



# The Heron

Community Magazine

Delivered to homes in Christchurch, Euximoor and Tipps End

December 2023

MERRY  
*Christmas*



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## URGENT PLEA!

**WE ARE NOW GETTING TO THE POINT WHERE WE ARE DESPERATE TO FIND SOMEONE ELSE WHO CAN HELP THE CURRENT PUBLISHER PUT THE MAGAZINE TOGETHER EACH MONTH. IF YOU KNOW MICROSOFT PUBLISHER AND CAN SPARE SOME TIME, WE'D LOVE TO HEAR FROM YOU.**



# WELLE CINEMA

## Sunday 3rd December - 2pm



# New Year's Eve Party!

## HAPPY NEW YEAR 2024

Come along and see in the New Year with us  
at **Christchurch Community Centre**  
on **Sunday 31 December 2023.**

**Disco and Bar Open From 8.30pm till late.**

### FREE ENTRY

**Bring your own nibbles, come along  
and dance in the New Year!**

## Heron 2024 Calendars Available to buy NOW!



July 2024

Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat	Sun
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30	31	1	2	3	4
5	6	7	8	9	10	11

November 2024

Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat	Sun
28	29	30	31	1	2	3
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29	30	1
2	3	4	5	6	7	8

The Heron 2024 calendars are available to buy now, so if you would like to get some in before Christmas, please contact Elaine on 01354 638310 or email [adverts@theheron.info](mailto:adverts@theheron.info) to reserve your copies. The calendars are £8 each, 2 for £15 or 3 for £20.

All proceeds go towards the continuing production of your village magazine. Our thanks go to all the people whose photographs were chosen and are featured in the calendar this year: Lucy Pye, Andy Lansdell, Jayne Dordi, Pat Rigby, Helen Chappell, Paul Simpson, Tom Salisbury, Aimee Towler, Nathalie Benton Skerritt, Nell Begnett, Graham Chappell, Amy Williamson, Emma Knight and Aiden Pye. They really are super shots!

# 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.***



## Save your stamps for the RNIB

**Please save your stamps for RNIB and make a difference to  
blind and partially sighted people.**

By collecting stamps you're helping to break down the barriers  
that stop people with sight loss living life to the full. We accept all  
stamps: new or used, first or second class, foreign, first day covers, presentation packs or albums.

**Old and foreign currency:** You can also support RNIB by donating disused or foreign money. If you  
have any surplus foreign currency from overseas trips, or any unusable old British currency hiding at  
the back of the drawer, we'd love to receive it!

*Put them (in an envelope) through the door at Grasshopper Cottage, 5, Upwell Road. Thank you.*



## MARCH FOOD BANK (a branch of the Ely Food Bank) IDEAS FOR PRE-CHRISTMAS DONATIONS

"We usually receive items such as puddings, mince pies, chocolates, yule logs,  
cakes, stocking fillers etc that we can add to the parcels. They all need to have  
suitable dates, please. The Food Bank closes from 23rd December to 2nd January  
inclusive".

**PLEASE NOTE – THE LAST PRE-CHRISTMAS COLLECTION IN CHRISTCHURCH WILL**

**BE TAKEN TO THE MARCH FOOD BANK ON MONDAY DECEMBER 18<sup>TH</sup> AT 10.30AM.**

**THE NEXT ONE WILL BE ON JANUARY 8<sup>TH</sup>.**

### Ely Foodbank Enquiries

01353 468626 | [www.elyfoodbank.org.uk](http://www.elyfoodbank.org.uk)

Help at the time of crisis - Help to move forward

Ely Foodbank is a registered charity - number 1150746



## 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, 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](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 2nd Dec	Christmas Fayre	10am - 2pm	CCC	18
Sat 2nd Dec	Christmas Market	12pm - 6pm	Skylark Garden Centre	18
Sun 3rd Dec	The Unlikely Pilgrimage of Harold Fry	2pm - 3pm	3 Holes Village Hall	2
Sun 3rd Dec	Welney German Market	10am - 4pm	Welney Village Hall	18
Tue 5th Dec	Mobile Library	12:15pm	Lay-by (Fen View)	3
Tue 5th Dec	Book Club	7:30pm	Brimstone Manor	19
Fri 8th Dec	Dole Distribution	2pm - 3pm	CCC	6
Fri 8th - Sat 9th Dec	A Christmas Carol	7:30pm start	Ely Cathedral	
Mon 11th Dec	Parish Council Meeting	7:30pm	CCC	8
Tue 12th Dec	WI Musical Evening - Upwood Ukelele	7pm start	CCC	20
Wed 13th Dec	Christchurch Umbrella Coffee/Chat	11am- 1pm	CCC	9
Thur 14th Dec	Kids Xmas Party	5pm - 7pm	CCC (book via Dun Cow)	
Sat 16th Dec	Charity Santa Tractor Run	6pm	Through the Village	10
Sun 17th Dec	Community Carols & Costumes	4pm	CCC	15
Sun 24th Dec	Bear Necessities Karaoke	3pm - 6pm	Dun Cow	
Sun 31st Dec	New Years Eve Party	8:30 - late	CCC	2
Sun 31st Dec	New Years Eve Party	Late	Dun Cow	

Regular Weekly Events				
Every Monday	Short Mat Bowls	7pm - 9pm	CCC	20
Every Tuesday	Christchurch Hobby & Craft Club	10am - 1pm	CCC	19
Every Wednesday	Chair Based Exercise Class - Kathleen Henderson	10am - 10:50am 07880543821	CCC	
Every Thursday	Coffee/Cake/Chat	1:30pm - 3:30pm	CCC	9
Mon, Tue, Wed, Thu	Mobile Post Office	4:10pm/4:30pm - 5pm	Lay By near Fen View	5
Every Sunday	Car Boot Sale	8am - 12pm	Skylark Garden Centre	

**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. Hopefully quite an informative edition this month. Fenland District Council are putting out information on a couple of matters that are possibly timely.

Firstly, the issue of Alcoholism and Alcoholics Anonymous. Hopefully there should be information on the Village notice board, but to add to this, less well known are Al-Anon and Alateen – these are organisations designed to help those people who are affected by alcoholics, usually the family but not always. I can speak from personal experience of the benefits of these organisations.

Secondly is the issue of Loan Sharks, and there is a page in this issue with extracts from their presentation, but there is more information if you follow the links.

Finally, I saw this on the Martin Lewis show and thought it useful. HMRC are sending letters to hundreds of thousands of over 65s – **DO NOT BIN THESE**. They are mainly for women who are eligible for Home Responsibilities Protections and could be worth thousands of pounds for wrongly missed NI years for pension. However, **BEWARE SCAMS**, the letters will only direct you to the gov.uk website, anything else is not genuine.

Hope you all have a good Christmas and see you in the New Year.

Clive Benjamin

## Heron News



The Editor and Chair of the Heron Executive Committee would like to say a big thank you to **everyone** who is involved in running and contributing each month, to the Heron Magazine - putting it all together and getting it delivered through all our readers' letterboxes.

MERRY CHRISTMAS TO EVERYONE!



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

**Copy Deadline** - The deadline for copy for the edition of the Heron is 15th December.

## 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](http://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](mailto: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 - [editor@theheron.info](mailto:editor@theheron.info)

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

*Treasurer, Advertising Manager* - Elaine Reed-Hughes - [adverts@theheron.info](mailto:adverts@theheron.info) Tel: 01354 638310

*Deliveries Manager* - Annie Nason - 01354 638088

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



Website: [www.theheron.info](http://www.theheron.info)

## UPWELL (CAMBRIDGE) CONSOLIDATED CHARITIES

Registered Charity No 203558  
(Former Isle part of the Parish)

### DOLE DISTRIBUTION

THE TRUSTEES ANNOUNCE THAT THE ANNUAL  
DISTRIBUTION WILL BE HELD ON

**FRIDAY**

**8<sup>th</sup> DECEMBER 2023**

AT THE

**VILLAGE HALL, UPWELL**

**Between 11am and noon**

**Applicants residing in CHRISTCHURCH to apply  
at the Christchurch Community Centre  
from 2.00 and no later than 3.00pm**

The aged and infirm will receive the first consideration.  
No able bodied man or woman under 65 need apply.  
ONLY those resident in the Parish for at least five years  
will be considered.

Further information may be obtained from:-

Mrs R Shorting - Upwell - 01945 773604

Mrs J Bliss - Christchurch - 01354 638343

### Gluten Free Christmas Pudding

100g currants  
100g raisins  
100g mixed candied citrus peel  
100g glacé cherries, roughly chopped  
1 tsp mixed spice  
generous grating of nutmeg  
1 orange, zested and juiced  
1 lemon, zested  
50ml brandy  
flavourless oil, for the basin  
50g flaked almonds  
50g ground almonds  
1 tsp gluten-free baking powder  
100g gluten-free plain flour  
50g gluten-free breadcrumbs  
2 eggs, beaten



100g dark brown soft sugar  
1 large cooking apple, peeled, cored and grated

Preparation time: 20 minutes (plus overnight soak). Cook: 7 hours

#### Method

**STEP 1** - In a large bowl, mix the currants, raisins, candied peel, glacé cherries, mixed spice, nutmeg, orange zest and juice, the lemon zest and brandy together. Cover with a clean tea towel and leave to soak overnight.

**STEP 2** - The next day, put an upturned saucer or trivet in the bottom of a deep, wide saucepan and half-fill the pan with water. Bring to a simmer over a low-medium heat. Oil a 1.5-litre pudding basin and line the base with a circle of baking parchment.

**STEP 3** - Stir the flaked almonds, apple, ground almonds, baking powder, flour, breadcrumbs, sugar and eggs into the bowl of dried fruit using a wooden spoon. Tip the mixture into the prepared basin, packing it in with the back of the spoon, then cover the surface with another circle of parchment. Cover the basin with sheet of baking parchment, followed by a double layer of foil, then secure it around the rim with kitchen string. Tie on a loop of string to make a handle. Carefully lower the basin onto the upturned saucer in the pan of simmering water and cover with a lid. Cook for 6 hrs, topping up with boiling water from the kettle if needed to ensure the water doesn't boil off below the halfway line.

**STEP 4** - Once the pudding is cooked, remove the basin from the pan and leave to cool completely. Remove the pudding from the basin, wrap well in baking parchment and foil and store in a cool, dark place for up to three months. To reheat, return the pudding to its basin, cover as before and lower into a pan of simmering water. Cover and warm through for 1-2 hrs, then remove and serve with brandy cream.

## THERMAL IMAGING FOR A COSY HOME



Cambridge Carbon Footprint are once again delighted to offer to residents, and organizations, across Cambridge and South Cambs the opportunity to borrow and learn how to use a thermal imaging camera, for free, to help create more cosy and efficient homes. Learn how to interpret thermal images, to discover draughts, gaps in insulation, heating problems, etc. Having this information is great for deciding on home improvements, and making fixes, both for homeowners and renters.

*“really useful tool for assessing the home’s heat loss and for planning improvements” - Borrower*

The Project also encourages individuals or organizations to undertake training to survey multiple homes. In 2022 a Heydon Parish Councillor borrowed a camera and undertook a survey of 20% of the Village’s homes and intends to do more this year.

### Training Sessions:

Four free training sessions will take place online from 7:00-8:30 pm on: Thu 14 Dec, Mon 22 Jan, Thu 29 Feb.

### Camera Borrowing:

We only lend cameras to people already trained. Bookings for cameras are now open. Free Loans of 14 cameras will continue until early April:

Each loan: Fri pm to Mon am, or Mon pm to Fri am, from 14 volunteer camera hosts around South Cambs and Cambridge City.

Go to <https://cambridgecarbonfootprint.org/events> for further information and to book training.



## Your Letters

### Macmillan Coffee Morning 2023

This certificate is presented to

**Paul Simpson**

& friends

For your kind contribution of

**£670.00**

To help support those affected by cancer. Thank you.

*Celine*

Celine & the Coffee Morning Team

7 Nov 2023

# Cleaner

Fully Insured

2 hour regular slots available  
£30 for a 2 hour slot

Contact Emma Knight  
07486 446706



## More on those pesky moles and how to stop them

### 1) Make a Stink

Moles are famously short-sighted, but they have a very acute sense of smell and hearing. One of the best ways to send moles packing is by laying something with a strong, foul smell in their tunnels. Something biodegradable to avoid damaging your garden or killing garden-friendly animals - like old, smelly cheese, fermented yoghurt, or gone-off milk, coffee grounds or powdered red pepper might be worth a try.

### 2) Make Some Noise

Moles are really sensitive to noise, and they will not want to stay in an area that has frequent loud sounds. Noisy children playing games and running around will make your garden a lot less welcoming to our furry, unwelcome guests or you could try placing one or more radios in their entrance and exit tunnels on a station with loud, boisterous music!

### 3) Mole Netting

This option is only possible if you are laying new turf, but if that's something you are doing, then this is a method to prevent moles from entering your garden. Mole netting can be bought at garden centres and online and is reliable and long-lasting.

### 4) Electronic Devices

As mentioned, moles detest loud noise, so some products have been specifically designed to drive moles away. Most of these products produce a low-frequency vibration or sound that repels moles without causing harm to other animals or your garden.

### 5) Mole Repellents

There are various mole repellent products which primarily do the same thing. They essentially release smoke and castor oil fumes, and this is said to infiltrate the tunnels and ward off worms and other tasty mole snacks.

### 6) Plant Power

If you are keen to use a more natural repellent, then it's worth planting some vegetative barriers.

There are several plants believed to deter moles such as daffodils and marigolds. Daffodil bulbs are toxic, and so it stands to reason that moles will avoid these. Marigolds are aromatic, and it's thought that, like castor oil, its pyrethrins repel worms and other soil-dwelling mole delicacies, sending the hungry mole to look elsewhere for food.

### 7) Mole Traps

Sadly sometimes simply repelling moles just isn't enough and if you've tried all of the previous options, then it may be time to consider setting traps.

There are various traps available and, when used correctly, they are considered a humane way to exterminate moles. These traps do not require any bait and you should check them at least once a day.

There are also live traps available, and if you are opting for these, you must check them twice a day; otherwise, the mole may starve or even die of stress before you can safely release it in its new home.

### 8) Hire a Hitman!

Probably the most sure-fire way to rid your garden of moles is to bring in a professional. That said, this is quite an expensive option and should only be considered if all else fails. Furthermore, as with setting your own traps, it provides no guarantee that a new mole won't make its home in your garden.

**[See Page 18 - for details our local Pest Controller]**

# PC Snippets

## Public Time

The stable block building planning application behind Brimstone Close/Fen View was discussed with the public being in opposition to the application. It was pointed out that the same builder has not fully complied with environmental considerations with respect to the Brimstone Close development, as well as working beyond reasonable hours.

The Planning application on Church Road was raised, with concerns voiced regarding safety (speed limit), drainage etc. These are issues that would need to be addressed as part of the application.

Andrew Sparrow commented that development has occurred in the past, which has allowed current residents to live in the village - and we need the village to develop to ensure its future and to attract facilities.

## PCC Matters

The local plan has flagged up the field behind Brimstone Close as part of the local plan for further development of houses. There are concerns regarding the drainage, but the PCC has no grounds to object to the plan as set before them but will pass the public objections to the planning department. The Draft local plan is in Flood Zone 1. The Church Road development includes a path to Church Lane, and a suggestion was added that the plan should include street lighting. The PCC had no objections to this proposal.

## Matters Outstanding

- Affordable Housing – a questionnaire is currently being prepared.
- Wayside Estate – there is a meeting planned with highways regarding safety but measures may be limited to line marking. It was pointed out that a one-way system is not practical as this has been shown to increase traffic speeds.
- Parishioner engagement – included in the last Heron as a QR code
- Santa Run – 16<sup>th</sup> December, volunteers are needed to collect money in buckets

- Highways Weeds – this is becoming a problem, and more action is needed
- Play Equipment inspections – entered on MS Forms, and a form will be produced to share to assist in inspections, and assure documentation
- No Police report, but it was noted that NO gas is now classed as a class C drug
- Cllr Dal Roy notes: Our MP is now the Minister for the Environment, and Cllr Roy is building a database of local farmers to be able to support them in future. There is a small budget for any small crime prevention projects. The Syringa House caravan issue is progressing slowly.

Other matters discussed included the 20<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Golden Age. The FDC Carol Service at St Peter's Church, Wisbech on 8<sup>th</sup> Dec, the FDC Hate Crime resources pack, the National Lottery maximum grant to be increased to £20k, the FDC has a fund to assist with heating swimming pools, the National Pay for PCs agreed at 6% from March 2023, and the Cambridge council for Voluntary services AGM is 15<sup>th</sup> November.

The dog exercise area at the Dun Cow was mentioned and currently there is no planning permission for change of use. The closure of the PCC bank account by Barclays Bank was discussed at some length.

A comment was made that Hare coursers have been spotted in the area – these need to be reported as it's happening, with descriptions, registration numbers and as much information as possible.

The recreation extension – 300 more trees were planted, with 400 more still to go. We are awaiting a quote for clearing and seeding the field.

## Highways

There is a fund for new projects, and a suggestion was for street lighting on Church Road.

There was a reminder about the 16ft Bank closure between Jan 8<sup>th</sup> and March 8<sup>th</sup> 2024, including cyclists.

Next Meeting is 11<sup>th</sup> December, 7:30pm.



## OVER 65s PARISH LUNCH FUNDRAISER

We are holding a Christmas raffle to raise money for the Parish Lunch which is a special meal put on every year for everyone in the village over 65.

Tickets are £1 a strip - available from any of the Parish Lunch gang!

Prizes are:

- 1st Prize - £50.00
- 2nd Prize - Hamper of Christmas Goodies
- 3rd Prize - Christmas Flower Arrangement


Thank you! We really appreciate your support. Parish Lunch Committee.



Our Church Council (PCC) are delighted to announce that we have secured a grant from Cambridgeshire Acre to open and run a warm, inclusive, welcoming and friendly space via the 'Community Living Room' scheme, which is the newer updated version of the 'Warm Space' initiative introduced in other parts of Cambridgeshire last year.

We have decided to call our space the **Christchurch Umbrella** and you will recognise adverts for our events by our logo.

Events coming under the umbrella that already run are:




### COFFEE/LUNCH BREAK

December 2023 - Just one this month.  
Wednesday 13<sup>th</sup>. CCC: 11am-1pm.

This is a Christchurch Umbrella event.

Free coffee, tea and biscuits. Bring your own lunch if you like.  
All welcome.



### CAKE, COFFEE and CHAT

Every Thursday CCC: 1.30 – 3.30pm

Free entry and hot drink. Monetary donations accepted for cake. All welcome.

**We will not be meeting on Thursday 28<sup>th</sup> December.**



### NEW EVENT!! BREAKFAST

Starts Friday 1<sup>st</sup> December  
Every Friday CCC: 9.30 -11.30am  
Free hot drink and slice of toast.

Other breakfast items including a cooked breakfast  
available to buy.



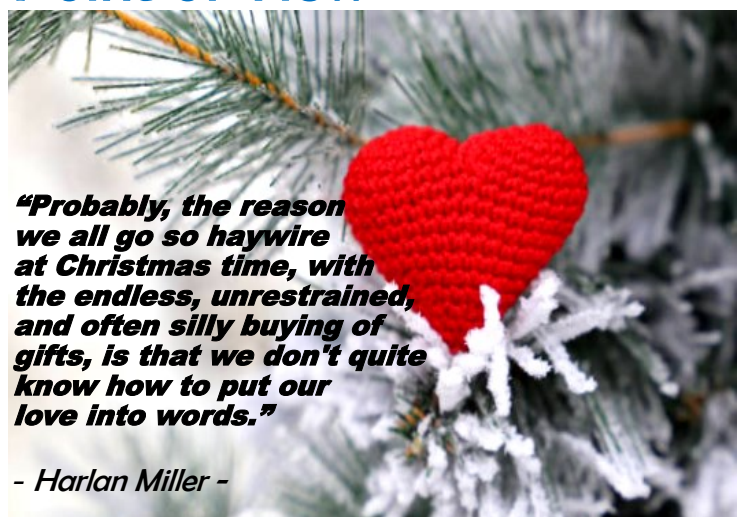
### CHRISTCHURCH PARISH CHURCH – LAS POSADAS, IN ADVENT

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 which evening you would like to house them. 01354 638088**

## Point of View



***"Probably, the reason we all go so haywire at Christmas time, with the endless, unrestrained, and often silly buying of gifts, is that we don't quite know how to put our love into words."***

**- Harlan Miller -**

# Meet the Heron Team

## Executive Committee:

Chair - Lorna Kirk

Secretary - Em Haylock

Treasurer - Elaine Reed-Hughes

Committee Members - Denise Freeland, Liz Scott, Clive Benjamin, Pat Rigby.

Any of the above members can be contacted on [enquiries@theheron.info](mailto:enquiries@theheron.info) where we will be happy to answer any queries and help you in any way we can. This team meets 3 or 4 times a year to discuss fundraising and ensure that we have enough money to keep producing the Heron.

## Editorial Committee:

Editor - Clive Benjamin ([editor@theheron.info](mailto:editor@theheron.info))

Ad Manager - Elaine Reed-Hughes ([advert@theheron.info](mailto:advert@theheron.info))

\*Temporary Publisher - Elaine Reed-Hughes

Committee Members - Liz Scott, Sue Norman, Pat Rigby, Wendy Yates

Proof Readers - Ann Mortlock, Sue Rudge

This is the team responsible for putting together the magazine each month. This team meets at the beginning of the month to bounce ideas around, come up with articles and things that we think will interest our fellow villagers/readers.

Any ideas for articles or general comments regarding the content of the Heron can be directed to [editor@theheron.info](mailto:editor@theheron.info)

## Deliveries Team:

Deliveries Manager - Annie Nason (Backup - Sandra Kay)

Deliveries Team - Ann Mortlock, Su Gibson, Pat Rigby, Susan Street, Andy Street, Liz Scott, Caroline McGonagle, Janet Harper, Hollie Dorward, Graham Chappell, Jenny Garrett, Martin Tebbs.

Any queries you have regarding the delivery of your Heron can be directed to Annie on 01354 638088.

## Behind the Scenes:

We mustn't forget our helpers behind the scenes. Lewis Bennett, Upwell Computer Repairs has supported the Heron for a number of years with his IT support and managing and updating our website and domain name. Rex Ockenden, Granary Studio, who has been a terrific support to us when we needed photographs judging, a calendar producing and any framing done and last but not least, our fantastic printer, Steve Bailey and his colleague Derek Randall Hall who delivers the Herons to the village each month.

As you can see, it takes a lot of volunteers to get the Heron to your door each month and without them, it just wouldn't happen! Which leads us onto our next urgent issue:

**We are still looking for someone who can work alongside our current publisher - to help her put the magazine together each month. Can you spare a couple of hours each month and can you use Microsoft Publisher? If so, then we'd love to hear from you.**

## Santa to Visit Christchurch

It is with great pleasure that we can announce that the Fenland Farmers have managed to sort it out with Santa, and on Saturday 16<sup>th</sup> December he will be coming to visit you on his sleigh. We will be setting off through the village at 6pm - the route to be confirmed.

We will have collectors with their buckets, and any money raised will be divided between the Village and the Fenland Farmers for good causes that we support. We will also be collecting toys for the children in Holly Ward at Hinchbrook Hospital - something we do every year - and this is for the little ones in hospital over Christmas to try to make their time there happier.

If your generosity could stretch to helping us out, we would be extremely grateful, as we can only do this with the assistance of you, the public. Many thanks. Oh, and we promise you snow on the night.

Steve Neugebauer







## 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.

**2023**

The children in Emerald Class have been working with Heritage England since February and discovered the history of Christchurch, our little village in the Fens. The project involved them writing a song and performing it in an online concert with other schools last week. There were so many different avenues that we could have followed but it was decided that we would explore the old river Croft and our link to a special butterfly.

Our first two work sessions as a class took place back in May. We joined Tom Kitching from Just Beneath the Surface for a word workshop. He helped us to understand our village's history: why there is a settlement here, what the landscape and noisecape would have been like, how people lived and what has changed over the years. Tom worked with us to build lists of words, phrases and sentences to describe our environment. We went back 6,000 years to when the first people came to this part of the world and learnt about Brimstone Hill and the link it has with Christchurch. We discovered more about Charles Francis Townley who was the Rector of Christchurch between 1888 and 1912. The Reverend Townley was widely respected and helped the villagers in many practical ways. In 1932, two years after his death, the new school in Christchurch was opened and called The Townley School. This was in honour not only of Charles but of all the Townleys as they had been an influential family in the area for more than a century.

Our last work session took place in June with The Young'Uns. They were incredibly positive, patient and helpful when it came to putting our history, our ideas and our previous work together to write our school song. We loved the folk aspect of the song and really enjoyed describing the Brimstone butterfly because our village used to be called Brimstone Hill after the butterfly.

After a lot of practice, we sang this song to our families and peers in assembly in July and everybody left the school hall humming the chorus. It was great to learn more about where we live. You can sing along here:

[https://www.townley.cambs.sch.uk/web/when\\_fenland\\_sings/671415](https://www.townley.cambs.sch.uk/web/when_fenland_sings/671415)

### Townley Song

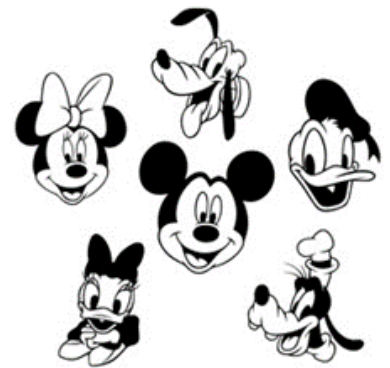
*Come with us to Christchurch  
We once were Brimstone Hill  
A friendly Fenland village  
We've got fabulous facts to spill  
Come with us to Christchurch  
We once were Brimstone Hill  
A friendly Fenland village  
We've got fabulous facts to spill  
Fabulous facts to spill  
Colour changing, camouflaging  
Brimstone Butterfly  
Wonderful, winged and weightless,  
Flutters in the sky  
Beautiful and vibrant creature  
Yellow, white and green  
Disguised just like a little flower  
Not easy to be seen*

#### **Chorus**

The Fenland folk of old  
Were a superstitious crew  
Maybe these are rumours  
Or maybe they are true  
If you want good luck  
You should never wash your feet  
If you don't want small pox  
Then it's mice you need to eat  
Carry a potato  
but make sure that it is dry  
Put a mole's foot in your pocket  
No idea why

#### **Chorus**

The Old Croft River used to flow  
But now it does no more  
Full of fish like pickerel, Pike  
perch and roach galore  
Cathedral stones for Ely  
On board a boat they came  
Then the river was dried out  
Fen Tigers felt the pain



## ***The Lincolnshire village honoured in every Disney film since 2006***

It is exactly 100 years since Walt Disney founded his famous film studio, which has made some of the world's best-loved movies. What's less well known is the story of the founder's links to a tiny English village in Lincolnshire. A shooting star flies around Sleeping Beauty's castle to the soaring strings of 'When You Wish Upon a Star', as multi-coloured fireworks explode and a perfect arc of light is formed in the sky before disappearing.



That is the title sequence at the start of every Disney movie since 2006 - meaning that whether it is the live action Little Mermaid or the latest animated release Elemental, a tribute has just been paid to a Lincolnshire village with a population of 242.

In 1965, for the 10th anniversary of the Disneyland theme park in California, Walt decided he wanted to add a coat of arms to Sleeping Beauty's castle. He was asked if there was a Disney crest. He said, "Yes, I remember I saw it in Norton Disney in 1949 when I was in England filming Treasure Island. I went to that little town and saw the coat of arms."

So they took photographs of it and they reproduced it on the castle in Disney, California, and since then it is on every Disney castle in all Disney parks. It even appears now at the beginning of every Disney movie." So, since 2006 at the start of every Disney film, three lions can be seen flying on the flag at the top of Sleeping Beauty's castle - a tribute to Norton Disney.



# 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
<b>Club Contacts</b>	
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

# Puzzler

Can you decode these puzzles?  
(Answers Below)

1440 MIAD	100 RIAC
100 PIAP	10 GBHOTW
180 HSIAGOD	60 SIAM
4406 HOBNI	12 DOC
1 PIAPT	2002 QGJ
43560 SFIAA	1665 GP
100 YIAC	39 S
63360 IIAM	40 DIL
10 DS	7 BFSB
1815 BOW	15 RIS
24 HIAD	3 LP
3 BM(SHTR)	33 RPM(LPR)
5 TOAF	7 COTR
5 GR	5 NPIAOS
3 WM	100 YW
1 FTR	4 CB
90 DIARA	2 LDB
365 DIAY	1343 HOBNIM
1066 BOH	3 LOAT

1440 MIAD	Minutes in a Day
100 PIAP	Pennies in a Pound
180 HSIAGOD	Highest Score in a Game of Darts
4406 HOBNI	Height of Ben Nevis in Feet
1 PIAPT	Partidge in a Pear Tree
43560 SFIAA	Square Feet in an Acre
100 YIAC	Years in a Century
63360 IIAM	Inches in a Mile
10 DS	Downing Street
1815 BOW	Battle of Waterloo
24 HIAD	Hours in a Day
3 BM(SHTR)	Blind Mice (see how they run)
5 TOAF	Toes on a Foot
5 GR	Gold Rings
3 WM	Wise Men
1 FTR	For the Road
90 DIARA	Degrees in a Right Angle
365 DIAY	Days in a Year
1066 BOH	Battle of Hastings
100 RIAC	Runs in a Century
10 GBHOTW	Green Bottle hanging on the Wall
60 SIAM	Seconds in a Minute
12 DOC	Days of Christmas
2002 QGJ	Queens Golden Jubilee
1665 GP	Great Plaque
39 S	Steps
40 DIL	Days in Lent
7 BFSB	Brides for Seven Brothers
15 RIS	Reds in Snooker
33 RPM(LPR)	Revolutions Per Minute (Long Playing Records)
7 COTR	Colours of the Rainbow
5 NPIAOS	New Pence in an Old Shilling
100 YW	Years War
4 CB	Calling Birds
2 LDB	Little Dicky Birds
1343 HOBNIM	Height of Ben Nevis in Metres
3 LOAT	Legs on a Tripod



## Christmas Classical Tales.

### Beethoven at 20, meets one of his musical idols ... *probably ....*

When Ludwig van Beethoven was 20 years old, Santa Claus brought him the chance to meet one of his musical idols. Franz Joseph Haydn was passing through Beethoven's hometown, Bonn, on his way to London. On the day after Christmas, Bonn's Elector, Max Franz, invited Haydn to a party in his honour with local musicians. While no records indicate the dinner party's precise guest list, Beethoven, considered Bonn's best pianist and emerging composer, was almost definitely there.

Whatever impression the young Ludwig might have made on the exalted master that Christmas, a year and a half passed before Haydn, stopping again in Bonn, concluded that Beethoven's unprecedented talent demanded the cultivation of none other than Haydn himself. In November of 1792, Beethoven, his luggage full of scores and sketches, arrived in Vienna as Haydn's newest pupil, beginning the most significant chapter yet of his instruction.



## When Christmas is Celebrated around the world.

Many people think Christmas is on December the 25th and that's all there is to Christmas. However, for many people around the world, in different countries and in different

Christian traditions, Christmas lasts for a lot longer than that - and it's even celebrated at different times!

The name 'Christmas' comes from the Mass of Christ (or Jesus). A Mass service (sometimes called Communion or Eucharist) is where Christians remember that Jesus died and then came back to life. The 'Christ-Mass' service was the only one that was allowed to take place after sunset (and before sunrise the next day), so people had it at Midnight! So we get the name Christ-Mass, shortened to Christmas.

Although December 25th (or the late afternoon/evening of December 24th) is the date when most people celebrate Christmas, there are some other dates as well!

Some churches (mainly Orthodox and Coptic Orthodox churches) use a different calendar for their religious celebrations. Orthodox Churches in Russia, Belarus, Serbia, Jerusalem and other countries use the old 'Julian' calendar and people in those churches celebrate Christmas on January 7th. The Coptic Orthodox Church celebrates Christmas on January 7th. The Ethiopian Orthodox Tewahedo Church also celebrates Christmas on the 7th January (which is the 29th of Tashas in their calendar).

Most people in the Greek Orthodox Church celebrate Christmas on December 25th. But some still use the Julian calendar and so celebrate Christmas on 7th January! Some Greek Catholics also celebrate on January 7th.

In 2023, the law was changed in Ukraine so Christmas will be celebrated on December 25th rather than on January 7th.

The Armenian Apostolic Church celebrates Christmas on January 6th. It also celebrates Epiphany on this day.

### Advent - The Time Before Christmas

Before Christmas, many Christians use the time of Advent to prepare themselves and get ready to celebrate the joy of Christmas, when Christians celebrate of the birth of Jesus, who they believe is the Son of God.

Advent is normally a period of four Sundays and weeks before Christmas. In many Orthodox and Eastern Catholics Churches Advent lasts for 40 days, starting on November 15th. In Orthodox Churches which celebrate Christmas on 7th January, Advent starts on 28th November!

And if you think that's complicated enough, after Christmas, there's a whole lot more – but perhaps we'll leave that for another year.

**From [www.whychristmas.com](http://www.whychristmas.com)**



# Church News

## BENEFICE CHURCH SERVICES FOR DECEMBER

### 3<sup>rd</sup> December

10.30 Morning Prayer, Christchurch  
10.30 Holy Communion, Doddington

### 10<sup>th</sup> December

10.30 Holy Communion, Manea  
15.00 Carol Service, Wimblington  
15.00 Holy Communion, Benwick

### 17<sup>th</sup> December

16.00 Carol Service, Christchurch  
18.00 Carol Service, Manea  
18.00 Carol Service, Doddington

### 24<sup>th</sup> December

14.00 Crib Service, Doddington  
14.30 Christingle Service, Manea  
16.30 Crib Service, Wimblington  
16.00 Carol Service, Welney  
16.00 Crib Service, Benwick  
20.00 Holy Communion, Christchurch  
23.30 Holy Communion, Doddington

## Community Carols and Costumes

### Sunday 17<sup>th</sup> 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.

Who remembers Harry Belafonte? He had a Christmas song in 1956 called 'Mary's boy child'. The chorus went: "And man will live forever more because of Christmas Day."

That's the truth of what Christmas is all about.

It's also a time when a jolly white bearded man in a red suit flies through the air on a sleigh pulled by reindeer. It's the season of pantomime and make believe.

The trouble is that we can easily bundle all these together and treat them all as nice stories for the children but not to be taken too seriously.

The story of the coming of Christ, the Son of God, into the world is either a nice story to warm our hearts during the cold winter nights; OR it's absolutely true!

There is no other option.

If it's a myth we've wasted a lot on Christmas cards and carol singing.

But if it's TRUE, we clearly have to take a great deal of notice of the message and it's going to affect the rest of our lives.

I never cease to be amazed by the sheer size and orchestration of this story from the Bible.

It has everything.

From murder to the super-natural

From mysterious travellers to the involvement of local shepherds.

From the political to the sentimentality of a warm family story

It's all there.

Foretold centuries before – and yet the players had an option to do what they were asked. Or not!

And it's the very same for us today.

We cannot sit on the fence on this issue.

How do we explain that a man who lived in a small occupied country in the middle east over two thousand years ago, is still the best-known celebrity on earth.

Could it be that **He is the Son of God?**

Stephen Tooke

Licensed Lay Minister





## THANK YOU AND MERRY CHRISTMAS!

### Storm Babet: Cambridgeshire fire service received 1,500 calls

Heavy downpours caused by Storm Babet meant a fire service experienced its "busiest 24 hours on record." Cambridgeshire Fire and Rescue Service said its staff handled more than 1,500 calls and logged more than 640 incidents. The storm destroyed homes and businesses and a major incident was declared in neighbouring Suffolk.

Chief fire officer Chris Strickland praised the hard work of his colleagues during the peak period. "Despite the extreme workload generated by the storm, the combined fire control provided a great service throughout and clearly showed how cost effective and efficient a joint facility can be," he said. People had to be rescued from their cars in Suffolk and Charsfield in the county recorded 78mm of rain (3in) in 24 hours, as did Wattisham.



CAMBRIDGESHIRE  
FIRE & RESCUE SERVICE  
Working together to improve community safety



**Alcoholics Anonymous**  
Great Britain  
and English Speaking Continental Europe

[www.alcoholics-anonymous.org.uk](http://www.alcoholics-anonymous.org.uk)

### A Helping Hand

If you need help with a drinking problem either phone our national helpline FREE on 0800 9177650, contact us by email: [help@aamail.org](mailto:help@aamail.org), or talk to us now using the live chat box below. You can also find your local helpline telephone number using the Find a Meeting tool.

## VOLUNTEERS NEEDED - THE MAGPIE CENTRE

The Magpie Centre are looking for volunteers, offering a range of talents, from tea and cake-making at events, through DIY abilities, to hands-on work with the horses.



Right now, our need is for volunteers with experience of working with horses, to bring horses in from the paddocks, pick out feet, groom, tack up and lead horses into lessons.

This role might suit people who 'used to ride' or 'had a pony when they were younger', and now want to regain their connection with horses.

On Tuesdays, lessons run till 7.30 pm, and on Wednesdays till 6.30 pm, so these later slots might be possible for people who work during the day.

If you have, or know of, anyone with experience of horses, who might like to join the Magpie Centre's friendly group of volunteers, please call 01553 810202 or visit our website: [www.rda-westnorfolk.org.uk](http://www.rda-westnorfolk.org.uk) and download a volunteer form.

If your time/availability is limited, you can still help! Join Friends of Magpie, and for a small monthly donation, you can become a member of our group, whose aim is to help people living with disabilities in West Norfolk, and beyond, to achieve their full potential, physically, socially and spiritually. More details are on our website: [www.rda-westnorfolk.org.uk](http://www.rda-westnorfolk.org.uk)

IF YOU HAVE ANY QUERIES OR NEED MORE INFO, PLEASE CALL CAROLINE DUDLEY ON 01553 828935 or email: [c.dudley@success-in-english.co.uk](mailto:c.dudley@success-in-english.co.uk)

**Christmas is meant to be the most wonderful time of year – but for many families trapped in spiralling debt and misery by loan sharks that simply isn't the case, but the *Stop Loan Sharks* team are determined to make this year better and safer for people.**

## What is a Loan Shark?

- Nothing to do with a high APR or interest rate
- Nothing to do with bullying or harassment
- It is to do with having a permission – or NOT...

The definition of a LOAN SHARK is an individual running an unauthorised business under the Financial Services and Markets Act 2000.

**STOPLOANSHARKS**  
Intervention . Support . Education

## Loan shark behaviours

- Building a client list through social networking – the pub, schools gates, taxi rank, through sport...
- May now be through social media, chat forums, dating websites etc,
- Involvement in other criminality, and interest fuels capital for this

**STOPLOANSHARKS**  
Intervention . Support . Education

## Hospital Consultant

- £1 million lent, 90 people
- L/S for 6 years
- Hospital staff
- Operated from hospital in London
- Profits of £287,000
- Payments received more than £880,700
- £525,000.00 POCA

**STOPLOANSHARKS**  
Intervention . Support . Education

## What to look for...

- Fast payment by mobile phone (not standing order/Direct debits)
- Normal frequency of payments is monthly or fortnightly, not more than once a week.
- This payment being the one that is never missed even if others are e.g gas, elec, credit card etc.

**STOPLOANSHARKS**  
Intervention . Support . Education

## 0300 555 2222

- The helpline is open 24 hours a day, every day
- Can be anonymous
- Calls not recorded
- Is confidential
- Stop Loan Sharks App
- Webchat – Mon-Fri 9am-5pm
- [www.stoploansharks.co.uk](http://www.stoploansharks.co.uk)
- Email and text service too



**STOPLOANSHARKS**  
Intervention . Support . Education

Sir Can your help me please  
My Mum got loan off loan shark  
IS name is [redacted]  
he calles in silver car [redacted]  
We live in [redacted]  
[redacted] he Shouts at Mum  
it maybe [redacted] and she crying and we all  
hid when he calls please help  
I was scared sorry My name is [redacted]

**STOPLOANSHARKS**  
Intervention . Support . Education

## Contact details Liaise Officer

- Bryony McDonald
- 07864 931158
- [Bryony.mcdonald@birmingham.gov.uk](mailto:Bryony.mcdonald@birmingham.gov.uk)
- Liaise officer East of England
- [www.stoploansharks.co.uk](http://www.stoploansharks.co.uk)
- 0300 555 2222 is the Stop Loan Sharks hotline, open 24 hours a day, seven days a week.

**STOPLOANSHARKS**  
Intervention . Support . Education

## Witness Support

Loan sharks sometimes over-estimate their own importance...

### 1. Threats

"If you grass me up, I'll kill you"

**NOT TRUE** – out of all the witnesses we've supported – **ZERO%** have had any physical harm after we've got involved

### 2. Retribution

"If I'm in prison my mates can still get to you"

**DOESN'T HAPPEN** – The IMLT stay in contact with all our witnesses, risk assess any new situations and react quickly.

### 3. Promises

"If you report me, nothing will be done"

**WRONG** – The IMLT have a 100% prosecution success rate!

**STOPLOANSHARKS**  
Intervention . Support . Education



# SUDOKU

## EASY

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

## MEDIUM

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

**Answers on Page 26**

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

**2<sup>nd</sup> December Saturday 10am - 2pm** - Christmas Fayre at Christchurch Community Centre - Santas Grotto, Christmas Games, Twisty Willow Floristry, The Village Cakery, Well Creek Rose Art and other stalls. Tombola and raffle, bacon butties, paninis, cheese scones and cakes.

**2<sup>nd</sup> December Saturday 12pm - 6pm** - Christmas Market at Skylark, Free admission, food and gift event, various stalls, cafe and live festive entertainment. Santa's Grotto (need to pre-book for this)

**3<sup>rd</sup> December Sunday 10am - 4pm** - Welney German Market & Christmas Fair at William Marshall Centre, Hurn Drove, Welney, PE14 9SD. Free Admission. Craft and Gift stalls, letters to Santa post box, Father Christmas Grotto, gluhwein, bratwurst, mulled wine, plus other refreshments.

**3<sup>rd</sup> December Sunday 10am - 3pm** - March Christmas Market, over 150 stalls, live entertainment, mulled wine, craft fayre, meet Santa and enjoy free rides on the market place. Winter wonderland in March Town Hall.

**8<sup>th</sup> December Friday - 9<sup>th</sup> December Saturday 7:30pm** - Ely Cathedral, A Christmas Carol. Tickets available online [www.elycathedral.org](http://www.elycathedral.org)

**12<sup>th</sup> December Tuesday 7pm** - WI Musical Evening with Upwood Ukelele Group £5 entry, including light refreshments and a raffle.

**13<sup>th</sup> December (Wednesday 11am - 1pm)** - Christchurch Umbrella - Coffee/Lunch Break at Christchurch Community Centre. Cambridgeshire Acre funded warm space facility for people who need help with keeping warm, fed or need company.

**14<sup>th</sup> December Thursday 5pm - 7pm** - Kids Christmas Party at Christchurch Community Centre - Buffet and gifts from Santa. Booking essential via The Dun Cow Pub.

**15<sup>th</sup> December Friday Starts 7:30pm** - Handel's Messiah (Highlights) at Christmas by Candlelight at Ely Cathedral, Ely CB7 4DL featuring The Piccadilly Sinfonietta with string and soloists. To book and prices see [ticketsource.co.uk](http://ticketsource.co.uk)

**16<sup>th</sup> December Saturday Starts 7.30pm** - Jimmy Jones (The Guvnor) GER Club, Robingoodfellows Lane, March, PE15 8HS. Tickets £20 auction, raffle tel. 01354 652335 18 years plus.

**24<sup>th</sup> December Sunday 3pm - 6pm** - Bear Necessities Karaoke at The Dun Cow

**31<sup>st</sup> December Sunday - 8.30 till late** - New Years Eve Party at The Community Centre. Free entry, Bar open.

**31<sup>st</sup> December Sunday** - Back to the 80s New Years Eve Party at The Dun Cow Pub, best costume wins free drink, 80s inspired cocktails, free entry.

# 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)

# PASTO ITALIANO!

Some of the ladies from the Christchurch Hobby and Craft Group decided to hold an Italian evening on Saturday 28th October. My sister and I went along to the Community Centre Meeting Room for a meal. We felt like we had slipped into a restaurant as the tables were nicely laid and there was lovely lighting (courtesy of table lamps that some had brought from home) along with authentic Italian music playing in the background.

There was a choice of two starters, mains and desserts. Mackerel Pate or Goats Cheese Brushetta, Creamy Chicken & Mushroom Pasta or Beef Ragu followed by Tiramisu or Lemon Cake. Everything was homemade and very tasty.

Just when I thought it was time to go home, the ladies brought out a bottle of either Limoncello or Amaretto, with little shot glasses for the tables, along with a plate full of delicious chocolates. There was also coffee for those that wanted it.

All in all a very good evening with a great atmosphere and great food. A very good *Italian Job!*

Special thanks to Janet, Pat, Jackie, Billie and Fayth for all their hard work.

Wendy Yates

# Christchurch Book Club



The Christchurch Book club met in November to discuss what they had been reading in the absence of a book provided by the library.

Pat recommended 'Play on' by Mick Fleetwood. Fleetwood Mac has, over the years, seen quite a few changes in line-up. An interesting read reliving his early career before forming Fleetwood Mac. Janet recommended 'The Clan of The Cave Bear', by Jean M Auel, which is prehistoric fiction based on a child orphaned after an earthquake - who joins a Clan, but her physical appearance and mentality is very different from that of the Clan as she tries to fit in with their way of life. Sue recommended 'The Bullet that Missed' by Richard Osman. This continues the story of the 'Thursday Murder Club' and is the third book in the series.

The next meeting will take place on Tuesday 5<sup>th</sup> December hosted by Kay Miller where we will discuss the current book 'The Beekeeper of Aleppo' by Christy Lefteri. The next book in January is 'The Miniaturist' by Jessie Burton. 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.



**OPEN MEETINGS:** *WI Open Meetings are always open to both men and women who would like to come along. Cost: £5.00, which includes light*

*refreshments and a raffle ticket. More raffle tickets available to purchase.*

Our November speaker had to cancel due to ill health. We wish her a speedy recovery. This was to have been an Open Meeting, so please accept our apologies if you were planning to come along.

**Our December meeting on the 12<sup>th</sup>, 7pm, is also an open meeting.** A Musical evening with the Upwood Ukulele Group. All welcome.

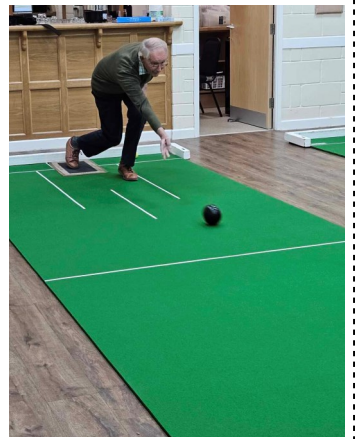
We held our AGM last month. The President and committee were confirmed for another year. Thanks to them for the past year's work. Well done! AGMs can sometimes drag on, but not this one! The secretary's report for the last 12 months was very interesting, as she talked us through the topics covered during the year. These ranged from hearing about a Nature Reserve Wood, how to ice cupcakes, life in the Fens in the 10<sup>th</sup> Century, a craft demonstration, all about Bonsai Trees and the history of the art, a demonstration of flower arrangement and others. No room here to itemise them all.

Our next meeting details are above. The competition: bring along an item of pottery.



## Indoor Bowls - New Mats!

Christchurch Indoor Bowls Club took receipt of two new short mat bowls mats a few weeks ago. This was courtesy of a successful grant application they made to the **Healthy Fenland Fund**.



The two different grade mats were purchased locally from **Bowls Bi-Us** in Doddington and have, so far, proved to be a big hit.

Long-standing member of the club, John Sparrow, pictured taking the first bowl on our new mats.

Our grateful thanks go to the Healthy Fenland Fund for the grant.

Also, huge congratulations to our Chair and Treasurer - Philip & Hazel Spry on their recent win. They are now Cambs County Pairs Champions and National qualifiers. WELL DONE!



## Indoor Short Mat Bowls

Every Monday 7-9pm at  
Christchurch Community Centre.

ALL WELCOME! (Spare bowls available to loan.)

For further details call Janet Harper  
on 07941 465319.



## Christchurch Gardening Club

### The Autumn Buffet

Each year as the autumn gradually takes over, preparing ourselves and our gardens for winter, the Gardening Club winds down for the winter hiatus, reconvening again in February for the A.G.M. Every year our last meeting takes the form of a social evening, in past years the tradition has been for a Fish and Chip Supper, this year however it was decided to try something different, an Autumn Buffet.

The Buffet was provided by the club committee with some of the members joining in and providing their expertise. The main course was a chicken curry and rice provided by Steve and Marion Hawthorn, joined by several cottage pies cooked to perfection by Peggy Warby and Julie Roberts as well as jacket potatoes with all the trimmings. The sweet course was provided by Marion Hawthorn, Jenny Head and Tracy Day. There were also lucky winners of the Bingo to round off the evening, all in all a very pleasing end to the Gardening Club's year.

Soon, next year beckons with some exciting speakers and open evenings so watch this space. If any of our readers require more information about the club or to join next year, please call: 01354 638230.

May I wish all our members, friends and neighbours a very Happy Christmas.

Steve





## HEATING ADVICE:

### Should you keep your heating on all day?

The Met Office, which measures temperatures and weather for the UK, recommends setting timers to turn the heating on before you get up and off after you've gone to bed. If no one is at home all day then you can have it turn off before you leave and on again just before you get back.

### Does turning down radiators save money?

The Energy Saving Trust recommends setting them at three or four to start, and then go up or down if the room is too hot or too cold.

### Heat the rooms you use often and forget the rest

If you're worried about bills, stick to heating the rooms you use the most by using the radiator controls. Don't forget to close the door on the rooms you're leaving cold and think about getting draught excluders to keep your rooms extra snug.

### Stay warm without turning the heating up

Wearing thick clothes and using warm bedding can help to keep you warm even if your home is on the chilly side. Opening your curtains when the sun is shining will also help. Just remember to shut them again when the sun goes down.

### Get help with heating costs from the government

The government is giving pensioners and people on certain benefits extra help with heating costs. If you already get benefits or a state pension you can check if you can get some more help. Local councils also have a household support fund for struggling households.

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/business-67197871>

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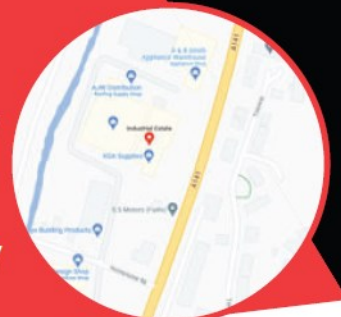
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# Puzzler Answers

## What Flies Over

### USAF F-35A

Primary Role	Multi-role Fighter
Power Plant	1 x Pratt & Whitney F135 PW100 Turbofan Engine
Maximum Thrust	Greater than 43,000lbs
Wing Span	35 ft
Length	51 ft
Height	14 ft
Max. Take of weight	Approx 70,000 lbs
Max. Speed	Mach 1.6 (1,200 mph)
Typical Mission Fuel consumption	1250 gallons per hour
Range	Greater than 1,350 miles with internal fuel, unlimited with aerial refuelling
Ceiling	Greater than 50,000ft
Armaments	Internal & external Capability, Munitions carried vary based on mission requirements.
Crew	One pilot

### RAF F-35B

Multi-role STOVL (Short Take Off, Vertical Landing) Fighter
1 x Pratt & Whitney F135 Turbofan
40,000lbs with after-burning and 40,500lbs for vertical landing
35 ft
51 ft
14 ft
60,000lbs
Mach 1.6 (1,200 mph)
1250 gallons per hour
Combat radius on external fuel greater than 450 Miles
Greater than 50,000ft
Typically 2 x AAMs and 2 bombs carried internally with optional 25mm Gun Pod and Under wing Pylons Enabling stored carriage up to 15,000lb.
One pilot



By Andy Lansdell

## Easy

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

## Medium

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

## Kids Corner Answers

Mickey Mouse, Minnie Mouse, Pluto, Goofy, Donald Duck, Daisy Duck, The Incredibles (Bob, Helen, Dash, Violet & Jack - Jack Parr), Rapunzel and Pascal, Dumbo, Snow White, Prince Charming and the Seven Dwarfs - Happy, Doc, Grumpy, Dopey, Bashful, Sleepy, and Sneezy. Buzz Lightyear.

## ageUK ADVICE LINE 0300 666 9860

The Age UK free, confidential, national telephone service offers advice on everything from money and benefits to retirement and care. Help is at hand!

The nearest Age UK office to Christchurch is in Chatteris; 2, Victoria Street. PE16 6AP. Opening hours: Monday – Friday 10am – 4pm.

Here is a list of some of the things they can help you with:

- Filling in forms; calculation of which benefits you may be entitled to and how to go about claiming them
- IT training
- Help for carers, and finding and arranging care; foot care; dementia support
- Arranging home help
- Advice on energy
- Power of Attorney advice
- Help with shopping
- Handy-person services
- Transport door-to-door
- Addressing loneliness; social activities
- And anything else older folks and their families would like to ask about.

A message from Age UK: **WILL YOU JOIN US?**

Every day in so many ways, our volunteers give their time and effort to make an incredible difference for older people. Be there when a lonely older person needs to talk. Be part of your community and provide vital support for older residents. Be inspired to raise money so more older people can get the help they deserve and need. Whatever you choose to do, and however much time you have to give, you'll be making an incredible difference for older people at a time in their lives when they need help the most.

<https://www.ageuk.org.uk>



# SEASONS GREETINGS



**We would like to wish everyone a very Merry Christmas and a happy and healthy New Year.**

**From Graham & Peggy Warby**

*Carol & Martin Tebbs wish to extend Seasonal Greetings to all in Christchurch, and wish everyone a happy and healthy new year.*



Wishing all my friends and neighbours a very happy and healthy New Year.

Best wishes from,

Wendy Yates



Wishing you all a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!

From Sandra and Brian Kay

**A man who discovered his father's beloved classic car on an auction website has completed its restoration after three years of graft.**



Malcolm Stern, from Rickmansworth, Hertfordshire, chanced on the 1930s Talbot Darracq while trying to recreate a 3D model.

He said he could not believe it was the very car his father owned, although it had become a "right wreck".

The 94-year-old said taking it to the road again was "terrifying".

"Many people get old cars but this one is different, because it was my father's car, it makes it a little bit special," he said.

Mr Stern bought a 3D printer before lockdown and wanted to make a model of the bright yellow classic car his father owned and drove when he was growing up.

When looking for reference pictures on the internet, he found the actual car being sold at auction.

He said his father, Alec Stern, acquired the car in 1935, adding: "He drove that car to work every day, and he took us on picnics."

The yellow classic car was manufactured in 1930 and is nearly as old as Malcolm Stern himself.

When Mr Stern and his wife went to visit the car, they said it looked a "right wreck" but decided to buy it for £6,000 because it was so special.

"For sentimental reasons I thought I would buy it... then we brought the car home, and that was in September 2020 and I've been working on the car three years since," he said.

"The original engine was smashed up in a rally... I reckon that the renovators did about 2,000 hours work and I reckon I did about 1,000."

Mr Stern now hopes to spend another six months renovating the interior, saying the restoration project had been "difficult" and "expensive".

He said: "I'm still very excited, very surprised that I'm 94, able to be here and do this and still be fit enough to go out in the car for a ride."

"I think my father would be very proud, he'd be very excited as well," he said.



From [bbc.co.uk/News](https://www.bbc.co.uk/News)



# Skating in the Fens

In 1879, James Smart from Welney became Britain's only ever World Champion speed skater. "The village has a tremendous amount of skating history attached to it, it's quite a unique place. It's the home of Fen Skating".



James Smart c.1890s  
wearing his NSA  
championship sash.

## 'There were a lot of underhand dealings'

When the weather was freezing, skating matches were held in towns and villages all over the Fens. In local matches, men - or sometimes women or children - would go in for prizes of money, clothing, or food.

Different things would be raced for - Farmers would put up a side of pork or beef but there were a lot of underhand dealings because the activity and the sport, at this time, wasn't regulated.

## Modern Skating born in Cambridge

On February 1, 1879, a number of Cambridgeshire bigwigs met in the Guildhall, Cambridge, to set up the National Skating Association. The aim of the meeting was to have greater control of the sport, which until then had been unregulated.



The founding committee consisted of a fellow of Trinity College, two members of parliament, various landowners, the mayor of Cambridge, a Wisbech journalist called James Drake Digby, and the president of Cambridge University Skating Club. It was the Wisbech journalist, James Drake Digby, who had a hand in pushing for the sport to be further regulated.

## 'They always forget the Cambridge ice skating story'

"He could see it was a great activity, it was something that could be done during the winter months, it was becoming really competitive".



It was curious that Cambridge had not become eponymous with skating, "When people talk about Cambridge they talk about the rules of football, but they always forget about the ice-skating story.

"If it wasn't for Fen skating, we wouldn't have the International Skating Union (ISU), all the activities and sport that spawned out of it, or Dancing on Ice or all the other shows we see on TV today. Fen Skating was the inspiration behind the members of the ISU that got the Olympic Ice-Skating movement off the ground."

*Abridged from an article in Cambridgeshire Live*

*With thanks to all our readers and supporters and on behalf  
of the Heron Team would like to wish you all*

*Merry  
Christmas*

AND A HAPPY NEW YEAR

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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