



The Heron

Community Magazine

Delivered to homes in Christchurch, Euximoor and Tipps End

May 2023

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LIVE ON THE BIG SCREEN!

KING CHARLES III CORONATION

SATURDAY 6th MAY 2023

Come and join us to watch the live screening of the King's Coronation,
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



"May the 4th be with you"

'May the 4th be with you' became a popular pun, due to its similarity to the iconic Star Wars quote: **"May the force be with you"**.

"May the force be with you" was most famously first uttered by Jedi Master Obi-Wan Kenobi to Luke Skywalker. However, it was also used by minor character General Donna as he dismisses rebel troops before their attack on the Death Star. The earliest uses of the phrase "May the 4th Be with You" that we have evidence for date from **1978**, one year after the release of "Star Wars: A New Hope".

The 4th of May became dedicated to Star Wars and was started organically by its fans, but is now celebrated around the world. In 2011, an organised event saw the day officially celebrated in the Toronto Underground Cinema! It appears that the first public use of the 'May the 4th' pun in the UK was on May 4th **1979**. This was on the occasion when Margaret Thatcher became UK Prime Minister; an article in The London Evening News bore a congratulatory advert by her party, which read: "May the Fourth Be with You, Maggie. Congratulations."



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

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
Tues 2 nd	Mobile Library	12.15pm	Lay-by (Fen View)	3
Sat 6 th	BIG SCREEN CORONATION	From 10am	CCC	2
Sun 7 th	Church/Morning prayer	10.30am	CCC	11
Sun 7 th	Welle Cinema	2pm	3 Holes V/Hall	26
Tues 9 th	Art Group	1.30- 3.30pm	CCC	19
Tues 9 th	WI	7pm	CCC	20
Weds 10 th	Coffee/Lunch Break	11-1pm	CCC	20
Sat 13 th	HERON PLANT SALE	10am – 2pm	Pub Willow Trees	5
Sat 13 th	BIG SCREEN EUROVISION	7pm	CCC	14
Sun 14 th	Christian Aid Breakfast	9am-11am	CCC	8
Mon 15 th	P C Meeting	7.30pm	CCC	6, 10
Tues 16 th	Gardening Club	7pm	CCC	20
Sat 20 th	S.W.3. Concert Jazz/Blues	7.30pm	CCC	
Sun 21 st	Church/Holy Comm.	10:30am	CCC	11
Tues 23 rd	Art Group	1.30 – 3.30pm	CCC	19
Weds 24 th	Coffee/Lunch Break	11am-1pm	CCC	20
Regular weekly events				
Every Mon	Short Mat Bowls	7-9pm	CCC	20
Every Tues	Christchurch Hobby and Social Cub	10.am – 1pm	CCC	19
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

SAVE THE DATES!

NEW DATE: HERON AGM – Thursday JUNE 29th

GARDEN GANDER - Saturday JULY 1st. Christchurch Open Gardens. Contact Helen Chappell or Ed.

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

Hello everyone! Welcome to our May 2023 magazine.

What a full month it is too! A Coronation, 3 Bank Holiday weekends, the Eurovision Song Contest.. **AND** The Heron Plant Sale on Saturday 13th May. Please do come along and support your village magazine.

May is the time of year that when crops in the fields and plants in the garden are getting going, and this is quite a theme that runs through this issue. His Majesty is passionate about gardening (p 27), and long-term resident in Christchurch, Graham Warby, shares some of his experiences working on the land over the years (p 14). More next month. Did you know that, in centuries gone by, Welney was famous for growing the plants which were used for making the blue dye, WOAD? (p 8).

Lots more interesting articles too enjoy!

Annie Nason



REMEMBER TO TAKE YOUR PHOTO ID WITH YOU WHEN YOU VOTE ON MAY 4TH

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!

Heron News

A warm welcome to a new member of our executive Committee – *Lorna Kirk* has joined us. She was brought up in Christchurch and is back here again.



And also to *Clive Benjamin*, who has joined our Editorial Team this month. He is fairly new to the village and has some nice things to say about The Heron! (He has written the back cover article this month).

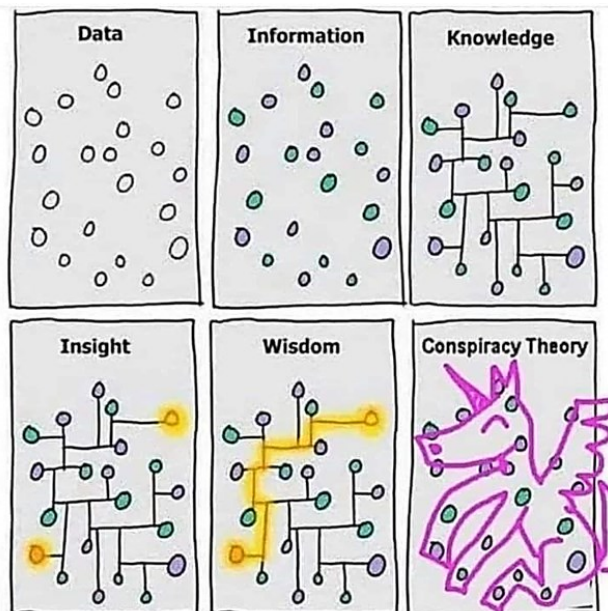
PLEASE NOTE.

The date of our AGM has changed. It will now be on Thursday June 29th in the Community Centre; 7 for 7.30pm. Come along and encourage your Heron Team! Annie Nason will be standing down from her posts of Chair and Editor at the meeting. Interested in helping out?



SATURDAY MAY 13th 10am – 2 pm. Under the willow trees at The Dun Cow.

This is our annual Heron Fundraising Plant Sale. Please come and support us. Our costs are going up, so we need all the support we can get!



Copy Deadline - The deadline for copy for the May edition of the Heron is 23rd April

Your Parish Council Needs You!



Elections are being held on Thursday 4th May for all seats on both Christchurch Parish Council and Fenland District Council. Whilst you will have the opportunity to cast your vote for the new District Councillors, there will be no ballot for the Parish Council, as there were fewer candidates than seats available. Councillors Sharon Aldridge, Roger Gladwin and Kay Miller have decided not to seek re-election, so there are three vacancies. Councillors Jill Bliss, James Hughes, Peter Owen and Andrew Sparrow submitted valid nominations and will be elected unopposed.

Have you ever considered joining the Parish Council? We need enthusiastic people who want to help us to improve the quality of life for residents. Experience is not necessary, but a willingness to learn is important and free training is available. Could this be you? To find out more, visit our website, speak to a member of the Council or contact the Clerk.

If you are unable to commit to being a member of the Council, there are other ways in which you could help us. Join the steering group that is guiding the development of the new public open space next to the Recreation Ground and have a say in this rare opportunity to create something special for future generations. Volunteer with the Street Pride group that keeps the village tidy and undertakes environmental improvements such as bulb planting and floral displays. The Community Centre committee needs volunteers to help run some of the larger events that take place there and many of the village clubs and groups would welcome your support. Whatever you decide to do, help us to celebrate the things that make Christchurch such a special place to live.



Manea Football

The football fun sessions are now back at Manea Park on Sunday Mornings 10-11am.

If any girls/boys in rec/year 1 are interested in coming along the first session is free.

If parents/carers would like more info or if your child will be attending for the first time then please send Tim Clifford a text message on 07946815232

Magpie Eggstravaganza is a Hit!

An Easter holiday programme, piloted at the Magpie Centre, home of West Norfolk Riding for the Disabled, has proved a great success. Seven groups of four participants, aged from five upwards, enjoyed Easter Egg hunts, held throughout the school holidays. The event was organised by Magpie Centre volunteer Abbie Stirling, who said: 'Everyone who came along said they'd had a fantastic time, so we shall definitely do it again – and who knows what we can dream up for Christmas?' A huge vote of thanks must go to Simon Rowe of Radio West Norfolk, who gave 28 eggs from the Easter Egg Appeal, and to all those individuals and businesses throughout West Norfolk, who generously donated eggs.



Dates for your diary:

Wednesdays from April through October: Tea With a Pony 11.00 am – 12 noon at Magpie Centre, Wallington Hall, PE33 0EP. An opportunity to have tea, cakes, a social chat and meet one of our gentle ponies in the wheelchair-accessible Sensory Garden (or in the marquee in bad weather). £5 per person. Booking essential. Call 01553 810202 during office hours.

Saturday June 3: Craft Fair and Have a Go Dog Agility 10.00 am – 4.00 pm at Wallington Hall, South Runcton, (on A10) PE33 0EP. Stalls, under cover in Indoor School, £10 per 3m space. To book, call 07715 467866 or email magpiecccraft@outlook.com Visitors: £2 entry; under 16's free. Free parking. Refreshments available all day. Dog Agility £2. Well-behaved dogs on leads welcome. No dogs to be left in cars.

Saturday June 10: Bingo evening at Stowbridge Village Hall, Downham Road, Stowbridge PE34 3PE. Doors open 6.30 for Eyes Down 7.00 pm. Light refreshments available. For more details see Magpie Centre Facebook page. Proceeds to West Norfolk Riding for the Disabled Assn. route for lead-rein riders. No road work. For more details visit Hoofbeats Facebook page.
<https://rda-westnorfolk.org.uk>

Your Letters

Dear Editor,

I very much enjoyed Linda Potter's litter picking story. Welcome to Christchurch, Linda! Such a good idea for us villagers without dogs to walk....to use a litter picker as a prop to give walking a purpose. I certainly will be using your suggestion and collecting litter when walking. As regards dog poo in bags, I understand animal poo in appropriate bags can be added to household waste.

Anne Williams



New Hunstanton Observatory is set to open – with a new night sky photography competition to celebrate



A new observatory on the clifftops in Hunstanton will provide opportunities for people to study the stars – and the world around them. Hunstanton Observatory aims to support year-round tourism in West Norfolk with a facility that is especially suited for use outside the main summer season. The flat-roof astronomical observatory boasts a solar panel structure, visitor interpretation panel and associated small-scale landscaping work. It will primarily provide a venue for night sky observation using telescopes and binoculars, and for astrophotography.

However, its use is not limited to astronomy. It will also serve as a bookable venue for other suitable night-time activities by local and national groups, such as nocturnal wildlife observation, daytime activities such as solar astronomy (observing and photographing the Sun), and as a wildlife and environmental hub for research, educational events and classes, and environmental awareness events.

To celebrate its opening, the borough council is running a night sky amateur photography competition. The winning photograph will be permanently installed on the clifftop site's exterior interpretation panel. The competition is open for submissions from 22 April to May 19 and will be judged in late May.

www.hunstantonobservatory.co.uk or email: publicity@west-norfolk.gov.uk.

The observatory has been funded by the European EXPERIENCE fund, which aims to support sustainable off-season local tourism that focuses on heritage, culture and outdoor experiences.

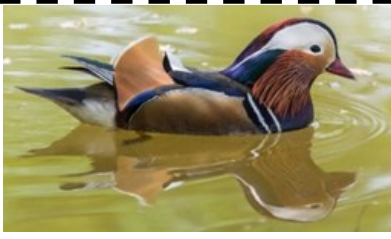


Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Integrated Care System has launched a new survey for residents to have their say on its draft Joint Forward Plan.

Last October, more than 2,300 people shared their views about local health and care services as part of the Let's Talk: Your Health and Care initiative. That feedback helped share the ICS's Health & Wellbeing Integrated Care Strategy and the draft Joint Forward Plan. The draft plan sets out how it will deliver and improve health and care services over the next five years and, in the second phase of Let's Talk: Your Health and Care, the ICS wants to find out what you think about it.

I'd urge you to take part in this survey. This is your opportunity to have your say about the future of healthcare within the constituency and it's vital that the patient and public voice is heard. Find out more at www.cpics.org.uk. **The short survey is open until 12 May.**

Contact details: cpicb.contact@nhs.net Tel: 03300 571030



Potted histories of our neighbouring villages. This month: WELNEY.

- In the 14th century, Welney was called *Wellenhe*, meaning "a river called Welle" (the old name of the Old Croft River).
- In the 18th century Woad was grown in the parish. *Isatis tinctoria*, also called woad, dyer's woad, or glastum, is a flowering plant in the family Brassicaceae (the mustard family) with a documented history of use as a blue dye and medicinal plant. Medieval Period: Woad was one of the three staples of the European dyeing industry, along with weld (yellow) and madder (red). Chaucer mentions their use by the dyer ("litestere") in his poem The Former Age.
- In 1820 a road from Welney across the wash, to the hundred-Foot river, where a ferry-boat was established opposite the public-house of Thomas Golding, formerly Washington's, this provided a direct route into Lincolnshire through Wisbech from Bury St Edmunds, Ely and Cambridge.



- The area is at the heart of the black peat Fens, rich for agriculture. The village itself has a pub/restaurant The Lamb & Flag. The church of St Mary was constructed in 1848 the work of JC Buckler and was built from Norfolk Carrstone. It sits in a long graveyard, close to a water tower.



• In the second half of the 19th century Welney became significant for its skaters. On 21 February 1855, **Turkey Smart, of Welney**, became champion skater of the Fens. **James Smart, of Welney**, became champion on 21 January 1891. **William Loveday, of Welney**, was also a renowned skater.

- National Cycle Route 11, which connects Cambridge with King's Lynn, follows a route along the east side of the Ouse Washes at this point.
- The Ouse Washes is an internationally important area of wildlife conservation. On the eastern side of the Washes is the Welney wildfowl and Wetland Centre, managed by the WWT.



Our Annual Big Brekkie in Christchurch

is on **Sunday May 14th** in the *Community Centre*. *Everyone welcome. First orders at 9am, and last orders at 11am. A cooked breakfast, and/or continental/cereals/toast. Raising money for Christian Aid. All money collected will go to this worthy charity. Please be a generous giver. Just turn up. It's always great!*

Since 1603 the Lion and the Unicorn have been elements in the Royal coat of arms of the United Kingdom, standing for the unification of the two kingdoms of England.

"The Lion and the Unicorn" is traditional nursery rhyme telling the story of the enmity and the fight of suzerainty (*the right of a country to partly control another*) of the two kingdoms, the lion and the unicorn being symbols of their power and dominance.

*The lion and the unicorn
Were fighting for the crown
The lion beat the unicorn
All around the town.*

*Some gave them white bread,
And some gave them brown;
Some gave them plum cake
and drummed them out of town.*

*And when he had beat him out,
He beat him in again;
He beat him three times over,
His power to maintain.*



Wishing you all the best?

As everyone will have noticed from our Electoral fliers, Will Sutton has announced that he will be standing down from his

role in Local Government this month. As a tribute to Will for all his dedication to our area for so many years, we are repeating the article about him which first appeared in the July 2021 issue, with his permission. Many of our readers know Will very well, but if you are new to the village, you will see why he is held in such high regard here. We wish you all the very best for the future, Will. Thank you for being there for our community for all those years. Ed.

Meet our resident Fenland District Councillor - Will Sutton

Will and his wife Linda have lived in the village since 1998, although previously they did have a Christchurch address, on the outskirts of March. Interestingly, one half of that house was in March and the other in Christchurch! Will was born in Bowthorpe Maternity Hospital, Wisbech and was the fourth child of eight; three girls and five boys. His parents had a Smallholding in Doddington. Will attended Doddington Primary School and then Cromwell Secondary Modern School in Chatteris. He laughs when he remembers the chant they had ... **High School are cocky, Grammar School are rats; When you see the Cromwell Kids - Please remove your hats!**

Will hated secondary school and left as early as he could, at 15, and landed a local Commercial Vehicle Mechanical Engineering Apprenticeship. He says he quite enjoyed it, and it has stood him in good stead in later life. As soon as he had left school, he developed a love for learning, as opposed to education. Since then, to him, "Every day is a learning day". His Dad used to have a saying, which came to mean a lot in his life, and he has tried to stick to it: "If you can't pay for it, you can't afford it" (Mortgages excepted, of course).

He and Linda married in 1975. She was a Wisbech girl. They have three girls. In 1977, Will got a local job of Farm Foreman, and worked at that until he had a terrible accident in October 1992, which stopped his farm work altogether. He had a lot of pain, nearly lost his right arm, and was in and out of hospital for 6 years. Although Linda had a job, the results of the accident put a tremendous strain on him and his family. He wondered where it would

lead, having three school-aged children, but no job. They had been living in a Tied Cottage, and, as he was unable to work on the farm, they had to move. He was 6 years out of work. In no way did they give up: they built a bungalow and sold it, and then built their present house. He was Project Manager for both builds. However, when the builder was working on his present home, the concrete beams arrived late. Will went to the manufacturer and – long story short – observed to him that he looked very busy and might need help with his workload. Two weeks later he was offered a job, designing concrete beams. He took it, and enjoyed it. He regularly worked 55 hours a week. When asked



Photo. July 1960.
7-year-old William.



what Linda thought of that, he pulled a face and then grinned, but acknowledged Linda has supported him in all he has done, and she herself had worked very long hours when needed. He was made redundant in 2012 and decided the time was right to retire from full time employment, to concentrate fully on his duties as a Fenland District Councillor. Will's parents were great volunteers (Doddington Football Club), so he grew up seeing that to be a worthwhile way of spending time. His experience of the care and helpfulness of everyone in the Health Service during his 6 years of recuperation really touched him, and he felt the need to serve others by helping people. His way of doing that was to become a Parish Councillor here in Christchurch, in the early 2000's. He wanted to help better Village life. He enjoyed his time there, but thought he could achieve more as a Fenland District Councillor. He stood as a Conservative for the Elm and Christchurch Ward, and was successful in the 2011 and 2015 elections. However, he was deselected by the Conservative Group of the FDC before the 2019 elections, and was "ready to pack it all in", but received so many calls of support from villagers all across the ward, that he decided he would give it a go and stand as an Independent candidate. He was successful. He was overwhelmed and humbled by all the support he received and is very pleased to have gone down that route.

Some of the achievements Will has been involved in, and of which he is proud:

- Youngsters in the village asked the PC for a Skate Park. The PC raised £90K, and the young people also applied for a grant of £35K, which they received. The Skate Park was installed and the left-over funds used to build the playground.
- Being involved with Graham Chappell in the Fenland Road Safety Campaign to get the 50mph limit along the 16 Foot re-instated and the current 'forgotten Corners' project
- He was heavily involved with raising funds for the new Community Centre.
- Along with Michelle Tanfield on the FDC, finding £150K for play equipment in Friday Bridge



Picture - the installation,
with Steve Barclay MP

One huge disappointment for Will has been the quest to try and resolve the problems of The Croft. The first Residents' Meeting was in 2009, but unless all 29 owners of the properties agreed on a way forward, nothing could be done. Sadly, they didn't. Everyone involved had done so much work, along with Will, towards solving the issues; the local MP, local villagers, but with no results. The Sewerage system must be upgraded; the road and streetlights cannot be adopted by the County Council until they have been made up to standard. As things stand, unless every house owner is prepared to contribute towards the cost, as has happened in Manea recently, it is highly likely nothing will be done.



This was the signing of
the Cambridge and
Peterborough Combined
Authority document,
with the then Minister
Sajid Javid MP. Date -
16/03/2017

PC Snippets

This meeting was chaired by the deputy chair.

Public time;

There was further ongoing discussion regarding the trees in the recreation ground backing on to properties in Wayside. There still seems to be some confusion over who is actually responsible for the trees – the Recreation ground Charity saying the PC are responsible, the PC saying the Recreation Ground Charity are. It was agreed however that any overhanging branches into a property can be pruned back by the owner of the property, but it was advised agreement is gained from the Recreation Ground Charity. An offer was also made to go halves with the cost of professional services to cut back the trees. A second discussion was opened up about the issue of traffic around the corner of Wayside and Crown Road, particularly during school drop off and pick up times. Speed of cars taking the corner being the main issue when small children are present. The PC were understanding of the issues, but could not offer any immediate way to address the problem. It was suggested that the safety audit team from Cambridgeshire County Council should be involved to meet and suggest possible solutions.

Matters outstanding:

- a) Affordable housing – No sites have been found.
- b) Skate Park repairs – The contractor has been contacted and work should start in the next couple of weeks.
- c) Household items outside property in Upwell Road – Clarion will let the PC know when the issue has been resolved.
- d) Trees overhanging Padgetts Road – The Clerk has been in touch with the owner and asked that these be cut well back from the road.

County and District Councillors reports:

Cllr Sutton reported that he had attended a recent planning forum meeting. There are some issues within the planning department at the moment due to some long serving members of staff leaving and a high turnover of staff. He also reported that he had been invited to attend the Coroner's court which he found a harrowing experience. Cllr Sutton will be stepping down from his role at the May elections, but wanted to let the

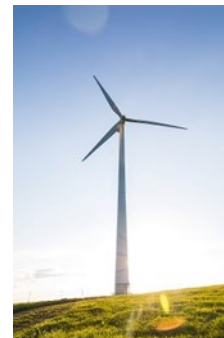
PC know that he fully endorses the two Independent Candidates.

Members and Residents issues:

A request had been received regarding allotments in the village. The PC has none in the village, but there are some in Upwell, March and Manea.

Recreation ground extension:

No further updates, but it was noted that applications for funding to the White Mill Environment Fund need to be made by June as their funding round for application considerations closes then.



Planning:

2 applications have been received – Barn adjacent Willow Farm, Euximoor Drove and The Cottage, Rotten Drove, Tipps End. No objections were raised to either of these.

Play Equipment Inspection:

Play equipment has recently been inspected. Some issues with the skate park have been highlighted, but these are in hand as discussed earlier. The surfaces under the play equipment will be picked up when the weather improves in the summer months.

The annual Parish meeting:

The event was deemed a success with a good turnout. Some issues had been raised that the PC were not aware of. It was felt that having speakers made the evening more interesting. The speakers' feedback was positive – they were pleased to be invited and pleased to have the opportunity to talk to each other. It was suggested that next year's meeting be held later so that it could include the end of year accounts.

Local Elections:

4 nominations have been received for seats on the PC. This means that there will be availability for 3 co opted members. There was also a reminder that people voting in person will need to bring photo id for this election.

Date of next meeting:

The next meeting will be Monday 15th May due to Bank Holidays on the first two Mondays of the month.

Shaun Potter

May Bank Holiday
April 29th, 30th & May 1st
**Sandringham Food,
Craft & Wood Festival**
Saturday, Sunday & Monday
Sandringham Estate, West Newton, Nr Kings Lynn, PE35 6EN - 10am - 6pm



Church News

Hello All

April was a busy month with all the additional services associated with Easter. We also had a United Benefice Service on the 5th Sunday of the month and took the opportunity to share lunch together. A very special occasion.

We also held two fundraising events; The Easter Coffee Morning was well supported and it was a delight to see the children enjoying the treasure hunt and, on the 22nd April, we held an evening of music and poetry, which was enjoyed by many from the village and further afield too. The two events together raised almost £400 towards the church renovation works.

The services for Christchurch will continue to be held in Christchurch Community Centre on the first and third Sunday of the month. Other services in the Benefice are shown to the right.

We will be holding a Christian Aid Big Breakfast on 14th May in the Community Centre, starting to serve at 9am

and last orders at 11am. All profits will be donated to Christian Aid.

In God we Trust
Helen

Benefice Services in May 2023

7th May Christchurch – Morning Prayer

Doddington – Holy Communion

14th May Manea – Holy Communion

Wimblington – Morning Prayer

21st May Christchurch – Holy Communion

Doddington – Morning Prayer

28th May Manea – Morning Prayer

Wimblington – Holy Communion

All services start at 10.30am

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.



What do you think about prayer?



We are, this month, coming to the National celebrations for the coronation of King Charles III. The Church of England has circulated a prayer booklet for use in the month leading up to the event. Some of you might have seen or have one of these. The booklet tells us that 'To pray is to respond to the God who reaches out to us in Jesus Christ.' Praying is one of the ways we let God into our daily lives. It is an important part of the life of a Christian. I'm talking here of private prayer, not the intersessional prayers such as offered during a service of worship.

There are times when even the most hardened and indifferent person is brought to prayer. However, prayer which is merely about asking is a poor form of prayer. It should not be narrowed down to a series of requests. Prayer is about a relationship with our God through our Lord Jesus Christ; therefore, it involves a two-way communication; a degree of quiet and listening, of meditation, confession, praise and thanksgiving. It is a time of communion.

The comedian Sally Phillips says, in her broadcast on Good Friday, 'I'm learning that prayer is just shutting up for 20 minutes.' It is, of course, impossible to prove prayer by logical reasoning or by mathematical or scientific workings. However, many believe, as I do, that there is still much in our world that is beyond the sphere of scientific explanation. St Paul says in his letter to the Hebrews, 'Faith is something hoped for the evidence of which is unseen.' Prayer is about a communication with our creator God, not to seek a blessing on our own desires, but to seek to live our lives in accordance with His good purposes for our lives.



Stephen Tooke

Licensed Lay Minister; Six Fen Churches

Looking for somewhere to go?

What's on in May 2023

April 29th, 30th and May 1st. Sandringham Food, Craft and Wood festival. Sandringham Estate, West Newton, Nr King's Lynn. PE35 6EN. 10am – 6pm.

30th April Sunday- 1st May Monday 2023 Stradsett Vintage Rally. Stradsett Hall, Kings Lynn PE33 9HH. Steam Engines, Classic Vehicles, Mini Tractor Pulling, Fairground, Trade Stands. Opening Times Sunday 10.00am – 5.00pm Monday 10.00am -4.00pm Adults £10 Under 10s free. Dogs Welcome.

7th May 2023 Sunday- Royal Themed Raft Race, in front of Crown Lodge Hotel, (Outwell Boat Basin) Downham Road, Outwell PE14 8SE at 12.30pm for 1.00 start. Music and BBQ. 14 and under and adult race. Free Entry, Contact Tara Rust on 07880 624755 for more info.

9th May 2023 Tuesday Open MIC Night, Upwell Village Hall, New Road, Upwell PE14 9AB plug in and play any instrument at any level or sing, or just go and listen and enjoy the music. Bar open. Contact Jules Wilkinson email jules@satdat.co.uk

13th May 2023 Saturday - Aldreth Vintage and Craft Fair, Aldreth, Ely. CB6 3PQ. 12 noon – 6pm. Traditional village fair with craft stalls, live music, fun dog show, beer tent, Punch and Judy shows, circus skills, vintage vehicles, BBQ, Lancaster Bomber flypast around 12.50pm (weather permitting). *Free Entry*

13th May 2023 Saturday Quiz Night at Emneth Central Hall, 7 Gaultree Square, Emneth, Wisbech PE14 8DA. Starts at 8.00pm £2 per person. Maximum 6 per team. Licensed bar and refreshments /snacks at half time.

15th May 2023 Monday- New Beginners Ballroom and Latin Class at Upwell Village Hall, New Road, Upwell PE14 9AB. Join a brand new class learn the basics in a number of dances from scratch. Dances could include the Foxtrot, Waltz, Jive, Rumba, Cha Cha and more. No partner needed. £6.50 per class cash or card on the night. Event by Take the Lead Dance.

20th May 2023 Saturday Manea Yard Sale from 9.30am – 1.00pm. Free Maps available on the day.

Listening for the Fibonacci sequence in music

These mysterious numbers and shapes are all connected to each other. If you look closely, they can be found in the most unexpected of places, creating beautiful and pleasing patterns. Put simply, the Fibonacci sequence is a series of numbers which begins with 1 and 1. From there, you add the previous two numbers in the sequence together, to get the next number.



Fibonacci didn't actually discover the sequence himself. Born Leonardo Bonacci in 12th-Century Pisa, Italy, the mathematician travelled extensively around North Africa. There, he learnt how the Hindu-Arabic numerals of 0-9 could be used to complete calculations more easily than the Roman numerals still in use across much of Europe. Fibonacci explained his findings in a book called Liber Abaci, published in **1202**, which had a section devoted to the intriguing sequence which would be named after him hundreds of years later.

Indian poets and musicians had already been aware of the Fibonacci sequence for centuries though, having spotted its implications for rhythm and different combinations of long and short beats.

Mozart made use of the Golden Ratio when writing a number of his piano sonatas. A sonata can be divided into two separate sections, known as the exposition (where the theme is introduced) and the development and recapitulation (where the theme is developed and repeated). In Mozart's sonatas, the number of bars of music in the latter section divided by the former is approximately 1.618, the Golden Ratio.





TOWNLEY SCHOOL AND NURSERY

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



Facebook—Townley School
and Pre-School

Remember that our website
has lots more information about
school.

April 2023

In this month's page I would like to celebrate and say thank you to our school community, it is not just the families who have children at the school, the staff and volunteers, but the villages around us, past staff, parents and pupils. I feel incredibly fortunate to lead a school which is at the very heart of its community and with our ever-stretched budgets (we cannot set a balanced budget this year) your support is ever more valuable. Never has it been truer that 'it takes a village to raise a child'.

As a school we are so fortunate to have such a wonderful community who support us: A parent came to the rescue of the staff and let us have some milk for the staffroom; the kind donations of books from LWS Car repairs, Mr and Mrs Kurz and Mrs Norman; a member of staff came to my rescue when I accidentally came to school in my slippers! The Rigby family kindly donated a water carrier to the school; a Y6 child has written twenty letters to different companies/people asking for donations of equipment to support children with SEND; we have been gifted a swing seat; and so many of you dropped off Bags2School donations (I will let you know what we raised soon). The list goes on and on! Thank you everyone for supporting us.

The photographs are from our Easter Fair which Friends of Townley School (FOTS) organised. They do a fantastic job fundraising to support the children; they have a Facebook Page where you can keep up with their events.

A big thank you to Annie and the Heron Team for helping us stay at the heart of the community.





Long-term resident of Christchurch Graham Warby has been working on the land all his life, and still grows lovely vegetables in his garden. He and his wife Peggy have a lovely garden, and it's a team effort. Here are some of Graham's memories, and there will be more to come next month. Enjoy!

Graham was born in Lakesend. The family soon moved to Tipps End, where he spent most of his schooldays. He attended Lakesend Primary School (now closed). There were a number of village schools around in those days. Welney was the last of them to close. He went on to attend Upwell Secondary School, about which he has some not-so-fond memories of the discipline there! Who remembers the days when the chalk board dusters were made of wood, and could be well-aimed by some teacher or other if you misbehaved in class? And putting books in underpants when expecting a caning... He says the PE teacher was the worst. "You learnt your 'lesson' very quickly in those days", he says. They did have gardening classes, but Graham didn't take an interest in it in those days.

He left school at 15, and gained employment as a Horseman at Hartleys, where he walked the fields behind a horse, working on the land, ploughing, drilling, spreading insecticide and other farm labourer jobs. He

remembers harvesting potatoes, and putting them into clamps, earthing them up and covering the clamps with straw



to overwinter the potatoes in the dark so that they wouldn't go green, and leaving a hole at the top to allow the air to circulate. Sometimes, a few of the potatoes went bad for some reason, and the stench was awful!

When the potatoes had been put into sacks of 100wt, ready for collection, they were stacked on one side of a dyke which was adjacent to the road to await collection by the 'Potato Lorry'. There was a wooden plank as a bridge across the dyke, and the men had to carry the sacks across. Remembering that Graham wasn't yet 18 years old, the boss said to him, "If you can carry 100wt on your shoulders across the plank, you can get a man's pay!". Graham felt he had to comply and duly did, and from then on, he was paid a man's wage, not a boy's wage, about which he was very pleased. But he had to do a man's level of work too, of course. He enjoyed it very much. Graham worked at Hartleys until he was 18, when he

had to leave to do his year of National Service in the army. The company took him on after he was discharged.

When Graham began working at Hartleys, the grain harvest was gathered in using horses. But tractors were coming in and this is a photo of a very early "reaper and binder" being towed by a tractor. It reaped and bound the sheaves, leaving them on the fields to be gathered up by hand, and stood upright in groups known as "stooks" to dry out, before being



carted off to the stackyard or rickyard. Tractors developed and farming methods along with them. Threshing machines were often owned by contractors, so each farm had to wait its turn. The stooks had to be kept from getting wet. This was done by putting a thatch of straw over the top of them; it worked like a thatched roof on a cottage. Threshing could only be done on dry stooks, so had to be in dry weather. The stooks stood drying out for several months before they were ready to be threshed, which would have been during the winter. (Farming photos from <https://www.welney.org.uk/farming/farming.htm>)



EUROVISION SONG CONTEST LIVE ON THE BIG SCREEN

**Join us to cheer on the UK Entry
(Mae Muller singing "I Wrote A Song")**

Saturday 13th May 2023

at Christchurch Community Centre.

**Bar open from 7pm. Contest starts at 8pm.
Some snacks available to buy but feel
free to bring your own.**

Licensed Bar. All welcome!

**Free event but ticketed so we can monitor numbers
for Health & Safety reasons.**

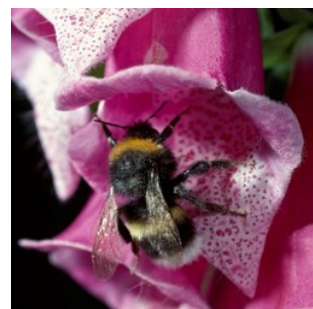
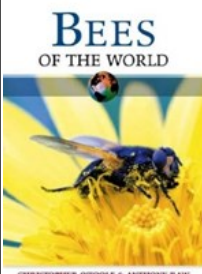
**Please call Geoff on 01354 638681 or 07504 691509
for more info or to let us know you're coming.**

Wildlife Watching in May

There are lots of wild baby **rabbits** about in May, so you'll often see them at dawn and dusk eating on the verges. Rabbits are actually not native to the UK. They were brought to the Iberian Peninsula by the Romans and spread to the UK in the 12th century. Despite their cuddly appearance, rabbits are very territorial and will use scent to mark out their boundaries. A warren of rabbits is generally divided into groups of around 4 bucks (males) and 8 does (females). Their breeding season lasts from January to July and does will have 4 or 5 litters of between 3 and 7 kits each. Baby rabbits are a temptation for predators, so you might see more **badgers** and **foxes** about too. *A quick note on wild rabbits, although they are cute, please do not handle or try to care for wild rabbits. They often can carry disease and bite. If a wild rabbit is ill, please wear thick gloves, pick it up with a towel, put it in a well-ventilated box and take it to the nearest vet or rehab centre. Domestic and wild rabbits are not the same, wild rabbits should not be taken home and domestic rabbits cannot survive in the wild.*



Bees are also busy in May, particularly on sunny days. With the recent scary decrease in our bee populations, we've grown rather fond of the little insects. However, there is still a surprising amount of misinformation out there. When thinking of honey bees, the picture of a big fluffy yellow and black flying creature often comes to mind, but big fluffy bees are often **bumble bees**. Our **honey bees** look quite different. They are still fuzzy but less so and look a little more wasp or fly-like. However, while some bees are mistaken for flies, it is also very common for flies to be mistaken for bees. In fact, there is quite a comical mishap on a "Bees of the World" book (see pictured) where the cover is a **hoverfly** rather than a bee. A great way to tell the difference is to count the wings – if they are still enough to let you. Bees have 2 pairs of wings, and flies only have one. There are over 250 species of bees in the UK, 225 species of solitary bees, 24 species of bumble bees, and only 1 honey bee. Although, many of these species can only be found in small populations in specific areas of the UK now. Since 1900, we have sadly lost 13 species of bee and an additional 35 are nearly extinct.



Dandelions have a very negative reputation, and people are often fighting to remove them from their grass and flower beds. I've spent most of my life believing they are a weed and seeing them as the sign of an unkempt garden - apart from my childhood, where there was little more fascinating than blowing the seeds off with a wish, much to my mum's dismay. Over the last few years I've grown an appreciation for them as wildlife attractors and as food. My mother would hate to see that my grass is currently speckled with sunny yellow flowers and fluffy white seed clocks. Dandelions are a great early source of nectar and pollen. This past April, I have seen plenty of pollinators flit from flower to flower. They appear to be particularly popular with **peacock butterflies**, **small tortoiseshell butterflies** and **honey bees** in my garden (the bumble bees appear to prefer the dead nettles and muscari, but will occasionally snack on a dandelion). They are also edible and filled with nutrients, if a little bitter, but I often pick them from the garden either to give to my domestic rabbits or enjoy them myself.



May. Your Wildlife questions answered: *Heron and other fishing birds around here.*



Cormorant or shag? Both are long-bodied, quite large-tailed birds, with broad wings and long necks, and a general shape somewhere between divers and geese. Characteristic behaviour includes standing with wings held half open. Cormorants are larger than shags. The UK holds internationally significant wintering numbers. Shags often have a crest on the front of their heads. They are a Red List species, found mainly in the North and West.

How tall are Grey Herons? Some can be up to 1.5m tall.

How does the Bittern make its booming sound? Before the bittern starts booming, he performs a warm-up ritual called grunting. He strengthens his throat muscles, which expand to turn his gullet into an echo chamber. His powerful muscles make up a fifth of his body weight and can propel the sound of his boom for more than three miles.

Are Egrets herons? Herons, Bitterns and Egrets belong to the same family and are all wading birds with long legs, necks and bills.



Kids Corner

Maths is everywhere....

Fibonacci and the Golden Ratio ...and poetry??

The Fibonacci sequence is a series of numbers which begins with 1 and 1.

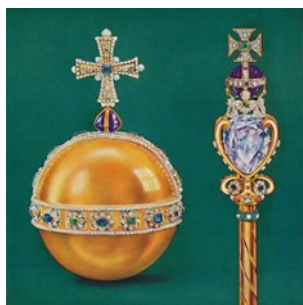
From there, you add the previous two numbers in the sequence together, to

get the next number. So: $1+1=2$, $1+2=3$, $2+3=5$, and so on. This gives you a sequence that looks like 1, 1, 2, 3, 5, 8, 13, 21, 34, 55 etc.

There's even a style of poetry inspired by the Fibonacci sequence, known as **Fib Poetry**. Every line of the poem must contain the exact number of **syllables** that correspond with the Fibonacci sequence. So: a six-line poem would have **syllable line counts of 1, 1, 2, 3, 5 and 8**.

Here's one I made up just now. You have a go!

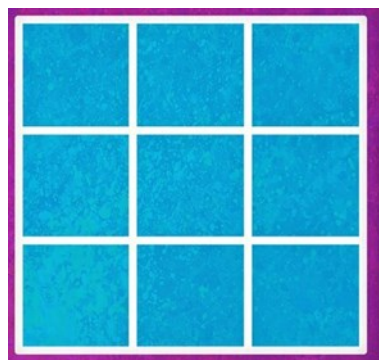
A
Pot
Full of
Daffodils
Really looks lovely
In the pretty Springtime sunshine



The ORB (on the left) and the SCEPTRE (on the right) are items that will feature in the King's Coronation.

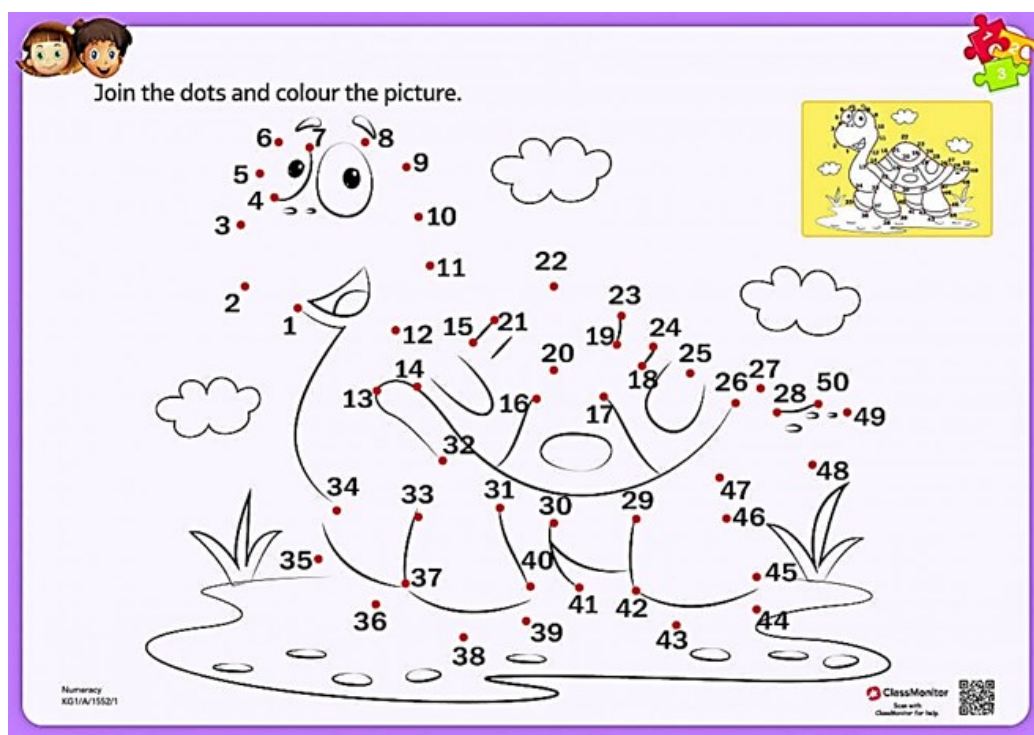
The sceptre is a symbol of a monarch's power. The orb with the cross represents the power of God, and it's a reminder to the monarch that their authority derives from above. It was first used by King Henry VIII in 1509 for his own coronation. Why not have a go at copying them?

HOW MANY SQUARES?



HOW MANY RECTANGLES?

ANSWERS ON PAGE 18



King Charles and Camilla choose Coronation Quiche as signature dish

From coronation chicken to platinum pudding, royal occasions demand a signature dish and King Charles III's coronation is no exception. The "coronation quiche" has been personally chosen by the king and Camilla, the Queen Consort, in the hope it will be a centrepiece to many a coronation "Big Lunch" at street parties and community events on 6 May.



The alliterative dish includes spinach, broad beans, cheese and tarragon. Though the recipe, as posted on the royal family's social media platforms, does contain lard, vegetarians should note it can be "easily adapted to different tastes and preferences". A Buckingham Palace chef, dressed in a white uniform embroidered with the late Queen's EIR cypher, was shown making the quiche in a video posted on social media.

Coronation quiche recipe

The recipe says the dish serves six. It also includes double cream.
1 x 20cm flan tin

Pastry

125g plain flour
Pinch of salt
25g cold butter, diced
25g lard
2 tablespoons milk
Or 1 x 250g block of readymade shortcrust pastry

Filling

125ml milk
175ml double cream
2 medium eggs
1 tablespoon chopped fresh tarragon
Salt and pepper
100g grated cheddar cheese
180g cooked spinach, lightly chopped
60g cooked broad beans or soya beans

Method

1. To make the pastry: sieve the flour and salt into a bowl; add the fats and rub the mixture together using your finger-tips until you get a sandy, breadcrumb-like texture. Add the milk a little at a time and bring the ingredients together into a dough. Cover and allow to rest in the fridge for 30-45 minutes.
2. Lightly flour the work surface and roll out the pastry to a circle a little larger than the top of the tin and approximately 5mm thick.
3. Line the tin with the pastry, taking care not to have any holes or the mixture could leak. Cover and rest for a further 30 minutes in the fridge.
4. Preheat the oven to 190C.
5. Line the pastry case with greaseproof paper, add baking beans and bake blind for 15 minutes, before removing the greaseproof paper and baking beans.
6. Reduce the oven temperature to 160C.
7. Beat together the milk, cream, eggs, herbs and seasoning.
8. Scatter half of the grated cheese in the blind-baked base, top with the chopped spinach and beans and herbs, then pour over the liquid mixture.
9. If required gently give the mixture a delicate stir to ensure the filling is evenly dispersed but be careful not to damage the pastry case.
10. Sprinkle over the remaining cheese. Place into the oven and bake for 20-25 minutes until set and lightly golden.



Source: *The Guardian*

KING CHARLES' CORONATION WORDSEARCH

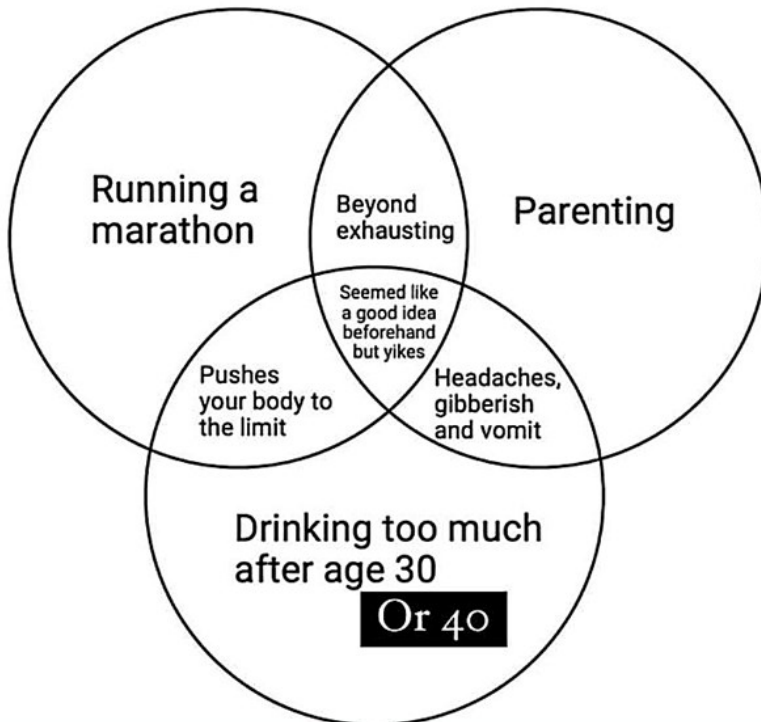


- KING CHARLES III
- CORONATION
- THRONE
- MONARCH
- WESTMINSTER
- ARCHBISHOP
- CEREMONY
- SOVEREIGN
- ORB
- SCEPTRE
- CROWN
- ABBEY
- ROYAL
- LONDON

CAN YOU FIND THE WORDS IN THE WORD SEARCH BELOW? THE PERSON WHO FINDS ALL OF THE WORDS FIRST, WINS!

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

Answers on page 21



Parish Lunch for the Over 65s 2023

Carol, I am sure, speaks for all us "old-uns" who were there! Ed.

"Well! The Parish Lunch Committee have done it again! Given us a great afternoon dinner and entertainment. Hope they know how much they are appreciated for all the hard work they put into it. Thank you one and all"

Carol Tebbs

"We would like to say a big thank you to the Over 65s Lunch Committee for another wonderful afternoon. The food, the music and the company were excellent.

WELL DONE EVERYODY!"

Peggy and Graham Warby.

THANK YOU!

Kids' Page Answers

HOW MANY SQUARES?
ANSWER = 14

HOW MANY RECTANGLES?
ANSWER = 36
(Remember: squares are also rectangles)

Christchurch Stargazers



Hello Christchurch Stargazers!

So, in May, what will be visible in the night sky?

Mercury will be at Inferior conjunction on the 1 May. Mercury is poorly placed in the morning sky thereafter, so it is unlikely to be seen. **Venus** will be a spectacular evening planet which has a crescent phase at the end of the month. **The Moon** is close on 22 and 23 May, so it is well worth a look. **Mars** is an evening planet, now very small telescopically. Close to M44 at the end of the month. **Jupiter** is a morning planet, not well-placed. The Northern part of the UK will experience a rare daylight **lunar occultation** of the planet Jupiter on 17 May 2023. **Saturn** is a poorly positioned morning planet. Saturn remains low as the day breaks, so it is probably not worth the effort. **Uranus** is in conjunction with the Sun on 9 May and so not currently visible. **Neptune** is a morning object but lost in the dawn twilight.

Here is a list of some of the events happening this month by date:

11 May: Northern regions of the Moon well presented.

17 May: Daylight lunar occultation of Jupiter **for the north of the UK**.

22 May: Approximate start of noctilucent cloud season.

27 May: Stars of Aristillus clair-obscur effect visible on this evening's Moon.

30 May: Venus reaches predicted 50% phase.

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

Christchurch Hobby and Social Club

**Every Tuesday
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

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 April to discuss the last book 'The Midnight Library', by Matt Haig.

Mixed reviews on this book, which focuses on the main character who feels suicide is the only option left. She wakes in a library where each book contains another of her lives where the path is unchosen, as she explores each of her regrets and whether if she had chosen that path how different her life could have been, some for the better or the worse.

The next meeting will take place on Tuesday 2nd May at 7.30pm at Gwyneth Millers house in Brimstone Close, where we will discuss the current book, 'The Searcher', by Tana French.

The next book in May will be 'The Four Winds', by Kristin Hannah.

New members always welcome. For further details or you would like to come along to the next meeting please contact Pat Rigby on 07776 142642.





The speakers for our April meeting were Jo Munns and Alan Palmer, who talked about the formation of GAULT WOOD, a woodland area in March which is open to the public. It's situated near March Golf Course. It all began with Alan Palmer, wishing to put up owl boxes on local farms. He then developed his idea and was able to get The Woodland Trust to buy several acres of land for £25,000 in 1994. There was a group of volunteers who helped plant 10,000 native trees, which are now mature and support a great variety of wildlife. The volunteers also planted a variety of native wild flowers and plants including, coltsfoot, hazel, snowdrops, primroses, bluebells and many others. There is a Woodland Management Group who look after it – all volunteers.

The speakers gave a very nice computer presentation, which included various photos of trees and bushes in flower, and then with their berries, to show how these plants support wildlife. The area is full of birds, insects and mammals and is a wonderful place to visit. There is a carpark and the wood is easy to find. It was a very interesting talk which, I'm sure, showed many members an area which they can visit, but weren't aware of its existence.

June meeting: Cup Cakes Demonstration, followed by a quiz, and the older members sharing their recollections of the coronation of the late Queen Elizabeth II in 1953.

Raffle Prizes: Beryl and Peggy. **Refreshments:** Sue Norman. **Competition:** Texture - bubbly.



Christchurch Gardening Club

The National Garden Scheme

The Gardening Club plays host to speakers with various types of involvement in horticulture; it's not always about the best way to grow your carrots. So, it was on Tuesday 18th April at the community centre, that we welcomed Pam Bullivant to the club. Pam has been an active member of The National Garden Scheme since 1996 and is now one of the volunteers who help run the organisation, which was founded in 1927.

In 1859 William Rathbone needed help for his very sick wife to be nursed at home. He realised that he was wealthy enough to pay for her care where others in a similar situation couldn't. After his wife's unfortunate demise and with the help of his friend Florence Nightingale, in 1863 they set up a training facility for nurses which eventually led to the creation of the District Nurse. In order to raise funds, Elsie Wagg suggested opening private gardens to the public for the first time in 1927, which is how the open garden scheme began. So successful were they that they raised £800 (Equivalent today to £450,000) since its inception in the national Garden Scheme has donated in excess of £67 million pounds to nursing charities. Including well known organisations such as MacMillan and Marie Curie. I think you will agree a fantastic undertaking. If you wish to visit one or more gardens and partake of some excellent tea and cake, you can find all the information on their web site, likewise if you would like to open your own garden to the public you will find the relevant information there as well. www.ngs.org.uk



Next month Mr John Sparrow will be our speaker, talking about trees and wood products.
Till next time, *Steve*

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 – 8th and 22nd – 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



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.



KATIE'S
GARDEN SERVICES

HOURLY & DAILY RATES AVAILABLE

- GRASS CUTTING
- WEEDING
- PLANTING
- CREATING NEW BORDERS
- SPRING/WINTER GENERAL GARDEN TIDY
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I	I	F	N	R	M	A	T	I	A	N	W	O	S	T
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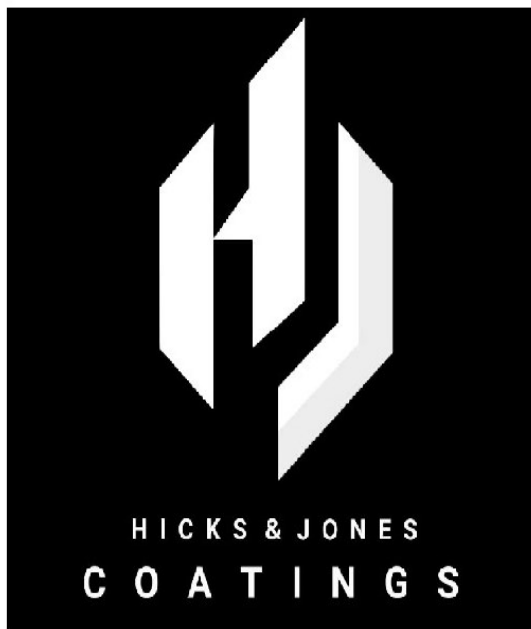
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The King's love for gardening is evident at Highgrove House in Tetbury, England, one of the King's Residencies.

King Charles has spent a lifetime championing the environment, and as Patron of the National Gardens Scheme since 2002, he wholeheartedly supports the nation's passion for gardens, as well as enjoying gardening as a hobby himself. His own garden at Highgrove has always been his pride and joy, and by opening its gates to the public since 1994 he has been able to showcase his achievements as well as using it as an exemplar for his organic principles. He has also overseen and nurtured gardens at his Scottish home, Birkhall, in the grounds of Balmoral, at Clarence House in London and at his Welsh home Llwynywermod in Carmarthenshire, a property recently inherited by the new Prince of Wales.

King Charles first bought Highgrove House and Gardens in 1980. The gardens soon became his overriding passion, and with the help of garden designers such as Molly Salisbury and Rosemary Verey, he began to transform the 15-acre plot into a series of beautiful garden rooms. Jewel-like inner sanctums such as the Sundial Garden contrast with more naturalistic areas like the Wildflower Meadow, while pockets of intense colour in the Cottage Garden contrast with the lush greenery of the Arboretum and the fern-filled Stumpery, originally designed by Isabel and Julian Bannerman.



JULY 2014 - A Wild Flower Meadow Planted by Prince Charles At Highgrove, Country Home To The Wales Family (Photo by Tim Graham Photo Library via Getty Images)

The King has always been enthusiastically hands-on in the design and planting of Highgrove, demonstrating an excellent eye for colour and spatial design that is also evident in his landscape painting. He designed the planting scheme in the original Cottage Garden in conjunction with Rosemary Verey, and the charming

oak summerhouse that now sits half submerged in a sea of flowers in summer, as well as masterminding most of the layout of the garden. 'I thought of the structure bit by bit,' he said in a 2014 interview with Bunny Guinness. 'I never did a masterplan. I eventually worked out what I thought was the way to go round the garden, because I wanted it to be a sort of journey into different compartments.' The result is an eclectic, exciting landscape that unfolds as you walk around, the different areas reflecting his many passions, among them architecture, painting, plants and trees, wildlife and ecology.

Managed entirely on sustainable principles, the gardens are a showcase for good organic practice, with vast compost heaps, a biomass boiler and a reed bed sewage system. The stunning four-acre wildflower meadow epitomises The King's approach. His 2007 book *The Elements of Organic Gardening*, written with Stephanie Donaldson, sets out his beliefs and details his gardening practices and experiences in all three of his gardens. <https://www.highgrovegardens.com>



The new stamps which echo King Charles III's love of gardening.

In keeping with stamp tradition, the King faces to the right. The tradition is that the new monarch faces the opposite way from the former monarch.

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The Lion and the Unicorn



As we approach the Royal coronation, one of the images you are likely to see is the full royal coat of arms of the United Kingdom. Most of you probably, like me, have never really given much thought to the design of this, but it consists of a shield (of two versions, depending on whether you are in Scotland, or not) which is held by two heraldic supporters, a Lion and a Unicorn - which sides they are on again depends on where you are. It does seem a little strange that the heraldic supporters should be a wild animal that last roamed free in Britain some 14,000 years ago (aside from a slight mishap in 1948 where one escaped from a zoo) and a mythical creature – well, *as far as we know...*

BUT WHY A LION AND UNICORN? Why not a cat and a dog, for example?

Interestingly, across cultures and ancient time periods, the unicorn has appeared with a lion. The pairing represents opposing counterparts. The two beasts are, at times, fierce adversaries, but in essence, they symbolize complements; the extrovert and introvert, the violent and tranquil.

The first use of a single lion on the crest is by Henry I (the Lion of England) in 1100. Three lions turned up sometime later. (See them on the shield). English Heraldry first started to be systemised around the time of Richard I, who used a single lion rampant (standing on rear legs) initially, but in 1198, used 3 lions passant (three paws on the ground, right paw raised). Why the 3 lions have blue tongues is a bit of a mystery. Of course, you wonder whether someone was taking things a bit too far sometimes!



In 1235, Henry III was presented with 3 lions by Emperor Frederick II, not exactly the most useful of presents, unless you want to dissuade guests from visiting, but the King did use these to start a zoo at The Tower of London.



Scotland chose the unicorn as its national animal as they're associated with purity, strength and power, and they're also proud and untameable, and the belief was that only virgin maidens (due to their purity and innocence) and kings (by virtue of their divine right to rule) could keep them captive. There was also a thought that Unicorns were the only creatures that could defeat a lion, so why wouldn't Scotland choose that to go up against England's lion!

The Lion and Unicorn came together following the death of Elizabeth I in 1603, The royal arms of each country remained distinct from each other until the two realms were joined in a political union on 1st May 1707, when the kingdoms of England and Scotland were merged to form that of Great Britain.



Clive Benjamin



Point of View

Shakespeare had a birthday last month. Here's a quote from his play "Measure for Measure". Plenty to think about here....

"SOME RISE BY SIN, AND SOME BY VIRTUE FALL"

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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