



The Her♥n

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Community Magazine

Delivered to homes in Christchurch, Euximoor and Tipps End

February 2024

February's not just hearts and flowers ...



HERON NEWS ~ HERON NEWS ~ HERON NEWS

We will be holding a 'Special General Meeting' on 15th February at 7pm in Christchurch Community Centre to discuss adopting the recognised Charities Commission Constitution.

If this is all agreed, our next step would be to apply to the Charities Commission for charity status. The benefits this will bring include being able to apply for grant funding - only available to groups with recognised charity status as well as being able to re-claim gift aid on many of the donations received from private individuals. Please support your local magazine and come along if you are able.

Local Wildlife - Muntjac Deer

As I stood washing up, looking out of my kitchen window last week, I saw a doe Muntjac with her fawn playing at the end of Fen View. Quite apart from making my day, it was the second time in recent months that a buck or doe had shown themselves so publicly in front of me.

Correctly named - Reeves Muntjac Deer, they are a small but stocky species of deer, russet brown in colour, for most of the year and turning a dull grey in Winter. They have a slightly hunched appearance with their rumps higher than their shoulders and broad tail which is raised to show a white flash when disturbed. The male sports a stripy face with downward black lines and large facial glands below their eyes and may carry simple 'incurved' antlers.

Muntjac were brought from China to Woburn Park in Northamptonshire in the 20th century. Both escapees and some planned releases have allowed them to flourish and form feral groups. With a life expectancy of up to 16 years for the buck and 19 years for the doe, they have no particular rutting season, taking advantage of warmer weather at any time of year.

They are now classed as an invasive alien species and as such are not allowed to be bred in captivity without a special licence, imported or released into this country. With their recognisable bark, they now form 25% of deer deaths on our roads but if you keep your eyes peeled, you'll see and hear them everywhere, and not just at Christmas.

Liz Scott

Image from Keith Hider/British Deer Society



**Heron Fundraiser
Music Themed
Quiz**

Friday 9th February 2024

**Christchurch Community Centre,
Upwell Road,
PE14 9LL**

Doors open at 7 for a
7.30pm start.

Teams of no more than 6
£3.00 per person.

Licenced bar - feel free to bring
your own nibbles.

Raffle at half time for a luxury
Valentine's Hamper
**Music Trivia
Pop Master
Beat the Intro**

To register your team please call
Elaine or text 07803 178824.

HERON QUIZ NIGHT RAFFLE

£2 per strip or 6 strips for £10

To purchase raffle tickets before the night,
please contact:

editor@theheron.info

Just one fabulous prize.
A luxury hamper worth in excess of £250.



Contents include:

Hotel Chocolat Velvetiser, Hotel Chocolat
Chocolatiers Table, £30 Lamb & Flag Voucher, 2
bottles of wine, Box of Biscuits, Pamper Kit for Him,
Pamper Kit for Her, 2 Champagne Flutes,
candle and bath bombs.

*****SALE*****

We still have a handful of Heron 2024 Calendars
available at a reduced price of
£5 each, 2 for £8, 3 for £10.

If you would like one please contact Elaine on
adverts@theheron.info or call 01354 638310.

From the Office of Steve Barclay

We have some great examples of culture and heritage in the constituency – magnificent buildings, innovative arts groups and some supremely talented individuals. However, we've long recognised that Fenland has lower cultural engagement than it might and there's more that could be done to support opportunities for local communities and residents to access high-quality experiences.

That's why I'm delighted to see 19 organisations were successful in gaining support for their activities from the Fenland Cultural Fund. Up to £23,000 was available with arts organisations and individuals able to bid for up to £2,000 to progress creativity and cultural offerings to new audiences, drive increased engagement, and build on existing talent. I'm greatly encouraged that 42 groups submitted bids to the fund and a second round is due to be launched later this year.

In a similar vein, I'm looking forward to seeing who the next Fenland Poet Laureates are. The deadline for entry was the end of January and this year, the sixth annual competition, is sure to see some amazing talent championing both poetry and the area we live in.

Meanwhile, a series of free heritage talks being held across the constituency are well underway. Thanks to funding from the Government to Arts Council England, the events are designed to promote local historical awareness and provide an opportunity for residents to get together and socialise. Whittlesey talks will be given by London Brickwork Archivist Andrew Mortlock and local historian Maureen Watson; Wisbech talks are by local author and historian Diane Carlton Smith; Chatteris talks are by former councillor Alan Melton; and the Friends of March Railway Station will lead the March talks. Tickets are available to book now:

Whittlesey: 6 February & 5 March
Wisbech: 13 February & 12 March
March: 20 February & 19 March
Chatteris: 27 February & 26 March

There's just time to get your nomination in for the Pride in Fenland Awards. Over the years we have heard some inspirational stories and had worthy winners and I have no doubt that once again we will be amazed and grateful to recognise the people who are heroes in their communities. The closing date for nominations is midnight on February 11. Printed nominations forms can be found in the Fenland Citizen or made online at www.fenland.gov.uk/prideinfenland

It was a pleasure to visit Online Playgrounds in Christchurch to help them celebrate 30 years of trading. They are one of our local success stories, helping put Fenland on the map internationally by exporting to the Middle East, USA and Australia. One of the challenges we face as an economy is to get more businesses to think about exporting further afield and what Online Playgrounds has achieved reflects the work that goes on here day in, day out. Online Playgrounds started as a farm diversification project and makes timber playgrounds on-site using traditionally skilled craftsmen and the latest technology, as well as being the UK supplier for the Danish Ledon steel play equipment, and the go-to website for multi-brand spare parts for all types of playground. What they have achieved is something quite notable.

Finally, the Energy Secretary of State has until later this month to make a decision about whether to allow an enormous incinerator to be built in Wisbech. I have been against these incinerator plans from the very beginning and will continue to campaign against them. The Planning inspectorate has submitted its recommendation following the public examination last year and in January the Secretary of State issued a letter to various parties asking for further information. The impact of hundreds of thousands of tonnes of non-recyclable municipal and commercial and industrial waste being brought to Wisbech each year would be huge. I will continue to do all I can to oppose it.

Let us entertain you! Public invited to help choose the line-up for popular Cambridgeshire arts programme

A county-wide programme of arts and entertainment, is calling on the public to help select the acts they would like to see perform in Cambridgeshire this Spring.



Since its launch in 2018, *The Library Presents* has grown in both popularity and appeal, attracting audiences of more than 30,000 and consistently delivering a diverse arts programme of high quality.

You can make your voice heard and help to choose the events that will be part of this year's exciting and varied programme by responding to a survey at your local library, or online at <https://www.library.live/the-library-presents> between 11 January and 9 February.

Thanks to partnership support and £570,826 of public funding provided by Arts Council England over 3 years, standard ticket prices are heavily subsidised.

Participating Libraries:

Alconbury Weald, Arbury Court, Barnwell Road, Bassingbourn, Cambourne, Cambridge Central, Chatteris, Ely, Histon, Huntingdon, Littleport, March, Northstowe, Ramsey, Sawtry, St Ives, St Neots, Whittlesey, Wisbech.

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

Sun 4th Feb	Welle Cinema - 80 For Brady	1:30pm	3 Holes Village Hall
Tue 6th Feb	Mobile Library	12:15pm	Fen View Layby
Tue 6th Feb	Book Club	7:30pm	Contact Pat Rigby
Fri 9th Feb	Music Quiz Night	7:30pm	CCC
Mon 12th Feb	Street Pride Meeting	7pm - 7:30pm	CCC
Mon 12th Feb	Parish Council Meeting	7:30pm	CCC
Tue 13th Feb	Art Club	1:30pm	Village Hall
Tue 13th Feb	WI - Quiz 7 Games evening	7:30pm	CCC
Wed 14th Feb	Coffee/Lunch Break	11am - 1pm	CCC
Thu 15th Feb	Heron Special General Meeting	7pm	CCC
Tue 20th Feb	Gardening club & AGM		CCC
Sat 24th Feb	Church Beetle Drive	Afternoon	Contact Helen Chappell
Tue 27th Feb	Art Club	1:30pm	Village Hall
Wed 28th Feb	Coffee/Lunch Break	11am - 1pm	CCC
Sun 3rd March	Welle Cinema - Emily	1:30pm	3 Holes Village Hall
Regular Weekly Events			
Monday	Short Mat Bowls	7pm - 9pm	CCC
Tuesday	Hobby & Craft Club	10am - 1pm	CCC
Sunday	Car Boot Sale	8am - 12pm	Skylark Garden Centre
Wednesday	Chair Based Exercise	10am - 10:50am	CCC - 07880543821
Thursday	Cake, Coffee & Chat	1:30pm - 3:30pm	CCC
Friday	Christchurch Umbrella Breakfast	9:30am - 11:30am	CCC
Mon, Tue, Wed, Thu	Mobile Post Office	4:10pm - 4:30pm	Lay-by near Fen View

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.

Heron News

We have a Heron Fundraising event on Friday 9th February - A Music Quiz. Please see poster on Page 2 for further information. That evening we will also be raffling off an enormous hamper. **Tickets for this can be purchased before the event by emailing editor@theheron.info.**

Also, please note the date for our Special Meeting at the Community Centre - 15th February - to discuss adopting official Charity Status. Please come if you are able.

Sadly we have to say goodbye to one of our Executive Committee members, Em Haylock, who has a new job in York so is moving away. We would like to thank her for all she has done and wish her well in this next chapter of her career.

Lorna Kirk

Our printer has advised us that we have received our first electronic donation via the *Made Great* website so we would like to say a big thank you for that.

POPPY APPEAL 2023 ROUNDUP

I do hope you all had a wonderful Christmas and wish everyone the best for 2024. 2023 turned out to be an absolutely fantastic year for Manea and District Poppy Appeal. Your generosity and engagement has raised a whopping £3,516.71 which is £1,245.00 more than the whole of the 2022. Thank you all so much for your amazing donations and fundraising efforts.

Special thanks go to everyone who did house to house collections this year and also to all the Primary Schools who broke all of their previous years' records from 2022. Absolutely amazing! Thanks also to all other static point collections in our local shops, public houses, village halls and community hubs.

The work of the Royal British Legion could not continue without the general public and I, as Poppy Appeal Organiser for Manea & District, want to sincerely thank everyone who has made a difference this year.

Everyone has been so friendly and welcoming to me since I took over in 2022 and I look forward to continuing to serve you in 2024.

I keep a whole range of Remembrance Wreaths and products all year round so please don't hesitate to contact me for all your Poppy related needs on (01945) 351225 or 07884 478598 or alternatively email me on salnrog@sky.com.

Sally Fawkes

Copy Deadline - The deadline for copy for the March edition of the Heron is 21st February.

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).

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FABULOUS FEBRUARY FACTS!

February is mostly recognized for Valentine's Day, flowers, and, depending on where you are, being incredibly cold!

Oddly enough, even though it's just another month, there's a lot of history behind this month of romance and love!

Read on to find out some historical events which occurred in February, as well as how it came to be the shortest month of the year.

February fluctuates between having 28 and 29 days per year. The 29th day only occurs every 4 years during leap years.



The length of February was finalized when Julius Caesar remade the Roman calendar and assigned the month 28 days and 29 days. In 713 B.C., February was officially added to the Roman calendar.

If you were born in February, your birthstone is an amethyst, and your flower is a primrose.

The western zodiac signs in February are Aquarius which is until February 19th, and Pisces, which is until February 20th.

Over time, the length of February kept changing. At one point, it had as little as 23 days.

In the Northern Hemisphere, February is the third month of winter. Meanwhile, in the Southern Hemisphere, February is the last month of summer. Between the North and South Hemispheres, February is the equivalent of August.

The name of February comes from the Latin word "februum," which means purification.

February was named after a purification ritual which was like an early Roman spring cleaning festival.

In Welsh, February is sometimes known as "y mis bach," which means "little month."

February and January were the last months added to the Roman numeral calendar.

The Saxons called February "Sol-monath" which means "cake month," because they would offer cakes to the gods during February.

Of all the words you can misspell, February is one of the most misspelled words in the English language.

February is the only month where it's possible to go the entire time without having a full moon.

February has been Black History Month for over 40 years.

The odds of being born on February 29th are about 1 in 1,461. Those born on a leap day can be called a "leaper" or "leapling."

February, March, and November always start on the same day of the week unless it is a leap year.

It was in February 1964 when The Beatles made their first American television appearance on the "Ed Sullivan Show." Over 73 million Americans watched!

Sadly, on February 1, 2003, the Space Shuttle "Columbia" broke apart in flight, which killed all seven crew members. The accident was believed to be a result of damage that occurred during lift-off. The tragedy occurred only 16 minutes before the shuttle was scheduled to land.

Source: www.thefactsite.com



Your Letters

THANK YOU!

Carol and Martin Tebbs would like to thank all who very kindly donated a total of £375 to *YOUNG LIVES vs CANCER* charity (formally *CLIC SARGENT*) at our recent Diamond Wedding Anniversary party.

Many thanks from Carol and Martin.

A Big “Thank You”

We would like to thank all those people who sent cards, flowers, plants and took the time to telephone us with their support after the sudden loss of our dearest son, Stephen.

We feel very lucky to have so many good friends at what is a very difficult and sad time.

Peggy & Graham Warby





FREE COMMUNITY EXERCISE

CARE TOGETHER

Supporting those over 65 to remain independent
STARTING APRIL 25TH 2024

MOBILE FACILITY

PROFESSIONAL TRAINERS

THURSDAYS
11:45 - 12:30

BOOK TODAY

01487 208150
(Fitness Rush)

community@fitnessrush.co.uk

Christchurch Community Centre

www.fitnessrush.co.uk

STATE-OF-THE-ART

We use a range of modern equipment to ensure our workouts are inclusive and accessible to everyone.

TAILORED PROGRAM

We understand that every individual has different needs and goals, so our tailored planning ensures you achieve long term results.

SUSTAINED WELLBEING

Not only will we help everyone begin, enjoy and benefit from fitness but our ongoing support allows our participants to continue their journey after the initiative has finished.

CREATE A PROUD REFLECTION

Banana Oat Pancakes – a healthy alternative

Ingredients

125ml oat milk	2 eggs, separated
1 small banana	100gm rolled oats
2 tsp baking powder	Few drops of vanilla extract
Oil	Low-Fat yogurt and fruit to top

Method

STEP 1 - Put the oat milk, egg yolks, banana, oats, baking powder and vanilla in a blender and process to as smooth a mixture as you can get. Whisk the eggs whites until they hold stiff peaks. Whisk 1-2 tbsp of the whites into the batter, then fold in the rest.

STEP 2 - Heat a non-stick pan over a medium heat and spray with a whisper of oil, pour about 2 tbsp of batter into the pan and cook for 1-2 mins, until the base sets and bubbles appear all over the top. Flip and cook the other side for a minute. Repeat in batches, making sure the top looks dryish before attempting the flip, or the centre will collapse.



PC Snippets

Public Time

A minutes silence was held for Peter Owen who sadly passed just before Christmas. An Obituary is to be published on the Heron.

A Street pride meeting has been approved to be held immediately before next the PCC meeting.

PC Matters

Flooding on Upwell Road was discussed, and the meeting was informed that it is for landowners to clear drains.

The local survey – deadline will have passed by the time this is in print.

Upwell Road property, debris has largely been cleared. Wayside Estate pedestrian safety - still awaiting feedback on this.

Parishioner engagement - Michael Brookes did some work on communications with Parishioners, with survey launched in November. There was about 4% response rate (13 people), and street lighting was a concern. The results will be taken away and discussed at the next meeting.

Santa Run - thanks to Julia for organising this. This was felt to have gone very well.

Bowls club donation - still under consideration as to what to do with this fund.

The adult fitness equipment for the recreation ground was discussed, with thoughts on the location – this will be moved closer to the children's play area within the allowed regulations.

Police report – a major hare coursing event took place locally and police caught a group from Kent (partly due to the participants being stuck in waterlogged fields) Cllr Steve Count spoke about the roads. The area suffers from peat /soil damaged road - it is felt by all that patching is dangerous. The situation has been left in limbo, but there is a lack of money, so it's an uphill battle to get funds.

Budget consultation. There is a proposed Council tax increase of £24 per year to subsidise buses, with pressure to get buses to all areas.

Money has been put back in for weed killing on roads once the policy has been reviewed.

Cllr Dal Roy - looking into flooding areas, Elm is already a problem, but any issues here in the village should be reported. Budget consultations are live on website. Cllr Roy has reminded the owners that the deadline for removal of the illegally sited caravan is imminent.

New road closure from 22 Feb to 31 March at the Upwell end of 16 Foot Bank for resurfacing trial. The Local transport connectivity plan has been approved, but this is not a delivery plan.

The building site developers on Church Road have been pumping water into the churchyard. The developers were reminded that Desecration of a Churchyard is a criminal offence, and this will not happen again.

Other matters discussed were:

Annual parish meeting - provisionally set for 23rd April. This is a public meeting with a speaker. Ideas were discussed for speakers that would be interesting and relevant to the village.

Manea Fire Station – the PCC can write a letter of support for keeping it open.

Recreation ground community field - still ongoing with planting.

Highways - white lines for no overtaking on the 16 Foot Bank at the Upwell Road junction. PCC contributing £1000 of the overall cost of £10,000.

Expenditure reports were discussed. Barclays Bank still not cooperating with the accounts, so the PCC will assist the CCC in the meantime, and bulk of PCC money will be transferred away from Barclays to Natwest.

An idea for Meet your PCC at coffee morning is being considered and also a suggestion box for PCC at CCC.

The next meeting is 12th February at 7:30pm, with a Street Pride meeting just before PCC at 7pm. All are welcome to attend either/both meetings.

Government Consultation Proposals for heat network zoning 2023

Department for Energy Security & Net Zero

Government is seeking views on proposals for heat network zoning in England, to attract investment and give local communities access to cheaper, greener heat sooner.

This consultation provides detail on the role of central and local government, zone identification, requirements in zones (consumer protections,

emissions, requirements to connect) and zone delivery (selecting developers and ensuring construction).

Under zoning, central and local government will work with industry and local stakeholders to identify and designate zones where heat networks are the lowest-cost solution to decarbonising heat.

This consultation closes on 26 February 2024.

<https://www.gov.uk/government/consultations/proposals-for-heat-network-zoning-2023>

Church News

Church Repairs

I know many people in the village are waiting to see some work begin on the repairs to the church and church yard.

Raising the funds is a painstaking business and we are very grateful to those of you who have supported us at fundraising events, with donations and with your time.

We have raised £25,000 so far - this includes grants from Whitemills (£8,000), Jack Patstons (£3,000), Cambridgeshire Historic Churches Trust (£3,000) and the Benefact Trust (£5,000).

In September 2023, the Church of England allocated £6.2 million, shared between all diocese across the country, for urgent, small scale repair work of church buildings. This could be used for projects costing up to £12,000. Unfortunately, our project is substantially larger. The Parochial Church Council and the previous church warden, Andy Day, continue to work extremely hard to source funding and to hold fundraising events.

We thank you again for your continued support.

Helen

Saturday 24th February 2024 - 3pm

Beetle Drive and Afternoon Tea

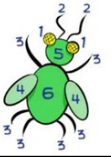
Come and enjoy an hour or two, playing the fun dice game with friends.

Completely based on pure luck, you and your friends might win the group prize. (Children welcome)

£6 per person. To book, call or text

07702 225259.

There will also be a raffle.



Praying in your own place and at your own time

Lent begins on 14th February. What are you giving up for Lent? Perhaps you might like to give up 10 minutes a day to pray for our village? Anybody who would like to, can join us... no need to be a member of the village church or any other church.

Ask Annie Nason for a leaflet with suggestions.

BENEFICE CHURCH SERVICES **FOR FEBRUARY**

4th February

10.30 Morning Prayer, Christchurch

10.30 Holy Communion, Doddington

11th February

10.30 Holy Communion, Manea

10.30 Morning Prayer, Wimblington

15.00 Holy Communion, Benwick

14th February

Ash Wednesday service TBC

18th February

10.30 Holy Communion, Christchurch

10.30 Morning Prayer, Doddington

25th February

10.30 Morning Prayer, Manea

10.30 Holy Communion, Wimblington

16.00 Evening Prayer, Welney



Coffee/Lunch Break

Alternate Wednesdays CCC: 11.00am – 1.00pm

Free entry and hot drink.

Bring your own lunch if you would like to.

**Dates for February
are: 14th & 28th**



Cake, Coffee and Chat

Every Thursday CCC: 1.30 – 3.30pm

Free entry and hot drink. All welcome.

Monetary donations accepted for cake.



Breakfast

Every Friday CCC: 9.30 - 11.30am

Free hot drink and slice of toast.

Other breakfast items including
a cooked breakfast available to buy.



Letter from the Editor

One of the things that has struck me since moving to this village, now just over 2 years ago, is the sense of community, and people looking out for each other. This is something I haven't really experienced previously, where it was not unusual to barely know anyone other than your next-door neighbour. Also, when driving into the village for the first time, I was surprised that such a small village had such a good sized and well-kept community hall. I'm sure this is something we'd all like to continue, but to do so, it needs people who are willing to help out, and because the community means different things to different people, we need people of all ages involved in running and organising these things. With that in mind, two organisations are looking for people to help, the local school, and the Community Centre. Please volunteer if you have spare time – as well as helping to keep these running, it's also a good way to meet other people in the village.

Townley School

Townley School are looking for two new governors: one parent governors and a community governor. If you have some spare time, a genuine interest in our school and would like to support our children and those in our community then we'd love to hear from you! No previous governance experience or special skills are necessary as a full induction and training, where needed, will be offered to the right applicants, so if you feel you can make a positive difference, or would like more information, please get in touch by phone on 01354 638229 or by email:

Maria-Anne Higgins office@townley.cambs.sch.uk Sue Rudge (Chair) srudge@townley.cambs.sch.uk

Christchurch Community Centre

Following the very sad loss of Peter Owen, Christchurch Community Centre Committee needs a Treasurer (I am assured that this is not an onerous task) along with volunteers and help with running the Centre and its events. If you feel you can help please contact Geoff Harper, Chair, Christchurch Community Centre Committee for further information (Tel: 01354 638681 or email geoffrey.harper437@googlemail.com).

Clive Benjamin



Nominate an unsung hero for a Pride in Fenland award

Who do you know who goes to great lengths to support others, has fundraised for charity, volunteers tirelessly or has done something remarkable for someone else?

Perhaps you know a child or adult who always wants to help others even though they face great challenges, adversity or ill health themselves? Or someone who loves their Fenland town or village and goes out of their way to care for and champion it?

These are the people Fenland District Council wants to hear about via nominations for the Pride in Fenland Awards 2024. The awards celebrate outstanding and wonderful people of Fenland who have done something, or regularly do something, for the benefit of others.

Cllr Susan Wallwork, Fenland District Council's portfolio holder for community, said: "The Pride in Fenland Awards are a touching celebration of selflessness and community contribution.

"We know the district is full of people who care for and do things for others in wonderful ways and we want the opportunity to acknowledge and express our gratitude for what those people have done or continue to do.

"We are calling on everyone in Fenland to tell us about the heroes of our communities."

The most recent Pride in Fenland awards ceremony was held at the end of 2022. It saw awards for sports club coordinators, caring neighbours, dedicated fundraisers, organisers of a popular community coffee morning, a group that had transformed a church into a community hub, community event organisers and supporters, a young army cadet, youth activity organisers and all-round community-minded and community-spirited people.

This year who knows who we will find?
In previous years awards have included:

- Top community group
- Individual volunteer
- Young individual
- Recreation / environment volunteer
- Lifetime contribution

The closing date for nominations is midnight on Sunday, February 11.

To make a nomination all you need do is tell us why the person you're putting forward deserves a Pride in Fenland award.

Nominations can be made online via the Fenland District Council website at: www.fenland.gov.uk/prideinfenland You can also find a form there to download and print and printed nomination forms can also be found in the Fenland Citizen.

This year's awards ceremony is set to take place in March 2024 at Wisbech St Mary Sports and Community Centre.



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.

January 2024

We started the new year with an aspiration of trying something new, it might be a new food or a new partner in PE as sometimes change can be scary but it can also be a positive experience. We are hoping to see lots of changes in the physical building this year, we hope the new classroom will be built and ready to go in September for Y5/6; the mobile should be gone and EYFS will have moved into the main building; Emerald and Hawker will be swapping rooms; and finally, we should be able to decorate the school internally. We are almost full in every year group, so we need the extra space. This really will be a year of change for the building, we are looking forward to the unveiling!



Emperor Class (Y5/6) are reading 'All Aboard the Empire Windrush' by Jillian Powell, which links with their history unit. The geography unit involves comparing Europe, North America and the Lake District.



Emerald Class (Y3/4) have started Forest School, so far, they have sung, played, laid in the hammock, had fun on the swing & on the rope bridge, helped cut small trees down to help restore an area of the forest & climbed trees.

Hawker Class (Y1/2) continue with Forest School this term, but they would love some more helpers. If you could spare two hours every Friday afternoon, please get in touch with us as without support they won't be able to continue.



EYFS Class (YN/R) we have started the year off exploring ice, looking at Dogs, and making caves! We have painted our faces in Forest School using charcoal we made and water. We have also welcomed some new children.

Do you run a business in Christchurch?

We are looking to highlight the businesses in and local to Christchurch so that our readers know what is available - I have to admit, as a relative newcomer, I was unaware of just how many small businesses there are here. If you would like to be included in this, please send a paragraph of what you do, along with publishable email and/or telephone numbers to me at: editor@theheron.info

Twisty Willow Floristry

Hi, I'm Caroline, your community florist. I run my business - Twisty Willow Floristry - from our family home here in Christchurch. I have a level 2 qualification in floristry and have been a florist for 15 years.

I offer unique floral designs, from everyday flowers to wedding flowers, funeral flowers, occasion flowers, home installations, workshops, flower subscriptions and giftware. I offer free delivery for flowers in Christchurch and surrounding small villages.

I will also now be offering alternative sustainable floristry methods where possible in the coming months to move my business towards being more eco friendly.

twistywillowfloristry@hotmail.com or on Facebook

The Village Cakery

We are a mother and daughter baking Duo based in Christchurch. We have always been 'foodies' – both going out to eat and cooking for every family Christmas or event. We had toyed for months about setting up our own bakery business and in the summer of 2021 we, unfortunately, lost our Mum and Nan, Jean. We held Jean's wake at the local community hall and did all of the catering ourselves. As the day went on, more people asked us who did the catering – and they were (pleasantly) surprised when we said we had done it all ourselves. We opened the business in November 2021, and received a 5* rating in January 2022. In February

2023, I took the leap and quit my 9-5 to take the Cakery full-time. It has been a scary, and exciting, few months! I have poured my heart and soul into the business ever since and worked some crazy hours to boot, but when you have a 15-person queue on a Friday morning at Chatteris, it makes it all worth it.

07599 456984, thevillagecakerychristchurch.co.uk, thevillagecakerychristchurch@gmail.com

Bates Bakes

Bates Bakes is a local, small business owned by Alison Waters, specialising in catering and cakes. From grazing tables for events and gatherings, individual meals for home cooking to sweet treats such as cakes and brownies, Bates Bakes is the go-to business for all of your food needs.

07958 549129, [instagram.com/BatesBakesBB](https://www.instagram.com/BatesBakesBB) or on Facebook.

Granary Studio

We came to Christchurch in 2015 after I almost lost my wife Linda to meningitis and after, retirement shortly followed and 'Granary Studio' was created and tooled up for framing pictures and after a couple of years, printing and heat sealing was added.

Marketing framed prints was a key part of what we did back in the 1970s. We contacted a company in London who supplied fine art prints at that time. They've been trading since 1880 and now have copyright to some 40,000 pieces of art from the old masters to today's contemporary artists and photographers. After a year working with Fine Design in March, www.wallartonline.uk was born, offering over 25,000 open edition art images which we offer framed in various styles, finishes and sizes. A second website, www.framemyphoto.uk is the result. Photos can be uploaded on the site where frame style, finish and size can be chosen and orders can be placed using an A2 12 colour printer.

Rex Ockenden www.granarystudio.uk - 01354 638614



Pearls Puzzle Library

Jigsaw puzzles were believed invented in the 1700s by a map engraver called John Spilsbury who mounted one of his master maps onto wood then cut around the countries. The puzzles were passed onto the local school to help children with their geography education. They were then expanded into educational images such as farms and religious scenes before morphing into the jigsaw puzzles we know today.

Fast forward to 2020 during the coronavirus lockdown, and with a rather large collection of jigsaw puzzles, Pearls Puzzle Library, based in March, was born and quickly expanded to over 2000 puzzles and a large quantity of books available to borrow. The puzzles can be hired for a £1.00 a puzzle for as long as you need to, and in December 2023, the sum of £10,000 had been raised for the local food bank!

Interested? The puzzle library is open every Saturday from 10.00am to 1.00pm at 3 Kent Way, March PE15 8DS (just before Secret Recipes/Wongs Crispy Duck Chinese). There is also a Facebook page if you would like more information or to message them.

Puzzler

Medium

Answers on page 21

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



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.

Christchurch Hobby and Craft Club

Every Tuesday
10.00 AM- 1.00 PM
Christchurch Community Centre

Bring your art, craft or hobby along to the club to work on and share with like-minded friends.

Maybe you will introduce us to something new or find something you would like to try, i.e. artwork, needlework, crochet, card making, Lego, or maybe there is a jigsaw puzzle looking for someone to finish while you are thinking of what to start.

Interested?

Contact Janet Harper on 07941 465319 or Pat Rigby on 07776 142642

Christchurch Art Group



We meet on the 2nd and 4th Tuesday of the month 1.30-3.30 in the Village Hall (term time).

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



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

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

Christchurch Book Club



The Christchurch Book club met in January to discuss the book The Miniaturist by Jessie Burton.

Mixed reviews on this book, which tells the story of a young woman who was gifted a dolls house by her husband, hires a miniaturist to furnish it, but the miniatures appear to predict the fate of members of her family. This book was also made into a TV series. Some readers were disappointed with the ending, others would have liked to know more about the miniaturist. There is a sequel to this book called The House of Fortune so this might be a book to read in the future.

The next meeting will take place on Tuesday 6th February, when we will discuss the current book. The next book in March is Blood Orange by Harriet Tyce.

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



In January, All WI groups vote for a Resolution to be put to the Government later in the year. Our choice (out of 4) was **Say 'NO' to Gambling Advertising**. The other 3 were: **Dental health matters**; **Impacts of poor housing conditions**; and **Improving outcomes for women in the Criminal Justice System**.

Our speaker was one of our members, Mrs Linda Potter, whose area of expertise is a wide one, encompassing many aspects of caring, support and counselling. She has had a lot of experience supporting victims of Domestic Abuse, and she gave us a very interesting and sobering talk on that aspect of her work. She began with some shocking statistics: In England and Wales, 1 in 4 women, and 1 in 7 men are victims of some kind of domestic abuse. 2 women a week are killed by a current or former partner.

Domestic abuse encompasses many kinds of abuse. One thing all types have in common is that they are about CONTROL, and so undermine the self-confidence of the victim to such an extent that they feel unable to speak about it or to leave their abusive situation. A definition of domestic abuse can be found in The Domestic Abuse Act 2021, as follows: "*Behaviour of a person ("A") towards another person ("B") is "domestic abuse" if— (a) A and B are each aged 16 or over and are personally connected to each other, and (b) the behaviour is abusive*". With the advent of the internet, these situations are often made worse and, as young people in particular use social media, it's true to say that a lot of abuse occurs between teenagers these days, which is a very sad reflection on our society. If you are experiencing any kind of domestic abuse, contact your doctor's surgery, or the police.

Next meeting: Tues Feb 13th, 7pm. Quiz/games evening. **Competition:** A heart-shaped item.

More information: <https://safelives.org.uk/policy-evidence/about-domestic-abuse>

Christchurch Gardening Club



"Januarys Chill Winds"

As you may know the gardening club is on hiatus at present and is due to reconvene in February for the A.G.M. However, I'm pretty sure our members will still be beavering away preparing for more moderate weather.

All those Amaryllis that were gifted over Christmas and come in kit form can be opened and planted now.

Those hardy gardeners that have nice warm greenhouse, or even a heated propagator, can sow seeds for Begonia, Lobelia, Salvia, and Pelargonium through this hopefully coldest month of the year. This month Sweet Peas can be sown, while those sown earlier in the autumn can be potted on, while being careful not to disturb the roots too much.

This month is also the last chance to sow seeds that need frost to germinate, such as native trees and shrubs. If we are lucky enough to get some milder weather, it's possible to plant Lilly Bulbs in pots and borders.

Summer bulbs, seed potatoes and onion sets will be available in garden centres from the middle of the month.

If one has Wisteria in the garden now is the time to prune, to have a display in the spring and summer.

Next year the gardening club will have some special nights which we hope will introduce the club to new members and friends. For more information call 01354638230 or come along to the meeting.

Keep well and warm.
Steve

Christchurch Over 65s Annual Parish Lunch

SAVE THE DATE

Sunday 14th April 2024

The Parish Lunch Committee will post more information in here next month so keep an eye out for it!

VALENTINE BISCUITS

INGREDIENTS

- 300g plain flour, plus a little extra for dusting
- 200g salted butter, diced
- 120g golden caster sugar
- 2 large egg yolks
- 2 tsp vanilla extract
- ½ tsp rosewater, or 25g/1oz freeze-dried raspberries (optional)
- red or pink food colouring

Method

STEP 1 - Tip the flour and butter into a food processor and whizz to fine crumbs. Add the sugar and yolks then whizz to a smooth dough. Remove one-third of the dough, add vanilla to what's left and pulse to whizz in. Wrap this dough in cling film and leave at room temperature.

STEP 2 - Put the reserved dough back in the processor with the rosewater or dried raspberries, if using, and a drop of food colouring. Pulse and add more colouring to achieve an intense colour. If the dough has become too soft, pulse in a few spoonfuls more flour until a similar consistency to the vanilla dough. Put the dough in the fridge, remembering to remove it 30 mins before you need to roll it out.

STEP 3 - Thickly roll out the coloured dough between baking parchment. Use a small 3-4cm heart cutter to stamp out hearts. Keep re-rolling and stamping until all the dough is used. Line up hearts on top of each other and press to form a cylinder, taking care to retain the heart shape. Wrap in cling film and freeze for 3 hrs until solid.



STEP 4 - When the heart dough is hard, roll the vanilla dough, using your hands, into 3 cylinders the length of the heart stack. Stick one to each 'side' of the hearts, pat together to form a fat cylinder, then gently roll on your work surface until it completely encircles the coloured dough, with the frozen heart dough hidden in the centre. Chill for 2 hrs.

STEP 5 - Heat oven to 180C/160C fan/gas 4. Use a sharp knife to slice the log into 1cm-thick discs. Place on trays lined with baking parchment, allowing space for spreading, and bake for 20 mins. Cool on wire racks. Will keep for up to 4 days in an airtight container.

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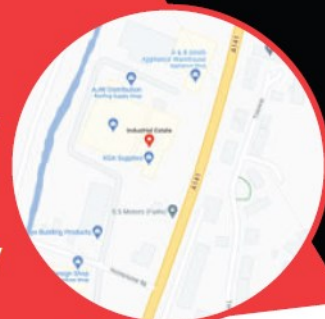
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2024 IS A LEAP YEAR!

*“Thirty days hath September,
April, June and November.
All the rest have thirty-one,
Excepting February alone,
And that has twenty-eight days clear
And twenty-nine in each leap year”.*

Leap Year: What is it and when does it happen?

The calendar used in most parts of the world today, known as the Gregorian calendar, has 365 days in most years. However, the length of an actual year is 365.2425 days. That's the time it takes for the Earth to make one trip around the Sun. Through a little simple mathematics, you can figure out that there is approximately an extra quarter of a day. If the calendar didn't have a way to take this into account, then each year the calendar would get a little more out of rhythm from the cycle of the seasons.

But we do have a way to take that portion of a day into account. Approximately every four years in the Gregorian calendar, February has 29 days instead of the usual 28 days. This type of year is called a **leap year**.

RHYMING PUZZLE: How many words can you think of that rhyme with LEAP? Here are a few with clues. They only need to SOUND like Leap, but they can be SPELT differently.....our language has some spelling challenges. Find more words!

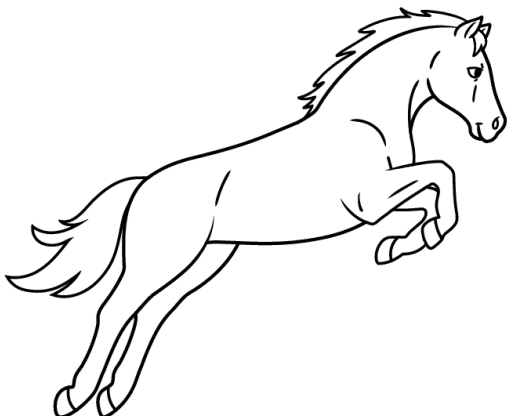
SL ---
C ---
H ---
D ---
- H ---
CR ---
- W ---
J ---
W ---
ST ---

Answers on
page 21



Why not make a “HAPPY LEAP DAY” card for someone, and give it to them on February 29th? You could copy this picture, or make one up yourself remember to put a picture of someone/something that is leaping on it.

Have a look at this link and enjoy the story. <https://www.storynory.com/the-leap-frog>





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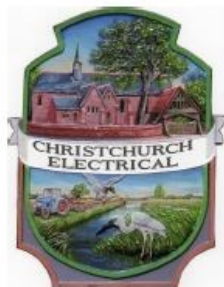
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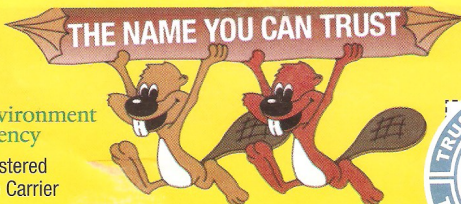
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Can you help Christchurch Street Pride group?

Formed in 2020, Christchurch Street Pride was set up to help keep the village looking good with regular litter-picks and other clean-up events that enhance the local environment.



But the Covid pandemic and other unforeseen events in the last couple of years has had an impact on the number of the group's volunteers and activities undertaken. So much so that new members are needed to step forward to get the group up and running again so that it can keep its valued efforts going.

Christchurch Street Pride is one of 17 Street Pride groups across the whole of Fenland, all supported by Fenland District Council to make a real difference in their local communities.

From planting trees and containers with colourful blooms, keeping areas free from weeds and leaves, litter picking, making bug or bird boxes, holding fundraising events, and coming up with fresh ideas, Street Pride volunteers enjoy varied and fulfilling roles.

Interested in joining?

Whether you have lots of time or only a little to spare, joining a group is a great way to meet like-minded people where you live, whilst staying active, enjoying the great outdoors, and actively improving the environment.

There's a role for everyone, including committee roles if you also like the responsibility that comes with organising!

Fenland District Council supports and assists Street Pride groups by providing rubbish bags and litter collections, hi-vis vests and litter picking equipment, and support with event organising and fundraising.

To find out more, please get in touch with Fenland District Council's Street Pride Co-ordinator on streetpride@fenland.gov.uk or call 01354 654321 to have an informal chat.

WE WILL BE HOLDING A VERY QUICK MEETING (TO GAUGE INTEREST), AT THE COMMUNITY CENTRE, AT 7PM ON MONDAY 12TH FEBRUARY - BEFORE THE PARISH COUNCIL MEETING, IN THE SMALL MEETING ROOM.

Puzzler Answers

Medium

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

WORDS THAT RHYME WITH LEAP PUZZLE

ANSWERS

Sleep
Cheap
Heap
Deep
Sheep
Creep
Sweep
Jeep
Weep
Steep

LOOKING FOR SOMEWHERE TO GO

What's on February 2024

2nd - 3rd February 2024 Friday and Saturday 14th Elysian Winter Beer Festival (CAMRA) The Maltings, Ship Lane, Ely CB7 4BB Friday 10am-10pm, Saturday 11am-8pm Beer, Cider and Food. Admission free to CAMRA members with valid membership, £3 for non CAMRA members. Under 18s not permitted.

6th – 10th February 2024 (Tuesday-Saturday) Crown and Coronation at Ely Cathedral. A spectacular, immersive Light and sound show by Luxmuralis, from William the Conqueror to Queen Victoria, the show is a spectacle of light and sound spanning over the centuries, projected around the interior of the cathedral. For times and tickets Tel: 01353 667735.

9th February 2024, 7pm Music Quiz Night, Christchurch Community Centre. Teams of up to 6. £3 per person. Bar open, bring your own nibbles. Call or Text Elaine on 07803 178824 to enter (see poster on page 2).

11th February 2024 Sunday- Charity Tractor Run in aid of Upwell Playing field and MIND charity. Those wishing to take part registration from 9am set off at 10.30am £10 per tractor includes driver, one passenger plus bacon roll & hot drink at start. Villages covered are Upwell, Three Holes, Lakesend, Welney, Tipps End, Christchurch, Outwell, Emneth finishing at playing field Decorate tractor for Valentines day prize for best decorated one. See local Facebook pages nearer time for route times for the villages mentioned.

14th February 2024 Wednesday- 3 Course Valentines Dinner at The Dun Cow pub, 6pm-9pm. Contact the pub on 01354 638323 to book.

16th February 2024 Friday- Valentines Disco Date Night at The Dun Cow with DJ Darv, From 8pm- free buffet. Free Entry.

Hare Coursing

As the fields around us begin to dry out, after the wettest winter on record, the hare coursing season has started. Hare coursing is a cruel blood sport in which dogs are trained to chase hares and other wild animals, often resulting in the death of the prey. Betting on the outcome of a chase can bring significant rewards for the participants, who may travel hundreds of miles to visit our wide flat landscapes.

Hare coursing was made illegal in the Hunting Act 2004, although penalties were relatively weak and did little to deter the activity. The Sentencing Act 2020 gave the Police wider powers to deprive offenders of property used for the purposes of crime, including vehicles and dogs. The Police Crime Sentencing and Courts Act 2022 states that anyone caught hare coursing will now face an unlimited fine and up to six months in prison. It introduced two new criminal offences: trespass with the intention of using a dog to search for or pursue a hare; and being equipped to trespass with the intention of using a dog to search for or pursue a hare. There are new powers for the courts to order, on conviction, the reimbursement of costs incurred by the police in kennelling dogs seized in connection with a hare coursing-related offence and to make an order, on conviction, disqualifying an offender from owning or keeping a dog. Criminal Behaviour Orders are also used to ban suspected offenders from a specified area, which, in the case of hare coursers, may be more than one county.

Hare coursing is a priority for our local Police, not only in Cambridgeshire, and they go to great lengths to arrest and prosecute participants, but they need our help. If you witness hare coursing taking place, phone the Police immediately on 999 and give as much information as you can about what you can see. If you see a vehicle that you believe may be connected with hare coursing, report it to the Police using the online reporting facility or the non-emergency number 101. Typically this would be a muddy, older 4x4 with two or more occupants and dogs in the back. These information reports help to build a picture of offenders and their movements and will enable the Police to stop and search vehicles.

Let's work together to stamp out this barbaric pastime.



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for Watercourse Maintenance



When do Rights and Responsibilities apply?

Rights and Responsibilities for watercourse maintenance, sometimes known as riparian rights and responsibilities are a presumption outlined in common law, which dates back to the Tudor times. They apply when the following criterion is met:

- person(s) or organisation(s) who;
- own or tenant* land which;
- contains or is next to a watercourse.



**The tenant and the landowner should agree between themselves who is to take on the maintenance responsibilities.*



What does Riparian mean?

The word "riparian" means next to water. It can be used as to describe people who live on, own or tenant land next to a watercourse, and for the environment next to a watercourse, for example riparian planting and riparian trees.

Riparian rights are to receive any flow of water from upstream, and riparian responsibilities are to maintain free flow of water for those downstream – i.e. to mow or trim grassy banks and where appropriate, remove vegetation such as trees and shrubs, and take actions to remove any other blockages.



Where there is a different landowner/tenant on each side of the watercourse, it is the presumption that watercourse maintenance rights and responsibilities apply up to the centreline of the watercourse, for the length of watercourse adjoining the parcel of land, unless there is any formal information indicating otherwise, such as in the title deeds.

This means there is no "proof" of who has maintenance responsibilities, but proof is not required as there is a presumption in common law that maintenance responsibilities apply.

Maintenance responsibilities still apply, even if there is a fence or hedge between your property and the watercourse, or if there is adopted public highway on the other side of the bank.



If there is a fence between your land and the watercourse, the presumption remains that the watercourse marks the land boundary, rather than the fence, and therefore maintenance responsibilities still apply, unless there is any evidence to indicate otherwise, such as a statement in the title deeds. (HM Land Registry, 2020)



If there is a hedge, the landowner on the hedge side of the bank has maintenance responsibilities for the whole watercourse, rather than just up to the centreline. This is due to the "Hedge and Ditch rule" which dates to the 19th century.





GET PAINTED

As a social enterprise we have social and environmental commitments enshrined in our constitution. Social Enterprises typically commit to create a positive environmental impact, and we do this with our reuse services, electric van, and sustainable packaging. We also create social value by helping other community organisations in Cambridgeshire with free paint.



HOW DOES IT WORK?

Every month we offer up to 250 litres of paint to be shared between Cambridgeshire based community groups, charities or third sector organisations absolutely free of charge!

Winners will also receive a year's membership to CCORRN which Scrapstore and discounts on paint purchases at either our March or Wisbech shops.

<https://remo.org.uk/eco-paint/community-repaint/>

<https://remo.org.uk/eco-paint/get-painted-application/>



MAGPIE CENTRE UPDATE FOR THE NEW YEAR

And a Happy New Year to all our supporters from the Magpie Centre, home of West Norfolk Riding for the Disabled Association.

Thanks to a brilliant response to our call for 'hands-on' volunteers to help with pony care, stable management and escorting riders, we are now up to full complement, and our new volunteers began their training in January.

If you fancy an evening out, away from the cold and wet, tickets are still available for our Ceilidh Barn Dance, with a caller and live band, on Saturday February 17 at Stow Bridge Village Hall, Holme Road, Stow Bridge, PE34 3PW 7.30 pm – 11.00 pm.

Tickets, at £17.50 per adult and £8.50 per child (13 years and under), includes a Hog Roast supper (with vegetarian option), salads and desserts. Bring your own drinks.

To book, just call 01760 337056 or email suer2006@hotmail.co.uk.

The Christmas rides proved popular, with 28 young riders participating over the two days, and they enjoyed posting their letters to Santa as they rode past the Magpie Centre 'post box'.

New developments for 2024 include lessons for home schooled children who have additional needs, e.g. asd, or adhd. More details to follow.

And as the tax year draws to a close on April 5, this is an ideal time for businesses to sponsor activities, ponies and/or renovations at the Magpie Centre. For more details, visit our website www.rda-westnorfolk.org.uk or call the Centre on 01553 810202.

What Flies Over

RAF Euro-fighter Typhoon FGR Mk4

F-15

Primary Role	Multi-role Fighter
Power Plant	2 x Eurojet EJ200 Turbofans
Maximum Thrust	Each engine rated at 20,000 lbs thrust with afterburning.
Wing Span	36 ft 4 inches
Length	52 ft 4 inches
Height	17 ft 4 inches
Max. Take of weight	Approx 46,300 lbs
Max. Speed	1.8 (Brakes off to mach 1.5 at 35,000ft Less then 2 ½ Minutes
Ceiling	Around 55,000ft
Armaments	Internal 27mm Mauser Cannon; ASRAAM, Meteor & AIM-120 AMRAAM Air-To-Air Missiles; Enhanced Paveway II and Paveway IV Precision Guided Bombs, And Storm Shadow And Brimstone Air-To-Ground Missiles
Crew	One pilot

Tactical Fighter
2 x Pratt & Whitney F100-PW-100 Turbofan
Each engine rated at 23,450 lbs thrust with afterburning.
42 ft 8 inches
63 ft 8 inches
18 ft 6 inches
68,000 lbs
Mach 2.4 (1,875 mph)
Greater than 65,000ft
Tactical pay load depends on mission but can be one internally Mounted M-61A1 20mm Six-Barrel Cannon with 940 Rounds of ammunition, AIM-9 Sidewinder, AIM-120 AMRAAMs or mixture of both all carried externally.
Two



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 - 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!

Peter Owen - An Obituary



Peter grew up in the village of Laughton, in East Sussex, and apprenticed in the area as a printer, working in Worthing, moving to Colchester and finally moving to Christchurch to take on a printing job in St Ives.

Peter was a man who was always willing to stop and chat, giving his time to his relatives and strangers alike, and was a valued Christchurch resident. His niece Miriam remembers fondly visiting him and asks:

"So I'd like to ask you how would you remember Uncle Pete? I'll give you a few words: Bold, courageous, outspoken, cheerful, hospitable, decisive, affectionate, hardworking, humorous, motivated, independent? He was all of these things and more."

After just a few years in Christchurch, Peter's wife Lindsay developed cancer, more than once, and Peter cared for her lovingly without complaint when it sadly became terminal. Peter was also a great father to Kelly. He would always be affectionate, and when Kelly moved in to care, Peter would still have Kelly staying with him at home from Thursday to Tuesday every other weekend right till the end of his life. He used to say to Miriam "I'd have Kelly staying with me all of the time if I could" but he knew he wouldn't always be

there for her and that Kelly would, for her own benefit, need to learn to cope without him. Miriam remembers that just last Summer, she was playing football in the garden with Peter and Kelly. He was in such great spirits, and that continued right up until the end of his life.

On moving to Christchurch, Peter jumped straight into village life. He became a Parish Councillor, was Chair for several years, and remained a councillor until his death. He was also very active on the Community Centre Committee, acting as Treasurer and keeping a very tight rein on expenses! Many villagers will have seen him working behind the bar at village events in the hall, almost always looking in bewilderment at the 'new-fangled' till.

He never had much time for moaning, except for commenting on the appalling state of the government and lack of concrete benefits from paying council tax! He wouldn't want us to complain - when he's not here anymore to help behind the bar, or to attend a Community Centre meeting, or to give advice, or look after his fellow villagers or to share a meal or chat with us. He would want us to be happy - like he was.

Let's remember him like that.

With thanks to Miriam, Pete's Niece, on whose funeral speech this obituary was based.

James Hughes

All is not lost ...

As we reported in last month's edition, an ex-Editor of the Heron, Richard Guilford, sadly died just before Christmas. Richard was Editor for many years and put in lots of hours to bring us some interesting articles and interviews with local folk.



Before

Richard's partner, Jennie, has started sorting through Richard's things and contacted us a couple of weeks ago to say that she had found some old back issues of the Heron and would like to drop them round to us. Clive, the current Editor, agreed to take delivery of them but asked "how many are we talking about"? I said I didn't know so I responded to Jennie and asked her to drop the magazines round to Clive's house. Within a few minutes I received a message from Clive which just said "OH MY GOODNESS!" with a picture of what had been delivered.



After

I laughed and jokingly said to Clive that, in front of witnesses (at the last Editorial Meeting), Tracy (Clive's partner) had said how much she enjoyed looking back at old editions of the Heron online! So, between them, Clive and Tracy spent a good 3 hours sorting through the bags and bags of old Herons - which dated back to 1987 - to look for duplicates and put them into some sort of order. "It wasn't too bad to be honest" Clive said "and March Rotary Club were delighted with all the duplicate copies we found - which went into their recycling". So it was definitely a job well done.

We hope to, one day soon, start the process of getting them computerised and put into the archive on our website but would definitely need to seek some advice from our 'resident IT expert', Lewis, first! Surely it wouldn't take him that long to do it... would it?!!

Elaine Reed-Hughes

A Christchurch Karting Dad

How I spend my evenings and occasional weekends....

Those of you who have wandered past my house and heard a two-stroke engine revving away may be wondering how can one man have so many trees to chop up!? What I'm actually doing is running up the engine on my son's racing kart.

Karting has been in my blood for nearly a quarter of a century now. In my early 30s I wanted to get into motorsport. I'd already built a car in my 20s (a Westfield), and tried out a rally car at a Silverstone experience day, but I wanted to try some racing, and karting seemed like an affordable option. So, I bit the bullet and purchased a Prokart (which is a two-engine, four-stroke kart). I raced that for a few years, and then decided to try something a bit larger. So for a couple of years I raced a Locost race car at places like Silverstone, Brands Hatch and Snetterton. However, a big crash at Silverstone, while my son was watching from his pushchair, rather put me off.

So, for me, Motorsport took a back seat until my children started to show an interest in karting - and that was when my evenings and weekends really started to get busy, and my bank balance shrank to the size of a walnut! I no longer race, but have to be content with watching my sons race - which is almost as stressful as being in the kart myself!

In the UK, karting is a very popular sport, with classes to cater from age 5 to 75. A kart is a small, four-wheeled vehicle with a very low-slung chassis, made of tubular steel. They are usually powered by two-stroke, internal combustion engines although there are four stroke classes for cadets. Tyres are either slicks or wets, and the tracks usually raced on are tarmac, and can be up to 1500m long. Performance can be quite breathtaking, with the senior classes capable of 70mph or more, which when you are 3cm off the ground is very fast indeed. If you want real madness, then Superkarts with 250cc engines of 65hp can do up to 130mph, and have to race at car circuits such as Cadwell Park, as normal kart tracks are too small.

The class we race is not quite that mad and is called Senior Rotax Max. These are 125cc 2-stroke karts, about 30hp, using Mojo tyres. We race once a month at Red Lodge Karting in Suffolk.

Racing can be very tight, and safety equipment is very important, so drivers wear abrasion resistant kart suits, race helmets, gloves, boots and usually wear rib protectors and neck braces.

The Rotax Max engine is a very robust, water-cooled and sealed engine. Sealing means that the tuner of the engine seals it with wire so that it cannot be tampered with. This means the engines all perform to a very similar level, which hopefully levels the playing field. The Max comes in four different forms, for different ages ranges. The MicroMax, with 9.5hp, the MiniMax with 13hp, the Junior with 23hp and the Senior with 30hp. They are all basically the same 125cc engine, but with different restrictors that limit the horsepower.

The Rotax engines can be run for 40-50 hours or more before a rebuild. That might not seem much, but the senior engines rev to 14,500rpm, which is quite stressful on the moving parts, so they do need to be checked and replaced more often than a car engine.



Elliot Reed-Hughes, Number 95, at January's meeting at Red Lodge

It must be said that karting is not a cheap sport - even at club level - and to compete at the front does require careful management of funds! We buy a lot of things second hand, including tyres, which are the most expensive part of the hobby - as a set will only last two race meetings. Competing at national level can be eye-wateringly expensive, so we stick to club level racing! Unless you happen to be a millionaire, sponsorship is about the only way of competing at the highest levels, and that can be very difficult to find.

That said, club racing is great fun and very competitive - and if you are careful, it won't completely break the bank. If you are mechanically minded you can do a lot of the maintenance yourself, apart from the sealed engine parts, but it does take a lot of time, so many hours are spent over weekends cleaning and repairing the kart from the last meeting, and getting it ready for the next!

If anyone has any questions or would like to know more, please get in touch!

James Hughes

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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