

# The Heron

Community Magazine

Delivered to homes in Christchurch, Euximoor and Tipps End

July 2023

## In this issue

Car Show	2
Community & Telephone Info	3
Advertising	4
Diary Dates	4
Editorial & Heron News	5
Football Clubs	5
Why Biking	6
Michael Brookes	7
Graeme Souness	7
80s Christchurch Cricket Team	8
History of Outwell	9
Parish Council Snippets	10
Church News	11
What's On	12
Townley School	13
Quiz	14
Gardening Jobs	15
Wildlife Questions	15
Kids' Corner	16
Recipe	17
Club News	19-20
Summer Events	27
Time Flies	28
Wildlife Watching	28

## Summer BBQ and Fun Day

Join the Parish Lunch Committee on

**Sunday 2 July 2023**

From 3pm till 7pm

**For a BBQ and an afternoon of fun and games  
on Christchurch playing field! The bar will be open,  
for purchasing drinks, from 3pm.**

### Couples Sack Race



### Wheelbarrow Race



### Three-Legged Race



### Welly Wanging



EGG TOSS

**For tickets and further information contact Karen or Craig on 01354 638689.**

**Individual (12 years and over) £12.50 ~ Junior (under 12 years) £5.00**

**Family (2 x adults, 2 x children) £30.00 ~ Under 5's FREE**

**(Price includes: Burger, Hotdog, Chicken, Salads + Dessert)**

*Cash or BACS payments accepted.*

## EDITORIAL TEAM:

*Editorial Team Leader* - Annie Nason

*Treasurer, Advertising Manager* - Elaine Reed-Hughes

*Editorial Team Members:* Sue Norman, Elaine Reed-Hughes, Hollie Dorward, Wendy Yates, Clive Benjamin

*Deliveries Manager* - Annie Nason

*Publisher* - Hollie Dorward

*Support*—Lewis Bennett (IT), the Delivery Team and Printers

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# Christchurch Car Show is a Classic Success!



Classic and vintage vehicles of all shapes and sizes turned out for the June Christchurch Car Show at the weekend, to help raise charity funds. The event held at Christchurch Community Centre on Sunday 4<sup>th</sup> June saw over 175 vehicles including cars, tractors, trucks and motorbikes turn out.

The warm weather ensured a good crowd at the show - which is organised by the trustees of the community centre to raise funds to help cover the upkeep of the facility.



Geoff Harper, Chair of The Community Centre Committee, who manages the centre on behalf of the parish council, was delighted with the day's success in raising in excess of £800.

As well as all the vehicles there were loads of stalls and games for the crowds to enjoy including woodwork, hats, jewellery and a cake stall run by the village Women's Institute. Representatives from the parish church were also there running a raffle to help raise funds for the repairs to the church drains and ceiling.



Geoff paid tribute to the small band of trustees and volunteers who worked so hard to make the day such a success. He said: *"We are small in number and everyone worked so hard and I would like to thank them for that. I would also like to point out that we are always looking for new committee members and anyone who would like to join us would be more than welcome."* In the meantime, he and the trustees are working on a project to provide floodlights on the playing field to enable the village football teams to train during the winter months; applications for grants are also being made.

**Plans are also underway for the next classic vehicle show - which will be held at the Community Centre on Sunday 3<sup>rd</sup> September.**



Source: Fenland Citizen. <https://www.fenlandcitizen.co.uk/news/amp/christchurch-vehicle-show-is-a-classic-success>



# 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](mailto: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](mailto:adverts@theheron.info) or phone Elaine on 01354 638310.

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

## Diary Dates

DATE	EVENT	TIME	PLACE	PAGE
Sat 1 <sup>st</sup>	CHRISTCHURCH OPEN GARDENS Garden Gander	12 noon to 4pm	The Village	9
Sun 2 <sup>nd</sup>	Church M/P	10.30am	CCC	11
Sun 2 <sup>nd</sup>	SUMMER BBQ AND FUN DAY	3pm – 7pm	CCC	Front Cover
Sun 2 <sup>nd</sup>	Welle Cinema	2pm	3 Holes Vill Hall	26
Tues 4 <sup>th</sup>	Mobile Library	12.15pm	Lay-by (Fen View)	3
Tues 4 <sup>th</sup>	Book Club	7.30pm	Crown Road	19
Mon 10 <sup>th</sup>	P C Meeting	7.30pm	CCC	10
Tues 11 <sup>th</sup>	Art Group	1.30-3.30pm	CCC	19
Tues 11 <sup>th</sup>	WI	7pm	CCC	20
Weds 12 <sup>th</sup>	Coffee/Lunch Break	11am-1pm	CCC	20
Thurs 13 <sup>th</sup>	YOUTH CLUB	5pm – 7pm	CCC	-
Sun 16 <sup>th</sup>	Church H/C	10.30am	CCC	11
Tues 18 <sup>th</sup>	Gardening Club	7pm	CCC	20
Weds 26 <sup>th</sup>	Coffee/Lunch Break	11am-1pm	CCC	20
Fri 28 <sup>th</sup>	Summer Supper	6:30pm	CCC	27
<b>Regular weekly events</b>				
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

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, and welcome to the July edition of The Heron.

Midsummer is upon us and summer events are happening. If you haven't joined in with Village events before, now is the time to begin!

In June, the roses in gardens were wonderful this year. It's lovely to see what TLC goes into some of our village gardens. I trust you will enjoy the Garden Gander, in aid of Church Repairs. And the Community Centre event, raising money for The Parish Lunch is on the next day.

I would like to wish all school movers and leavers in our area the very best for your next step. See page 16... "Today is your day, your mountain is waiting. So...get on your way!"

Annie Nason

## Heron News

### Recent donations to The Heron



We have been overwhelmed by the generosity of some of our readers, as a result of the letter we sent out in last month's edition. Your donations will go a long way to help cover the costs of bringing the Heron to your door. We really appreciate your help and we're so glad that you continue to enjoy reading the magazine.

**Thank you very much from all The Heron Team.**

This July issue has gone to print before our AGM, so the results of the elections will be in the August issue. Also, the August issue will have fewer pages than usual, to save a little money. Back to normal in September, though.

## Football in Christchurch Again!

### FOOTBALL'S COMING HOME

Over the past season, Christchurch has hosted overflow matches for Manea youth, ladies and men's teams. Something we have very much enjoyed and we've built some great relationships.

For the 2023/24 season and possibly beyond, we have been approached by Benwick Athletic FC, who have 2 men's teams, wishing to use Christchurch as their home pitch for all their league and cup games on Saturdays and Sundays, along with social events. They play in league 1B (which will mean something to those who know ).



Their future development plans include starting a Ladies team and a Youth team, so this could give opportunities to our village for any interested parties.

At the moment, if there are any male players in the village aged 18+ who would like to join Benwick Athletic, please call Dayne 07958775064, or pop along on a Tuesday 18:30-20:00.

**They begin training at our ground 27<sup>th</sup> June. WELCOME TO CHRISTCHURCH!**

Bryan Burfield

**Copy Deadline** - The deadline for copy for the August edition of the Heron is 21st July

### Letters to the Editorial Team

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

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

The team look forward to hearing from you!





## Why I Love Biking...

***I have been asked a number of times "Why would anyone want to ride a machine that is inherently unstable? Where you sit right above***

***a hot powerful engine and between your legs is a tank filled with a highly flammable liquid?". That's a very good question, but one that only someone that has never been on a motorcycle would ask.***

I can tell you it's not for the adrenaline rush. Yes, you do indeed get a dose when you're on a nice twisty or open road, but anyone that knows me knows I am not a risk taker. I hate fairground rides and always like to "play safe".

**So, why ride?** Well. I can think of no other mode of transport that gives you a feeling quite like it. I use the term transport loosely as it's more than that. Maybe it's the "brotherhood" of bikers, where there is an unwritten code of helping fellow bikers in need, the "nod" or hand gesture when you pass another, or just the fact that no matter what you ride, whether it's a scooter or a Harley, we are all somehow connected.

For me it started when I was 16. I had just left school and got my first job in Peterborough. I lived in Wisbech at the time and the bus timetable wasn't very convenient. Reluctantly my parents brought me a Yamaha FS1 (fizzy) 50cc bike. It was love at first sight, and as soon I got used to it, I was hooked. It was with this bike I first experienced the "biker code". I was coming home from work one night and it was raining hard and dark. When suddenly my bike died at the side of the road. Now on this bike the lights only worked when the engine was running. Being stranded at the side of the A47 wasn't good. Within a couple of minutes out of the darkness pulled up another biker. Even

though we were both soaked through he took the time to help me fix my bike at the side of the road until it was running again.

I will always remember that night and the impact it made on me and my life. From that point I have always stopped and helped a fellow biker in distress, and have passed this wisdom down to my daughter. She has been with me a number of times when we have stopped at the side of the road to help someone out.

These days I'm afraid we all are guilty of rushing around, always being in a hurry and not thinking about anyone else. Just this week I witnessed an incident locally where, on a single-track road two vehicles met head on and no one was willing to reverse to let the other through. Angry words were spoken and phones came out to video the interaction - but why not just let the other pass? We are all road users, let's all look out for each other.

Giles Thorlby



## Help Shape the Future of Your Fire and Rescue Service

Cambridgeshire Fire and Rescue Service is currently preparing to write its plan for 2024/29 and is seeking the views of people across the county, so their thoughts and expectations can be reflected in how it delivers its services in the future. The Service has put together a set of questions that will provide valuable information about what residents and business owners in Cambridgeshire and Peterborough expect of their local fire service, as well as gathering their thoughts and views on different risks and situations. This information will be used to help ensure the fire service is targeting its resources in the most effective way.

The Service would be really grateful if you could please take a few minutes to complete the survey. Anyone who completes the survey and leaves their email address will have the chance to win one of three £50 shopping vouchers.

If you struggle with the form, or would like it translated into another language, then please email [pressoffice@cambsfire.gov.uk](mailto:pressoffice@cambsfire.gov.uk) or call **01480 444500** and ask to speak to one of the Media and Communication team (*in office hours*).

Here is a link to the survey: <https://bit.ly/43pzLHU>



**CAMBRIDGESHIRE  
FIRE & RESCUE SERVICE**  
*Working together to improve community safety*

# Obituary – Michael Brookes

It is with deepest regret that I have to announce the passing of Michael Brookes. Michael was an amazing son, brother, uncle and friend, and he enriched the lives of all those that he met. He was an interesting, funny, kind and generous person that we all feel honoured to have had in our lives.

I know he has touched many people over his life, and there have been many people who have gone on to be life-long friends. He lived his life to the fullest, fulfilling many of his dreams and interests along the way, including publishing his own books, and his passion for his work in games development. He became a huge part of the lives of those that played his games, and people loved the way he would chat to them at events, without even mentioning who he was, before they realised that they were talking to "THE Michael Brookes". He was also so supportive towards other writers and artists.

Michael became very interested in the history of Christchurch, and spent much of his spare time researching its history. He was a huge part of the community, from his book club to his own spot at The Dun Cow!

Michael had many charities that were very special to him, like Special Effect and The German Shepherd Welfare Fund, where he was United with his beloved "House wolf" Wellington.



We are asking as a family that instead of flowers or condolences, if anybody wishes to, they could make a donation to Special Effect or The German Shepherd Welfare Fund, as they were both so very close to Michael's heart.

**Christine Brookes: Michael's sister, on behalf of the family.**

*We are so sorry for your loss. Condolences from everyone at The Heron.*



## Football legend Graeme Souness has completed a swim across the English Channel to raise £1m for charity.

The ex-Liverpool player was inspired to take on the challenge after meeting Isla Grist, 14, who suffers from rare skin disease Epidermolysis bullosa. The 70-year-old Souness broke down in tears during a BBC interview as he called it "the cruellest disease out there".

Souness completed the 21-mile swim as part of a six-person relay team in 12 hours and 17 minutes. He took part in the team challenge, which included Isla's father, to raise money for Debra UK, which supports people with the disease, also known as butterfly skin.

## Graeme Souness: Football legend swims Channel for £1m fundraiser—18<sup>th</sup> June

Isla, from Black Isle, near Inverness, has had her condition since birth and has to be wrapped head to toe in bandages. These are changed three times a week in a procedure that is extremely painful.

Souness said he first became aware of the disease about five years ago. He said he had now become "mates" with Isla, whose courage was an inspiration to him. "This disease... it's the cruellest, nastiest disease. For someone so young to be so brave... and Isla's aware of the impact this has on her mum and dad and she helps them," he said. "This is a very special young lady you're in the company of, she really is, and I am... she gets me in tears every time I'm in her company."



*Taken from an article by Toby Wade. BBC News*



# Christchurch Cricket Team in the 1980s. Recognise Anyone?



*Back row:*  
Paul Goddard, John Saywell, Stuart Turner, Graham Blades, Robin Banks, Ali Goodman.

*Front row:*  
Eddy Chenery, Les Mills, Craig Brand, Michael Croot, Billy Whiz.

*Photo: John Saywell*

## GOODness...

The noun **GOOD** (Old English, "property") derives from the adjective **GOOD** (German and Dutch, "having the right quality"). A sense of moral rightness (good vs. evil) pervades its usage as well.

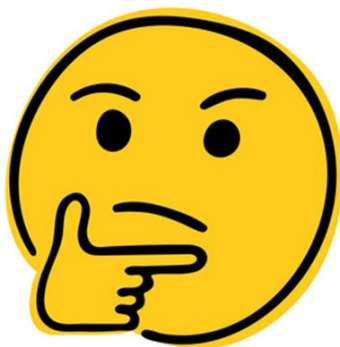
A "goody" - a goodwife - once meant a married woman.

The word "goodbye" originated as "God be with you," which was a common parting phrase in England during the Middle Ages.

When someone asks how one is, the common response is some variant of "good," as in (the grammatically correct) "I'm good".

A good goody, who got a goodly share of good goods got with goodwill, will get going in good time.

*Goodbye!*



"One of the strengths we have as dyslexics is to look at things differently. We're problem solvers who find new ways of doing things."

— HRH Princess Beatrice



## Point of View

**"If you judge people, you have no time to love them".**

*(Mother Teresa of Calcutta)*



# Potted histories of our neighbouring villages.

## This month: OUTWELL

- According to *A Dictionary of British Place Names*, the word Outwell derives from the Old English 'wella', meaning "a place at the spring or stream", combined with 'ūte', meaning "outer [or] lower downstream", distinguishing the place from Upwell, which is 1 mile (1.6 km) to the south. In 963 the settlement was referred to as 'Wellan', and **in the 1086 Domesday Book**, 'Utuella'.
- Molycourt Priory in the parish dated from before the Norman Conquest, becoming a cell of Ely Cathedral and surviving until the Dissolution of the Monasteries.
- There was a Village lock-up until c1871 when it was sold to Mr Elworthy for £19.
- Beaupré Hall was a large 16th-century manor house on the outskirts of Outwell, built by the Beaupre family, who also financed catholic chapels attached to the church at Outwell.
- In decline since the Victorian era, during the First World War, the Hall was commandeered by the RAF and later used for holiday housing. Following this, the Hall fell into a state of further disrepair until its demolition in 1966.
- Stained glass panels (c. 1730) from the Hall are on display in the Victoria & Albert Museum, London.
- At the 2011 Census, the parish had a population of 2,083, an increase from 1,880 at the 2001 Census.
- Outwell Village Model railway – search on Google <https://www.google.com/search?q=outwell+village+model+railway>



## Christchurch Garden Gander Open Gardens Event

**Saturday 1<sup>st</sup> July 2023 - 12 noon until 4pm**

**£5 per person. Unaccompanied Children Free. Buy your ticket on the day when you collect your map from Annie Nason at Grasshopper Cottage, 5, Upwell Rd, Christchurch.**



Visit the gardens in any order. Call in at the Christchurch Community Centre for refreshment. Tea, coffee and cake 12 -4pm AND 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.**

**All money raised will go toward the Church Repair Fund.**

# Parish Council Snippets



## **WHAT DO WE WANT?**

***Our end of the Sixteen Ft Road mended***

## **WHEN DO WE WANT IT?**

**NOW!**



OK. Dream on... But WITH ANY LUCK, within the next 12 months. *SIGH.*

Also regarding roads... the Chair recently made the case at a Highways meeting for a mini roundabout at the junction of Church Road with Padgetts Road, to calm speeding along Padgetts Road, and to discourage large vehicles from taking the shortcut through the village. We shall see whether anything comes of it.

The Wayside turning from Upwell Rd came up once again. Should there be a one-way system? The road itself is not wide enough to allow for a footpath, as some parishioners have requested. If it were to be narrowed, then emergency vehicles, bin lorries and the like would not have access to those properties. The Clerk is going to investigate the possibility of a Safety Officer coming to check the situation and to report on what can be done about it.

The Parish Council members joined with the Chair, Cllr Hughes, in expressing their shock at the sudden death of Parishioner, Mr Michael Brookes. They expressed their condolences to his family and friends. Michael was well known in the village, as was his rescue German Shepherd dog, Wellington. He will be much missed.

Cllr Hughes also welcomed Mr Shaun Potter, who has now joined the Parish Council, but was sorry to see that a couple of other villagers who had expressed an interest in becoming a Councillor were not in attendance at the meeting.

Other stuff discussed included the need to get a map of the drains in Christchurch to ascertain where there is a blockage. Dog control is an issue in the village, as is the persistent barking of some dogs who appear to have been left outdoors on their own. Residents should get in touch with the appropriate person at FDC. ***REMEMBER to write down dates and times.***

One of our new Fen District Councillors, Cllr Roy, attended the meeting and, among other things, has complained about the mess and litter outside some properties on The Hill. He is on the case, he says. That is very good news. We await the results. All agree it is such an eyesore, and a terrible example to the children at the school who see it every day. Good to see Cllr Roy taking a special interest.

Full draft minutes are always on the website <http://www.christchurchparishcouncil.org.uk>

*Annie Nason*



# Church News

Services continue to be held at the Community Centre. All the Benefice Services for July are listed here.

We have had a quote for the completion of just over half of the drainage work. In order for us to apply for a grant from the Benefact Trust, we need to raise about another £8,000 to add to our £11,000 pot. Please see the plan below, which shows all the work we need to do to lay new drainage, whilst avoiding all the grave plots. The dashed section is the new proposal, costing in the region of £60,000.

*In God we trust.*

Helen Chappell

## Benefice Church Services for July

### 2<sup>nd</sup> July

10:30 Morning Prayer, Christchurch  
10:30 Holy Communion, Doddington

### 9<sup>th</sup> July

10:30 Holy Communion, Manea  
10:30 Morning Prayer, Wimblington  
15:00 Evening Prayer, Benwick

### 16<sup>th</sup> July

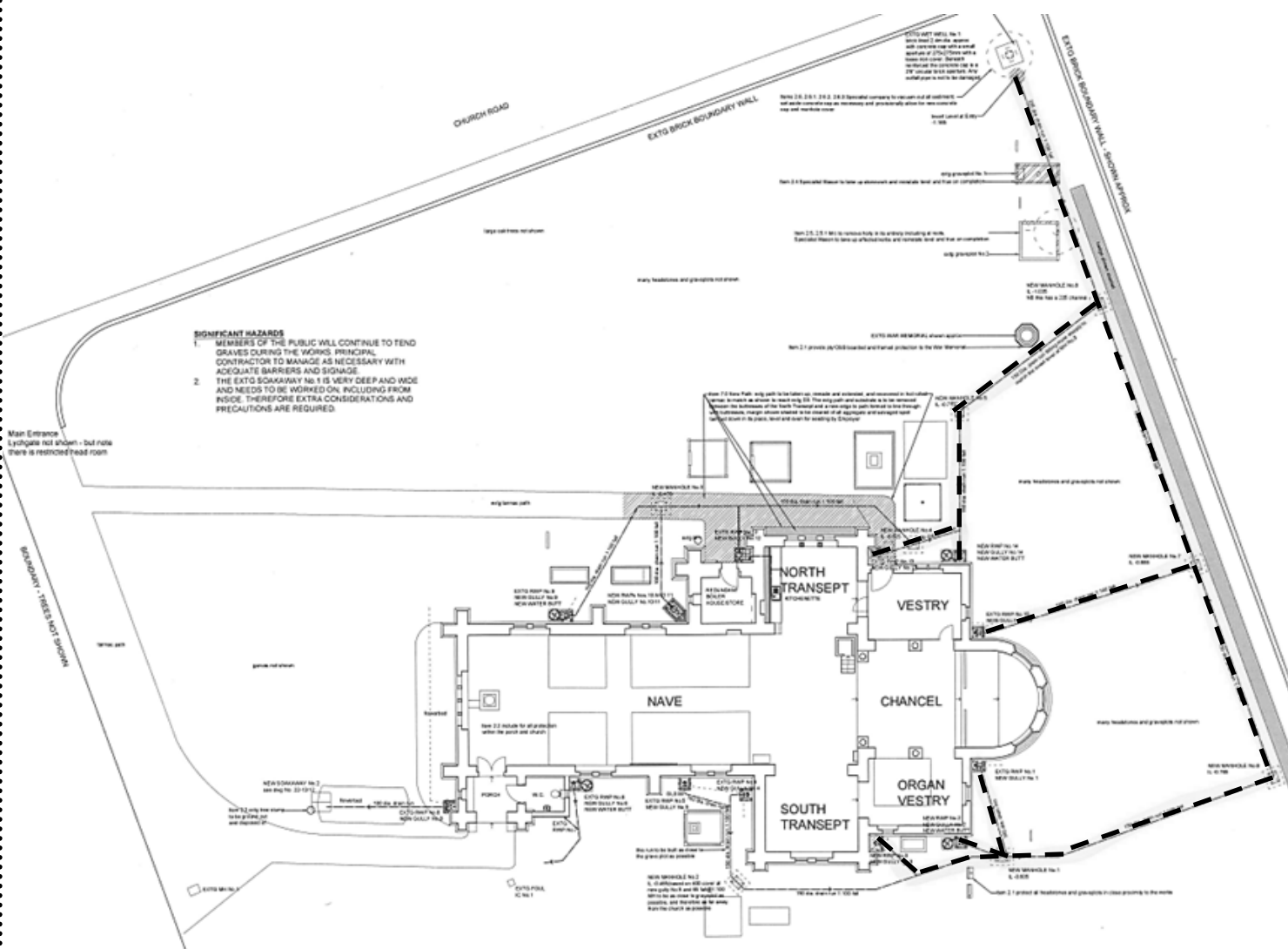
10:30 Holy Communion, Christchurch  
10:30 Morning Prayer, Doddington

### 23<sup>rd</sup> July

10:30 Morning Prayer, Manea  
10:30 Holy Communion, Wimblington

### 30<sup>th</sup> July

10:30 United Benefice Service, Doddington



## 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.



# Looking for somewhere to go? What's on in July



**1st July 2023 Saturday: "Rockin' the Country";** 10.00am- 5.00 pm at Horse Creek Farm, Coldham Bank, March, PE15 0BS Live Music, Classic Cars, BBQ, Barrel Racing, Rodeo Bull, Gin Bar, Lakeside shopping and more. Tickets available from [www.shodanevents.com](http://www.shodanevents.com). Not available on the gate. Dogs welcome must be kept on a lead. Free Parking. Cowboy hats and boots are optional but encouraged!


**1st July 2023 Saturday: An evening with the lads from Only Fools and Horses characters Mickey Pearce and Jevon at GER Club:** Robingoodfellows Lane, March PE15 8HS Tickets £27.00 call 01354 652335 or [www.germarch.co.uk](http://www.germarch.co.uk) for tickets. Auction and Raffle.

**8th July 2023 Saturday: 1.00pm -11.00 pm Manea Gala;** S. M Guy Memorial Field, Park Road, Manea PE15 0LL. Arena Events, Stalls, Classic Car and Historic Vehicle Show, Dog Show, Vendors, Bar, Food, Children's Rides, Live Music till late. Free Entry and Car Park on site.

**16th July 2023 Saturday: 9am – 2pm, Upwell Yard Sale around Upwell village;** see Upwell and Outwell Discussion Facebook page for start time (usually morning).

**29th July 2023 Saturday: Entry from 12.00 - Doddington Village Summer Show;** Benwick Road Recreation Ground, Doddington PE15 0TX. Produce and Craft Show, BBQ & Refreshments, Stalls and Show Tent





ATTENTION ALL WITCHES AND WIZARDS  
PLEASE JOIN US FOR  
A

# Harry Potter Day






Classes include: Herbology \* Magic Numbers \* Code your way through the Triwizard maze!

@ Meadows Community Centre, Cambridge  
Monday 7th August

@ March Community Centre  
Wednesday 9th August

@ Ely Library  
Friday 11th August

**TO BOOK YOUR PLACE  
CALL: 01353 613013**





# 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.

**June 2023**

I must start this month's update with a big thank you to all the volunteers who have supported swimming this term. Without their support we would not be able to open the pool. I don't know how long we can keep running the pool, as currently we use the Sports Premium and FOTS donations to open it. But this year the government has tightened up how this money can be spent. It can no longer be used to provide curriculum PE. Watch this space for updates. Our new classroom plans are going in for planning permission this week. We hope the work will be able to start in the Autumn. We are looking forward to having a fresh classroom to replace the mobile class which has served us well.

## EYFS Class (Nursery and Reception)

Our focus story has been **Billy's Bucket**. It's a great story about a boy called Billy who wants only one thing for his birthday - a bucket. Inside it, he can see all kinds of magnificent sea creatures. But Mum and Dad are sceptical and, when Dad unwittingly uses the bucket to clean his car, he's in for a big surprise! It was lovely to have so many parents join us for our magical Forest School session. Everyone enjoyed making magic wands, mud painting, collecting leaves, decorating clothes for the fairies and creating delicious concoctions in pots and pans. There was lots of climbing, swinging, running and exploring too.



## Hawker Class (Year 1 and 2)

In **English** we have started a new unit on humorous poems and have explored a range of different funny poems, which the children have sequenced, created new endings for, explored wordplay within different poems and written their own poem based on a model text. Year 1 have completed the Phonics Screening Check. 'Fantastic Mr Fox' is our **guided reading** book and it is lovely to see the children engaging with and enjoying a chapter book in these lessons. They have worked on their decoding skills to read the text, retrieval skills to find information from the text to answer questions, and have predicted what might happen next.

## Emerald Class (Year 3 and 4)

In **Guided Reading**, we have been reading the story of Varjak Paw and have spent time working on inference skills (an inference is a conclusion reached on the basis of evidence and reasoning). In **Science**, we have looked deeper at the characteristics of solids, liquids and gases and the children did a sorting activity. We also talked about viscosity (state of being thick, sticky and semi-fluid in consistency) and non-Newtonian fluids. Following this, Emerald is really keen to make some oobleck to experience the non-Newtonian fluid for themselves! Year 4 have completed the Multiplication Tables Check.

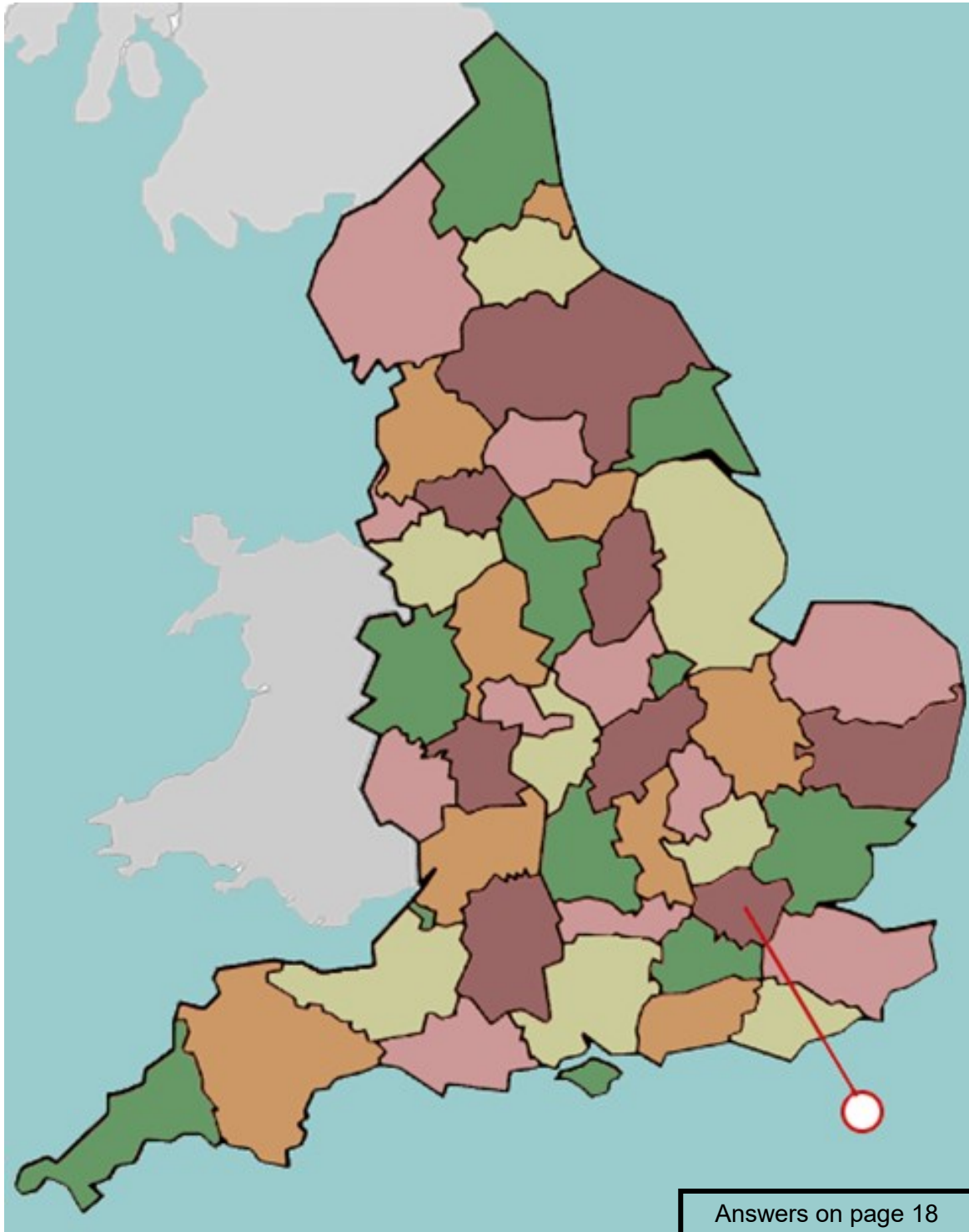


## Emperor Class (Year 5 and 6)

Year 6 were thrilled with their leaver hoodies from FOTS – I am not sure how their parents are going to get the children to take them off to wash them! The children are busily learning their lines for their end of term production of 'Alice in Wonderland'. We are fortunate to have Mr Beers volunteering while he is home from university, supporting us in learning the ambitious script. The Year 6s have been involved in transition planning for secondary school. **Guided Reading:** we have finished reading 'The Explorer' and have begun our new text 'Five Children and It' by E Nesbit.

# Summer Quiz

Match up the Counties of England



Bedfordshire  
Berkshire  
Bristol  
Buckinghamshire  
Cambridgeshire  
Cheshire  
City of London  
Cornwall  
Cumberland  
Cumbria  
Derbyshire  
Devon  
Dorset  
Durham  
East Sussex  
East Riding, Yorkshire  
Essex  
Gloucestershire  
Greater London  
Greater Manchester  
Hampshire  
Herefordshire  
Hertfordshire  
Huntingdonshire  
Isle of Wight  
Kent  
Lancashire  
Leicestershire  
Lincolnshire  
City of London  
Merseyside  
Norfolk  
Northamptonshire  
Northumberland  
North Yorkshire  
Nottinghamshire  
Oxfordshire  
Rutland  
Shropshire  
Somerset  
South Yorkshire  
Staffordshire  
Suffolk  
Surrey  
Tyne and Wear  
Warwickshire  
West Midlands  
West Sussex  
West Yorkshire  
Wiltshire  
Worcestershire

Answers on page 18



## WARNING:

APPARENTLY, THERE ARE A LOT OF ADDERS IN OUR AREA, BASKING IN THIS HOT WEATHER.

These snakes are venomous. Don't disturb them. Keep well away. If, in the unlikely event you are bitten by one, **SEEK EMERGENCY MEDICAL HELP IMMEDIATELY.**



# Gardening Jobs for July

- Cut lavender for drying, choosing newly opened flowers for the best fragrance, then hang up in a cool, dark place. Trim after flowering to keep plants compact and bushy, but avoid cutting into old wood.
- Feed, water and deadhead summer bedding regularly, in pots, borders and hanging baskets.
- Cut back early summer perennials, such as hardy geraniums and delphiniums, after flowering for a second flush.
- Feed and deadhead roses to keep them flowering strongly.
- Keep watch for pests such as lily beetles, snails, aphids and vine weevils, and remove before they do too much harm.
- Thin out heavy crops of apples, pears and plums, and remove any malformed, damaged or undersized fruits and shorten side shoots growing from the framework of trained fruit trees, reducing to about five leaves from their base. Water fruit trees and bushes, then lay a thick mulch of garden compost around their base to hold in moisture.
- Apply tomato feed fortnightly to crops in pots and growing bags, such as tomatoes and chillies, to encourage fruiting.



Clive Benjamin

## Your Wildlife questions answered: Birds of prey.



**Q. Do all birds of prey soar on thermals?**

A. I have never seen these species soaring: Kestrel, Merlin, Hen Harrier, Owls.

**Q. How can you tell which bird is which when it's soaring on thermals?**

**A. Buzzard :** (top photo) large bird, soaring in circles, with wings raised, and flapping a couple of times at regular points when circling.

**Golden Eagle:** a more relaxed and gliding flying style, fewer wing beats than a buzzard.

**Osprey:** wings more arched down, but soaring style seems more similar to the buzzard.

**Peregrine:** soaring less in circles and with more direct lines, and faster - more occasional less regular wing beats. (A smaller bird). *Photo.*

**Honey Buzzard:** soar with level wings - but I've never seen one so I can't say much...

**Red Kite:** a more buoyant style and seemingly effortlessly, fewer wing beats - of course their silhouette is quite distinctive.

**Seen soaring less often:**

**Goshawk:** using more powerful wing beats in between the soaring circles:

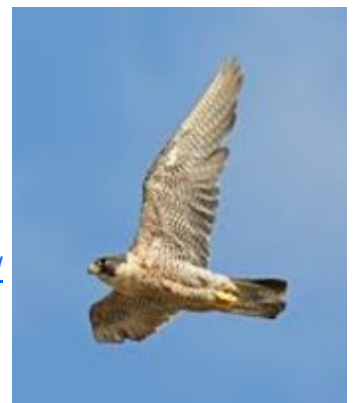
**Sparrowhawk:** the typical fast flap-flap glide is the only thing I can think of, which is rather different.

(Source: <https://www.birdforum.net/threads/identifying-raptors-when-soaring-uk.412391/>)

**Calls of birds of prey:** Check them out here:

<https://www.woodlandtrust.org.uk/blog/2021/09/bird-of-prey-calls/>

Annie Nason





## Mount Everest:

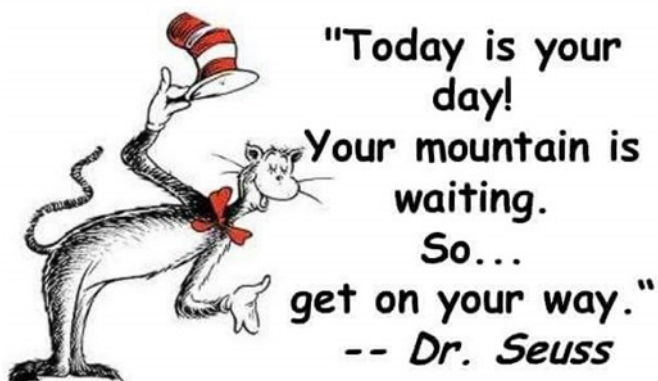
**At 8,848.13 meters high, it is the greatest challenge for mountaineers.**

Located on the border between Nepal and Tibet, Mount Everest (known in Tibetan as Qomolangma and in Nepali as Sagarmāthā) is the world's highest mountain, and one of the most popular tourist destinations in the world. The border between Nepal and Tibet runs directly across the peak of the mountain, and the two base camps, north and south, are in Tibet and Nepal respectively. Far out from the

nearest towns and villages, Mount Everest stands tall on the border, proud king of the mighty Himalayas.

An expedition, led by Colonel John Hunt, included the now-famous Sherpa guide Tenzing Norgay and New Zealand mountaineer, Edmund Hillary. On May 29, 1953, Hillary and Norgay made a final push up to the summit, and became the first known men to ever reach the peak of the world's highest mountain. That's 70 years ago!

***What's your challenge today?***



***Move one matchstick to make this sum correct.***

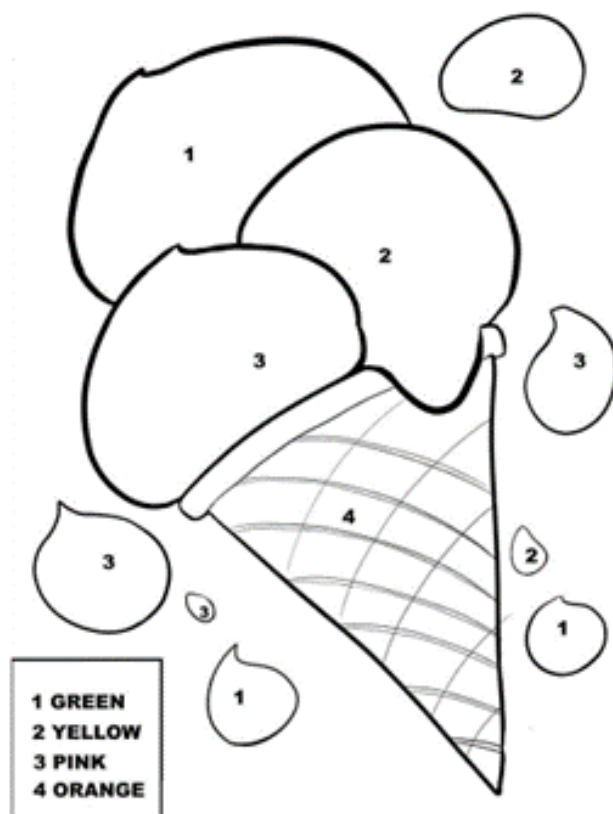


**Is your favourite Ice Cream flavour here?**

**Fill in the blanks.**

BA-A-A  
CH-C-L-TE  
-TR-WB-RR-  
MA- -O  
PE-NU-  
-ASP-E- - Y  
V- -ILL-  
LE-ON  
-R-NGE

Answers on page 18





# Waffleberry Pie



## Ingredients

480g (about 14) waffles  
300g raspberries or mixed berries (fresh is best, but frozen are fine)  
200g good-quality white chocolate, chopped  
1/4 cup caster sugar  
1 tbsp plain flour  
3 eggs  
1 tsp grated lemon rind  
1 tsp vanilla extract  
500ml (2 cups) thickened cream  
2 tbsp icing sugar, to dust

## Directions

### Step 1

Preheat the oven to 170°C. Butter a medium ovenproof dish. Cut or break up the waffles into 2cm cubes. Place half in the dish, topped by half the raspberries, then half the chocolate. Repeat layers. Whisk together sugar, flour, eggs, rind, vanilla and cream. Pour over waffles and set aside for 10 minutes.

### Step 2

Bake in the oven for 35 minutes until golden. Dust with icing sugar. Serve with cream or ice cream.



## How's Your Latin?

**... 'ubi et pedibus praetereuntium et stillicidiis ex alto rorantibus esset obnoxius' ...**

**15<sup>th</sup> JULY is St Swithun's Day in the UK... but it used to be 2<sup>nd</sup> July in Wales. It is 2<sup>nd</sup> July in Norway.**

St. Swithun was Bishop of Winchester from his consecration on 30<sup>th</sup> October 852 until his death on 2<sup>nd</sup> July 863. The name of Swithun is best known today for a British weather lore proverb, which says that if it rains on St. Swithun's day, 15th July, it will rain for forty days.

**St. Swithun's day if thou dost rain  
For forty days it will remain  
St. Swithun's day if thou be fair  
For forty days 'twill rain nae mare**



A Buckinghamshire variation has:  
**If on St. Swithun's day it really pours  
You're better off to stay indoors**

Swithun was initially buried out of doors, rather than in his cathedral, apparently at his own request. William of Malmesbury recorded that the bishop left instructions that his body should be buried outside the church, **ubi et pedibus praetereuntium et stillicidiis ex alto rorantibus esset obnoxius** ... 'where it might be subject to the feet of passers-by and to the raindrops pouring from on high'.

It has been suggested that the legend was derived from the tremendous downpour of rain that occurred, according to the Durham chroniclers, on St. Swithun's Day, 1315. This has been taken as indicating that the legend was already well known in the 12th century.



**The most false that the prediction has been, according to the Guinness Book of Records, was in 1924 when 13.5 hours of sunshine in London were followed by 30 of the next 40 days being wet, and in 1913 when a 15-hour rainstorm was followed by 30 dry days out of 40.**

# Summer Quiz Answers

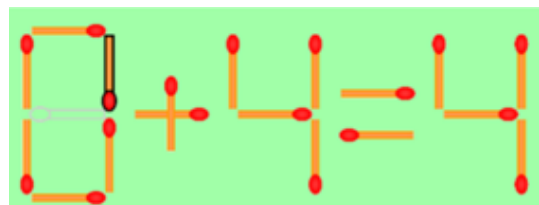
How did you do?



## Kids' Page Answers

BANANA  
CHOCOLATE  
STRAWBERRY  
MANGO  
PEANUT

RASPBERRY  
VANILLA  
LEMON  
ORANGE





## Christchurch Stargazers



Hello Christchurch Stargazers! So, in July, what will be visible in the night sky?

**Mercury** is a poorly positioned evening planet, best seen mid-month, but low in the West-Northwest, as the sky darkens. **Venus** is best at the start of July, as by the end of the month it is setting before the Sun. Currently in a very thin crescent phase.

**Mars** is a well-positioned evening planet, which is low in the west as twilight darkens. **Mars** is near **Venus** at the start of July. **Jupiter** is an improving morning planet, best at the end of the month. There is a **Waning Crescent Moon** nearby on 12 July. **Saturn** will be a morning planet, best at the end of July. **The Moon** is close on 7 July. **Uranus** is also a morning planet, best at the end of July. **Jupiter** is relatively close. **Neptune** is a morning planet, southeast of the **Circlet Asterism**. Best at month end. There is also a **9th Magnitude Comet** passing through our skies, C/2020 V2 ZTF. Starts July 2023, near **Jupiter and Uranus**.

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

Mark Andrews

*\*What is an ASTERISM? An asterism is an observed pattern or group of stars in the sky. Asterisms can be any identified pattern or group of stars, and therefore are a more general concept than the 88 formally defined constellations\**

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

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



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

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

## Christchurch Book Club



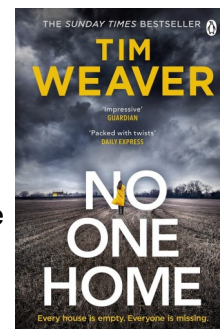
Christchurch Book Club met in June to discuss the last book 'The Four Winds', by Hannah Kristen.

Mixed reviews on this book, which is set in the 1930s in Texas during the time of the Great Depression. The main character has to choose between fighting for her land or going to California, where there are better opportunities. As with the previous book, some of the book club felt it went on too long.

The next meeting will take place on Tuesday 4th July at 7.30pm at Sue Street's house in Crown Road, where we will discuss the current book, 'Rebecca', by Daphne Du Maurier.

The next book in July will be the thriller 'No One Home', by Tim Weaver.

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





Great news! At last, the WI Tree has been planted in Christchurch! This was the tree to celebrate the 100<sup>th</sup> birthday of The Isle of Ely Women's Institute

Federation. What with the Pandemic and other difficulties, it was a long time coming.

Our June meeting speaker's topic was a sweet one.... "How to decorate Cup Cakes with buttercream icing". Linda Jack is a member of our WI and she loves, and is very skilled at, decorating the cakes, and she was our speaker. She brought along a number of pieces of kit to use for icing, and at the end of her demonstration she invited people to try their hand at it. We were very pleased to sample some of Linda's decorated cakes with our coffee/tea afterwards!

Linda began her talk by explaining that there are different ways of making buttercream icing in different countries. She also had lots of tips for anyone who wanted to have a go at home, one of which was to wrap your buttercream in clingfilm before putting it into an icing bag. You just cut the tip of the cling film "sausage", put it in the icing bag, and work as normal. This saves having to wash the bags each time you change colour. Clever. And did you know you can buy flavoured icing sugar? Linda began baking with her mother as a young child, and the rest, as they say, is history!



Our next meeting is on July 11<sup>th</sup> and the speaker is Diane Calton Smith, author and historian. Competition – Texture, wood.



## Christchurch Gardening Club

"Tradition"

Just recently, with events happening in the country at large such as the trooping of the colour and the Coronation, they have made me think about smaller events that almost without our noticing them, become something of a tradition.

One such event took place on Tuesday at the Community Centre with the Gardening Club's Annual Buffet. For most of the year our meetings are built around plants and gardening, with experts holding forth on a variety of connected subjects to do with horticulture. However, we must always keep in mind that the gardening club is, above all, a social club for like-minded people who sometimes need to chill out and just get together and relax.

Although the committee organise the event and provide, through the club, some of the main ingredients for the Buffet, we can't forget the members who arrive loaded down with goodies from their own kitchens, which all goes to make a memorable evening with good food and good company. Thanks to everyone who participated.

Next month, on July 18<sup>th</sup>, the members will be undertaking another club tradition, with a visit to one of our long-time member's gardens Maxine Craske. Let's hope for good weather and another memorable evening. For more information on the club call 10354638230

Steve Waye

## COFFEE/LUNCH BREAK



By popular request, Lunch Break is changing its times.

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

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

IT'S FREE! Everyone welcome.

Always the 2<sup>nd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> 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.



# Old Craft Club Update

Hello Everyone,

I would like to inform you about what has happened to all the items which belonged to the old Craft Club, and which were stored in the cupboard at The Community Centre.

Well, at the recent Car Show, three ex-members manned a stall selling many of the items for card making, and other things too. The amount raised came to £110, which was given to the Church Repair Fund. The unsold items were donated to the school.

A big THANK YOU to everyone who helped in any way to make this happen.

From The Old Craft Club members.



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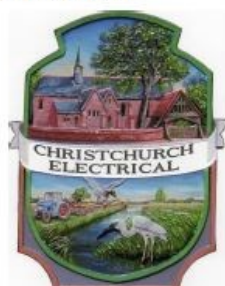
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**Forthcoming Events:**

9th July 3pm to 6pm - Echo Rising - Authentic  
Covers Band  
30th July from 3pm - Family Funday Sunday!

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**Three Holes Village Hall**

12

Squires Drove, Three Holes, PE14 9JY

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Enquiries: Yasmin 01945 773272 | Bar and refreshments

[www.threeholesvillagehall00.org.uk](http://www.threeholesvillagehall00.org.uk)

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# Some Concerts this Summer



**9TH JULY**  
BOYSTON TOWN BAND  
COLERIDGE REC

**16TH JULY**  
BIG 10 6  
DISFUNCTIONAL  
JESUS GREEN

**6TH AUGUST**  
HAVERHILL YOUTH AND  
COMMUNITY BAND  
KING GEORGE V  
PLAYING FIELD  
(TRUMPINGTON REC)

**13TH AUGUST**  
RAJASTHANI BRASS  
BAND + DANCE &  
POETRY  
JESUS GREEN

**20TH AUGUST**  
VOCAL REMIX CHOIR  
PLUS SUPPORT  
ST ALBANS REC

**3RD SEPTEMBER**  
SOMMERSHAM TOWN  
BAND  
NIGHTINGALE REC

**10TH SEPTEMBER**  
SOMMERSHAM TOWN  
BAND  
CHERRY HINTON  
HALL

**17TH SEPTEMBER**  
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## WHITLINGHAM COUNTRY PARK

Trowse Newton, Norwich, NR14 8TS

SATURDAY 22<sup>ND</sup> JULY

### MUSIC IN THE FOREST

This chilled, picnic-style event set in Whitlingham Country Park will create an impression as the audience gathers around the unforgettable sight of a Grand Piano and a chandelier nestled among the trees. Performing songs from musicals, film, and popular culture, Gary Winter and friends will help you relax and unwind with a glass (or two) of your favourite beverage.

So pack your picnic, chill your Chardonnay, and come be part of something different. With easy parking, toilets and even a licensed bar (should you wish to stock up or get a hot drink) Music in the Forest is one not to miss.

## NENE VALLEY ROCK FESTIVAL

Ferry Meadows Country Park, Ham Ln, Peterborough

THURSDAY 31<sup>ST</sup> AUGUST, 19:00 – SUNDAY, 3<sup>RD</sup> SEPTEMBER, 22:00

Reserve your tickets now at [www.nvrf.rocks/tickets](http://www.nvrf.rocks/tickets) for The Nene Valley Rock Festival. Set in the picturesque Nene Park in Peterborough it offers an amazing array of classic rock, prog and blues...

[Read more on Viper Soup Complex](#)




**SUMMER  
SUPPER**

MUSIC BY LUKE BAINBRIDGE

**FRIDAY, 28TH JULY**

At the Christchurch Community Centre  
6:30pm  
Tickets: £10pp  
Menu:  
Chicken Pie  
Summer Desserts  
Vegetarian option available on request  
when booking  
Bring your own drinks.  
Please book by the 23rd July.  
To book contact Helen (07702225259)  
Or Karen (07483272580)

# Time Flies...



Well - we're now past the longest day, and the days are going to start getting shorter, but have you ever given a thought to how quickly this happens? The day length over the year follows a wavy line, known as a **sine wave**. The longest day falls at the top of the wave, with the shortest day (21st December usually) at the bottom, and the steepest part of the curves falling halfway between the equinoxes (21st March and 21st September).

At the top of those curves, the length of days changes very little, although the longest day was 21st June. The days either side of that are only a few seconds shorter, and a week later, we're still only a couple of minutes shorter. As we move through the year, that daily difference starts to increase, and by the end of this month, days will be getting over a minute shorter each day. By the equinox, each day will be over 4 minutes

shorter than the previous day. Then starts to slow down until December, when each day is only seconds shorter than the previous day.

This change gives us our seasons and happens because of our position on the planet - as you move towards the equator, and if you were to live on the equator, your days would be about 12 hours long the whole year around.

What is quite amazing, bearing in mind that the day length changes so little around the longest day, is that thousands of years ago, Neolithic man built Stonehenge to direct sunlight to the centre of the circle on this day.



Clive Benjamin

## Wildlife Watching in July

This time of year is great for watching birds pick around the garden for seeds and insects. One type of beautiful garden songbird we get in this area are **Tits**. The name tit for comes from the Middle English word 'titmose'. 'Tit' refers to a small creature, and 'mose' means bird. Tits were originally woodland birds but some of them have adapted well to survive in our gardens, especially those with bird food and fat balls in them.

**Blue tits** are the most common. They are easily identified due to their blue wings and caps. They have a high whistling 'Tsee-tsee' call.



**Great tits** are larger birds and tend to be a bit more confident about getting food from gardens. They can be identified from their larger size and their yellow breast with a black band. We're lucky to have a few flitting through our garden this

year.

**Coal tits** are less commonly seen in gardens. They are the smallest of this group of birds and have quite a short tail. In this hot weather, birds love little more than a bird bath to take a drink in and cool off. So, remember to fill up your bird baths and enjoy watching all your garden birds having fun.



We're all fairly familiar with the lovely butterflies we get in the area, but I'd like to show a bit of appreciation for our moths too. There have been some beautifully vibrant red and black **Cinnabar Moths** flying about. This time of year, they are laying their eggs which will hatch into small black and yellow caterpillars.



We often see moths as boring brown insects that are a bit of a pest if we leave windows open and lights on at night. However, they are great pollinators and some of them (like the Cinnabar) are absolutely stunning.

Hollie Dorward

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



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