

The Heron

Community Magazine

Delivered to homes in Christchurch, Euximoor and Tipps End

June 2023

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**Good people of
Christchurch,
Euximoor and
Tipps End
“The Heron Needs
YOU”**

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CHRISTCHURCH GARDEN GANDER

SATURDAY 1ST JULY 2023

12 NOON UNTIL 4PM

£5 per person (accompanied children Free)

Buy your ticket on the day when you collect your map from
Annie Nason, Grasshopper Cottage, 5, Upwell Rd, Christchurch.



Visit the gardens in any order.



Call in at the Christchurch Community Centre for refreshments

Tea, coffee and cake 12 -4pm also

12 -2pm Light Lunches

2- 4pm Afternoon Tea



Hard hat tours of the church between 1pm and 3pm

Planted container competition (£1 to enter) – bring your container
to Christchurch Community Centre to be displayed.

Visitors will be asked to vote for their favourite.

The one with most votes will win a Garden Centre Voucher.



What's happening in your garden in June?

At this time of year, birds are starting to look for caterpillars and other food for their chicks, and if you have a bird feeder, you may well have noticed more activity recently. Hedgehogs will be out at night, and flowers have begun to bloom and you will notice Bees, Moths, Butterflies and other pollinators on your flowers. Frogs will also be leaving their ponds and seeking cool, damp shelters.

What can you do to encourage Nature?

Keep the bird bath full. - Create cool damp spots such as half burying a pile of logs. Don't deadhead all of your roses; this will allow them to produce hips, which are good for birds to feed on in winter

Leave some weeds in the lawn to encourage insects and birds, either by not cutting your grass as often, or leave an area untouched for a while

June is a good time to plant:

Bizzie Lizzie - red flowers. Granny's bonnet - pink/ purple flowers. Salvia - purple flowers.

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 £52

12 x issues £92

Eighth Page (6.5cm High x 9.5cm Wide)

Landscape Format

6 x issues £36

12 x issues £66

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
Sat 3 rd	RSPCA Open Day + Dog Sh.	11am – 4pm	Block Fen	17
Sun 4 th	Welle Cinema	2pm	3 Holes Vill Hall	28
Sun 4 th	Car Show	Begins 9.30am	CCC	17
Mon 5 th	PC Meeting	7.30pm	CCC	
Tues 6 th	Mobile Library	12.15pm	Lay-by (Fen View)	3
Tues 6 th	Book Club	7.30pm	Fen View	19
Thurs 8 th	Youth Club	5pm – 7pm	CCC	
Tues 13 th	Art Group	1.30- 3.30pm	CCC	19
Tues 13 th	WI	7pm	CCC	20
Weds 14 th	Coffee/Lunch Break	11-1pm	CCC	20
Sun 18 th	Church Service H/C	10.30am	CCC	11
Tues 20 th	Gardening Club	7pm	CCC	20
Tues 27 th	Art Group	1.30 – 3.30pm	CCC	19
Weds 28 th	Coffee/Lunch Break	11-1pm	CCC	20
THURS 29th	HERON AGM	7 FOR 7.30PM	CCC	5
Regular weekly events				
Every Mon	Short Mat Bowls	7-9pm	CCC	20
Every Tues	Christchurch Hobby and Craft Club	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 DATE!

GARDEN GANDER - Saturday JULY 1st. Christchurch Open Gardens. Page 2.

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 everyone, to our Midsummer edition! Where did the first half of this year go?

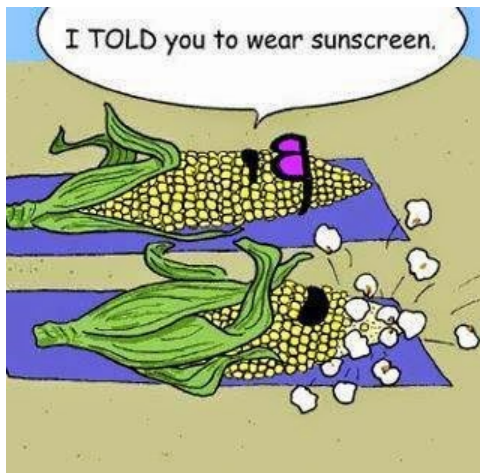
This month is one for gardens to flourish, and the countryside to bloom. It's lovely to see the farmers' crops growing. We do live in a beautiful corner of England, that's for sure.

Enjoy our June magazine.

Please do come along to our AGM on June 29th, 7 for 7.30pm in the CCC. It rarely lasts longer than an hour, but it is important.

Annie Nason. Ed.

Copy Deadline -
The deadline for copy for the July edition of the Heron is 23rd June



Heron News

HERON PLANT SALE RAISES £395.72!!

Well done, and thank you to everyone involved, especially to Sandra Kay, who organised it.

Lord Kitchener's pointing finger has been doing the rounds! Last month, asking for new Parish Councillors, and this month, asking for help with extra funding for The Heron.

The great news is that the Parish Council has given us a very generous grant of £1,500. Thank you to them from all of us who get The Heron. It costs about £400 per issue to produce. We get regular contributions from our advertisers, and, with this new pot of money, it means we need to find about three months' worth of funding from donations and from fundraisers to cover 12 months costs. Please do read the Flyer that came through your door at the same time as the magazine, and, if you possibly can, respond to it. (BTW, it was paid for by a specific donation so no Heron funds were used).

You will also notice that, this month, we only have 4 colour pages, as we are trying to save money where we can each month. This will be the case until we feel we are able to go back to 8 colour pages. Come along to our AGM on 29th of June and find out more.

Annie Nason, Chair of Heron Publishing

District Council Election Results for Our Ward, Elm & Christchurch

Two Independent Councillors were elected.



Councillor Dal Roy: Independent
4 Grove Gardens, Elm, Wisbech, PE14 0JQ
Home mobile: 07885 381007
Home: droy@fenland.gov.uk



Councillor Matthew Summers: Independent
26 Main Road, Friday Bridge, Wisbech, PE14 0HJ
Home mobile: 07725 629947

The new District Cllrs have set up a Ward Facebook group for reporting directly to them.

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!

Looking for somewhere to go?

What's on in June

3rd June 2023 Saturday 11.00 am – 4.00pm: RSPCA Open Day and Fun Dog Show at Block Fen Animal Shelter, Block Fen Drove, Wimblington. PE15 0FB. Dog Show, stalls, live music, food, see the animals, grand draw. Free Entry.

10th June 2023 Saturday at The GER Club, Robingoodfellows Lane, March PE15 8HS Tel: 01354 652335. Lollypops & Moptops 50-60s night out with The Dreamers, The Everly Brothers Show Tribute Act, The Buddy Holly Show Tribute Act. Hosted by Alan Mosca from Freddie and The Dreamers. Tickets £8 members £10 non-members in advance £15 on door. Call for times.

11th June 2023 Sunday 11.30 am: Fun Dog Show at West End Park, March PE15 9LS. 11 classes entry each class £1.50. Classes start at 11.30am. Goody bags for all entrants. Tombola and Stalls.

17th June 2023 Saturday, 1pm: Music Festival at Outwell Village Hall, Wisbech Road, Outwell PE14 8PA. Live Music including DMA School Band, Us, No, Purple Angels, Gerry Servance, Maria May, Accidental Fortune, Coves. Fairground, bar, stalls and food. No dogs. Gates open 1.00 Entry £5 adults, under 16s free.

23rd June 2023 Friday: Outwell Village Hall, Wisbech Road, Outwell PE14 8PA. Charity Quiz in aid of East Anglian Air Ambulance. £20 per team of up to 6, payable in advance. For further info contact Pauline Baldwin on 07484733255. Raffle plus bar and snacks available. Call for times.

23-24 June 2023 Friday and Saturday: 23rd Wilburton Beer Festival at The Rec, Wilburton, Ely CB6 3RB Beer Festival Live Bands, Food. RAF Events Team providing Spitfire flypast on Saturday. Friday evening adults, beer, bands and street food. Saturday family fun day.

A Message from the Upwell Health Centre

☹️ If you've hurt yourself, had a fall, burnt yourself or are suffering from another non-life-threatening issue, the Minor Injury Unit is a fast and effective way of getting treated without the long wait in A&E. You can go to a minor injury unit for the following treatments:

- 🐾 Bites, human and animal
- 💧 Cuts and lacerations
- 👁️ Foreign bodies in the eyes, nose and ears
- 💉 Fractures that require plaster only (Ages 5 years and above)
- 💧 Minor burns and scalds
- ☹️ Minor head injuries (with no loss of consciousness)
- 🦶 Soft tissue injuries, for example sprains and bruises
- 🩹 Wound infections

Your local Minor Injury Units (MIUs) are staffed by experienced nurses that will be on hand to assess you and treat you as quickly as possible. This is a self-referral walk-in service for people of any age, *however, they are not open 24 hours.*



Your GP or other healthcare professional also may refer you to an MIU. Likewise - if your condition cannot be dealt with at an MIU, they will refer you to your GP, the nearest A&E or another appropriate service.

CHRISTCHURCH - OUR NEAREST MIU IS IN DODDINGTON

Doddington: T: 01354 637078

Opening hours: 8.30am-6pm, Monday to Friday.

9am-5pm weekends and bank holidays (closed on Christmas Day).

We Love Horses!

Hi everyone.

I just wanted to raise something that I know a lot of horse owners worry about. Please please, *PLEASE* don't ever feed someone else's horses *anything* or put anything in their field without speaking to the owner first.

Horses have incredibly sensitive and delicate digestive systems. If they eat the wrong thing, or too much of something, at best they can end up in significant pain and distress (and a big vet's bill) and at worst it's not unlikely for them to die. Even things that you might think are safe, like a carrot or some extra grass, can cause problems because of health conditions that the horse might have.

It is no exaggeration to say that some horses do die because of well-meaning people thinking they're giving them a nice treat. We all want the best for our animals so please help us keep them safe.

Thank you! *Ellie Garlick*



Well Done Again, Freddie! Congratulations!



Unregistered/Abandoned Boats on the Middle Level Waterways

The Navigation Advisory Committee of the Middle Level Commissioners has powers of Enforcement in relation to unregistered boats. The boat registration system has now been in force for 2 years and the Commissioners are now taking formal enforcement action against unregistered boats, and also have powers to remove boats which have been abandoned on our waterways.

Further information about Navigation System on the Middle Level can be found on our website www.middlelevel.gov.uk



Potted histories of our neighbouring villages.

This month: THREE HOLES

- The village was originally known as WADINGSTOW, at least from the early 13th Century. This was the point of the Old Croft River where Upwell Town ended.
- In 1609, an order was made by a Session of Sewers in Ely, "for a new bridge at Wadingstow, to include three arches, each 8ft broad to include three sufficient doors to shut in times of necessity and want of water for the navigation through the town of Well (now called Upwell)". This is clearly the origin of the name of the village, and predates other theories.



- The old Methodist Chapel (closed in 1982) was the hostel for the accommodation of the Navvies who built the Middle Level, which was cut through in the 1840s.
- Up until a few years ago, bus loads of Yorkshire Fishermen used to arrive in the village.
- First swimming lessons for local children in the Middle Level at "the bathing place" and the favourite high board was the top of the bridge.



This information is from The Norfolk Village Book, written by members of the Federation of Women's Institutes in Norfolk. Published by Countryside Books.

<https://countrysidebooks.co.uk>

Euximoor Coronation Band—2nd June 1953

Thank you to Malcolm Hicks for letting us use this photo

Euximoor Coronation Band 2nd June 1953



*Back row Roy Chamberlain Herbert Jermy John Dodgson Joe Green Johnny Miller
Front row Reg Grimwood Ray Hughes Arthur Walker Cecil Gillett Dennis Russell Reg Smith Tom Crouch*

A note from Ely Cathedral....



This year we are celebrating the remarkable life of our founding saint and Saxon Queen, St Etheldreda who, in AD 673 founded a monastery in Ely, the very beginning of the Cathedral's rich history.

Our experienced guides have developed a new tour which will take you on a journey through her incredible life and legacy.

The tour is available on Tuesdays and Saturdays during this anniversary year, so please enjoy the opportunity to learn more about the influence of this incredible woman.

Tickets are available via our website

<https://www.elycathedral.org/events/etheldreda-1350-tour>

#etheldreda1350

Vaping: High lead and nickel found in illegal vapes

Vapes confiscated from school pupils contain high levels of lead, nickel and chromium, BBC News has found.

Used vapes gathered at Baxter College in Kidderminster were tested in a laboratory.

The results showed children using them could be inhaling more than twice the daily safe amount of lead, and nine times the safe amount of nickel. Some vapes also contained harmful chemicals like those in cigarette smoke.

High levels of lead exposure in children can affect the central nervous system and brain development, according to the World Health Organization.

It is thought vapes are being used widely by secondary school children and Baxter College is not alone in trying to stop them vaping during school hours.

BBC News showed the findings to Baxter College pupils Leon and Oscar, whose vapes had been confiscated. They admitted in a previous interview they were hooked on nicotine and struggled to give up vaping. The boys say it is easy to ignore the risks. "You won't really care, if you're addicted to it - you'll just forget about it," Oscar said. Leon said regulation and policing should be doing more to tackle the problem. "They're not really as bothered as they should be," he said.

Head teacher Mat Carpenter was horrified by the findings. "It's been part of youth culture for a long time and we are a long way behind the curve in influencing children's behaviour around this, which is why we need a strong message," Mr Carpenter said.

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/health-65614078>

If you're wondering why British food and farming is so important, have a look at our reasons to back British farming.

British farmers are vital to our everyday lives. As well as growing and producing high quality, healthy food that we all eat and enjoy, British farmers are custodians of our beautiful countryside, leaders in animal welfare and champions of renewable energy. What's more, the UK food and farming industry makes a fundamental contribution to our economy, providing millions of jobs and supporting rural and urban communities up and down the country.

<https://www.countrysideonline.co.uk>



**BACK
BRITISH
FOOD**

RFU Mutual NFU NFU

Parish Council Snippets

Due to Counsellors choosing not to stand at the recent elections, the PC is now down to four counsellors plus the Clerk. The formalities of electing the Chair and Vice chair saw James Hughes being re-elected as the Chair and Andrew Sparrow as Vice Chair.

Following on from this in the Chairman's announcements, it was reconfirmed that 3 seats on the PC were now vacant. Some people had expressed an interest, but they were not present at the meeting. The Chair also said that he would be attending a meeting with the local highways initiative to discuss the traffic island at the top end of Church Road. He has also downloaded the data from the speed signs which was disappointing and concerning. It showed at least 50% of cars passing exceeded the speed limit and that the fastest speed recorded was 67mph!



Public time:

Number of items were raised

- The funding for the Heron – see later post
- The trees backing onto Wayside – This is still in contention and residents wanted to know when a date would be set for the meeting between them, the recreation ground charity and the PC. It was confirmed by the Clerk that the trees do not belong to the PC and that it would be down to the recreation ground to sort the matter. The Chair will be ensuring that this is an agenda item for the next meeting of the recreation ground committee.
- The Bottle Bank. Who gets the money? – The answer was that the PC used to get this, but it should now be the recreation ground. The clerk is to investigate.
- Road signs on Sixteen Foot Bank/Upwell Road junction are broken. – The PC can report these to highways.

AGM of the Parish Council:

This was the formal part of the meeting where counsellors agreed to standing orders, insurance premiums and subscriptions etc.

Matters outstanding:

- a. Bus shelter – no news.
- b. Pavement outside Field Lodge – This is being delivered in two parts as two contracts.
- c. Affordable housing – Some sites have now been identified and put forward. It is felt that they may be good enough for a community consultation.
- d. Skate Park repairs – Still nothing as yet, the Clerk to chase contractors.
- e. Household items outside property in Upwell Road – This “still looks like a tip”. The Clerk is to consult with Clarion.
- f. Recreation ground trees – see above.
- g. Trees on Padgetts Road – these have been agreed to be cut back.

- h. Wayside Estate pedestrian safety – The road safety team have been contacted.

Items on this meeting's agenda

Police report:

There has been a visit from PC Smart and the speeding team. This resulted in one prosecution for speeding in Church Road (39mph). Further to this, 120 motorists have been prosecuted in the local villages in the past 3 months.

County and District Councillors reports:

One of our new District Counsellors – Counsellor Del Roy (Independent) attended and introduced himself. He outlined some of the priorities he will be pushing throughout his term of office, these include:- Putting more support in place for rural communities and farms. Speeding; particularly the need to change the culture of drivers. Antisocial behaviour and getting communities signed up for neighbourhood watch schemes. Counsellor Roy asked if the PC felt that a District councillor surgery would benefit the village, and said that he was keen to continue the work of Counsellor Sutton who had been a mentor to him.

Clerks report:

Nothing to mention due to the quiet period relating to the local elections.

Residents' issues:

None reported

Recreation ground extension:

It was acknowledged that the steering group still needs to be gathered together, but there was a member of this whom it was thought would be prepared to Chair the group. The Steering group does need to meet as a matter of urgency to plan the area and put forward a costed proposal to the Whitemill Group for funding. The Chair is to arrange a meeting.

Finance:

The accounts have been audited and there are no changes following this.

The application for funding from the Heron was considered and a grant of £1500 was agreed, to be reviewed in 12 months.

Golden Age Fayre

This will be held on Friday 30th June at the community centre. It was agreed that the PC will have a stall, details to be finalised at the next meeting.

Matters for the next meeting:

None as yet

Date of the next meeting:

Monday 12th June

Shaun Potter

Church News

Hello All

Please see below for services in our Benefice this month.



As you are aware, we worship in the Community Centre because the church has been closed for almost a year now, awaiting repairs. I am able to bring you some good news; we have received a grant from **The Jack Patston Trust** for **£3,000** and a pledge of **£8,000** from **The Whitemill Environment Fund**.

To complete the drainage work would cost about £100,000. To apply for a grant from the Benefact Trust to do the work, we would have to have raised 30% of the cost i.e. £30,000. With this in mind we have asked the architect to split the drainage works into 2 phases. We are hoping the first phase will require us to raise only £15,000 to be able to apply for the grant. So, **we are looking to raise another £4,000** to add to the pot, and we will be continuing to host various fund-raising

activities. Many people in the village have already supported us with our fund raising. In fact, we have already raised £4,000, **all of which and more has been spent** on investigative work, structural engineers and architect's fees. Hopefully, you will see some work starting in the churchyard in the near future.

In the meantime, on behalf of the PCC and Christchurch congregation, I thank you for your support, long may it continue.

In God We Trust
Helen

Benefice Services in June 2023

All services are at 10.30 unless otherwise stated.

June 4th – Doddington – Holy Communion

June 11th – Manea – Holy Communion
Wimblington – Morning Prayer

June 18th – Christchurch – Holy Communion
Doddington – Morning Prayer

June 25th – Manea – Morning Prayer
Wimblington – Holy Communion
Welney – Evening Prayer 4pm

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.



Julian of Norwich

DID YOU KNOW?

The English city of Norwich, where Julian probably lived all her life, was second in importance to London during the 13th and 14th centuries, and the centre of the country's primary region for agriculture and trade

Julian of Norwich c. 1343 – after 1416 was an English ' anchoress ' of the Middle Ages. In Christianity, an ' anchoress ' is someone who, for religious reasons, withdraws from secular society to be able to lead an intensely prayer-orientated, ascetic, or Eucharist-focused life.



During her lifetime, the city suffered the devastating effects of the Black Death of 1348–1350, the Peasants' Revolt and the suppression of the Lollards. In 1373, aged 30 and so seriously ill she thought she was on her deathbed, Julian received a series of visions or 'shewings' of the Passion of Christ. She recovered from her illness and wrote two versions of her experiences, the earlier one being completed soon after her recovery. A much longer version, today known as the *Long Text*, was written many years later.

Her writings, now known as *Revelations of Divine Love*, are the earliest surviving English language works by a woman, although it is possible that some anonymous works may have had female authors. They are also the only surviving English language works by an anchoress.



Are You Dyslexic?



If so, you are in good company! Sir Richard Branson is Dyslexic. And look at how he has succeeded in life.

In recent years, Sir Richard has campaigned to promote awareness of dyslexia, a term rarely used and even less understood when he dropped out of school at the age of 15. He revealed that, shortly after being sent to boarding school aged seven, he was beaten so badly - "for being stupid" - that he bled.

"It was... pretty horrendous in those days. And yes, as a dyslexic, I thought I must be stupid because they had never heard of it. The word dyslexic didn't exist."

As well as dyslexia, Sir Richard thinks he probably has attention deficit disorder, and acknowledged he does get bored easily.

Did you know?

Perhaps one of the most famous figures known to have dyslexia is Albert Einstein, a theoretical physicist who won the Nobel Prize in Physics in 1921 and has become synonymous with intelligence and wit. THE LIST IS LONG ... Tom Cruise, Keira Knightly, Daniel Radcliffe, Orlando Bloom, Whoopie Goldberg, Ben Fogle, Eddie Izzard ...and many more.

Sources: Various

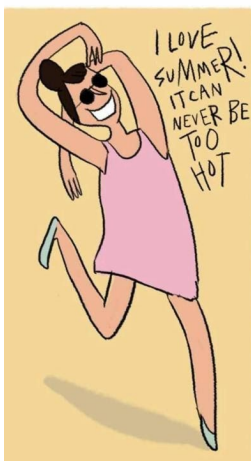
Point of View



"He who holds grudges against other people or hatred in his heart will never be truly happy until he has forgiven and let go of that anger by the best possible means".

John Lennon; Linda Deer Domnitz, The John Lennon Conversations.

THERE ARE TWO TYPES OF PEOPLE:



BECKY BARNICOAT

Dear Younger Ladies!

So, I need to breakdown the "Friend Code" for some of you, because clearly there are too many girls going missing, or getting killed. This is how we "Old Schoolers" roll...



Code 1: We leave together... We stay together.... We come back together. NO! You're not leaving with some RANDOM dude and NO I'm not leaving you at the party by yourself!

Code 2: Both of us can't be s*** face drunk (*neither of you should*), at least one person needs to be alert & aware of our surroundings!

Code 3: If you got to go to the bathroom or outside. WE'RE ALL GOING TO THE D*** BATHROOM AND OUTSIDE!

Code 4: We don't accept drinks from strangers unless we're at the bar and watch the bartender pour.

Code 5: If I feel that you're too drunk to function, we're leaving the party early. (We'll fuss about you messing up the night later)

Code 6: If you just so happen to go missing. I will give you a maximum 15-30 mins to show up before I shut the place down and we ALL are going to be looking for you FOR REAL! Everybody else can call the police, because I am not going home without you!

Code 7: If you're fighting it better be one on one, otherwise we will all be all fighting (Hopefully this isn't jumping off - 'cause we're too classy ... and we are ladies).

Code 8: and the golden rule, The drop off person check in or everyone who drove checks in when getting home. If we don't hear from you, we're coming to your house.

Because this generation has got the 'Friend Code' seriously messed up! This is how we were raised...

#oldschool #ladiessticktogether #friendsdontleave

Because I need my daughter and every other younger lady to know these rules!



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.

Report from May 2023

Welcome to the Townley School and Nursery Page, you might have noticed a slight change in our school's name and logo – this is to better reflect our nursery provision. We take up to four two-year-olds per session. If you are thinking about sending your child to our nursery you can find out more on our website or get in touch using the details at the top of the page. We are beginning to look at our places for September. Every class has now been involved in Forest Schools. Tesco's in March donated £500 which we have used to buy a class sized bell tent, you may have noticed on the field. Sadly, the weather cancelled Sports Day last month!

EYFS Class (Nursery and Reception)

Returning after Easter it was eggs, eggs, eggs this week in Early Years! They shared some lovely stories including The Odd Egg and Dora's Eggs. Reception children drew the life cycle of a chicken in Drawing Club. In the forest we looked for bird's nests and helped the birds by making some nests for them! The Very Hungry Caterpillar was our focus story this week and the children have enjoyed retelling the story. They have printed caterpillars, compared the lengths of caterpillars, counted the fruits that he eats, and created their own caterpillars with the play dough.



Hawker Class (Year 1 and 2)

Their science focus has been on plants and they have explored the questions 'what are the parts of a plant and what do they do'? They have explored the school grounds in a nature walk and identified both wild and garden plants. Children have also investigated the questions 'what is a tree?', 'Is it a plant?' They had their first Forest School session on mid-May and the children all really enjoyed being in the outdoor area. There was building and climbing, digging and exploring, swinging and painting and lots of problem solving. The Year 2 children have completed their SATS test.

Emerald Class (Year 3 and 4)

In English, the children wrote a critical analysis of a poem by Lewis Carroll. They explained what the poem was about in their first paragraph and then learnt to analyse the deeper meaning of it by quoting words and phrases and expressing what the poet was trying to show. The class had a Story Café with a difference this term – their families joined them for their Forest School session. I am not sure who had more fun in the forest! If you would like to be more involved in our school and could offer us a regular two-hour session, we always welcome volunteers – get in touch with the school office.



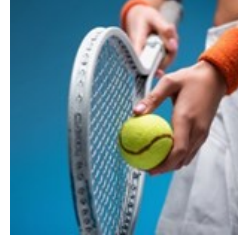
Emperor Class (Year 5 and 6)

In English they have been writing playscripts based on a scene from the story 'A Midsummer Night's Dream', retold by Andrew Matthews. In Guided Reading they have been reading the 'Boy in the Tower'. This is a heart-wrenching story of survival. It also focuses on the theme of depression and death. The class really enjoyed the story and have been able to make comparisons. They have also been reading the poem 'Daffodils' by William Wordsworth and looking at how imagery is created through his vocabulary choices. Year 6 completed their SATS without any tears (if you were watching BBC news) and rather enjoyed the reading paper.



Are You a Sports Fan? Here's a List of Things Happening in June.

Surely there's something here for everyone!



- 1-4 FOOTBALL Scottish Premiership play-off final
- 1-5 CRICKET First Test: England v Ireland (Lord's)
- 1-18 BASKETBALL NBA Finals (tbc)
- 3 FOOTBALL FA Cup final (Wembley); Scottish Cup final (Hampden Park); Women's Champions League final (Eindhoven); RACING The Derby (Epsom)
- 3-4 RUGBY LEAGUE Super League Magic Weekend
- 4 FORMULA ONE Spanish Grand Prix (Barcelona)
- 4-11 JUN CYCLING Critérium du Dauphiné (France)
- 6-11 CYCLING Women's Tour (Colchester-Oxfordshire)
- 7 FOOTBALL Europa Conference League final (Prague)
- 10 CRICKET Charlotte Edwards Cup final (New Road); FOOTBALL Champions League final (Istanbul)
- 10-11 MOTOR RACING Le Mans 24 Hours
- 12-14 RUGBY UNION Premiership semi-finals
- 12-18 TENNIS Rothesay Open (Nottingham),
- 14 FOOTBALL Nations League semi-final: Netherlands v tba (Rotterdam/Enschede)
- 15 FOOTBALL Nations League semi-final: tba v tba (Rotterdam/Enschede)
- 15-18 GOLF US Open (Los Angeles)
- 16 FOOTBALL Euro 2024 qualifiers: Denmark v Northern Ireland, Greece v Republic of Ireland, Malta v England, Wales v Armenia
- 16-20 CRICKET First Test: England v Australia (Edgbaston)
- 16-16 JUL FOOTBALL Asian Cup (China)
- 17 FOOTBALL Euro 2024 qualifier: Norway v Scotland
- 18 FOOTBALL Nations League third-place play-off (Rotterdam/Enschede), Nations League final (Rotterdam/Enschede); FORMULA ONE Canadian Grand Prix (Montreal)
- 19 FOOTBALL Euro 2024 qualifiers: England v North Macedonia, Northern Ireland v Kazakhstan, Republic of Ireland v Gibraltar, Turkey v Wales
- 19-25 TENNIS Cinch Championships (Queen's), Rothesay Classic (Birmingham)
- 20 FOOTBALL Euro 2024 qualifier: Scotland v Georgia
- 20-24 RACING Royal Ascot
- 22-25 GOLF KPMG Women's PGA Championship (Maryland)
- 22-26 CRICKET First Test: England women v Australia women (Trent Bridge)
- 24-25 BASEBALL London Series: St Louis v Chicago (London Stadium)
- 25-1 JUL TENNIS Rothesay International (Eastbourne)
- 27-2 JUL ROWING Henley Royal Regatta
- 28-2 JUL CRICKET Second Test: England v Australia (Lord's)
- 29-2 JUL GOLF British Masters (Sutton Coldfield)





Peggy and Graham Warby – the Dream Team of gardeners!

Peggy and Graham got married in 1960. Last month in The Heron, we heard about Graham's working life as a farm employee.

Peggy, meanwhile, was employed in a Newsagents in March when she was a young woman. She had no access to a car in those days. It was walk, bike or bus if you wanted to get anywhere. Her father was the Landlord of The Farmer's Boy Pub, and the family lived there. There were busses in those days, but they didn't necessarily go round the villages every day. The only reliable way Peggy could get to work from

Christchurch was to get on her bike and cycle along the 16ft to Bedlam Bridge. She parked her bike at the pumping station there, and then was able to catch the bus into March.

After they got married, in Christchurch Parish Church, they moved into a Tied Farm Cottage along the 16ft, with the understanding that Peggy was to help out on the farm if there was a need, which she did. There was a garden that came with the house. There was a vegetable garden there already, so Graham got stuck in. There were no rotavators in those days, which meant that the ground had to be dug over by hand. Then he would pull what was known as A Drag Harrow to break up the soil further in readiness for planting or sowing seeds. Hard work! He planted potatoes, cabbages, sprouting broccoli and other types of vegetables. Peggy helped with the gardening, growing flowers, and soft fruit – strawberries, red and white currants, gooseberries, and rhubarb, amongst others. Interestingly, Graham didn't really enjoy gardening much for the first 2 years. After that, he got hooked and the rest, as they say, is history! His tip for great vegetables is to add a layer of well-rotted manure each year to feed the plants.

With no car, and two small children, life was very different in those days. However, there were vans and small lorries which came round the villages selling goods. For example, the Fishmonger, the Coal man, and even the Co-op came to the door. When Peggy and Graham moved to a house on Padgetts Road, their son was 6 and their daughter was 4. At that time, there were allotments at the 16ft end of Upwell Road, and they took one of those, as well as having a garden. "It was a lot of hard work", Peggy remembers. "When you are young, you don't notice it so much", Graham added. After a few years, the allotments were closed. By that time, the children were not enjoying helping on the allotments, so life changed a bit!










They have both been retired for many years now, and still love gardening. "We are a lot slower these days, of course", says Peggy. They have a greenhouse, and Graham loves to set his seeds and bring the plants on. Their Irises are a picture, and the roses are too. In the "kitchen" garden this year, Graham is growing potatoes, onions, cauliflowers, sweetheart cabbages, leeks, cucumbers, runner beans and carrots. "No matter what I do, the Carrot Flies find them every year", Graham says. Peggy always has to grow her strawberries, so there are some there this year. They also have rhubarb and raspberry canes – and in the house garden, roses, other perennials and summer bedding plants. They love to be involved with nature in this way. They both think there seem to be more rooks, crows and jackdaws this year than ever before. Whilst they would love to feed the birds, these big ones, along with pigeons and magpies get all the bird food. However, they have seen a lesser spotted woodpecker quite often on the nuts this Spring.

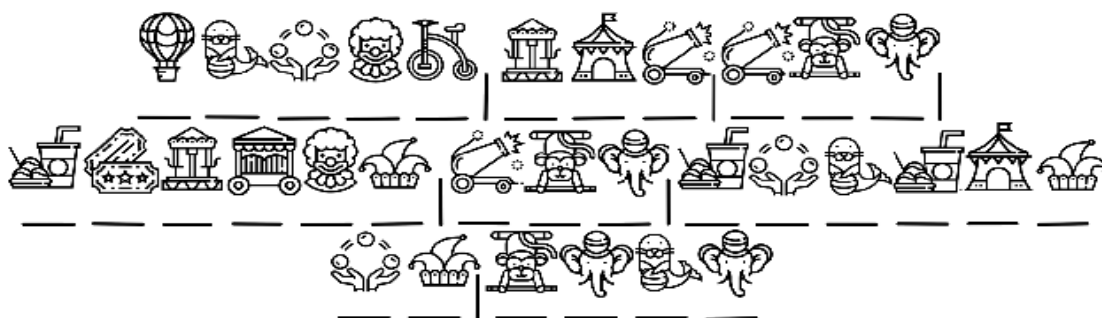
I put the question – "What about Climate Change? Have you noticed changes over the years in the climate here?" "We used to be able to rely on the seasons, but nowadays you seem to get three seasons in one day sometimes!" Graham says. "Once there was a dry season and a wet season. But now things are less reliable, and the weather is more extreme". "Once last summer, we experienced a whirlwind in our garden which almost knocked me over", Peggy says. "It blew me along and I bumped into Graham and we held each other up whilst it lasted! I have never experienced one before". "There's always been The Fen Blow, of course", Graham adds.



Thank you so much, Graham and Peggy, for sharing your memories with us all. May the Munk Jack, Roe Deer, Badgers and Moles keep away from your garden, and may the Carrot Flies give your carrots a miss this year!

Annie Nason

								
B	N	E	N	T	U	C	S	G



Answer on page 18

SOCK
BAG
THROW

BALLOON
BRIDGE

BALANCE
BEAM

HURDLES

STEPPING
STONE
LEAP

HULA
HOOP
TUNNEL

ROPE
ZIG ZAG

START

You can use these ideas, or make up your own. With your parents, you might like to take a few bits you can use to the Community Centre field and meet friends there and have fun.

Step 1

Step 2

Step 3 – Throw blue ball to catch red ball.

Step 4

Step 5 – Throw yellow ball to catch blue ball

Repeat Step 2 and so on...

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It's June... that means Strawberries! Here's a recipe to try

Strawberry muffins



Ingredients

- ½ cup milk
- ¼ cup canola oil
- 1 large egg
- 1 ¾ cups all-purpose flour
- ½ cup white sugar
- 2 teaspoons baking powder
- ½ teaspoon salt
- 1 cup chopped strawberries

Method

1. Preheat the oven to 375 degrees F (190 degrees C) Line 8 standard-sized muffin cups with paper liners.
2. Lightly beat milk, oil, and egg in a small bowl.
3. Mix flour, sugar, baking powder, and salt together in a large bowl. Toss in chopped strawberries and stir to coat with flour. Fold in the milk mixture until just combined. Divide batter evenly among the prepared muffin cups.
4. Bake in the preheated oven until the tops bounce back from the touch and a toothpick inserted into the centre comes out clean, about 25 minutes. Remove from the oven and cool for 10 minutes in the pan before removing to a wire rack to cool completely.
5. ENJOY!



OPEN DAY & Fun Dog Show

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Saturday 3rd June 2023

11am – 4pm

Free Entry!

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Grand Draw See the Animals Games

Ice Cream Van

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CHRISTCHURCH CAR SHOW

Community Centre, Upwell Road

SUNDAY 4TH JUNE 2023

Classic Cars, Tractors, Motorcycles

Starts at 9.30am – late afternoon

Bar Open, Food available

Stalls include Three Blind Mice Brewery, MSoG Plant Sales, Twisty Willow, The Village Cakery, Crafty March Hare, Highfield Honey, Blended Monkey Wood Turning, A Lot of Bottle and more.



Summer Trivia Quiz

1. The English word summer developed from what Old English word for the season?
a. Samer b. Suma c. Somer
2. The word "solstice" is derived from which Latin words?
a. Sol and sistere b. sol and sistica c. sol and stice
3. In What Country Is The Biggest Water Park In The World?
a. Holland b. Germany c. USA
4. The "dog days of summer" refer to which weeks?
a. Weeks between July 3 and August 11 b. Weeks between June 11 and July 3
c. Weeks between July 11 and August 3
5. In the United States, approximately how many long-distance summer trips are made?
a. 230 million b. 400 million c. 650 million
6. In the summer heat, the iron in France's Eiffel Tower expands, making the tower grow more than 6 inches. Is this statement true or false?
a. True b. false
7. What Year Was The First Beach Ball Invented?
a. 1910 b. 1938 c. 1957
8. How many different varieties of watermelon are there?
a. More than 300 b. More than 30 c. More than 100
9. The month of June is named after which Roman goddess?
a. Juno b. Jina c. Jiana
10. What are the three summer signs of the Zodiac?
a. Gemini, Cancer, Leo and Virgo b. Gemini, Cancer, Leo and Sagittarius
c. Gemini, Cancer, Leo and Scorpio
11. The word season is derived from which old French word?
a. Seas b. Sosan c. Seson
12. Where is the World Margarita Championship held each year?
a. Florida b. Arizona c. Allana
13. According to hospital statistics in the U.S. what summer recreation historically claims the least number of injuries and fatalities each and every year?
a. swimming b. beach ball c. Skinny dipping
14. The month of July was named for what historical figure?
a. James iv b. Julius Caesar c. Justinianus Justinus
15. In the U.S. what is the most popular selling grilling meat throughout the summer?
a. Hamburgers b. Hot dogs c. grilled chicken

Answers on page 21



ANSWER TO CIRCUS CODE BREAKER

BRING OUT THE CLOWNS THE CIRCUS IS HERE

Christchurch Stargazers



Hello Christchurch Stargazers!

In June what will be visible in the night sky?

Mercury, the planet, makes a disappointing morning appearance, but is best mid to late June. **The Moon** is nearby on 16 June. **Venus** is a spectacular evening planet. Greatest eastern elongation (45.4°) on 4 June. Visibility deteriorating.

The Moon is nearby on 21 June. **Mars** is a low, evening planet, which is best seen at the start of June when crossing M44, the Beehive Cluster. But the view is compromised by twilight. **Jupiter** will be a low morning planet. **The Waning crescent Moon**; 0.6° to the north of Jupiter on 14 June at 06:00 BST. **Saturn** is a poorly placed morning planet. **The Moon** close on 10 June. **Uranus** is not visible this month. **Neptune** is a morning object, but lost in the dawn twilight, so will be tricky to view.

17 June: Earliest sunrise of the year. **21 June**: The Northern Hemisphere's summer solstice, at 15:57 BST. **25 June**: The Latest sunset of the year. **During the whole of the month**: Noctilucent cloud displays are possible.

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

Mark Andrews

Christchurch Hobby and Craft 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



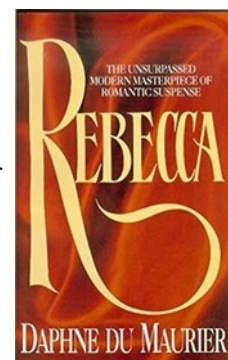
Christchurch Book Club met in May to discuss our last book "The Searcher", by Tana French.

Mixed reviews on this book, in which the main character, a retired policeman from Chicago, buys an isolated home in rural Ireland. Keen to keep his past a secret, it's not long before the villagers find out his past - but their secrets also come to the surface. Some people enjoyed this book, and others felt it was too detailed and played out.

The next meeting will be on Tuesday 6th June at 7.30pm at Liz Scott's house in Fen View, where we will discuss the current book, "The Four Winds" by Kristin Hannah.

Our next book, for June, will be "Rebecca", by Daphne Du Maurier.

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.



We had a visit from four of the On-Call Firemen from March Fire Station (an ON-CALL station) at our last meeting. The speaker had been in the Fire Service for some time, and spoke very clearly and interestingly about how to "Stay safe in the home". He brought a "Fire Alarm Tester" along to show everyone. He emphasised the importance of regularly testing a home fire alarm, and told us a little about his and his colleagues' experiences when a simple, working fire alarm could have saved lives. He said that if you live in a two-storey building, you should have a fire alarm upstairs at the landing, and another one downstairs in the hallway.

We were given a list of dangers in the home which can lead to a fire developing, such as overloading electric sockets with extension leads; open fires - don't put clothes near a flame... even your dressing gown can catch fire easily; don't leave a naked flame (candles etc) unattended; cigarettes cause many fires; turn appliances off at night or when you are out, and many more.

Smoke and Carbon Monoxide are killers. Always close doors at night, in case of fire spreading. Be sure to have an escape route if possible. Don't leave things lying around by the front door or on the stairs. You may know what is where, but the Fire people are coming into a strange home, and work in the dark. They can be hazardous for them. An excellent talk.

Next month, June 13th: Decorating Cup Cakes. Competition, something silky. Refreshments; Gilly M and Helen C.

Christchurch Gardening Club

"More Than Meets the Eye"



One of the many things about the Gardening Club that makes it unique is surprisingly not to do with gardening, as interesting as that is. It is in fact, as I've come to learn, the surprising talents and life stories of the members which slowly become apparent. So it was once again, on Tuesday 16th May that the members re-convened for our monthly meeting at the Community Centre, to hear a talk on wood turning and trees, given by one of our members John Sparrow.

John is a lifelong resident of Christchurch and has been wood turning for 45 years. The content of his talk was so full of facts and information that I would need many times the space we have available here to do it justice.

One of the highlights, however, was when John passed around two pieces of ordinary looking oak. It transpired that they had been part of Nelson's Ship HMS Victory, began in 1759 and launched in 1765. It was quite a staggering experience to touch such a piece of history, but even more surprising was, a new member to the club (who had joined that night) is the great, great, great (I hope that's enough greats!) grandson of a sailor who sailed and fought alongside Nelson on the Victory.

Another subject John covered in detail was a Bog Oak table, made from a 5000-year-old Bog Oak, reclaimed from Wissant Fen, which resides in Ely Cathedral. I should like to Thank John for a fascinating talk. Next month we have our annual Summer Buffet. For more information or to join the club call on 01354638230.

Steve

Coffee/Lunch Break

By popular request, Lunch Break is changing its times.

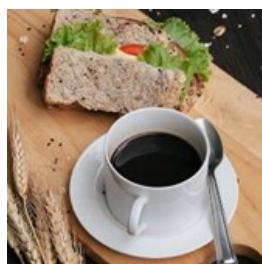
Come over for a coffee; bring your lunch as usual; just come for a chat...

Coffee/Lunch Break this month – 14th and 28th – 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.



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Summer Trivia Quiz Answers

1. Somer
2. Sol and sister
3. Germany
4. Weeks between July 3rd and August 11th
5. 650 million
6. True
7. 1938
8. More than 300
9. Juno
10. Gemini, Cancer, Leo and Virgo
11. Seson
12. Arizona
13. Skinny Dipping
14. Julius Caesar
15. Hot Dogs



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Sunday 12pm-11pm

Food available:

Monday Breakfast 9-11am
Tuesday 6-9pm
Fish Fridays 6-9pm (unless an event)
Saturday Breakfasts 9-11am
Saturday Pizza Night (unless an event)
Sunday Lunch 12:30-3pm

Forthcoming Events:

4th June—Wii bowling afternoon 3-6pm
18th June - Karaoke King on Father's Day. Discounted drink for dads.
22nd June - Open Mic night
25th June - Bikers afternoon, family friendly. Bouncy castle, BBQ. All invited.

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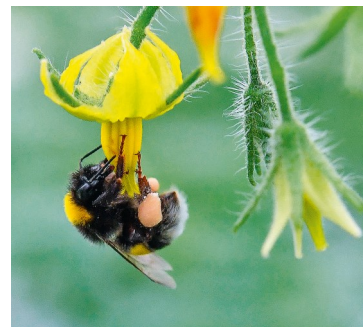
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Wildlife Watching in June

I'd like to congratulate the Heron on the plant sale they had last month and talk a little bit about the lovely little plants I've got from them.

The first thing I picked up was a few little **tomato** plants. Tomato plants hold a place very close to my heart as my dad used to love growing these in our greenhouse back in Leicester before he passed away. He always used to say they tasted so much better than the ones from the supermarkets (and I have to say I agree) and he would go out to the greenhouse to have a smoke and pinch a few ripe, red tomatoes straight from the plant. To this day, the smell of the leaves of a tomato plant brings back memories of rainy days sitting in our greenhouse with my dad and our ginger cat (Pickles), tending the plants, stealing the odd treat, and enjoying each other's peaceful company. An interesting fact about tomato plants is that they need **bumble bees** to be pollinated because bumble bees have a fantastic trick of vibrating their bodies so that the pollen falls out of the flowers in a way that other pollinators cannot do. It's called 'buzz pollination'.



I also couldn't resist getting a couple of **Sweet Williams**. These little guys are my personal favourite and remind me of my grandparent's beautiful cottage garden, which was maintained by my granddad and then by me. We both had a love of all things green (my grandma was convinced this was because we were both Taurus). The sweet williams have found a home in front of my **foxgloves** which have just flowered at the time of writing. Although they are often seen as a bit of a staple British flower, sweet williams are actually native to parts of Asia and southern Europe. Despite this, they are still a great hit with our pollinators.

And finally, a lovely **Sunflower**. They're very aptly named in one sense as they do resemble a drawing of the sun and similarly always put a smile on my face. However, sunflower is also a bit of a misnomer. Each flowerhead is actually made up of up to 2,000 tiny flowers (or florets), despite the fact that they are the only flower in the English language with 'flower' in their name. All of these florets are packed full of nectar, which makes them first a favourite with our bees and then, once seeds develop, the birds love them as they provide a great source of fats. Whether intentional by the Heron or not, my sunflower plant has a **sweet pea** growing next to it, which was a wonderful surprise! Two for the price of one. I'll leave it growing up the plant, adding a bit of colour and extra food for the wildlife.



I'd like to thank the Heron plant sale team for bringing back some memories and some lovely spots of colour to our gardens with their hard work.

Hollie Dorward

June. Your Wildlife Questions Answered:



Q. How do snails grow their shells? Do they find a new one when they grow too big for their shell, like hermit crabs?

A. No. They don't behave like hermit crabs. The snail shell is called 'the mantle', and it can secrete Calcium carbonate. Snails are born with a small shell, and over time, their mantle adds new layers of Calcium carbonate to the opening edge of their shell, making it longer and wider as the snail grows. And that's how snails grow.

Q. What happens to dead mice and creepy crawlies outdoors?

A. Some rot down naturally and some are food for burying beetles. One is The Sexton Beetle (3 cm long). It buries, and lives off, small carcasses. In fact, it can detect the scent of rotting flesh a mile away!





What's Been Going on Along the 16ft?

For any of you who drive along the 16 Foot Road towards its southern end, you will have noticed a few months ago, that there was machinery digging out mud from the river to bring the depth back to the level it was designed to be, and depositing the earth (and occasional car!) on the far bank.

The rivers are not only designed to move water around, but to store water to manage it better, so keeping the rivers clear and to their designed depth maximises the storage capacity. The excess water is moved ultimately to St Germans pumping station where it is pumped into the River Great Ouse. And did you know that the pumps can move 115 tonnes of water per second, that's an Olympic sized swimming pool every 22 seconds!

This is part of a 5-year maintenance plan, fully funded by a grant from DEFRA, to manage the flood defences for the Middle Level system, covering about 120 miles of watercourses, and about 175 miles of banks - many places need work on the banks on both sides - and involves raising the banks by between 300mm and 900mm. That's 1ft to 3ft in old money. The long reach machines that operated on the 16 Foot Bank can reach well into the river where space allows, and where access is limited, as in March, a different type of machinery is used; a cutter suction dredger which sits on the water.

The earth that is moved onto the banks is then shaped and seeded, so that the work is as environmentally friendly as possible. In places where there isn't enough space to build banks, then sheet piled flood wall (huge corrugated steel sheets) are used to raise the level.

Clive Benjamin

<https://middlelevel.gov.uk>

St Germans Pumping Station



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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