

The Heron

Community Magazine

Delivered to homes in Christchurch, Euximoor and Tipps End

November 2023



Hedgehogs are generalists, but the majority of their diet is made up of invertebrates such as beetles, caterpillars and sometimes slugs. Insect-rich lawns and flowerbeds make excellent feeding grounds at dusk, so a wildlife friendly garden will attract them to your patch. As they hibernate from November to May, you may see more activity at the moment as they try to fatten up for Winter.

Numbers have fallen by nearly a third since 2002. In 1950 the UK population was roughly 30 million, but fewer than one million hedgehogs are now thought to be left, mainly due to the loss of hedgerows, the over-management of parks and gardens, loss of green space to paving/decking and the use of chemical pesticides, leading to fewer insects for hedgehogs to eat.

Source: <https://www.surreywildlifetrust.org/>

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16 Foot Closure for 8 Weeks starting early January 2023

Anglian Water are due to commence the scheme in early January which is likely to take 8 weeks to complete. They are replacing approx. 1215m of existing 9" C.I. main with 180mm HPPE main and transferring existing service connections to the new main. They are planning to install the new main by Horizontal Directional Drilling which will limit the number of excavations required compared with traditional open cut method, for which a continuous trench for the extent of the works is required.

The scheme is on Sixteen Foot bank (B1098) with the works starting from just south of the level crossing to outside Ancaster Farm Cottages/Grainthorpe, the closure will be from the North of the level crossing just past Ancaster Farm Cottages/Grainthorpe. The diversion will be from the Junction with Padgetts Road (B1100) and Boots Bridge/junction with Wimblington Road (B1093), and there will be advisory signage and as well as Business Open as Usual signage for Skylark Garden Centre.

We hope to publish more detailed and up-to-date information on this in the January edition of the Heron just before the work is due to start.

Heron News

Good news on our Christmas Fundraiser this year. Rex Ockenden, Granary Studio*** has kindly assisted us again with putting together a 2024 Calendar. We have borrowed (with permission), photographs that have already been featured on the Christchurch Facebook Page, taken by various people in the village, and we have selected enough to bring you another really lovely Calendar (beautifully reproduced by Steve at March Stationery & Print).

There is a sneak preview below of just a few of the lovely photographs featured. The calendars are available now, so if you would like to get some in before Christmas, please contact Elaine on 01354 638310 or email adverts@theheron.info to reserve your copies. The calendars are £8 each, 2 for £15 or 3 for £20.



March 2024									
Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat	Sun			
26	27	28	29	1	2	3			
4	5	6	7	8	9	10 Mother's Day			
11	12	13	14	15	16	17			
18	19	20	21	22	23	24			
25	26	27	28	29 Good Friday	30	31 Easter Monday			
1 Easter Monday	2	3	4	5	6	7			

June 2024									
Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat	Sun			
27 Spring Bank Holiday	28	29	30	1	2	3			
4	5	6	7	8	9	10			
11	12	13	14	15 King's Birthday	16 Father's Day	17			
18	19	20	21	22	23	24			
25	26	27	28	29	30	1			
2	3	4	5	6	7	8			

*** Please see page 21 for a fantastic special offer, for all Heron Readers.

Community Information

Mobile Post Office:

Visits Monday to Thursday in the lay-by on Upwell

Road Monday and Thursday - 16.30 to 17:00

Tuesday and Wednesday - 16.10 to 17:00

Fridays - no service.

ANYONE WISHING THEIR ITEMS TO BE POSTED,

ON THE DAY, WILL NEED TO GET THEIR POST TO THE

VAN BY 4.40PM - WHICH IS WHEN IT IS COLLECTED.

Use it or lose it!

Mobile Library:

OUR MOBILE LIBRARY COMES ONCE A MONTH, ON THE FIRST TUESDAY, AT 12.15-1.00PM.

The van parks in the lay-by on Upwell Road, opposite to the entrance of Fen View. **USE IT OR LOSE IT?**

The Mobile Library visits March, Christchurch and Manea:

March Elliot Lodge 9:30 - 10:10

March Shaftesbury Lodge 10:20 - 10:50

March Upwell Park 10:55 - 11:15

March Fleming Court 11:30 - 11:45

Christchurch Layby 12:15 - 1pm

Manea Festival Close 2pm - 3pm

Manea High Street 3:10 - 4:30pm

As well as a large range of library books, you can get your NHS hearing batteries, replacement walking stick ferrules and you can dispose of old household batteries.

You can use the Select and Collect service online, or by calling 0345 045 5225.

https://cambridgeshire-self.achieveservice.com/service/Select_and_Collect

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



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

Useful Telephone Numbers

Age UK Cambridgeshire	0300 666 9860
Alzheimer's Society (Fenland)	01945 580480
Churchwarden - Mrs Helen Chappell	01354 638092
Citizens' Advice Bureau, Wisbech	03442 451292
Community Centre Bookings (Bryan)	07918 664402
Community Fire Safety Officer	07717 858166
District Councillor - Dal Roy	07885 381007
District Councillor - Matthew Summers	07725 629947
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 - Ryan Feeney	07785 907509
Parish Councillor - Julia Hayes	07591 537001
Parish Councillor - James Hughes	01354 638310
Parish Councillor - Peter Owen	01354 638847
Parish Councillor - Shaun Potter	07825 016990
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	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

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, 1 Brimstone Close, Christchurch PE14 9EE*. **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.

We look forward to hearing from you!

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 4th Nov	Bonfire Bingo	3pm	CCC	9
Sat 4th Nov	Cabinet of Dr Caligary - Screening	7:30pm - 9:05pm	Ely Library	10
Sun 5th Nov	Double Jeopardy	2pm	Welle Cinema	22
Mon 6th Nov	Screen Printing Workshop	5pm - 7pm	Chatteris Library	10
Tue 7th Nov	Mobile Library	12:15pm	Lay-by (Fen View)	3
Tue 7th Nov	Book Club	7:30pm	Brimstone Close	15
Wed 8th Nov	Coffee/lunch break	11am - 1pm	CCC	16
Fri 10th Nov	Night out at the Theatre	7:30pm	Lakes End Village Hall	10
Sun 12th Nov	Upwell Jazz Club	12:30pm - 2:45pm	CCC	
Mon 13th Nov	Parish Council Meeting	7:30pm	CCC	8
Tue 14th Nov	Christmas Craft Demo	7pm	CCC	10, 16
Wed 22nd Nov	Coffee/lunch break	11am - 1pm	CCC	16
Sun 26th Nov	Festive Fayre	10am - 4pm	Lakes End Village Hall	10
Sat 2nd Dec	Christmas Fair	10am - 2pm	CCC	9, 23
Sun 3rd Dec	Welney German Market	10am - 4pm	Welney Village Hall	10

POPPY APPEAL

Hi there, I hope you have all had a lovely summer.

It's time to look ahead to this years RBL Poppy Appeal 2023. Once again I will be serving Christchurch, Manea and the surrounding areas in my role as Poppy Appeal Organiser for these areas.

I'm Sally Fawkes. I will be bringing poppy collecting boxes round during the last week in October. I can supply all things poppy related - wreaths, altar poppies, lorry poppies, fundraising and collecting merchandise and collecting boxes and tins. You can

reach me on 01945 351225 or 07884 478598 or email me at salnrog@sky.com.

I keep a stock of wreaths all year round for all your remembrance needs so if you are interested in running a fundraising event during Remembrancetide I can help you.

Last year Christchurch, Manea and surrounding areas raised an amazing £2,242.16! Let's go smash it in 2023!

Sally Fawkes PAO



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

Well who turned the heating off?! There we were, basking in the glorious mild October weather and BAM! Back to reality with plummeting temperatures and enough rain to sink a battleship! At least the temperatures are now a little bit more befitting of the time of year.

I hope my (now) two attempts at bringing you your beloved Heron have been fairly seamless - the team and I are doing our best to bring you as much local news as we can and trying to keep it an interesting read at the same time.

We have lots of seasonal and festive things coming up (see diary dates on page 4 and "What's on ..." on page 10 for something fun, educational or interesting to do in the coming weeks). Next month we will be offering a full colour page for all your festive "Christmas Greetings". If you would like your short greeting included in next month's edition, please email adverts@theheron.info or telephone Elaine on 01354 638310 (and leave a message if necessary). We will endeavour to make sure that everyone's message is included.

Have fun on Bonfire Night and stay safe (see page 6).

Clive Benjamin



Copy Deadline - The deadline for copy for the December edition of the Heron is 22nd November.

Enjoy reading the Heron?

If you haven't donated already and are interested in helping to support the production costs, you can now donate electronically at: www.madegreat.co.uk/sponsorship

100% of your donation goes towards printing costs.

You can choose to have your name printed in the next issue of the magazine or keep your donation anonymous.



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 £27.00 per year (including P&P).

EDITORIAL TEAM:

Editorial Team Leader - Clive Benjamin

Editorial Team Members: Sue Norman, Elaine Reed-Hughes, Pat Rigby, Wendy Yates, Liz Scott

Treasurer, Advertising Manager - Elaine Reed-Hughes

Deliveries Manager - Annie Nason

Support—Lewis Bennett (IT), the Delivery & Postal Team,

Publishers and Printers

ENQUIRIES

editor@theheron.info

adverts@theheron.info Tel: 01354 638310



Website: www.theheron.info

Bonfire Night Appeal

As bonfire night falls at a weekend this year, can we appeal to those who wish to celebrate to restrict fireworks to that weekend only, and before 9pm so that those with children, horses, livestock and pets can plan around this. Also, if you are having a bonfire, please check first to make sure there aren't any hedgehogs or other wildlife nesting in there, and light from one side only (gives any wildlife an escape route).

Thank you.

GARAGE SALE

Friday 10th November &
Saturday 11th November
Between 10 am and 2 pm

Toys, household items, shoes, clothes
and much more.

••All proceeds will go to Dementia UK

The Shieling
Upwell Road
Christchurch, PE14 9LF

Rewilding and dog walking project

The project to rewild the area adjacent to the Community Centre continues to develop. We have now gained funding from The Whitemill Fund which will allow work to start. However, the area needs clearing before grass seed can be planted - the weeds are now up to 2m in places and weed killer will be used where appropriate.

More saplings are due to arrive in November and will continue to mark the edge of the field. In the Spring it should be full speed ahead to get the enclosed dog walking area seeded and fenced.

More funding is being applied for, but if you think of any sources, please let us know. Equally if you have any equipment that you feel would be helpful to us and is currently not in use, please let us know via the parish Council or the editor of the Heron.



CHRISTCHURCH PARISH CHURCH – LAS POSADAS, IN ADVENT, beginning on Advent Sunday Dec 3rd.

A Spanish tradition. (las posadas means 'the inns'). Joseph and Mary could not find a place to stay in Bethlehem. Different people in Christchurch will offer them their home for a night during Advent, and will be particularly thinking of, or praying for, all homeless people and refugees.

If you would like to take part, please let Annie Nason know. 01354 638088

The Parish Council Needs Your Help!

The parish council is keen to improve communications with our local parishioners. We are wanting to find out your views on a range of issues that affect all of us on a day-to-day basis living in the parish. We would really appreciate you spending five minutes completing our easy-to-use anonymous survey. We believe this is a great opportunity for you to share your opinion on maintaining our infrastructure and developing services within the parish.

Please either complete our questionnaire by following <https://forms.office.com/e/QhAq0ecwhL> by scanning the QR code.

If you wish to receive a printed copy of the questionnaire to complete, please contact: Andrew Sparrow 01354 699474 or alternatively email: andrew.sparrow@christchurchparishcouncil.org.uk

Parish Council Parishioner
Engagement Form



Skate Park Repairs

Some good news for scooters, boarders and skaters! The skate park has recently had some repairs and a general sprucing up, and it is now back to full operating condition!

Please take advantage of this great village amenity!

However, please be mindful when using the skate park not to leave any rubbish behind. Recently, there has been quite a lot of broken glass at the park. This needs to be cleared up and is very dangerous for those using the facility. There is a bin right there for any rubbish you might have so please don't smash bottles on the concrete, put them in the bin.

Remember that this park is used by young children, it's not fair if they cannot use the park because of broken glass.

James Hughes
Chairman, Christchurch Parish Council

Maurice and Maria Move In

Broadly speaking we all like to welcome new families to the village. The village Facebook page is full of advice on what's on where.

The village magazine drops through your door providing advice on everything from calling a taxi to having your heating repaired; having your chimney swept to having your nails sorted. Nowhere was there any information regarding Maurice and Maria. This outstanding pair (as well as their family and friends) moved in silently and settled in straight away. The lawn was aerated and hills added. Yes, Maurice and Maria are the cutest little moles...or are they?

For the small animals they are, their little paddle feet, as well as their cute little noses and totally blind eyes can cause significant damage.

So how to rehome them? Moles hate vibration so the garden filled with anything that spins or vibrates in the tunnels below is a good start. Traps were set in the

tunnels. Suffice to say they are all capable of dispensing with Maria and Maurice in a humane way, but not today.



However, the following day brought good news. The evidence was clear to see. Only Maria remained. That evening a blood curdling scream meant that surely there had been an accident involving a child? No, Stumpy (the cat) was playing with Maria. Before I could stop it, my daughter took pity on this strange looking animal, caught it between two plant pots and released her, into the scrubland, at the end of the road.

A day or two passed then, you guessed it, Maria is back with Maurice and all of his in-laws!

If you have any foolproof methods to capture and "rehome" Maria and her friends, please let us know.

Liz Scott

I have had ongoing battles with moles. Initially I was advised that bamboo canes with plastic bottles on top would deter them – this was good advice as they seemed to stay away, but it wasn't the look we were hoping for in the garden, so, despite initial reluctance, I purchased a trap, and immediately caught my first mole. Easy – or so I thought. Since then, despite over a dozen traps of 6 different designs, plus sonic repellants (plus a dog trying to dig one up that did more damage in 30 seconds than the mole did in a year), the moles kept triggering the traps and pushing them out of the ground, just to add insult to (lawn) injury.

People kept telling me that I need to wear gloves as the mole would smell my scent, so I thought, well if they have such a good sense of smell, I'll try something different, so I took out all of my traps, flushed the burrows out with a hose and then put some dog poo (large supply from the aforementioned dog) in the burrows and filled in the holes with soil. I got one more mole hill the next day, and then nothing.

I like to think that my dog poo trick was the last straw for the mole, and that my clear lawn has nothing at all to do with the fact that my neighbour trapped a mole in their garden at about the same time.

Clive Benjamin

PC Snippets

9 October 2023

The Chair opened proceedings by welcoming everyone.

Public Time

1. Application for Permission in Principle to Build 5 dwellings on Padgetts Road, next to the Farmer's Boy.

A number of concerns were raised on this, including the lack of infrastructure, flooding concerns and the potential for further development to happen later extending this development back from these new properties. While the PCC does not have any objections to this development, it is happy to assist anyone wishing to put their point of view, either for or against the application, on the Fenland Planning portal (application reference F/YR23/0769/PIP), though it was also pointed out that the grounds for appealing against a property are fairly limited.

As an aside to this, the PCC are pushing for affordable housing to be built in Christchurch, and this is being actively pursued.

2. Application for planning permission for an extension to Holme Farm.

The PCC had no objection to this and were happy to support the application (reference F/YR23/0799/F)

3. The PCC were asked to cover the cost of an invoice to recover and back up the Christchurch website – this was agreed. March library has suggested emailing the archivist to determine where to store, and how to access the data, and other means of storage are being looked at.

Other matters considered were:

- a carers meeting has been arranged with regards to previous concerns.
- **Glass on the Skatepark** – this has been raised as an issue, it was pointed out that there is a bin adjacent to the skatepark, but unfortunately, some will choose to ignore these. There is an annual inspection for RoSPA, but there needs to be a more regular check, the PCC will draw up a checklist so that this can be carried out locally to an agreed standard.
- **Upwell Road/The Hill** - major improvements are required to these properties and the PCC has been

informed that these will begin in November

- **Wayside Estate** – highways have said that there is space for a kerb, but it was noted that there clearly isn't. Speed humps are not allowed to be placed too close to the exit to properties. Other measures are being considered, but there are limited options due to the layout of the road.

- **Field behind Brimstone Close** – the builder was supposed to clear this field but has not done so, resulting in overgrowth and a loss of privacy to the property at the end of the close. The PCC will speak to the builder in question.

- **Illegally sited caravan behind The Old Post Office** - Cllr Dal (FDC) is chasing planning on this

- **Roadside weeds** – there is a management survey available online. FDC have asked the County Council to reverse the decision about not using weedkiller.

- **Polling station review** – carried out regularly, Christchurch obviously has limited options and no need to change the current arrangements

- **Cllr Pop Jolley** has sadly passed away

- **Santa on a Tractor** – 2nd or 9th December, volunteers will be needed to assist in collecting for charity.

- **Recreation Ground extension** – will be cut early next year, but needs to be marked out before then, more trees are due to be delivered in November

- **Finance** – income received of £9250 in second half of year, so £21k total, and likely to be a surplus of £9k and a balance of £55k. The DC is reviewing PC allowances, increasing from £50 to £55pa

- **Lancaster University** are running a study on climate change on English Countryside, specifically targeting the Fens

- **Rural England Property Fund** – grants are available up to £5k for small projects

- **Highways England are running a survey** relating to peat damage to the roads (currently Upwell Road, Padgetts Road, 16 Foot Road are on the list.

ROAD CLOSURES NOTICES: October 26th 8am – 4.30pm: WAYSIDE ESTATE closure for road repairs.

The next PC Meeting: Monday November 13th at 7.30pm in the CCC. Anyone is welcome to attend.

Clive Benjamin

Quiet Enjoyment

We all know that Christchurch is a lovely peaceful place to live, which is why so many people choose to make their home here. Quiet enjoyment is a legal term that is used to define our reasonable expectations in living within any community. Its main application in the law relates to disputes between landlords and their tenants, however, the principle may be applied more widely.

From time to time, the actions of those around us may become a source of irritation and we may not know how to address the issue. If you're not a fan, listening to Max Bygraves from dawn to dusk might not be something you enjoy. Nobody finds a barking dog cute. Differences of opinion over parking, trees, hedges,

fences, bonfires etc can escalate if not handled properly. In extreme cases, the actions of a neighbour or a member of the public could amount to anti-social behaviour, which is a criminal matter.

If this is something that affects you, but you don't know what to do about it, help is available. The Parish Council has no official role in neighbour disputes, environmental issues or anti-social behaviour, but we might be able to support you by helping you to find a solution. We work with other agencies and organisations who deal with such matters on a daily basis.

Whatever you do, don't suffer in silence.

James Hughes

Church News

Services in the Benefice

All services are at 10.30am unless otherwise stated.

5th November – Christchurch Morning Prayer
Doddington Holy Communion

12th November – Christchurch - Remembrance
10.45 at the War Memorial

All other churches have Remembrance services at
10.45 except Benwick at 10.00am and Manea at
3.00pm.

19th November – Christchurch Holy Communion
Doddington Morning Prayer

26th November- Manea Morning Prayer
Wimblington Holy Communion
Welney Holy Communion 4pm

Bonfire Bingo

4th November 3pm
Christchurch Community Centre

Prize bingo followed by jacket potato with chilli
or cheese. Bonfire themed dessert too!
£10 per person

Contact Helen 07702 225259 or Karen
07483272580

A thought for November

*Long ago and far away
across the ocean
wild and wide,
the young men stormed
an alien shore
where many of them died.
Here and now
old men remember
the valour and the gore,
and the boyish faces
of their youth
that are young for ever more.*

– William Bedford –

Events

Community Carols and Costumes **Sunday 17th December at 4pm in** **CCC**

We are currently planning our **Community Carol** event which was very popular and successful last year.

This year, as well as all your favourite carols, we are hoping that the children in the village would like to join us **dressed as their favourite character from the Nativity Story.**

There are plenty to choose from; Mary, Joseph, Angels, Stars, Shepherds, Kings and not forgetting the sheep and the donkey.

We don't mind how many Marys or Kings etc. we have - the more the merrier.

Of course there will be refreshments after the carol singing with a film to entertain the young at heart.

THANK YOU

A big thankyou to all who came to the Harvest Supper - £458 raised! Plus an additional donation of £48 from a local resident – thank you.

Thank you to those who have nominated us in the Benefact Group Draw. If you haven't had chance yet, here is the link

<https://movementforgood.com/#nominateACharity>

Coffee, Cake and Chat

Cake, coffee and chat group continues to meet every Thursday afternoon in Christchurch Community Centre 2pm until 3pm. All welcome.



Looking for somewhere to go? What's on in November?

3rd November Friday gates open 5.00pm Fireworks Spectacular. Entrance County Road March PE15 8ND Advance tickets available from All Saints Academy reception £4.00 adult £3.00 child – on gate adult £5.00 child £4.00 Burgers, hotdogs and popcorn available.

4th November 3pm Saturday – CCC – Bonfire Bingo – Prize Bingo followed by Jacket Potato & Desserts. £10 per person. Contact Helen Chappell on 07702 225259 or messenger.

10th November Friday 7:30pm – Lakes End Village Hall – A Night out at the Theatre – Horseplay by The Whittings on the Wall - £10 per person/£5 under 12s

10th & 11th November - Friday 6pm to 11pm and Saturday 12pm to 5pm Winterfest, Haddenham Winter Beer Festival, Arkenstall Village Centre, Station Rd, Haddenham CB6 3X Friday night, Die Lagenhosen Oompah band, Saturday 80s tunes in day, The Casuals live music in evening. Tickets from Haddenham Art Centre tel. 01353 749188 only 18 years and over admitted.

12th November Sunday 12.30pm to 2.45pm Upwell Jazz Club at Christchurch Community Centre. Bruce Adams and Alan Barnes and more. Admission £9 accompanied under 16s free. Cash only

14th November Tuesday – CCC – Christchurch WI – Christmas Craft Demonstration by Penny Hicks - £5 entry (open to all)

15th - 18th November 2023 Wednesday-Saturday Ely Cathedral Christmas Gift and Food Fair. Tickets inside

cathedral adults £5 children (5-16yrs) £2 outdoor shopping marquee free. Park and Ride £5 per car from Bens Yard, Stuntney Estate CB7 5TR Thursday- Saturday 9.30am-4.00pm.

16th November Thursday 5:30pm to 7:30pm – Ely Library CB7 4ZH – 100 Years of Magic Workshop

26th November Sunday 10am to 4pm – Lakes End Village Hall, Lakes End, PE14 9QH – Festive Fayre - Toys, Craft and Gift Stalls - £1 entrance

25th, 26th November and 2nd, 3rd, 9th, 10th, 16th – 24th December – Santa's Grotto, Skylark Garden Centre – bookings www.skylark-events.co.uk

30th November 2023 Thursday 5pm- 7:30pm Christmas Lights and Open Evening at Thurlow Nunn Standen, Wisbech Road, Littleport CB6 1RA Decorated tractors, children allowed to hop onto tractor for photo, Christmas lights display, Christmas carols, mulled wine and mince pies, games and colouring competition plus raffle. In-store offers. Free event.

2nd December Saturday 10am to 2pm – CCC – Christmas Fair including Santa's Grotto, Christmas Games & Stalls, Cake Stall, Refreshments and a Raffle

2nd December Saturday 12pm to 6pm – Skylark Garden Centre Christmas Market – Free entry

3rd December Sunday 10am to 4pm – Welney German Market & Christmas Fair – Welney Village Hall – Free entry

MEN'S SHEDS

Men's Sheds (or Sheds) are similar to garden sheds – a place to pursue practical interests at leisure, to practice skills and enjoy making and mending. The difference is that garden sheds and their activities are often solitary in nature while Men's Sheds are the opposite. They're about social connections and friendship building, sharing skills and knowledge, and of course a lot of laughter.

The Men's Shed concept started in Australia around 1999. It then spread to New Zealand, Ireland, the UK, Canada and, more recently, Europe and the USA with a total worldwide of around 2000 Sheds in 2020.

Sheds are mainly 'grassroots' community activities that come about in response to shared needs. These have mostly been for men to access tools, workbenches, skills and opportunities to make and mend in the company of others. Gardening, computing, electronics and other activities have been included according to members' interests. The UK Men's Sheds Association (UKMSA) regard a Shed as the group whether or not it has a base for activity. An alternative to grassroots, bottom-up development, is where an established organisation creates and takes full responsibility for a Shed as an additional part of its work. Occasionally, an organisation might provide one or more support functions to an independent Shed such as underwriting the finances or providing management services.

Sheds are whatever the members (or Sheddors as we call them) want them to be. Although labelled sheds, they often aren't sheds at all. They can be empty offices, portable cabins, warehouses, garages, and in

at least one case, a disused mortuary. Some Sheds are purpose-built workshops, but they rarely start out that way. Many don't have premises at all in the beginning and instead form a group that meets regularly for the social connection, company and camaraderie until they can find somewhere to kit out with tools. Many Sheds get involved in community projects too - restoring village features, helping maintain parks and green spaces, and building things for schools, libraries and individuals in need.

Activities in Sheds vary greatly, but you can usually find woodworking, metalworking, repairing and restoring, electronics, model buildings or even car building in a typical Shed. Sheds typically attract older men, but many have younger members and women too. Whatever the activity, the essence of a Shed is not a building, but the connections and relationships between its members.

Sheds bring health benefits by encouraging physical and mental activity, and improved wellbeing by providing an enjoyable way to stay socially integrated in local communities, by being creative, and learning or passing on skills. Whilst most Sheds are for men, about a third involve women. There are now also some all women Sheds.

The closest Men's (and Women's) sheds are in March, but if anyone is interested, it would be quite possible to start one locally, and funding has been available to help start these. For further information, go to the website below as a starting point.

<https://menssheds.org.uk/sheds/>



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01354 638229



Facebook—Townley School and Pre-School

Remember that our website has lots more information about school.

October 2023

The first half term has raced by, we are all settled back into the rhythm of the new school day and were definitely ready for a rest at half term! Friends of Townley School held their AGM and elected the new committee and we have welcomed more new staff and children.

EYFS Class (Nursery and Reception)

In Forest School this month we have been thinking about cooking over a fire - we have made porridge for Goldilocks, pumpkin soup, vegetable soup and toasted apples. We held our first story café of the school year and a phonics workshop for parents. The children are enjoying the new Little Wandle phonics scheme we have begun to use this term. We have very limited places in Nursery for 2 and 3 year olds, if you would like a place for your child please get in touch.



Hawker Class (Year 1 and 2)

Continuous provision is working well for the children, who all seem eager to come to school. We have experienced some challenges with running Forest School sessions as our ratio is 1 adult to 4 children. If you can help us on a Friday afternoon, please speak to Mrs Higgins about a DBS check. We have taught children about Mae Jemison, the first African American woman to go into space. This linked well with Black History month which runs throughout October. We have read: Look up; The way back home; QPootle5; Salwe; and Aliens love underpants. We've had some lovely writing about space, some children wrote their own stories this week. They all sequenced the events from the Way Back Home story. Some children wrote Fact Files about space.

Emerald Class (Year 3 and 4)

Our Story Café was a great success, the class was full of children and their parent or carer. In RE, we have looked at Buddhist meditation - how often, how long and why people meditate, what are the benefits and the challenges of meditation. We were very excited to visit Wisbech Grammar School last week for a sporting event, for lots of us it is the first school trip we have been out on.



Emperor Class (Year 5 and 6)

We have almost finished reading Rooftoppers, which we have really enjoyed. In History we learnt about the American aircraft that was used during World War Two and why American airbases were built in East Anglia. In Computing we learnt about the importance of providing evidence if something online has caused a negative feeling. Our 'Come Dine with Me' cookery unit has come to end, but it has definitely been a hit with the children!

Kids Corner

“Remember, Remember the Fifth of November, Gunpowder, Treason and Plot. For there is a reason why gunpowder and treason should never be forgot!”



5 November 1605. Everyone knows about how Guy Fawkes and his cronies wanted to blow up Parliament...but they were rumoured before they could light the fuses. Good job too! But did you know that an act was passed in Parliament the following Spring?

“An act for a public thanksgiving to Almighty God every year on the fifth day of November”. The act remained on the statute book until 1859.

Please be safe with fireworks. It's really important.



Jumping Jacks ... These fireworks were banned in the UK in 1997 due to the risks they posed. They were a string of small fireworks which, when the first one lit, the others lit from that in turn. Because they jumped about all over the place, they were named “Jumping Jacks”. Nothing similar is available now in the UK, as all items with an “erratic flight” have been outlawed.

Unscramble the animal names

Answers on page 22

ERD OARKANGO. This big animal can clear about 10 metres in a single bound and reach nearly 4 metres in the air.

SERAH. Some species of these medium sized animals can jump 3 metres into the air in a single hop!

POPSHRRAGSE. These insects can jump forward 20 times their own body length. That's the equivalent of a person being able to jump the length of a basketball court!

LIAMPA. Graceful and swift, these African antelopes can jump 11 metres forward, and over 3 metres high.

PHOLDNI. They live in the sea. Their size doesn't stop them from leaping forward 5 metres, and 10 metres high.

TELEANPH. This huge animal is the only animal which cannot jump, but they can reach speeds of up to 25 miles per hour!



THE NORFOLK WRITERS' EXCHANGE WELCOMES NEW MEMBERS

Autumn evenings are drawing in, and thoughts are turning towards indoor pursuits, so now's the time to embrace your creative writing ambitions.

Whether you want to scribble a story; write for radio; pen a poem or initiate a novel, the Norfolk Writers' Exchange is here for you.

We are a small, friendly group of writers, some of us published, others aspiring, based in West Norfolk, who meet every month in Pott Row, and would love to welcome some new members. The Norfolk Writers' Exchange began in 2016 and our meetings provide a forum where writers can share their work in a supportive environment, overcome the dreaded 'writers' block' and share tips on how to negotiate the complicated world of publishing.

All this accompanied by tea/coffee and biscuits, plus the occasional cake and fizz!

Our first anthology, entitled 'Changing Tides', is an eclectic mix of poetry, short prose and extracts from longer works, published in November 2022, with profits being divided between West Norfolk Deaf Association and West Norfolk Riding for the Disabled Association.

Would you like to join us? To find out more, head over to our Facebook page The Norfolk Writers' Exchange, or call Sue on 07774 609357 for more details.

Recipe

Bonfire Toffee

Ingredients

Oil(for greasing)
450g dark brown sugar
125ml hot water
¼ tsp cream of tartar
115g black treacle
115gm golden syrup



Method

STEP 1 - Line the base and sides of an A4 sized tin with non-stick parchment and then grease it really well.

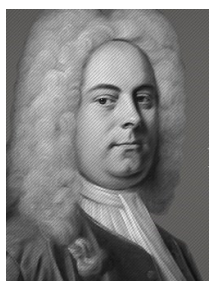
STEP 2 - Put the sugar and hot water in a heavy bottomed pan and heat gently until the sugar is dissolved, do not stir the mixture at any point instead tilt the pan if you need to move it around.

STEP 3 - Weigh out your remaining ingredients, if you put them in a really well greased jug they will be much easier to pour out. Once the sugar has dissolved add all the ingredients and pop the sugar thermometer in, you can use the thermometer to give it a quick swirl but try not to mix it too much.

STEP 4 - Bring to the boil and boil until you reach soft crack on your thermometer (270/140C) This may take up to 30 minutes, be patient and do not leave the pan unattended as it can change quickly. As soon as it reaches the temp, tip it into your tin and leave it to cool.

STEP 5 - Once cool remove it from the tin and break up with a toffee hammer or rolling pin. Store in an airtight tin or wrap up in boxes or cellophane bags to give as gift.

Source: BBC Good Food



Classical Tales for November ... Music for the Royal Fireworks ... And you thought Traffic Jams were a modern invention?

"Music for the Royal Fireworks" was written by George Frideric Handel in 1749 for King George II, for the fireworks in London's Green Park on April 27th, 1749. This was to celebrate the end of 'The War of the Austrian Succession' in 1748.



During the preparations, Handel and the Duke of Montagu, the Master-General of the Ordnance and the officer responsible for the Royal Fireworks, had an argument about adding violins. The duke made clear to Handel that King George had a preference for only martial instruments (wind/brass and percussion), and hoped there would be "no fiddles". Handel omitted the stringed instruments against his will.

Also against Handel's will, there was a full rehearsal of the music in Vauxhall Gardens and not in Green Park, on 21 April 1749. An audience, claimed to be over twelve thousand people, each paying two shillings and six pence (half a crown) rushed to get to the rehearsal, causing a three-hour traffic jam of carriages on London Bridge, the only vehicular route to the area south of the river.

Six days later, the firework display was not as successful as the music itself (but was, perhaps, rather more exciting...); the weather was rainy, causing many misfires, and in the middle of the show part of the building that had been erected for the fireworks caught fire. Also, a woman's clothes were set on fire by a stray rocket, and other fireworks burned two soldiers and blinded a third. Yet another soldier had his hand blown off during an earlier rehearsal for the 101 cannons which were used during the event. ***Did I hear you say Classical Music is boring???***

Listen to the version WITH the stringed instruments! <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=fNqJ8mED1VE>

Can you decode these puzzles?

0 FPOW	1969 FML	14 PIAS	3 BMSHTR
10000 SMIAH	40 DANOTGF	1966 EWTWC	64 SOACB
52 WIAY	1865 AOAL	1789 YOTFR	7928 DOEIM
5280 FIAM	2 HIAW	86400 SIAD	8846 HOEIM
1961 FMIS	12 MIAY	2001 SO	168 HIAW
4840 SYIAA	1969 FMOTM	45 RPM(S)	147 MBAS
57 HV	3 STH	1968 MLKK	29028 HOEIF
360 DIAC	1066 TNC	1215 SOTMC	1.414214 SROT
4 QIAG	212 BPOWIDF	1953 YOTC	60 MIAH
2 TD	3 WOAT	7 SOAFPP	3 PC

Medium

8	6			1	3	7		
		3						
		1	2	5		3		
5				7	9		1	
4					2		5	
9		2	5	3		4		
						1	8	7
			7					
		4		9			2	5

Hard

					1			
6						9		5
						4	2	7
	4		2	6			7	
	2			1				9
	9	1		3	4			6
		9	8		6	1		
1				4				
		8				7	6	

Answers on page 22

BENWICK ATHLETIC FOOTBALL CLUB (CHRISTCHURCH)

Benwick Athletic FC (BAFC) was formed in 1936 and during their first season reached the final of the Doddington Cup. Cyril Chaplin (GK) did the right thing and postponed his wedding so he wouldn't let his team down but unfortunately, they still lost.

BAFC disbanded in 1939 after the start of WW2 as so many players were either enlisted or involved with the Benwick Special Force or the Royal Observer Corps and restarted in 1946. The club has seen many changes since then, winning several Championships and division 2 in 1969 and the Minor Cup in 1970.

There was a loss of interest in 1990 and the reserves team was disbanded. The committee decided to carry on with one team and the 1994/1995 season was a

great success with the team winning 3 major cups and the league. Several youth teams were formed and in 2007 there was also a girls' team.

BAFC received Charter Standard status from the FA and this is renewed each year.

The club moved from Benwick to Doddington when their ground was sold but the new ground had 4 pitches, much needed for the 5 youth and 2 senior men's teams.

This season BAFC moved to Christchurch for the better facilities for the 2 teams (1 Saturday, 1 Sunday) and there is a new keen committee working hard to make the club a success.

The name has been changed to Benwick Athletic FC (Christchurch) to incorporate our new home ground.



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



The Christchurch Book club met in October, and we discussed the last book we read which was The Familiars by Stacey Halls.

The book club enjoyed this book which is based around The Pendle Witch Trials in the 17th Century. A noblewoman having lost her babies at birth, becomes pregnant, and meets a young midwife who assures her she can help her deliver a healthy baby. When the midwife and her friends are accused of witchcraft and are imprisoned awaiting trial, she risks everything to free them.

The next meeting will take place on Tuesday 7th November hosted by Gwyneth Miller in Brimstone Close. Due to a mix up at the library where we get our reading sets from, we do not have a book this month but we will discuss what we have been reading from our kindles and what we have enjoyed the most.

The next book in November, is The Beekeeper of Aleppo by Christy Lefteri. New members are always welcome. For further details or if you would like to come along to one of our meetings, please contact Pat Rigby on 07776 142642.

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



Our meeting on October 10th went exceptionally well with Ann Purt making some beautiful flower arrangements which she added to the draw. Thank you to those who joined us helping to make the evening so enjoyable.

On November 14th at 7pm Penny Hicks and her sister Priscilla will be giving a Christmas Craft Demonstration with chance to purchase items afterwards. The takings from the draw will be donated to our local Macmillan Cancer Support team in March.

The cost per person is £5 which includes a free raffle ticket, there will be more to purchase if you so wish. Light refreshments will be available. Come along and join us you will be most welcome.

The venue is Christchurch Community Centre, PE14 9LL.



Christchurch Gardening Club

The gardening club met as usual at the community centre on Tuesday 17th October, playing host to a return visit from Michael and Di Burns. The globetrotting couple last visited the club several years back when they gave a talk on South Africa. This time however the subject matter was changed to the National Parks of the USA. For over an hour with the aid of many and varied photographs Di and Michael kept the members and guests enthralled with stories and observations gleaned on their many trips - the Grand Canyon, Yellowstone Park and the Petrified Forest were all covered, as well as some of the adverse weather conditions, such as unexpected snow and floods the intrepid travellers encountered on their journeys. The many cacti and floral examples often clinging to the side of a mountain or mesa. The chequer board mesa was one such natural phenomenon as was the carrot cup cactus with bright red flowers. Further north the giant redwood trees majestic and beautiful, a polar opposite to Death Valley with the signs to beware of Rattle Snakes. Definitely not an evening to be missed.

Next month as the year winds its way to Christmas, the club will inaugurate its first Autumn Buffet.

For more information on the club please call 01354638230

Steve

COFFEE/LUNCH BREAK



Come over for a coffee, or bring your lunch, or just come for a chat

Coffee/Lunch Break this month – and – 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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History of RAF Marham

Opened in August 1916 close to the former Royal Naval Air Station Narborough, later RAF Narborough. The Marham Base was originally a military night landing ground on an 80 acre site within the boundary of the present day RAF Marham. In 1916 the aerodrome was handed over to the RFC (Royal Flying Corps). Throughout the First World War, Marham's role was focused on defending Norfolk from Zeppelin Raids and No 51 Squadron became the first RFC squadron to be Based at Marham. In May 1919 the squadron departed Marham and the station closed shortly after.



In the first half of 1935 work started on a new airfield which became active on 1st April 1937 with a Heavy Bomber Unit from No 3 Group, RAFBC (Royal Air Force Bomber Command), the first squadron, 38 sqn arrived on station on 5th May 1937 flying Fairey Hendon Bombers and various other squadrons' De Havilland Mosquitoes. 105 sqn arrived on station during 1942 and Marham become part of the RAF Pathfinder Force. During March 1944 Marham

closed for the construction of new concrete runways and other works, marking the end of its wartime operations.

In March 1950 the first four Boeing B-29 Washington B1s arrived and in the 1950s, Marham was home to various RAF units operating EE Canberra's and later the RAF V Bomber Force and Tankers using Vickers Valiants and Handley Page Victors (the base is one of just a few that can handle the USAF's Giant Boeing B-52 Strato Fortress). During 1980-1983, 24 Hardened Aircraft Shelters (HAS) were Constructed to house the New Panavia Tornado GR1 which first arrived in 1982. April 1st saw the last flight of the Tornado with the disbandment of IX(B) Squadron.

During 2016-2018 many millions of pounds was spent on upgrading the base to be the home of the latest RAF Fighter Bomber the Lockheed F-35B Lightning II STOVL Aircraft (Short Take Off, Vertical landing). Marham is now the home of No. 617 (Dambusters) Squadron and No. 207 Squadron OCU (Operational Conversion Unit) and also No. 138 Expeditionary Wing. Marham is also the "parent" RAF Station for RAF Holbeach, the Bombing Range in the Wash and RRH Neatishead in Norfolk, a Radar Unit.



Andy Lansdell

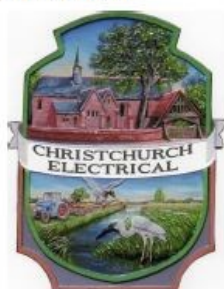
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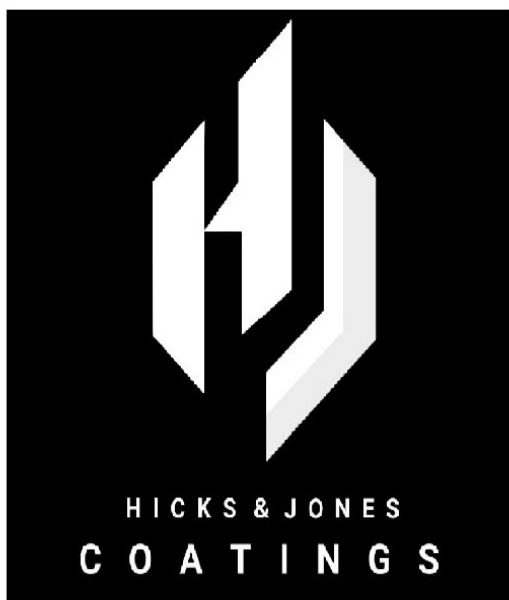
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Puzzler Answers

Number Puzzle Answers

0 FPOW	Freezing point of Water	14 PIAS	Pounds in a Stone
10000 SMIAH	Square Metres in a Hectare	1966 EWTWC	England won the World Cup
52 WIAY	Weeks in a Year	1789 YOTFR	Year of the French Revolution
5280 FIAM	Feet in a Mile	86400 SIAD	Seconds in a Day
1961 FMIS	First man in Space	2001 SO	Space Odyssey
4840 SYIAA	Square Yards in an Acre	45 RPM(S)	Revolutions Per Minute (Singles)
57 HV	Heinz Varieties	1968 MLKK	Martin Luther King Killed
360 DIAC	Degrees in a Circle	1215 SOTMC	Signing of the Magna Carta
4 QIAG	Quarts in a Gallon	1953 YOTC	Year of the Coronation
2 TD	Turtle Doves	7 SOAFPP	Sides on a Fifty Pence Piece
1969 FML	First Moon Landing	3 BMSHTR	Blind Mice see how they run
40 DANOTGF	Days and Nights of the Great Flood	64 SOACB	Squares on a Chess Board
1865 AOAL	Assassination of Abraham Lincoln	7928 DOEIM	Diameter of the Earth in miles
2 HIAW	Halves in a Whole	8846 HOEIM	Height of Everest in Metres
12 MIAY	Months in a Year	168 HIAW	Hours in a Week
1969 FMOTM	First man on the Moon	147 MBAS	Max break at Snooker
3 STH	Steps to Heaven	29028 HOEIF	Height of Everest in Feet
1066 TNC	The Norman Conquest	1.414214 SROT	Square Root of Two
212 BPOWIDF	Boiling point of water in Degrees Fahrenheit	60 MIAH	Minutes in an Hour
3 WOAT	Wheels on a Tricycle	3 PC	Primary Colours

8	6	5	9	1	3	7	4	2
2	4	3	6	8	7	5	9	1
7	9	1	2	5	4	3	6	8
5	8	6	4	7	9	2	1	3
4	3	7	1	6	2	8	5	9
9	1	2	5	3	8	4	7	6
6	2	9	3	4	5	1	8	7
1	5	8	7	2	6	9	3	4
3	7	4	8	9	1	6	2	5

2	5	4	9	7	1	6	8	3
6	8	7	4	2	3	9	1	5
9	1	3	6	8	5	4	2	7
3	4	5	2	6	9	8	7	1
7	2	6	5	1	8	3	4	9
8	9	1	7	3	4	2	5	6
4	7	9	8	5	6	1	3	2
1	6	2	3	4	7	5	9	8
5	3	8	1	9	2	7	6	4

Kids' Page Answers

Red Kangaroo	Hare
Grasshopper	Impala
Dolphin	Elephant

Christchurch Hobby & Craft Club

Glass Fusion Class



Last month our members participated in a very enjoyable Glass Fusion Course, conducted by June Massey. After receiving instruction, we were invited to explore her extensive range of small stained glass pieces and glass powders for use in compiling our individual works of art. On completion, the pieces were then taken for firing in June's kiln and we are now all looking forward, with interest, to seeing our finished creations. She was very informative regarding the art of stained glass, etc. and it was sad to learn that the craft is gradually dying and that some Universities in America have resorted to paying students to come and learn the art before the craft is completely lost.

Our meetings are held every Tuesday from 10am through to 1pm. The cost is £3 per person per session (or £10 per calendar month), plus £1 for a buffet lunch. Coffee and tea is provided throughout the morning at no extra cost.



Members bring their own hobbies/crafts for a few dedicated hours in which to draw and paint, knit, crochet, card making, lace making, jigsaw puzzle, 'diamond' painting, sewing, etc. or just chat. Our members are a friendly bunch, who are always willing to help others get involved with something new, or just need a bit of friendly advice regarding their chosen hobby.



The Christchurch Hobbies and Craft Group recently had a visit from Jack Avison, who was introduced to us by the Healthy Fenland Grant Fund, they have been very supportive in helping us to get the CH&C Club established. Jack is the Digital and Community Engagement officer from HAY (How Are You) Fenland. As HAY is part of Cambridgeshire & Peterborough NHS Foundation Trust, he was particularly interested in what the club was providing for our local community, i.e. companionship, exchange of interests and a warm place in which to spend a few hours with new friends, in order to sustain and/or improve mental wellbeing.



The HAY Fenland Website and Facebook Page has a comprehensive list of local activities, groups and services in the local area, i.e. yoga, singing, art group or perhaps somewhere to just chat. It is about connecting with others, learning new skills and to improve our mental health, so well worth a look.

For further information regarding Christchurch Hobbies and Craft Club, please contact:

Pat Rigby: 07776 142642 or Janet Harper: 07941 465319.



How were the Fens drained?

Who were the Fen Tigers?



Vermuyden's men

Using sharp spades called 'hodding spades' on very long handles, ditches and dykes were dug and rivers were straightened. The digging was done by hand originally but is now maintained using modern diggers.



The Fen Tigers

There was opposition from local people to the drainage of the fens. Fenland people used the marshy land to gather reeds, hunt wildfowl and fish. By losing this common land, they were also losing their livelihoods.

Fenmen known as the Fen Tigers tried to sabotage the drainage efforts by smashing dams, destroyed dykes and breaking sluice gates which allowed parts of the fen to re-flood. A tiger can be seen on the Fenland flag!



Scottish Prisoners of War

In 1650 Cromwell's army won against the Scottish army at the Battle of Dunbar. They killed 4,000 Scottish soldiers, and took another 10,000 prisoner. The prisoners were then marched south.

Some of those prisoners eventually reached the Cambridgeshire fens and were set to work digging drainage ditches and dykes.

Modern Drainage

Today, organisations like the Environment Agency maintain the banks, sluices and pumping stations. Using modern machinery, they help to keep homes and farming land flood free.



Environment
Agency

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.