

The Heron

Community Magazine

Delivered to homes in Christchurch, Euximoor and Tipps End

April 2023

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Keeping the nation fed

In August, Rishi Sunak committed to back British farming as he made his bid to become Prime Minister. Following an emergency press conference called by the NFU in December, the Conservative Leader once again reiterated his commitments for:

- a yearly stocktake of British food
- an annual national food security summit
- a commitment to at least maintaining the levels of food produced in Britain as outlined in the 2022 Government Food Strategy



British farmers have kept the nation fed throughout world wars, the financial crisis, and a global pandemic. Yet recent events have shown vulnerability in our supply chains and have put pressure on food production. The cost of energy, animal feed and tools to grow food today are at historic highs, putting more farms across the country at risk. There are already 7,000 fewer farming businesses in the UK today compared to before the Covid-19 pandemic.



We have launched a campaign calling for fairness for British farmers and growers, galvanising public support behind the idea that our supermarket shelves should never be empty of any food that can be produced by farmers and growers in Britain. We have an opportunity to send a clear message to the UK Government: the public care about the food they eat and the farms who produce that food.

Show your support by signing the Back British Farming campaign for food security. https://www.campaigns.nfuonline.com/page/123213/petition/1?ea_tracking.id=NFUOnline

There really are some incredibly talented artists in this world, and Sergio Odeith is one of those. We thought our readers would like to see some of his work.

He was born in 1976 in Damaia (Portugal). He first took up a paint spray can in the mid-1980s and created graffiti in illegal places, such as along walls backing onto railway lines. Sergio dropped out of school at the age of 15, and all his artistic skills are entirely self-taught. Paints on walls in abandoned places. We think they are amazing!

<https://www.odeith.com/odeith-bio-cv/>



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:

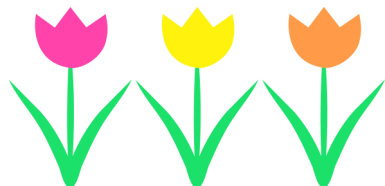
March Elliot Lodge 9:30 - 10:10
March Shaftesbury Lodge 10:20 - 10:50
March Upwell Park 10:55 - 11:15
March Fleming Court 11:30 - 11:45
Christchurch Layby 12:15 - 1pm
Manea Festival Close 2pm - 3pm
Manea High Street 3:10 - 4:30pm

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.**



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

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
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

Do you know someone who would like to receive a
Heron each month, who doesn't live in the village?
Contact us at adverts@theheron.info and we will send
them a subscription form.

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

Advertising in the Heron

Quarter Page (14cm High x 9.5cm Wide)

Portrait Format

6 x issues £50

12 x issues £90

Eighth Page (6.5cm High x 9.5cm Wide)

Landscape Format

6 x issues £34

12 x issues £64

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

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

Diary Dates

DATE	EVENT	TIME	PLACE	PAGE
Sun 2 nd	Church/Morning prayer	10.30am	CCC	11
Sun 2 nd	Welle Cinema	2pm	3 Holes V/Hall	26
Tues 4 th	Mobile Library	12.15pm	Lay-by (Fen View)	3
Weds 5 th	Easter Coffee Morning	11.30am -2.30	CCC	12
Mon 10 th	PC Meeting	7.30pm	CCC	10
Tues 11 th	Art Group	1.30- 3.30pm	CCC	19
Tues 11 th	WI	7pm	CCC	20
Weds 12 th	Coffee/Lunch Break	11-1pm	CCC	19
Sun 16 th	Over 65s Parish Lunch	12.30 for 1pm	CCC	17
Tues 18 th	Gardening Club	7pm	CCC	20
Sat 22 nd	Poetry & Music evening	7pm-9pm	CCC	10
Tues 25 th	Art Group	1.30 – 3.30pm	CCC	19
Weds 26 th	Coffee/Lunch Break	11-1pm	CCC	19
Thurs 27 th	Church AGM	3.15pm	CCC	11
Sun 30 th	Benefice Church Service	10.30am	CCC	11
Regular weekly events				
Every Mon	Short Mat Bowls	7-9pm	CCC	20
Every Tues	NEW! Christchurch Hobby and Social Club	10.am – 1pm	CCC	20
Every Weds	Chair-based exercise class Kathleen Henderson	10-10.50am 07880 543821	CCC	
Every Thurs	Coffee, Cake & Chat	2-3pm	CCC	11
M, T, W, TH	Mobile Post Office	Various	Near 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

Welcome to the April edition of The Heron, and a very Happy Easter to everyone!



There are lots of events happening in the village in April, so do check out the **Diary Dates (p 12)**. There's a new weekly club starting up – the Christchurch **Hobby and Social Club (p 20)**. You might think the article about cats being required by law to be chipped is an April Fool, but it really isn't! (**p 8**). Great news that **Affordable Housing** could be coming to the village, if land can be found for it (**p 6**). There is a real need for this. Let's hope it happens sooner rather than later.

Enjoy the lighter evenings and the better weather! It's been a long time coming, it seems.

Happy April!

Annie Nason

CALLING ALL GARDENERS...



Why not make it - **“Two for me, One for The Heron”** when you are sowing seeds or potting up plants? Our Plant Sale is on Saturday May 13th at the Dun Cow under the willows and we always need lots of contributions. *Pretty Please??*

Heron News

We have had a bit of a “cabinet reshuffle” at The Heron in the last few weeks. Elaine Reed-Hughes has managed to get rid of one of her Heron Hats. Since 2020, she has been our Publisher, Treasurer and Ad Manager. However, she has now given up the Publisher job and another of our team, Hollie Dorward, has picked it up. Thank you, Hollie and thank you Elaine for the 3 years of putting the magazine together! As with all of us on the Heron team, Hollie is a busy bee and fits her jobs for the Heron around work and her busy life so we'll see how things go. If she finds it too much to fit in with her schedule, we will have to find someone else. Please do remember that all the people involved are volunteers, who believe in The Heron and are very pleased to be so.

We are always looking for people who could spare some time to be on the committee (who meet for about an hour, once a month) - **could you be on the team?** If you would like to join us, please email the Editor, or call on 638088.



Save the date of the HERON AGM and come along with your encouragement, ideas and comments. Monday July 3rd in the Community Centre, 7pm for 7.30. We begin with a drink and a few nibbles, and the meeting usually lasts less than an hour. All welcome.

Copy Deadline - The deadline for copy for the May edition of the Heron is 25th April

Save the dates!

Thurs MAY 4th	LOCAL ELECTIONS	CCC	P8
Sat MAY 6th	CORONATION CELEBRATIONS	CCC and THE DUN COW	P14
Sat MAY 13th	HERON PLANT SALE	Dun Cow Willow Trees	P5
Sat JULY 1st	CHRISTCHURCH GARDEN GANDER	CC Village	P12
Mon JULY 3rd	HERON AGM 7 for 7.30pm	CCC	P5

Letters to the Editorial Team

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

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

The team look forward to hearing from you!

Land Required

The Parish Council is interested in exploring the possibility of a modest, affordable housing development in Christchurch, subject to evidence of demand. To start this process, we need to identify two or three potential sites of between one and two acres with road frontage or good access, within or immediately adjoining the existing developed parts of the village. Land not normally eligible for development can be considered for this purpose.



AFFORDABLE HOUSING

If you own land that might be suitable for this purpose and would like to know more about the proposals, please contact the Clerk, Dave Gibbs on clerk@christchurchparishcouncil.org.uk Thank you.

NHS IN THE COMMUNITY

Volunteer as a Healthwatch Community Researcher:

Work with us to deliver our community listening projects across Huntingdonshire, Peterborough and Fenland. Your role will help NHS and care providers develop better services for local people. And you'll get training, support and an involvement fee for your time.



Get involved: Our Community Researchers will help plan and carry out surveys, interviews and workshops to get people's views in your local area. You'll get to meet new people, learn new skills and help local services work better together for everyone.

How to apply: To find out more and apply, please visit:
www.healthwatchcambridgeshire.co.uk or www.healthwatchpeter

Point of View

An unjust peace is better than a just war.

— Marcus Tullius Cicero —

“Realize that everything connects to everything else.”

—LEONARDO DA VINCI

RD

Townley Primary School and Nursery need a new Governor!

Simon Freeland, has been a super supportive Governor for many years but is stepping down in the summer term as both of his sons are now settled in high school. We don't need you to have an educational background, just the time and the passion to want the best for our local children. Townley was given a 'Good' grading at our last Ofsted in March 2022 - we are not complacent and want to keep getting better and better!

If you think you have something to offer, please contact Maria Higgins, Headteacher for more information on 01354 638229.



Your Letters

Dear Editor,

We moved to this lovely village last year, and have been lucky enough to have a neighbour who lets us walk her dog a couple of times a week. For the last few weeks, I have been taking my 'litter picker' with me when we take the dog out, and regularly collect 1/2 to 3/4 of a dustbin bag of litter. We live in such a beautiful village it is such a shame to see rubbish along the roads and on the edges of the fields. I am aware that sometimes litter gets blown around from bins and into inaccessible places, but most littering can be avoided.

This weekend we noticed how bad the building site on Church Road was. That doesn't come from residents, but I managed to collect 17 Red Bull cans - and they were the ones I could reach through the fence! I also collected 6 full dog poo bags and a pile of empty bags just left trodden into the mud by the church gates.

I would like to ask your readers - please, if you see litter, and are able to, please pick it up. If you drop litter, please don't. If you want to join me in becoming a litter warrior - pickers are less than £10 on Amazon!!

Linda Potter



PRESS RELEASE



S.W.3

STEVE WAYE. RUSSELL KEA. TED FULLER
GUITAR/VOCALS DRUMS BASS/VOCALS

WILL BE PERFORMING A CONCERT AT
CHRISTCHURCH COMMUNITY CENTRE
UPWELL ROAD
CHRISTCHURCH PE14 9LL

ON SATURDAY MAY 20TH 2023
DOORS OPEN AT 7.30 PM

LICENSED BAR
ADMISSION £7.50

ENQUIRIES 07740948925

Potted histories of our neighbouring villages. **This month, STONEA.**

Stonea today consists of a scattered collection of farmsteads and houses, the majority of which are situated along the 16ft Bank. There has been human habitation in the area since at least 500BC.

Stonea Camp is an Iron Age Hill Fort, the lowest in Britain. Several excavations have been carried out over the years. To prevent further damage it has now been designated as a "Pocket Park" and a scheduled Ancient Monument. The remains of a multi-story Roman tower were found to the North of Stonea Camp, but was demolished in 200BC.



In the past, Stonea had a station, mainly for goods. Farmers would take their produce to the station and collect items such as seed potatoes, purely on trust. Local strawberries were taken to the station and put on to trains at 3am, and were on sale at Covent Garden by 6am.



The station was closed in 1966. Of course, today, Stonea Bridge is infamous for being the "most bashed bridge" in Britain!

In 1980, Stonea Crossing and the 16ft bank were featured in an episode of *Tales of the Unexpected* ("The Flypaper" - Series 3 Episode 1). Many of the UK episodes were filmed in Norwich Studios (inside scenes) and location filming shot all around East Anglia.

NEW RESERVOIR PLANS – WHAT DO YOU THINK ABOUT THIS?

What about the proposed extension of the present plans for the new reservoir, which will enlarge the area to be flooded up to the Euximoor Bridge?

An emergency village meeting has been arranged to discuss this preposterous idea.

BE SURE TO COME AND HAVE YOUR SAY.

Further details on Page 29, with a cut-out form for you to fill in and send to the authorities to voice your objections.



Cat microchipping to be made mandatory

Government to introduce compulsory cat microchipping to help reunite lost and stray pets.

In 2023, cats will have to be microchipped by the time they reach 20 weeks. If found not to have a microchip, a cat's owner will have 21 days to have one inserted in their pet, or face a £500 fine. The change is part of the Government's flagship **Action Plan for**

Animal Welfare, and campaigners hope it will mean more lost or stray cats can be reunited with their owners.

There's no minimum age to have your kitten microchipped although you should have it done before they go out for the first time. Many owners will do it at the same time as they're having their pet neutered when they're already under general anaesthetic. Most rescue centres will microchip kittens by the time they're eight weeks old. In any case you should get them microchipped before you let them outside to explore.

Source: Medivet

<https://www.medivet.co.uk/pet-care/pet-advice/cat-kitten-microchipping/>

LOCAL COUNCIL ELECTIONS - MAY 4TH 2023

**A new political map for Fenland District Council
Fenland is set to have new boundaries for its council wards**

The Local Government Boundary Commission is the independent body that draws these boundaries. It says residents should be represented by 43 councillors. This is an increase of four from the current arrangements. There will be 18 wards. This is six fewer than there are now. The boundaries of all existing wards will change.

DON'T FORGET THAT YOU MUST HAVE A PHOTO ID WITH YOU TO BE ALLOWED TO VOTE.

And remember, no amount of "Oh. Come on! You know who I am" will allow you a vote....

<https://www.fenland.gov.uk/article/16798/A-new-political-map-for-Fenland-District-Council>

***Editor's note: This article would have been in our March Heron, but Gwyneth was suddenly called away to Wales for a family matter, so she couldn't complete it in time. However, I love the article and, I am sure you will enjoy it too.*

Dydd Gwyl Dewi Hapus/ Happy St David's Day

St David is the patron Saint of Wales. The Welsh celebrate his Saint Day on March 1st. This is a very important day to all Welsh people, and especially to me because he was born near St David's, three miles from where I was born and grew up in Solva, Pembrokeshire. St David was apparently born during a thunderstorm, on the site of the oldest Christian building in Wales. You can still see the ruins, called St Non's. It is named after his mother, Non, who lived in the settlement around the church. There is a well, which sprung up at the time St David was born, around 500 AD. Pilgrims and others visit to this day. The well never runs dry, and is said to heal the sick. St David was an important scholar, teacher, monk and leader of the Christian community of Wales. Many of his students became saints too. His monks ploughed without horses, drank no beer and were vegetarian; a tough regime. St David is buried in the Cathedral in St David's, Britain's smallest city. Apparently two visits to St David's were equal to one to the Vatican, when pilgrimages were the thing to do.

This beautiful Cathedral, hidden in a valley, was, for us children, just part of growing up. Counting and climbing the 39 steps down to it and climbing to the top of the tower, round and round until we were dizzy; walking around and looking at the effigies, trying not to fall into the mirrors on the table which show the wonderfully wooden carved roof, and then sitting on the carved seats for the Bishops, laughing at the funny carvings holding their holy bottoms up! We even sat on the seat that the Queen sat on when she visited. Health and safety have stopped the trips to the tower nowadays, unfortunately.

Anyway, I digress. St David's Day was the highlight of the year for us as children. We had to go to school, but it was a very different day. The girls dressed up with our red and black tartan shawl around our neck, big black hats with lace round the rim. A full skirt with a white apron. White socks and black shoes. Plus - the most important part – a daffodil pinned to our chest. That was always the most anxious part, would they be in bloom in

time? Whose garden would have one? No Tesco with daffs for a £1 then, but now at the top of Solva hill there are fields of them growing for the market.

The boys, however, had a much easier time; they only had to wear a leek on their chests - the bigger the better! Some of the boys showed off by eating the leeks. *Uch a fi/ disgusting.* The smell of those leeks dominated the classroom for the day; we were glad to go home.



During the day we had an Eisteddford – a festival of music and poetry. Many hours were spent in preparation, learning what seemed to be endless streams of words which even when spoken sounded like music with our Welsh accents very strong on that day.

That night we would go home to Cawl, a clear lamb stew with vegetables and those smelly leeks. Welsh cakes, best eaten straight off the planc/griddle. Never with butter on, unless they were stale. However, they never lasted that long!

Even now, with the sight of spring arriving, with the spring bulbs popping their heads up, the bright yellow, white and blue, fills me with such happiness. St David's Day and the end of Winter was a time of celebration. As children, we just saw it as a day of fun, away from our lessons; a day of being really Welsh!

Later, when I was working in an English secondary school, I would bring in lots of daffodils, Welsh cakes and Barabirith. A colleague would bring Welsh music and all the Welsh teachers would meet up and reminisce on our mother's Welsh cakes and decide that mine were okay but not like Mam's. We also agreed that we all missed Wales. There is a Welsh name for that – hireath/an intense longing for home. I miss the cliffs and the sea, but love the Welney Wash on a frosty morning or a sunny afternoon, with the light dancing on the water. I also love the wildlife and the friendly community of Christchurch. We've just been here a year and it's a great place to live, and there is a cathedral not too far away.

Thank you for reading my ramblings, and a very happy St David's Day to you.
Dydd Gwyl Dewi hapus i chi.

Gwyneth Miller



PC Snippets

The start of the meeting was a little delayed due to the lack of Chair and Deputy Chair (their apologies had been sent), but this was soon resolved and the meeting got underway.

Public time;

There seemed to be some confusion still regarding the overhanging trees from the recreation ground into the gardens of residents in Wayside. Following the article in last months Heron other residents now, apparently, want trees in their gardens pollarded. The Clerk pointed out that no PC decision has or could be made without the say so of the recreation ground charity as they owned the trees and that the trees in question are nothing to do with the PC. A compromise was agreed that a meeting will be set up between the PC, residents of Wayside and the recreation ground charity.

Matters outstanding;

a) Bus shelter – no news. b) Pavement outside Field Lodge – no update. c) Affordable housing – still struggling to find land. d) Padgetts Road repairs – Cambridgeshire CC have made provision in the capital programme for the 2024-25 year. e) Skatepark repairs – nothing as yet. f) Household items outside property in Upwell Road – Local housing officer is on the case. g) Recreation ground trees – see above. h) The Coronation of the King and Queen Consort – The pub is doing something, and the community centre will be showing the ceremony on the big screen. (See adverts elsewhere in this magazine. ed.)

Items on this meeting's agenda:

Police report;

The priorities of the police this quarter in the areas are speeding in the villages and drugs in Wisbech and the surrounding villages. Drugs include nitrous oxide (the stuff in little silver bottles and in larger canisters), and they are going to be looking for likely spots for drug cultivation in the rural areas. With regard to speeding in the locality, the police are happy to do patrols if asked.

The Chair asked if the data from the traffic sensors could be used to highlight a specific time that would be useful.

County and District Councillors reports;

One useful point to note here. CHESS – the Cambridgeshire Home Energy Support Service has been relaunched. This is a service for anyone who may find themselves in fuel poverty.

Recreation ground extension;

A planting day took place on Saturday 11th March with approximately half of the hedging planted. The other half is due to be delivered some time during the week commencing 13/3/23. A discussion took place about the fencing of the new area, but a decision about how and what to fence was deferred until a later date as it was felt that the cost of fencing was high in comparison to the value of what it would be protecting - £2240 worth of fencing to protect £100 worth of hedging.



Finance;

The PC did agree to a donation of £250 to the Magpas Air Ambulance. It was felt that due to our rural location an air ambulance would probably better serve us than one travelling by road in an emergency. It was also pointed out that one of Christchurch's residents did need the services of the air ambulance last year.

The annual Parish meeting 28/3/23;

By the time this edition has dropped on your doormats this event will have taken place, but discussions took place about speakers that had already been booked and more potential speakers still to be approached. It sounds, at the time of writing, that this should be an interesting event with something to appeal to most residents, building on the success of previous years.

Shaun Potter

Join us for an evening of music and poetry.

Pianist James Trundle will be joined by flautist and saxophonist Louis Stanhope to entertain us with music from across the genres.

Holly Trundle will make you laugh and reflect in equal measure as she recites her own poetry.



Saturday April 22nd
7pm -9pm
in Christchurch Community Centre
£5 on the door
includes light refreshment at the interval.



Church News

Hello All,

Services in Christchurch are usually the first and third Sunday of each month. However, this April we are unable to follow the usual pattern (see below for details). April is a busy month with several additional Easter Week services.

Other events start with the **Easter Coffee Morning on Wednesday 5th April** with lots of fun for all the family. We have a **concert on Saturday April 22nd**, see page 10 for details.

We are holding our **Annual Parochial Church Meeting on Thursday 27th April at 3.15pm** in the Community Centre. Anyone can attend, and you will be most welcome. Anyone can vote when choosing Churchwardens. However, only those who are on the church's electoral roll can vote in the election of PPC members.

SAVE THE DATE – Christchurch Garden Gander – July 1st See page 12

We look forward to seeing you at some of our services and events.

In God we trust. *Helen*

April 2 nd	Christchurch 10.30– Morning Prayer Doddington 10.30 – Holy Communion
April 6 th	Wimblington 18.30 – Agape
April 7 th	Doddington 14.00 – Hour at the Cross
April 9 th	Manea 10.30 - Holy Communion Wimblington 10.30 – Morning Prayer Welney 15.00 – Holy Communion
April 16 th	Doddington – Holy Communion
April 23 rd	Manea 10.30 – Morning Prayer Wimblington 10.30 – Holy Communion
April 30 th	Christchurch 10.30 - United Benefice Service and lunch

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.



HAPPY EASTER, EVERYONE!

The very first Easter taught us this:
that life never ends and love never dies.

– Kate McGahan



“He is not here; for he has risen, as he said. Come, see the place where he lay”. *Matthew 28: 6.*

“Christ the Lord is risen today, sons of men and angels say, raise your joys and triumphs high, ye heavens and earth reply”.
Charles Wesley, Hymnwriter

“Here is the amazing thing about Easter; the Resurrection Sunday for Christians is this, that Christ in the dying moments on the cross gives us the greatest illustration of forgiveness possible.” *T. D. Jakes*

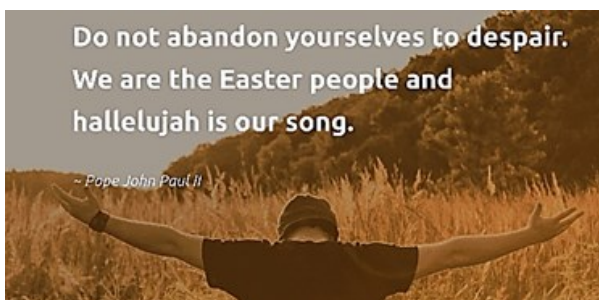
“We reflect on the brutal pain that He suffered, the scorn that He absorbed, the sins that He bore, this extraordinary gift of salvation that He gave to us. And we try, as best we can, to comprehend the darkness that He endured so that we might receive God's light”. *Barack Obama*

“The stone was rolled away from the door, not to permit Christ to come out, but to enable the disciples to go in”. *Peter Marshall.*

“Let the resurrection joy lift us from loneliness and weakness and despair to strength and beauty and happiness.” *Floyd W. Tomkins*

Do not abandon yourselves to despair.
We are the Easter people and
hallelujah is our song.

– Pope John Paul II



Looking for somewhere to go?

What's on in April 2023



1st-16th April 2023 Skylark Easter Funyard: feed the lambs, family comedy show, grand Easter egg hunt, scarecrow smash. Tel 01354 741212 email info@skylarkmaizemaze.co.uk

8th April 2023 Saturday 11-4 Easter Fayre and Dog Show: Lakes End Village Hall & Playing Field, Lakes End PE14 9QL Dog Show and Grooming Demos, Craft and Gift Stalls, Beer/Wine Tent and Gin Bar, Food Court, Children's Fun and Games
Entry £1.00 Dog Show £2 per dog per class. Judging starts at 12.00

8th April Saturday J S Bach St John Passion: King's College Chapel 5.30pm. Tickets £13. <https://shop.kings.cam.ac.uk/products/bach-st-john-passion> The Choir perform Bach's St John Passion in the Chapel with the Academy of Ancient Music, conducted by Daniel Hyde.



8th April 2023 Saturday. Fenland Farmers Race Night: GER Club, Robingoodfellows Lane. Doors open 6.30. Racing starts 7.10pm. March Tickets £15 which include Hopkins Hog Roast, Call 07837 733248 for tickets. In aid of March Armed Forces Veterans.



11th April 2023 Tuesday 7.30pm-11.00pm Open Mic night: plug in and play any instrument at any level or sing, or just go and listen and enjoy the music. Bar open. Upwell Village Hall, New Road, Upwell PE14 9AB. Contact Jules Wilkinson (See Upwell and Outwell Discussion Forum Facebook page) or email jules@satdat.co.uk

22nd April 2023 Saturday Sal Bashir a tribute to Elvis: GER Club, Robingoodfellows Lane, March. Doors open at 7.00 Show starts at 8.30. Tickets £5 members in advance, £8 non-members in advance, £13 on the door. Tel: 01354 652335 (*great show according to the person who compiled this article*)



SAVE THE DATE! -
Saturday 1 July
Christchurch
Garden Gander

Anyone interested in opening their gardens - floral and/or vegetable garden - to visitors on this occasion please contact Helen Chappell for details.
helenchappell3101@gmail.com

All proceeds towards the Church Restoration Fund.

EASTER COFFEE MORNING
& TREASURE HUNT

Wednesday 5th April
 Christchurch Community Centre
 11.30 – 2.30pm

Come and enjoy a cup of tea or coffee with a slice of delicious cake, while the kids go on an egg-citing treasure hunt. Every hunter gets an egg!

Don't fancy making lunch?
 For £2.50 you can buy a "lunchbox" (sandwich, crisps, fruit, cake & juice box)

Colouring Competition 50p

PRIZES!

Sweet bags

Adult Easter Quiz £1.00

Raffle

Crafts

Easter Bonnet Competition. Make an Easter bonnet. Bring it with you for judging. 50p

Kids Corner



April Fool's Day is a great time for a laugh

... but you can tell funny jokes anytime, of course. Here are a few "agghhhh" jokes to be going on with.

1. Where should you go if you want to learn how to make ice cream?
2. What do you call a boomerang that won't come back?
3. Why do beets always win?
4. What did the ocean say to the pirate?
5. What do you call a potato with glasses?
6. Why couldn't the pony sing a lullaby?
7. What's a little bear with no teeth called?
8. How do bill boards talk to each other?



Why do dragons sleep during the day?

So they can fight knights!



It was World Book Day in March and one author of popular children's books was in the news for a bit. He wrote the following books, plus a lot more. Can you guess who he was, and name these titles? All the vowels have been taken away. Give it a go!



Th Wtchs
Mtlid
Jms nd th Gnt Pch
Chrl nd th Chclt Fctry
Grg's Mrvlls Mdcn
Fntstc Mr Fx
Th Twts

Did you know that the illustrator of these

books was someone called **Quentin Blake**? Sir

Quentin Saxby Blake, to be exact. He was born in December 1932, so he is 90 years old now. He is an English cartoonist, caricaturist, illustrator and children's writer. He has illustrated over 300 books, including 18 written by Roald Dahl, which are among his most popular works. For his lasting contribution as a children's illustrator he won the biennial international Hans Christian Andersen Award in 2002, the highest recognition available to creators of children's books.

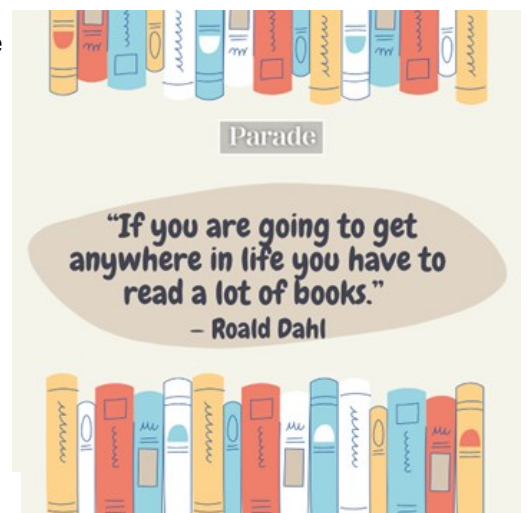
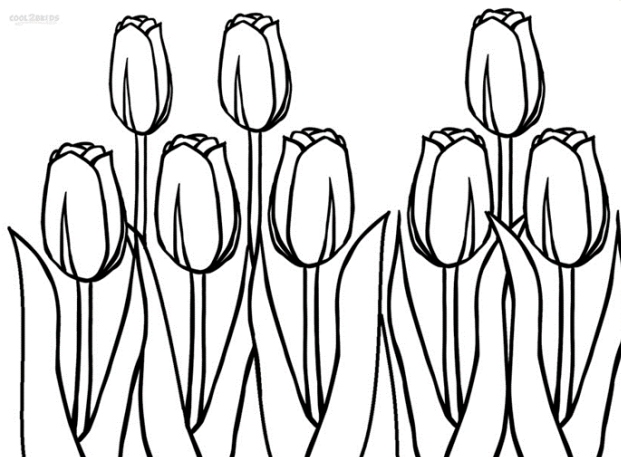


Roald Dahl quotes;

"I think probably kindness is my number one attribute in a human being. I'll put it before any of the things like courage or bravery or generosity or anything else".

"Kindness – that simple word. To be kind – it covers everything, to my mind. If you're kind, that's it."

Colour in these lovely tulips!



Parade

"If you are going to get anywhere in life you have to read a lot of books."

– Roald Dahl

See Answers to Questions on Page 17!

NEXT LEVEL CHOCOLATE HOT CROSS BUNS!

INGREDIENTS

2 tsp dried instant yeast
1 3/4 cups (435ml) milk, warmed
1 cup (220g) caster sugar
4 1/4 cups (635g) bread and pizza flour (strong flour)
1 tsp ground cinnamon
1 tsp mixed spice
1/2 cup (50g) good-quality Dutch cocoa
75g unsalted butter, melted, cooled
1 egg, lightly beaten
150g dark (70%) chocolate, chopped into 1cm pieces

PIPING MIXTURE

1/3 cup (50g) bread and pizza flour
2 tsp caster sugar

METHOD

1. Place yeast, milk and 1 tbs sugar in a bowl and whisk with a fork to combine. Set aside in a warm place for 5 minutes or until frothy.

2. Place the flour, cinnamon, mixed spice and cocoa in the bowl of an electric mixer fitted with a dough hook. Add the yeast mixture, melted butter, egg and 90g caster sugar. Knead on medium-low speed for 5-6 minutes until smooth and elastic. (Alternatively, knead by hand on a lightly floured surface until smooth and elastic.)

Place dough in a lightly greased bowl, cover with a clean tea towel and set aside in a warm place for 1 1/2 hours or until doubled in size.

4. Grease and line the base of a round 30cm cake pan with baking paper.



Source: Delicious.com.au

5. knock back the dough and turn out onto a lightly floured surface. Knead in the chopped chocolate, then divide the dough into 16 equal pieces and roll into smooth balls. Place in the greased pan, leaving a 1cm gap between each for dough to expand. Set aside in a warm place for a further 45 minutes or until almost doubled in size.

6. Preheat the oven to 180°C.

7. For the piping mixture, place the flour, sugar and 1/4 cup (60ml) water in a small bowl and stir until a smooth paste. Spoon paste into a piping bag fitted with a small nozzle. Pipe crosses onto the risen buns.

8. Bake buns for 10 minutes, then reduce the oven to 170°C and cook for a further 25-30 minutes until cooked through.

9. Meanwhile, to make the glaze, place remaining 1/2 cup (110g) sugar and 1/4 cup (60ml) water in a small pan over low heat stirring until sugar dissolves. Simmer for 3-4 minutes until reduced and slightly sticky, then set aside to cool.

10. Brush warm buns with glaze, then serve.



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Disco to Follow @ 7pm



SAVE THE DATE

KING CHARLES III CORONATION

SATURDAY 6th MAY 2023

Come and join us to watch the live screening of the King's Coronation, on the big screen at the Community Centre, **from 10am** on Saturday 6th May.

The bar will be open and we are encouraging families to bring a picnic lunch to enjoy under the veranda or on the playing field.

We look forward to seeing you there.

Community Centre Committee

Sheringham Viking Festival and Parade:

Sat April 1st 2023



Vikings once struck terror into the hearts of the inhabitants of our shores, but their return to north Norfolk will be very much welcomed. Plans have been drawn up to stage Sheringham's Scira Viking Festival – which culminates in the burning of a model long ship.

"Welcome traveller, to the Warband of Wuffa, a group of Norse and Saxons that have been united under one banner, with the purpose of conquering the East of England. Led by the mighty Sigaard, we fight in battles for dominance all over the east coast of England in a bid to gain new territory for our people.

Wuffa Viking and Saxon Re-enactment Society

is a group of like-minded individuals from all walks of life, dedicated to learning and living the ways of the early medieval period. We feature in shows and events up and down the country, specialising in the dark age period that was dominated by the ferocious 'Vikings' and brutal Saxons. Our members range in experience from those just starting out to thirty-year veterans. We re-enact all parts of the dark age lifestyle including combat, but also day to day life, such as cooking, blacksmithing, tailoring, music and much more".



SCIRA SHERINGHAM VIKING FESTIVAL 2023

1ST APRIL 2023 SATURDAY, 09:00–19:00



Wuffa starts the year off with its annual week-long festival at Sheringham, celebrating the town's heritage with a whole host of family themed activities hosted by the Sheringham Carnival Committee, all culminating in our warriors headlining a climactic battle on the weekend and ending with the famous boat burning at the beach.

This year will be bigger and better than ever before, as Wuffa has recruited other groups of Vikings and Saxons to its cause, enabling us to create an entire dark age encampment for you and the family to visit!

<https://wearewuffa.wixsite.com/wuffa/see-wuffa-in-action>

Photos: Chris Taylor (Facebook)





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Facebook—Townley School and Pre-School

Remember that our website has lots more information about school.

March 2023

EYFS Class (Nursery and Reception)

In Early Years we have used the focus story The Colour Monster to prompt lots of discussions about our emotions. We have used and discussed vocabulary happy/cheerful/thrilled/sad/miserable/heartbroken/angry/cross/annoyed/calm/thoughtful/ relaxed/sad/sad/frightened/anxious. Nursery enjoyed filling jars with colours to match the emotions just like in the story (yellow for happy, blue for sad etc). Everyone made, drew or coloured their own colour monsters. We also carefully painted faces with different emotions. We found some coloured footprints in our outside area and thought the Colour Monster may have sneaked in. In the forest we thought about how it made us feel calm and found natural green things to match to a colour chart.



Hawker Class (Year 1 and 2)

In Science we have been exploring everyday materials and conducted an investigation to find out which materials are waterproof and which are absorbent. Children discussed and predicted which materials would be waterproof and which would be absorbent. We used kitchen roll, toilet roll, plastic bags, tin foil and cotton socks. We lined plastic cups with these materials and poured water in to test the predictions. The children enjoyed the investigation and year 2 pupils wrote a non-chronological report on materials.



Emerald Class (Year 3 and 4)

In Emerald, we have linked Science and English to write an explanatory text describing how the digestive system works. To help us with that, we have completed an experiment using a small plastic bag for the stomach, tights to represent the small intestine and a paper cup to represent the large intestine and the rectum. We used wheat biscuits as the food and added orange juice (stomach acids) and water (saliva) to help 'digest'. We then transferred it to one leg of a pair of tights and squeeze the liquid (nutrients) out, just like in our small intestine. What was left in the 'small intestine' could not be digested and was transferred to the paper cup (large intestine). With the help of another cup, we pressed the waste out of the body. It was gruesome but the children got stuck in!



Emperor Class (Year 5 and 6)

We have begun our new **English** unit: Playscripts. The class looked at the model text: a synopsis of Romeo and Juliet. They will be working towards writing their own synopsis of a Shakespearean play. We have continued working with decimals within **Maths** and have been converting between fractions and decimals. We completed our **Art** unit this week by creating collages using applique. The class used different materials and painted different colours on to material to create a textured artwork showing nature. In **DT** the class build wooden truss bridges. They used saws and hot glue guns. They worked extremely well within their groups and supported each other well. We had our Netball tournament at Wisbech Grammar school. The netball team worked so hard and managed to get into the silver league of the competition, coming third overall. After only having two weeks of training, this is an amazing achievement!

Why is Easter Sunday on a different day each year?



It's not always easy to keep track of the Easter date. After all, unlike Christmas, the date changes every year. It can be as early as March 22 or as late as April 25. (That's a pretty wide range!). This year, it falls in the middle, on April 9, which is more than a week earlier than it fell in 2022. And go ahead and prepare for an early Easter 2024: Next year, the date falls on March 31. Of course, this also means that the beginning of Lent and Ash Wednesday change dates too.

Which brings us to our central question: Why is Easter on a different date each year? And why is it on April 9, 2023, this year, which is later than last year and the year before?

Easter's exact date varies so much because it actually depends on the moon. The holiday is set to coincide with the first Sunday after the Paschal Full Moon, the first full moon after the vernal (Spring) equinox. Though the equinox's exact date can vary each year according to the *Old Farmer's Almanac*, the church always recognizes the vernal equinox as March 21.

So why does Easter come after the Paschal Full Moon?

Early Christians wanted Easter to coincide with Passover, because Christ's death and resurrection happened around the Jewish holiday. Because the Jewish calendar is tied to solar and lunar cycles, the dates of Passover (Jewish Festival) and Easter (Christian Festival) fluctuate each year. Jesus himself was Jewish, of course.

Christchurch Over 65s Parish Lunch Sunday 16 April 2023 12.30 for 1.00pm Christchurch Community Centre

If you (or your partner) live in the Christchurch Parish and are 65 or over, we would love you to join us for our Annual Lunch on 16 April.

Booking is essential, so please call Ruth Ingram on 01354 638419 for more information and to book your place.

We hope you can join us.
Parish Lunch Committee



ANSWERS FROM PAGE 13

Answers to Jokes

1. A Sundae School.
2. A stick.
3. Because they are un-beet-able.
4. Nothing. It just waved.
5. A spec-tator.
6. She was a little horse.
7. A gummy bear.
8. In sign language.



Answers to the book quiz:

- The author: Roald Dahl
The titles:
The Witches
James and the Giant Peach
Charlie and the Chocolate Factory
George's Marvellous Medicine
Fantastic Mr Fox
The Twits



Spot the Difference

There are 11 differences between the two pictures. Can you spot them? Answers on page 27.



Excuse me - do you speak Sheep Farmer?

Some sheep farming terms you never knew you didn't know (unless you are a sheep farmer, of course!).

Bellwether - The sheep that leads the flock.

Cast/cull ewes - Sheep that have reached the end of their working/productive life.

Draft ewes - 4 or 5-year-old hill ewes, sold from hill farms to breed on lower lying farms.

Ewe - A mature female sheep which has given birth.

Gelt - An adult ewe that is not in lamb when others are.

Gimmer - A female sheep that has been weaned but not yet sheared.

Hefting - The instinct of certain breeds (especially hill breeds) to remain in a small area (the heft) without the need for fences, which the ewe learns and passes on to its lambs.

Hogg/hogget - A young sheep between the January after its birth and its first two teeth.

North of England Mule - Mule is a cross-bred sheep sired by the Bluefaced Leicester ram with either a Swaledale or Northumberland type Blackface dam.

Outfit - Term used for ewes with lambs at foot, which are sold 'per outfit'.

Radding - Fitting rams with a harness that contains a paint block. The paint leaves a mark on the rump of each ewe with whom the ram mates.

Rigwelled, rigged or kessen - An overturned sheep. Usually when heavily pregnant and broad backed. She may roll over and become unable to right herself.

Shearling - A young sheep between its first and second shearings

Tup - A male sheep. Another word for 'ram'.

Wether - A castrated male sheep.



<https://www.cravenherald.co.uk/news/19360729.excuse-speak-farmer-farming-terms-never-knew-didnt-know/>

Christchurch Stargazers

Hello Christchurch Stargazers.

So, in April what will be visible? **Mercury** will be an evening planet, best at the start and middle of April. Sets two hours after sunset on 11 April. **Venus** will be a brilliant evening object, setting four hours after sunset at month end. Near the Pleiades on 10 April. **Mars** is a fading evening planet. **Jupiter** is in conjunction with the Sun on 11 April and not visible this month. **Saturn** is a morning object, but it is not well-placed and is unlikely to be seen, so not worth trying to view. **Uranus** is a poorly located evening planet. 4° from Mercury on 19 April but tricky to see. **Neptune** is a morning object but lost in the dawn twilight, so not worth trying to view.

Also this month, with no major Moon interference, the 2023 Lyrid meteor shower will peak on the night of 22/23 April. (You can enlarge the picture on the website. Ed.)

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

Mark Andrews



Christchurch Art Group



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

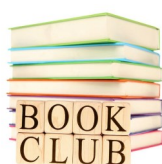
- Our focus is to explore and experiment with the various painting and drawing media
- To enable participants to develop their own style
- Above all to have fun and enjoy the sessions
- The sessions are planned and adjusted to suit, depending on the experience and interests of the group
- The group leader is experienced in a wide range of media, and has some art materials for you to try out if they are new to you. *We have suitable paper for a reasonable cost to purchase and materials can be borrowed until you have your own*. Our group is friendly and relaxed and we love to welcome new folk.



If you would like a programme, please contact Jan and one will be sent with any further information.

Please contact Sandra 01354 638478 or Jan 01354 638217. (clifford.jjr5846@gmail.com)

Christchurch Book Club



Christchurch Book club met in March to discuss the last book 'The Glass House' by Eve Chase.

The group enjoyed this book, which tells of a family along with their nanny, moving from London to a house in the forest following a tragedy. When a baby is found abandoned and taken in by the family but kept from the authorities, secrets start to surface after a body is discovered in the forest.

The next meeting will take place on Tuesday 4th April at 7.30pm at Elaine Reed-Hughes house at The Old Police House, 40 Church Road, where we will discuss the current book, 'The Midnight Library' by Matt Haig. The next book in April will be 'The Searcher' by Tana French.

New members always welcome.
For further details please contact Pat Rigby on 07776 142642.



New!! Coffee/ Lunch Break

By popular request, Lunch Break is changing its times.

Come over for a coffee; bring your lunch as usual; just come for a chat...

Coffee/Lunch Break this month – 12th and 26th 11 am - 1 pm, in the Community Centre. (A warm space!)

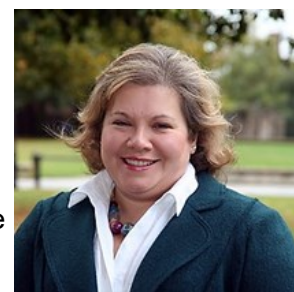
IT'S FREE! Everyone welcome.

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

Contact: Annie on 01354-638088



Our speaker for the March meeting was **Hannah Padfield**, who is the county advisor for NFU. She began her most interesting talk tracing her own family history in farming. Having studied at Reading University for a degree in Rural Resources (1997-2001) she became a Royal Institution Chartered Surveyor, and was employed as a Rural Division Practice Manager. Her greatest honour was meeting the late Queen Elizabeth II. At this time, Hannah became the Essex YFC County Organiser, and then an Assistant Development Officer for the NFU. This involved recruiting and retaining NFU members.



The second part of Hannah's talk was about Women in Farming, with many more women being involved in leadership roles than in the old days. Minette Batters is the first female President of the NFU (elected in 2018). During her 6 years in office, she has frequently been in the public eye, appearing twice on Question Time and also on Desert Island Discs. Hannah also showed us pictures of a number of other women who are in influential positions in the farming community. Hannah was a very vibrant and informative speaker. The question-and-answer session after the talk was also very interesting, as there were some Farmers in the audience, who could speak of their immediate situations in farming today.

April meeting: Tuesday 11th at 7pm. Competition: Something spiky. Annual subs are due and must either be in cash or by cheque, please (£46). *Sue Norman*



Christchurch Gardening Club

"Vegetables are Good For you"

The Gardening Club members reconvened on Tuesday 21st March for it's first meeting following the AGM. The members turned out in force as well as several new members, who we were pleased to welcome, to hear a talk entitled "Vegetables in my time" by renowned expert Mike Day.

Mike has been involved in the industry for many years and really does know his onions, as we all found out during his expertly put together hour long presentation. He took us through the A to Z of almost all vegetables common to the UK as well as some that were not so common. It was also interesting to note that sweet potatoes and chickpeas, usually grown in warmer climes are now being grown over here. The factual information that Mike delivered, was also peppered with anecdotes, such as the myth that carrots enable one to see at night, which was invented during the war by the brits to hide from the Germans that radar had been invented and was in regular use. All in all, an interesting and enjoyable evening.

The next meeting on Tuesday 18th April will feature guest speaker Pam Bullivant, who will enlighten us on the History of the National Garden scheme. One to look forward to.

For further information on the club and to Join, call 10354638230. Or come along on the night.
Steve

Hobby and Social Club

**NEW
WEEKLY**

**Starting TUESDAY 4th April 2023
10.00 AM- 1.00 PM
Christchurch Community Centre**

Bring your art, craft or hobby along to the club to work on and share with like-minded friends. Maybe you will introduce us to something new or find something you would like to try, i.e. artwork, needlework, crochet, card making, Lego, or maybe there is a jigsaw puzzle looking for someone to finish while you are thinking of what to start.

Interested?

Contact Janet Harper on 07941 465319 or Pat Rigby on 07776 142642



Indoor Short Mat Bowls

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

ALL WELCOME! (Spare bowls available to loan.)

For further details call Janet Harper on 07941 465319.

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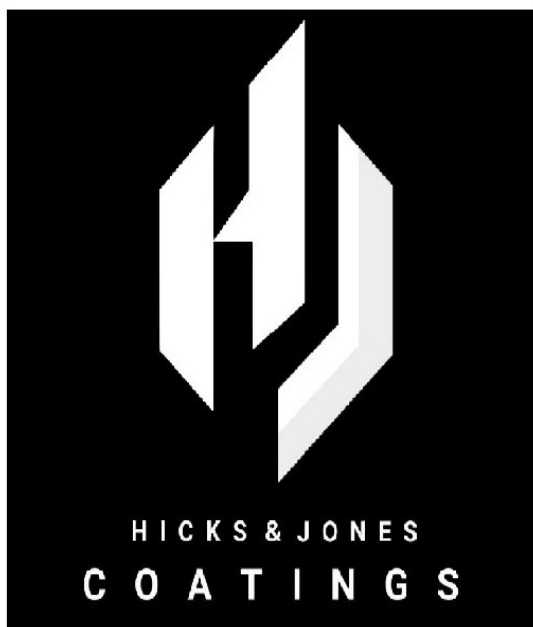
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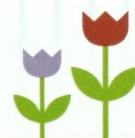
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Oberammergau Passion Play History

Last year, in 2022, the German town of Oberammergau put on their Passion Play. Nearly 400 years ago the history of the Passion Play began. The plague raged in many parts of Europe and did not spare Oberammergau either.

In 1633 the Oberammergau villagers promised to perform the suffering, death and resurrection of Christ every tenth year, in so far as no one was to die of the plague anymore. The villagers were answered by God and therefore in 1634 the first Passion Play took place. The promise has been kept until today, 2022. The 42nd Passion Play successfully ran from 14 May to 2 October 2022, after having to be postponed in 2020 due to Covid.

Depicting the life, persecution, death and resurrection of Jesus, the 42nd season of what is believed to be the oldest continuous running amateur theatre production in the world opened with a 103-performance run. The play is the village's raison d'être. It is taken for granted that almost every one of the 5,200 residents who is eligible, from babies to nonagenarians, plays a part either on or off the stage. All children are allowed, as is anyone who has lived in the village for 20 years or more.

Despite misgivings over whether it would be able to go ahead, the usual decree went out on Ash Wednesday



2022, forbidding male participants from cutting their hair or shaving their beards until the production closed the

following October. "It was hard for us to believe until recently that it would actually go ahead as the coronavirus infection rate had exploded, but most of us stuck to the rules and didn't cut our beards in the hope it still would," said Werner Richter, a taxi driver who has taken part in every production since 1970. His grandchildren were among the 400 youngsters on stage and his son, Andreas, a former Jesus and a psychologist by profession, had one of the lead roles as the high priest Caiaphas.

"The last time we had to delay was 100 years ago, due to the Spanish flu, as well as deaths and injuries from the first world war, after which it was rescheduled for 1922," said the director, Stückl (pictured). "Pandemics and the passion play have a certain tradition." The pandemic aside, his main challenge ever since becoming director at the age of 24 in 1990 has been to retain the existing but ageing audience while pushing the boundaries of the conservative Bavarian Catholic perspective he has often viewed as limited. He describes his biggest mission as trying to rid the passion play of the antisemitic view that Jews were collectively responsible for the death of Jesus, for which it was especially instrumentalised in the Nazi era with Hitler visiting twice. "We are in constant and deep dialogue with religious representatives now," Stückl says. In 2010 he depicted Jesus lifting the Torah as the choir sang a version of the Jewish prayer Shema Yisrael, considered a high point of the play by participants and spectators.



The next performance will be in 2030, Pandemics permitting.

Sources: The Guardian Newspaper and others



Neale-Wade Sports Centre Easter Activities 2023

Easter holiday activities
Monday 3rd - Wednesday 5th April

Children from 8yrs to 14yrs.

Day runs from 10am to 3pm. £3 per session or £10 for the day (Card payment only).

Please bring packed lunch if staying for the day.

To book call 01354 606160 or email bwatson@neale-wade.org

3 rd - 5 th April			
	Mon 3 rd	Tues 4 th	Weds 5 th
Session 1 10am - 11am	Basketball	Kwik-Cricket	Basketball
Session 2 11am - 12pm	Badminton	Badminton	Handball
Lunch 12pm - 1pm			
Session 3 1pm - 2pm	Football	Uni Hoc	Futsal
Session 4 2pm - 3pm	Dodgeball	Football	Dodgeball



April. Your Wildlife questions answered: Swans

Do Swans mate for life? Swans usually mate for life, although "divorce" sometimes occurs, particularly following nesting failure, and if a mate dies, the remaining swan will take up with another. Swans famously mate for life, and typically bond even before they reach sexual maturity.

If a swan is seen alone, why is that? It may be a young one yet to find a mate, or may be sick. Its mate may have died.



Does the King really own all swans? If so, why? The Crown has held the right to claim ownership of all unmarked swans. It applies only in open waters to **mute swans** (one of several varieties of swans found in Britain) that weren't already owned by three companies permitted to own them. Historically, the legislation was created because swans were eaten as a prized food at banquets and feasts. It goes back to at least the 12th Century. Today, swans are no longer eaten and are a protected species. Hundreds of years ago there were severe penalties for injuring or killing a swan, and criminals could be put in prison for a year even for stealing swans' eggs.

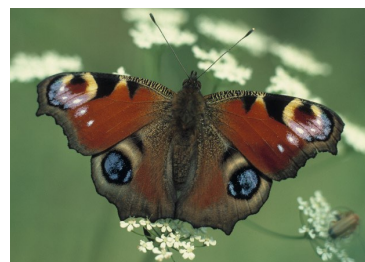
Wildlife Watching in April

April is one of my favourite months - We're getting warmer (in theory), birds are singing, and beautiful blooms are cropping up all over the place. Around this time of year, I like to take a nice long walk, seeing what has popped up or survived over winter. This year, in our own back garden, it was hard not to notice the fresh mounds of dirt on the lawn. **Moles!**

After seeing these mounds, I spent some time digging for information about these hidden creatures. I must admit I knew very little - only that they're often seen as pests and that I once played Mole in our school performance of *The Wind in The Willows*. Although most of us have never seen one, they are incredibly distinctive creatures - Velvety black fur, large clawed front paws for digging and tiny, almost imperceptible eyes. They also leave undeniable evidence that they're there. Mole hills often crop up in April. This is because the worms move to the surface as the weather gets warmer, and the moles follow their food source. It is also mole breeding season. However, moles are mostly solitary for the rest of the year. Most hills are around 8in. tall, but mounds above nest chambers can be over 3ft! These large mounds significantly reduce heat loss from their nest and are a place for the moles to store worms. Although these hills and tunnels can be troublesome to gardeners and farmers, it shows an impressive amount of work for such a small mammal (they tunnel up to 20m a day). Moles actually improve soil health by aerating it. This allows more plants to grow, attracting more insects and increasing biodiversity, and it helps with soil drainage. You might not see a mole, but it is fascinating to think about their underground world, which we only see tiny glimpses of.



Many blooms are popping up - **blossom, primrose, violets** (pictured), **cow parsley, bluebells, forget-me-nots, dead-nettle**... the list goes on! Naturally, these wildflowers attract a whole host of insects too. We should have some beautiful butterflies coming out soon - **small tortoiseshell, peacock** (pictured), **brimstone** and **comma butterflies** being the most common. Although, we might be lucky with some **holly blues** again. There is so much out there to see in April, and on a mild day, I'd recommend taking a look around, just being curious about the things around you. I spot something new each time I take the time to look and end up down another rabbit (or mole) hole of new information and fall more in love with our beautiful patch of nature in the fens.



Hollie Dorward

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



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