and 4)

We have started our new **guided reading** book called 'Young, Gifted and Black' by Jamia Wilson, illustrated by Andrea Pippins. It is a non-fiction book. We have started to read about Martin Luther King Jr., record key events from his life and draw a timeline. In **English**, we have started a news reports unit and thought about where we get our news from and how a news report is organised. We are going to make our own news reports on the Welney Wash flooding! In **Maths**, Year 3 have worked on related calculations and reasoning in multiplication, while Year 4 worked on using factor pairs and multiplying by 10. In **French**, we have started practising numbers 1 to 10, and in **Music**, the children sang Viking-themed vocal warm-ups and learnt the 'Dragon Ships' song through call and response. In **PSHE** the children have been developing an understanding of what qualities make them who they are!



### Emperor Class (Year 5 and 6)

We have begun a new book in **Guided Reading**: 'A Midsummer Night's Dream'. In **English** we have started a new three-week unit entitled 'Stories for other Cultures'. This week we have been focusing on description and writing in the third person. In **Maths** we are continuing our work with fractions and learning about how to multiply fractions by integers. Within **Music**, we are learning about music from South and West Africa. This week the class learned a song called 'Shosholoz' which is sung in the Ndebele language. They had a go at singing the song a cappella. They also listened to the 'click song' which is sung in the Xhosa language. **Forest School** will continue this half term.

# ANCIENT OAK TREES



Oak trees can live for around 1,000 years, although the average lifespan for most sites is about 600 years.

In mythology, the oak is said to have been sacred to many gods, including Zeus, Jupiter and the Celtic Dagda. This is because these gods ruled over thunder and lightning, and oak trees are often hit by lightning due to their height. The word Druid is said to come from a Celtic word meaning "knower of the oak tree". Druids worshipped and practised rites in oak groves.

The druids believed that where mistletoe grew on an oak tree was where the hand of God had been when lightning struck it.

The oak is a national symbol of strength in England. Kings and Roman emperors would wear crowns of oak to symbolise the god they represented as kings on earth. During Oliver Cromwell's time, couples were wed underneath ancient oaks, believing it would bring happiness.

## **The Major Oak, Nottinghamshire**

This is probably the most famous tree in England. Its current name is taken from Major Hayman Rooke, who wrote about the tree in 1790. The Major Oak has also been called Robin Hood's Oak. This name was because it was reportedly the renowned outlaw's hiding place.

No one knows its exact age, but it is between 800 and 1100 years old. Its canopy spreads 28 meters, and its trunk circumference is 11 meters. People used to be able to walk right up to the oak and climb inside it! But unfortunately, in the 1970s, it had to be fenced off to prevent soil compaction from the footfall.



## **The Bowthorpe Oak, Lincolnshire**

The Bowthorpe oak is over 1,000 years old. It's most famous for its immense 13.5-meter girth. This is another hollow oak, and it's claimed it can fit up to 36 people inside it for dining or parties! Although the inside is now closed off from the general public, an annual tea party is still held inside the tree for the children from the local chapel.

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.