

The Heron

Community Magazine

Delivered to homes in Christchurch, Euximoor and Tipps End

February 2025

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Christchurch Over 65s Annual Parish Lunch Sunday 27th April 2025 12.30pm for 1.00pm

If you or your partner live in the Christchurch Parish, and are 65 or over, you are very welcome to join us at our annual lunch on 27th April.

Invitations will be going out in March, to all those people we have on file, but if you haven't received an invite by the end of March please call Ruth Ingram on 01354 638419 to book your place.

All those from the parish, who qualify, are very welcome and we look forward to seeing you.

Parish Lunch Committee

Fenland Farmers - Santa Sleigh Run!

Santa and the Fenland Farmers visited the village again on 21st December to help raise money and receive toy donations for the Holly Ward at Hinchingsbrooke Hospital. An impressive £220.23 was raised on the night. Well done to them!



A man has created a 2ft long gingerbread model of Ely Cathedral.



Owen Angier, 23, who lives in Littleport near Ely, Cambridgeshire, said he usually bakes something special for Christmas and this year he thought he would pay homage to the local landmark. The project took him a day, from planning out the template, to baking each piece and piping.

The apprentice nurse at Addenbrooke's Hospital in

Cambridge said he was delighted when he posted pictures of his model online. The Great British Bake Off commented, "Wow, so impressive".

"I just hope to have caught even just a smidge of the building's splendour in my creation," he said.

Owen said that Ely Cathedral had such "magnificent architectural beauty" that he thought what better way to pay homage to it and challenge his baking abilities than by building a model in gingerbread form. "I wanted to capture some key features of the cathedral's exterior, particularly the octagon, which stands central to the cathedral. The cathedral itself has so many astounding features, and while I would have loved to have included all of them, it was definitely necessary to take some artistic liberties in this format," he said.

He melted some boiled sweets to make edible stained glass for the windows. Owen says he does not particularly like eating gingerbread, but plans to take it into work for colleagues to enjoy with a coffee.

Source: BBC News

Cllr Dal Roy, our independent councillor, hopes to gain official recognition of the Fenland flag so it can be added to the Flag Registry.

Mr Roy brought a motion for its official acceptance to Fenland District Council in Cambridgeshire in December in the hope it would "unite the people of Fenland".

Mr Roy said Fenland had a large diverse community and an official flag would create a joint identity to "bring people together as Fenlanders".



He said he hoped it would be a success, saying the flag was about creating opportunity so that the people of Fenland would "flourish and grow. It's about giving people from many diverse communities and cultures that identity to say, 'We are Fenland Tigers, we are a part of Fenland.' This is about uniting the people, and when you unite people you become powerful, and power could attract business, opportunities and investment to the area."

The Fenland council area of Cambridgeshire covers four market towns - Chatteris, March, Whittlesey and Wisbech - as well as a number of small villages.

The Fenland landscape - characterised by its flatness and man-made waterways - covers other parts of the county as well as Lincolnshire, Norfolk and Suffolk.

The idea for the flag began in 2012. A design was agreed on in 2016 and support for it built in 2018.

The flag was created by Peter James Bowman and features the Fen Tiger - the nickname given to protesters who opposed marsh drainage schemes in the 16th and 17th Centuries. Mr Bowman said he had been inspired by other areas creating their own flags, such as the Black Country and Exmoor.

The flag has a central vertical strip to represent "agricultural prosperity" and two strips of blue either side representing "the region's natural and man-made waterways".

The tiger represented the locals who rebelled against engineers draining the Fens to create land suitable for crops.

Source: BBC News. Image Source: Dal Roy

Misdelivered Packages

I have noticed a number of posts on the Christchurch Facebook group asking if anyone has seen a package that has reportedly been delivered, but with a photo that's not the recipient's door. So, if you find a package, what should you do?

In the UK, if a package is delivered to you by mistake, the general legal principle is that you are not entitled to keep it. The package is considered to be misdelivered, and the rightful owner (the person who ordered the package) has a claim to it.

Here are some steps you should consider:

1. Do Not Open the Package: If you haven't opened it, it's best to leave it sealed to avoid any potential issues.
2. Contact the Courier or Seller: Reach out to the delivery company (e.g., Royal Mail, DPD, UPS) or the retailer from whom the item was ordered. Inform them of the misdelivery so they can arrange for collection.
3. Wait for Instructions: The courier or retailer may provide instructions on what to do with the package. They may send someone to collect it or advise you on how to return it.
4. Keep Records: Document your communications with the courier and any relevant details about the delivery. This can be helpful if there are any disputes later.

While it might be tempting to keep an item that was delivered by mistake, doing so could lead to legal issues, including potential charges of theft. It's always best to follow the appropriate channels to resolve the situation.

Advertising in the Heron

Quarter Page (14cm High x 9.5cm Wide)

Portrait Format

6 x issues £52 (1 year)

Eighth Page (6.5cm High x 9.5cm Wide)

Landscape Format

6 x issues £36 (1 year)

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 adverts (for 1 year's worth of advertising), paid in advance. Adverts for village fundraising events, personal announcements, or small private ads are usually free.

Diary Dates

Sun 2nd Feb	Welle Cinema - Glorious	1:30pm	3 Holes Village Hall
Tue 4th Feb	Mobile Library	12:15pm	Fen View Layby
Tue 4th Feb	Book Club	7:30pm	Contact Pat Rigby
Mon 10th Feb	Parish Council Meeting	7:30pm	CCC
Sat 15th Feb	Quiz and Curry evening	7.00pm	CCC
Sun 16th Feb	Big Band Valentines Afternoon	3.00pm	Manea Village Hall
Tue 18th Feb	Gardening Club Meeting	7.00pm	CCC call 01354 638230
Sat 22nd Feb	Snail Racing	6.00pm for 7.00pm start	Outwell Village Hall
Wed 26th Feb	WI - Woodturning for All	2pm - 4pm	CCC
Sun 2nd Mar	Welle Cinema - Wilding	1:30pm	3 Holes Village Hall
Tue 4th Mar	Mobile Library	12:15pm	Fen View Layby
Tue 4th Mar	Book Club	7:30pm	Contact Pat Rigby
Mon 10th Mar	Parish Council Meeting	7:30pm	CCC
Tue 18th Mar	Gardening Club Meeting	7.00pm	CCC call 01354 638230
Sun 23rd Mar	Fun Dog show, Flyball & Agility	see Skylark website	Skylark Garden Centre
Sat 29th Mar	Spring Market	see Skylark website	Skylark Garden Centre
Fri 4th Apr	Fairytale Proms at Ely Cathedral	8:50pm - 10pm	Ely Cathedral
Sun 6th Apr	Welle Cinema - One Life	1:30pm	3 Holes Village Hall
Regular Weekly Events			
Monday	Short Mat Bowls	7.00pm - 9.00pm	CCC
Tuesday	Hobby & Craft Club	10.00am - 1.00pm	CCC
Sunday	Car Boot Sale	8.00am - 12.00pm	Skylark Garden Centre
Wednesday	Chair Based Exercise	10am - 10:50am	CCC - 07880543821
Thursday	Cake, Coffee & Chat	1:30pm - 3:30pm	CCC
Thursday	Car Boot Sale	9.00am onwards (buyers)	Upwell Playing Field
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.

Editorial & Heron News

Here we are again. My colleagues and I are in agreement that the every other month editions, along with the flexible printing/delivery times are working well and have taken a bit of the pressure off those that put the magazine together.

We are offering another full (but not quite as full as the last one!) magazine with some interesting and useful articles I think you will agree. We are always looking for stories and articles so if you would like to submit anything you feel like sharing with our readers, then please send them through to editor@theheron.info. Ideas are always welcome.

If you are eligible, please put the Over 65s Lunch date (page 2) in your diary and there are a few other things coming up in and around the surrounding area (see page 8 for What's On).

We have a couple of appeals for help this month. Firstly, there is a request for feedback on infrastructure which has had barely any response, if any at all. Now I'm probably as guilty as most, having not given any feedback because I reckon most things run pretty smoothly around the village and surrounding areas most of the time. However, it was pointed out at the Parish Council meeting that "infrastructure" includes the mobile phone signal, and I am assuming that I'm in the majority here that the mobile phone signal is patchy at best. So if you want to see any improvement, then you need to make sure you are heard, and give feedback.

The details are on page 16.

The second appeal is for time, and not money, and that's to help with the organisation of restoring the church. Whether you are religious or not, the church is a big feature of the village (and of course, is why it is named as it is), and it would be tragic to see it disappear in the future when there is potentially lottery funding to pay for it – but we need people to help organise. Again, the details are in the magazine on page 16.

Big news – we have a bus service. This started on 11th January, and is "on demand" so it's a sort of cross between a taxi and a bus service, with a maximum price of £2 per person (free if you are a pensioner with a bus pass) and it's for travel within the area shown on the map (along with further details) on page 15. The one drawback is that it doesn't cross into Norfolk, so doesn't cover journeys to the Upwell Health Centre – while you are mentioning the mobile phone signal in the infrastructure feedback, perhaps it's worth mentioning public transport links to NHS services.

And finally, we would like to say a huge thank you to Annie Nason, who is giving up being Delivery Manager. Annie has been with the magazine for nearly 5 years and has been an invaluable help to us in that time. Thanks Annie from the Heron team.

Clive Benjamin

Copy Deadline - The deadline for copy for the April edition of the Heron is 14th March.

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 £15.00 for 6 editions (including P&P).

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Website: www.theheron.info

From the Office of Steve Barclay

Being a constituency MP is an opportunity to meet fantastic individuals locally who do so much to help Fenland.

A good example was my recent meeting with Rob Skoulding, who is well known to many locally having served as Mayor of March. Rob suffered a heart attack in 2021, and his life was saved by a defibrillator. This was in stark contrast to his earlier experience in 2009, when Rob's father, Peter Skoulding, tragically died of a heart attack. Since the loss of his father, Rob has been on a mission to get as many defibrillators installed across the town of March, making this campaign the heart of his work when Mayor. Congratulations to Rob on achieving the installation of 31 defibrillators across the town—what an achievement!

Visiting local schools to talk about Parliament and answer their many and varied questions is also a feature throughout the year. It was a pleasure to return to Burrowmoor Primary School to meet the school ambassadors, who gave me an excellent tour of the school and asked a range of thoughtful questions. The visit was also an opportunity to admire the amazing artwork on the walls, and see lessons firsthand, including the computer coding work the school is undertaking. This helps identify the issues I can best raise on behalf of local schools when discussing with ministers at Westminster.

An important debate and vote in Westminster last month was on whether to permit the Assisted Dying Bill. The principle of giving people more control over an individual's end of life is

one I support. The current law is restrictive and creates problems for loving families. However, I also believe no one should be coerced by others to end their life prematurely or feel forced to do so due to a lack of care. In balancing these principles, I voted against the Assisted Dying Bill before the House of Commons, but recognise from discussions with many questions there was a wide range of views and no settled local position. Specific concerns for me include evidence from other countries that have introduced similar legislation, the risk of elderly patients feeling pressured not to be a burden to others, and the likelihood of judicial activism weakening the safeguards currently in the Bill. There is also more that we can, and should, do through palliative care, which I hope this debate will encourage progress on.

Last year was particularly challenging for our farming community, and I welcomed a large group of Fenland farmers to Westminster to discuss the impact of the budget and, in particular, their concerns with changes to inheritance tax. I have raised their concerns regularly in Parliament and will continue to do so. We cannot afford to lose generations of knowledge held on family farms, or see land sold off and taken out of food production, which will weaken our food security.

A new role I have been appointed to by fellow MPs from different parties is to chair the House of Commons Finance select committee. This oversees important aspects of how Parliament is run, and also involves sitting on the Commons Commission which is like the non-executive board for Parliament, chaired by the Speaker.

You can see the skill in those brushstrokes – or can you..?

From the department of "They sold *that* for *how much*?!" comes the story about an Italian artist who, for the cool price of €15,000, auctioned an artwork that is... well, nothing.

In 2021 the 67-year-old artist Salvatore Garau sold an "immaterial sculpture" - which is to say that it doesn't exist. To be fair, the artist might disagree on conceptual grounds. For Garau, the artwork, titled *lo sono* (which translates to "I am"), finds form in its own nothingness. "The vacuum is nothing more than a space full of energy, and even if we empty it and there is nothing left, according to the

Heisenberg uncertainty principle, that nothing has a weight. Therefore, it has energy that is condensed and transformed into particles, that is, into us."

Lo Sono went up for sale in May at the Italian auction house Art-Rite. The pre-sale estimate valued the piece between €6,000-9,000, according to AS, but competing bidders pushed the price tag to €15,000.

The lucky buyer went home with a certificate of authenticity and a set of instructions: the work, per Garau, must be exhibited in a private house in a roughly five-by-five-foot space free of obstruction.

Editor Note: We tried to find a photo of the work, but were unable to do so!

Source news.artnet.com

Duke of Edinburgh Award Update

As I explained to you in the last edition of the Heron, I am doing my bronze DofE award. I have almost completed my physical section (cycling), working with my Dad to gradually extend the distance I can cycle. It's been tough going but over the weeks I've built up my stamina.

I have 2 more months left of helping out with the Heron for my volunteering section and I have around 3 months left of the skills section (playing the flute). With my skill I'm continuing to learn new flute music and developing my technical skills towards completing my grade 6 exam.

This week my group and I have started planning the route for our practice expedition, we will be walking 8.5 kilometres around the Roydon area. This expedition, as it is only a practice one, will only be a day long, so we won't need to take such a big bag this time! In my next article I will tell you all about our plans for the full expedition when we have to stay overnight!

Hannah Paine

Your Letters



Picture: 1946

1945 was a good year in so many respects; V.E. Day, V.J. Day and so much more. It was also the year that I experienced the most meaningful and greatest event in my life. Interestingly, I have no cognitive memory of the event, although it has had a full and profound effect upon my life. In fact, I would not have any life at all had it not occurred.

1945 was the year that I was born. I have been on this Rollercoaster called LIFE ever since. And what a Rollercoaster it has beenso far Full of physical, emotional and spiritual experiences. The years have continued relentlessly onwards through good health and bad, through hard times and good, and "for better, for worse, for richer, for poorer" for 27 years of this life spent with my late

husband Stephen, taken too young aged 53. 80 years is a long time. Or is it? No. It's no time at all! The Romans conquered Britain getting on for 1,000 years ago [sic]; Jesus Christ was born 2,000 years ago; the oldest tree in the UK, The Fortingall Yew, is believed to be 5,000 years old; The peat beneath the Fens is around 12,000 years old. Today we know, from radiometric dating, that this Earth is 4.5 billion years old (give or take a few hundred million, I daresay). I could go on. So 80 years is almost no time at all.

Well - that may well be so, **BUT IT'S ALL THE WORLD TO ME!** Since the time I uttered my first cry, life has been happening to me. And as I add year on year, I am acutely aware that I have been very blessed throughout my life, and I can only humbly thank God for His mercies, and ask for His continued blessing for the years to come. 1945 was a good year.

Annie Nason

GARDENER AND CLEANER WANTED

To assist a couple in (Church Road) Christchurch.
If you are interested, or for further information, please call
Gordon or Shirley on 01354 638019.

Dear Editor

For the last eight years I have always enjoyed reading through our village Heron. It has been informative as well as interesting.

Unfortunately, this issue (*December 2024*) I was so disgusted that our factual magazine has aligned itself

with a political bias. Steve Barclay's contribution is divisive and full of conjecture. Please don't let our wonderful Heron become political propaganda.

Regards

Kay Miller

Share Your Voice: State of the Sector 2025 Survey

The Support Cambridgeshire **2025 State of the Sector Survey** is now open, and we'd love to hear from all community voluntary groups and charities. Their insights will help us understand the key challenges and opportunities across Cambridgeshire's voluntary and community sector and inform advocacy for better resources and support.

This year's survey explores themes such as:

- Volunteer numbers and trends

- Financial pressures and sustainability
- Priorities and concerns for the year ahead

Please take a few minutes to complete the survey - <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/65777HV> and share it with your contacts to help us hear from as many voices as possible.

All organisations that complete the survey and include their details will be entered into a prize draw for one of the two £100 prizes for their organisation.

Thank you for contributing to this important work. The survey is open until **17 February 2025** but we advise completing it sooner rather than later.

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!

Looking for somewhere to go?

16th February 3pm – Manea Village Hall, School Lane, PE15 0JN – Big Band Valentines Afternoon, including sumptuous high tea, tickets £20, call 07597 631632

16th February – Upwell Playing Fields (leaves at 10:30am) Upwell Tractor Run

22nd February 7pm – Outwell Village Hall, Outwell – Snail Racing, including Sausage & Chips. £6.50 per ticket, available from The Crown Pub, Outwell.

28th February - Littleport Comedy Club, Littleport Village Hall, CB6 1LX featuring Sara Pascoe, Morgan Rees, Justin Panks and more - Doors open 6.30 see www.chuckl for tickets.

1st March - Doddington Comedy Club, Doddington Village Hall, Benwick Road, Doddington. Featuring Babatunde Aleshe (as seen on Live at the Apollo), Glenn Wool (as seen on Mock the Week) and others. Door open 6.30 see www.chuckl for tickets.

23rd March - Skylark Garden Centre, Wimblington- Fun Dog Show includes Flyball and Agility. More info on skylark website

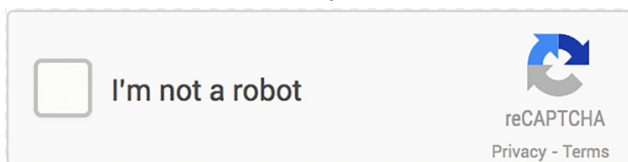
29th March - Skylark Garden Centre, Wimblington- Spring Market – more info on skylark website.

4th April 8:50pm - The Fairy Tale Proms, Ely Cathedral – concert singing themes from fairytale movies – tickets from Eventbrite website or call 01353 667735 for more info

I'm not a Robot

How do "I'm not a robot" checkboxes actually work? Is it based on your ability to click the box? How long you take to scroll? Or....?

When you check the "I'm not a robot" box on a reCAPTCHA, it's not checking whether you can click a button. Here's how it really works:



1. Analysing Your Browser and Request Data
reCAPTCHA examines details about your browser and the information it sends with your request. Bots often use automated or unconventional browsers, which can be identified by analysing browser headers and other metadata. Google's extensive tracking network also helps verify legitimate users by recognizing familiar browsing patterns from other sites.

2. Observing Mouse Movements and Keystrokes
Human behaviour, like mouse movements, clicks, and typing patterns, is tracked. Bots often perform these

actions unnaturally - moving instantly to a specific area or clicking and releasing buttons too quickly. reCAPTCHA detects these discrepancies by analysing timing and movement, which helps confirm you're human.

3. Executing Browser Code

The script runs code from Google servers in your browser and expects a specific response within a short timeframe. Automated bots often struggle to mimic this behaviour accurately, particularly if the code relies on hidden metrics tied to user interaction.

4. Scoring Likelihood of Being a Bot

Based on all the data collected, reCAPTCHA assigns a score indicating how likely you are to be a bot. If the score is below a certain threshold, you'll be prompted to complete additional tasks like identifying images or solving a traditional CAPTCHA.

If you interact too quickly or don't provide enough data (e.g., no mouse movements or keystrokes), the system may assume you're a bot and require further verification. That's why taking a moment to click the box after completing a form can help you avoid additional challenges - like the annoying photo selectors.

Church News

Services for February and March in the Six Fen Churches Benefice

Date	10.30am unless otherwise stated	10.30am unless otherwise stated
2 Feb 25	Christchurch – Morning Prayer	Doddington – Holy Communion
9 Feb 25	Manea – Holy Communion	Wimblington – Morning Prayer
16 Feb 25	Christchurch – Holy Communion	Doddington – Morning Prayer
23 Feb	Manea – Morning Prayer Welney – Holy Communion 3pm	Wimblington – Holy Communion
2 Mar 25	Christchurch – Morning Prayer	Doddington – Holy Communion
9 Mar 25	Manea – Holy Communion	Wimblington – Morning Prayer
16 Mar 25	Christchurch* – Holy Communion	Doddington – Morning Prayer
23 Mar 25	Manea – Morning Prayer Welney – Evening Prayer 3pm	Wimblington – Holy Communion
30 Mar 25	Manea - United Benefice Holy Communion	

This service on 16th March at Christchurch will be followed at midday by the APCM- all in the village are welcome to attend. A Lent Lunch of soup, bread and cheese will be served at 1pm. No charge but donations will be collected for the Ferry Project in Wisbech and items of non-perishable foods, toiletries etc will be collected for March Food Bank.

It's Quiz and Curry Time
Saturday 15th February 2025
Christchurch Community Centre

Teams of up to 6 people

Doors open at 7pm
Questions start at 7.30pm

Curry at the half time interval will be either Chicken Korma or Vegetable Rogan Josh
Book your team in and let us know your choices of food.
Contact Helen on 07702 225259 or 638092.

Our Church Needs Your Help

You are all warmly invited to a presentation by Holly and Samuel from The Church Buildings Team in Ely Diocese Christchurch Community Centre.

29th March at 3pm

Information regarding our village church building and the way forward will be presented. We will be looking forward to hearing your views and we will be looking for volunteers.

A buffet tea will be served after the presentation.

A Couple of Teasers for you

Hike

A man pitched a tent. In the morning, he hiked South for 10 miles, then East for 10 miles, then North for 10 miles. On arriving at his tent, he found a bear there. What colour was the bear?

Tyres

Which company manufactures the largest number of tyres in the world?



Answers on Page 15.

The East Africa Groundnut Scheme - By John Sparrow

My Uncle Fred Sparrow went to East Africa in 1948 aged 56, as an engineer, to service and repair the machinery to be used. Fred sailed from Southampton and docked in Dar-es Salaam Tanganyika. The scheme, backed by our government, was to clear bush and scrubland to grow ground nuts (peanuts) to produce cooking oil, margarine, soap-making and cattle cake. The first area for production was 450,000 acres in the Kongwa district. The total scrubland to be cleared was 3.2 million acres in 5 years! What a task lay ahead.

A new port was built at Matara - 250 miles from the farm - only accessible by a railway track (which had to be laid) or a dust road. The land was mostly covered in elephant scrub and was heavily infested with flies, they also had to cope with lions, elephants, and deadly black ants. In Tanganyika, in one night alone, 1 million safari ants killed 38 turkeys! The Caterpillar D4 tractors were used to level the ant hills down, some 10 feet high and 100 feet in diameter.

In 1948 15,000 acres had been cleared and 7,500 acres planted and at the end of 1949, the second growing season, less than 2000 tons of groundnuts had been harvested, from more than 4,000 tons, planted for an outlay of £25 million (not very profitable).

A 400-bed hospital was built to serve the community at Kongwa. This township also needed 48,000 gallons of drinking water a day which was carried by tankers from 15 miles away.

Uncle Fred and his fellow mechanics were kept very busy repairing a total of 400 bulldozers, 1000 lorries, cars, jeeps etc. plus all the tractors - including International tractors imported from America.



Fred 4th from the left

The venture had been a bold scheme but its vast scale and the attempt to rush the operation, with little thought given to the technical and logistical aspects of it all, eventually led to its failure. There were rumours of 4 tons of cement in bags - mistaken for fertilizer - spread on the crop at one time. With the waste of millions of taxpayer's money, the scheme was abandoned in January 1951, by which time the expenditure reached nearly £40 million and the proceeds from crop sales stood at £509,394.

So, it was time for Uncle Fred and many others to pack their bags and say goodbye to the ants, lions, sand and heat. Fred set sail for home from Dar-es Salaam back to Southampton for his next adventure.

Below is the postcard Fred sent home to his mother and on the back written in pencil read:

"Mother can see I am far away in the land of nowhere."

Images Courtesy of John Sparrow



Free and low-cost exercise and wellbeing classes in Fenland

A broad range of free and low-cost exercise sessions are available across Fenland especially suited to people whose fitness has decreased - young and old alike. They include programmes for people who want to lose weight, couch to 5k running sessions, strength classes for the older and less mobile, kickboxing for wellbeing, fun dance-based exercise, yoga, tea dances and more.

The sessions are offered by Fenland District Council's Active Fenland, which secures grant funding to provide opportunities for people to live more active lives, especially where they might face additional barriers to do so. Cllr Alex Miscandlon, Fenland District Council's portfolio holder for leisure, said: "Active Fenland supports health and wellbeing for all ages across the district all year round with a fantastic and broad programme of free and low-cost classes."

Find the latest timetable at www.fenland.gov.uk/activefenland

Cambridgeshire Fire and Rescue Service

Take Charge and Be Safe

Cambridgeshire Fire and Rescue Service has seen an increase in fires involving lithium-ion batteries over the last few years.

Many devices contain lithium-ion batteries. Mobile phones, laptops and games console controllers have these batteries, but so do cordless tools, garden machinery plus e-bikes and e-scooters. These batteries can heat up and cause a fire if not used correctly.

You can Take Charge and Be Safe by following a few simple tips:

- Charge batteries when you are awake and alert
- Only use the battery, charger and cables supplied by the manufacturer
- Before you go to bed, check anything still charging is switched off
- Do not overload sockets
- Do not charge e-bikes and e-scooters in escape routes.

Batteries can be a fire hazard if they are not disposed of properly. They should never be put in household rubbish or recycling bins.

During the processing of waste or recycling, a battery can be compacted and damaged, which can lead to ignition of the highly reactive lithium, leading to a fire starting.

Any kind of battery can cause a fire if not disposed of correctly and safely. This includes vapes or other e-cigarettes as well as standard batteries.

Fires involving batteries cause damage to refuse vehicles and roads, as well as significant delays to bin collections and road closures.

How to dispose of batteries

There are many places to safely dispose of batteries. As well as local recycling centres, many shops around the county have collection bins in-store.

To find your nearest battery collection bin, visit either <https://www.recyclenow.com> or <https://www.recycleyourelectricals.org.uk> to check where your closest location is.

Help keep your home and family fire safe – complete our online home safety check

You can carry out your own home fire safety check online by visiting the Cambridgeshire Fire and Rescue Service website.

The online home safety check helps you carry out your own fire risk assessment and is a simple way to help reduce risks and keep your home safe from fire. It takes you through some simple questions about you and your home, then provides an action plan that you can download and print. You can fill it in for yourself or a member of your family that might need help.

Visit https://bit.ly/Home_Safety_Check to find out more and start your online home safety check.

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 Book Club

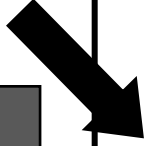


The Book Club met as usual in January but we haven't been reading a specific 'club' book. We discussed what each of us has been reading over the festive period and books we received as presents but mainly we met for a social evening and to welcome a new member to the fold.

We are a friendly, sociable bunch and usually have a laugh at the monthly meetings. The books we read are very varied and really do open your eyes to new genres. Our next book is "The House We Grew Up In" by Lisa Jewell. If you fancy reading that, come along to our next meeting on Tuesday 4th February at 7.30pm at Pat's (75 Church Road) to grab a copy.

For further information contact Pat Rigby on 07776 142642.

Christchurch WI is funding this woodturning event, come and join us to see what can be produced with a piece of wood and a lathe.



Village Contacts and Useful Information

By now you should have all received a hard-backed copy of the Contacts and Useful Information which featured regularly in the magazine. It was decided that we could free up a page in the magazine by offering this as a 'pull out and keep' page for readers. However, if you are new to the village, and haven't received a copy, please let us know (enquiries@theheron.info) and we will do our best to get one to you.

Christchurch Gardening Club



Firstly, I should like on behalf of the gardening Club to wish a happy and Prosperous new year to the readers of the Heron, as well as of course our members and the Team who produce the Magazine.

Traditionally, the Gardening Club is on hiatus at this time of year, but we begin our new year on 18th February with our first meeting of the year at the Community Centre. This is one of the year's most important meetings as it sets the direction of the club for the next 12 months. It's also good to catch up with friends and discuss the upcoming events that our secretary, Marion, has booked.

It's also when the committee is voted in, and members old and new sign up for the next year. Prospective members are welcome to come along on the night or call 01354 638 230 for more details.

So, here's to another year.

Cheers.

Steve

Woodturning for All

By Blended Monkey
Come and join us for an interesting afternoon learning about this fascinating craft and a chance to try your own skill if you wish.

Wednesday February 26th 2025
2pm start – 4pm
Cost £5

Including light refreshments

Christchurch Community Centre
PE14 9LL

Indoor Short Mat Bowls



Meets every Monday 7-9pm at Christchurch Community Centre.

ALL WELCOME!
(Spare bowls available to loan.)

For further details call Hazel Spry on 07768 648619 .

Coffee/Lunch Break Closing

We have had a great time these last 6 or so years, but there are a lot of other things that folks do these days, so our numbers are now too few to make the event viable. There's no reason at all why people can't take their lunch to folks' homes to have a time of conversation and togetherness, so get thinking, those of you who feel they would like to do just that.

Thank you for good times at all those Lunch Breaks. It was well worthwhile.

'Over and out', and all the best!

Annie Nason.



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

PC Snippets

Quite a busy meeting in January, with a lot of matters discussed as below:

- The big story is the new Tiger on Demand bus service, going live on 11th January. This is a bus service using virtual stops (details are elsewhere in this magazine). Cost is £2 per person or less and covers the Cambridgeshire. Cllr Dal Roy has raised the issue that, because it only covers the Cambridgeshire region, it won't go outside the boundary so won't cover trips to the Upwell health Centre.
- Safety bollards/markers along the 16 foot road are missing – the point was made that these are often the casualty of the grass cutting along the road.
- A request for a fir tree outside the CCC, which could be decorated at Christmas. This was deemed not practical for lighting.
- A comment was raised about the valuers who were in the CCC on Friday 13th December. It was felt that the valuations they were giving were well below market value. The CCC does not have control over the valuations given but simply renting out the space to the valuers. It was also pointed out that the valuers themselves are a business who are there to make a profit.
- Household items on Upwell Road, these are still on Crown Road side.
- Cambridgeshire Fire & Rescue – possibly will be invited as guest speaker to PC AGM in May.
- FDC infrastructure survey – there has been no response so far (*see editorial*).
- 200th Anniversary of rail travel – ideas are invited on how to celebrate.
- 8th May is the 80th anniversary of VE day.

Residents Issues

Bus shelter smells of urine, request that this should be cleaned. This will be looked into.

Precept

Discussions on the Precept, A 20% increase was approved, this is well below the National Average.

Recreation Ground Extension

There has been progress re quotes and culvert work could be completed before March, more discussion will take place on this.

Santa Sleigh Run

This was well attended and a good collection of both money and toys. There was an issue where tractors were having to turn round in tight spaces and potentially could have been unsafe. Next year, the run would need more marshals to ensure that the public do not inadvertently put themselves in danger.

Planning

Planning application for a two bedroom bungalow in Crown Avenue – PCC could see no reason to object to this.

Mobile mast in Crown Avenue – required to serve smart metres. PCC could see no reason to object to this application.

Townley School mobile classroom – this is temporary while building work is completed. No objections to this.

The next meeting will be held on Monday 10th February at 7:30pm in CCC, all are welcome to attend. Copies of the minutes of past PC meetings can be found at www.christchurchparishcouncil.org.uk/minutes/

No, It's Not Actually a Murder of Crows

Okay, technically it is, but we should still abandon absurd terms of venery.

You've heard them all before, somewhere. In a bad poem, maybe, or as part of an online clickbait-y slideshow. "Did you know that a group of owls is called a 'parliament'?" "Did you know that a group of jellyfish is called a 'smack'?" "Did you know that a group of Indonesian mountain weasels is called a 'bubble gum'?"

I made that last one up, but how would you know? As familiar as they are, these little nicknames for groups of animals - terms of venery, if you want to get fancy with it - are supposedly delightful quirks of the English language. But they've always left me feeling annoyed. Annoyed because, as a lifelong birder, I've never once used "parliament" for owls or "murder" for crows or anything of the sort. Or heard anyone else use them. A group of birds - any birds - is a "flock." A group of cows is a "herd." Other than that, I just don't see enough groups of other animals to need more words.



(attempted murder)

It's clear that scientists do not use terms of venery. These things exist in a world of their own, where bar trivia is king. And I mean, trivia is important and all, but without real-world applications, aren't these just morsels of linguistic candy rotting cavities into our scientific integrity?

Okay, fine. Maybe an investigation into the origins of the terms is warranted. After all, these dumb names must have come from somewhere, right?

They did - the Middle Ages. The earliest known collection of terms of venery (an archaic term for "hunting") is in the Book of Saint Albans, a kind of handbook on manliness first published in 1486. Included among chapters on "hawking" and "the blasing of arms" was a list of "the Companys of Beestys and Fowlys," where many of our common terms of venery made their first appearances. "Pride of lions" is in there, along with a "flock of sheep" and "herd of deer."

I'll admit that it makes sense for hunters to employ these terms. They're out looking for groups of different kinds of animals, and I suppose I can envision a scenario in which it is more efficient to use unique terms for each set of creatures. But that logic falls apart in other parts of the list, which weren't about "beestys" or "fowlys" at all. A "doctrine of doctors" is in there. So is "a state of princes" and an "execution of officers." I understand that the Middle Ages were a pretty rough time, but you can't tell me people were out there hunting groups of princes. Terms of venery are, and always have been, whimsy. They're a lark (and a whole list of such terms is, therefore, an exaltation of larks), applied at one time to groups of commonly-hunted animals but then extended for fun to groups of people, and to creatures, like the wombat, who are only found in wisdoms when they're packed into a zoo (they do not form groups in the wild).

Now I will concede that certain terms of venery have made the transition from factoid to actual phrase. Pod of whales. Troop of monkeys. Gaggle of geese. Pack of wolves. Those tend to be used for animals that naturally live in small groups, and those are fine. Keep 'em.

They're not the ones that annoy me. But "murder of crows," and the like - the ones that people giggle over despite no actual instance of anyone using the term to refer to a flock of crows maybe ever in history - those need to go. Accuracy is part of the reason. Bandwidth is another. Why use our limited brain space on fake animal facts when there are so many interesting things that are actually true? Wombats don't form wisdoms, but they poop cubes. Did you know that? Cubes! You'll blow them away at bar trivia with that one.

So, let's ditch the dead weight and stick to what's true. The next time someone gives me a wink and a nudge and says, "Did you know a group of owls is called a 'parliament'?" I'm going to respond, "Did you know anyone who believes that is part of a 'gaggle of gullibles'?"

*By Nicholas Lund, published in Audubon Magazine
Image/Caption from <https://www.ornitheology.com>*



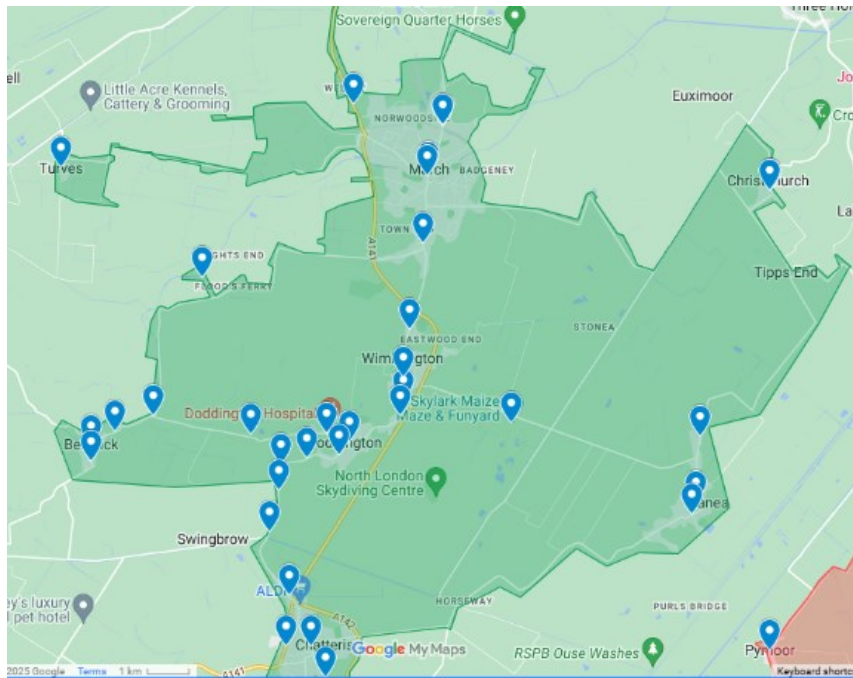
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When can I travel? - Monday to Saturday from 6:30am – 7pm. There is no service on Sundays or Bank Holidays. **How do I book?** - The quickest and easiest way to book is by downloading the **Tiger on Demand app**, available on Google Play and App Store. Alternatively you can book by visiting www.tigerondemand.co.uk or by phone on **01480 595 440**. The call centre is open Monday to Saturday from 6am – 7:30pm. **How much does it cost?** - The costs per journey are as follows:

- **Adults £2 per journey** – Please choose the 'Adult' fare option when booking
- **Under 5s travel for FREE** – Please choose the 'Infant' fare option when booking.
- **Children aged 5-16 £1 per journey** – Please choose the 'Youth' fare option when booking.
- **Concessionary Bus Pass Holders and Disability Bus Pass holders travel for FREE** – Please choose the 'Senior' or 'Person with disability' fare option when booking and show your pass to the driver when you board.
- **Tiger Pass Holders £1 per journey** – Please ask for the 'Reduced' fare option when booking and show your pass to the driver when you board.

How do I pay? - You can pay using your debit or credit card when booking over the phone. Drivers are not able to accept cash or card payments.



Answers from Teasers on Page 9

Hike

White – the only place on the planet where you can travel South, East and then North and arrive back at your departure point is the North Pole, and only Polar Bears live at the North Pole.



Tyres

Lego – they make approximately 700 million tyres per year. Bridgestone and Michelin each make in the region of 200 million tyres each year.

+

SIX FEN CHURCHES
|
CHRISTCHURCH

CAN YOU HELP SAVE OUR VILLAGE CHURCH?



Thank you to everyone who has contributed to the fundraising events over the past two years which have supported the ongoing investigations into repair work needed on the church building. The church was designed in 1864 and provides the village with a unique cultural and heritage space. So far fundraising has provided £8,864 with a further £8,600 grants available when work starts. £14,647 has been spent so far on fees for investigations, inspections and costings. For the past two years the congregation have been meeting in the wonderful Community Centre.

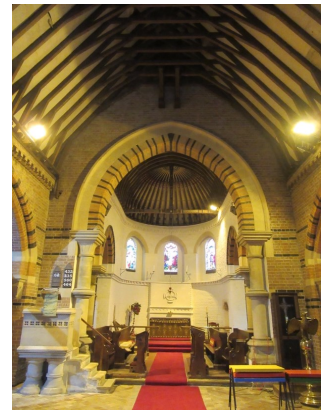
The good news is that the National Lottery Heritage fund is now accepting applications for large projects like Christchurch. The main problem is that the original Victorian drainage pipes have come to the end of their 150 year life. With the drains collapsed, the rain that falls on the roof of the church is not being dispersed into the wider churchyard. So the building is damp, and this is leading to the plaster falling off the ceiling. All this work will cost around £1 million, most of which the National Lottery Heritage Fund could provide.

As the new Rector of Christchurch, **I'm writing to ask for your help to form a project team** that could assist the Parochial Church Council in the repair project. We are looking for volunteers who can help with liaison with the architect, fundraising events, grant applications, communication with the village, a project treasurer, and particular stakeholders in the village such as the Community Centre, the Dun Cow, Townley Primary School and others.

There are two phases to National Lottery Heritage projects like this. In phase one the project team put together the scope of the project and apply for a grant. The group then use the phase one grant to recruit the paid professionals who will carry out the work, which is then funded by a phase two grant.

We would like to invite you to an Afternoon Tea in the Community Centre at 3pm on Saturday 29th March. Apart from this having value in itself as a community gathering, we will have Holly and Samuel from the Church Buildings Team of the Diocese of Ely to explain what a project team needs to do. We are very keen to hear your views, both for and against.

If we don't take the opportunity this year of gathering a group of people who are willing to make a project team, it will mean that we lose this building forever. Given what has happened elsewhere in Cambridgeshire, it is likely it will be an eyesore, remain empty and decaying for at least a decade, until the diocese sells it to a developer who converts it into a house. If we are going to act, it has to be this year.



Canon Mark Collinson (Rector)

Helen Chappell (Churchwarden)



Canon Mark Collinson

Rector of the Six Fen Churches, Diocese of Ely

8 Church St, Wimblington, March PE15 0QS

e. Mark.6fenchurches@gmail.com

t. 0787 4847 157

Is Everybody Happy?

You may recall that the Parish Council asked for your views on public utilities, such as electricity, water, drainage, sewage, telephone, broadband and mobile communications in the December Heron. Did you respond? It seems that everybody is happy with the services in the village, which is reassuring, but not what we expected to hear.

If you're content for the Parish Council to report to the District Council that everything is tickety-boo in Christchurch, please ignore this article. If not, please email clerk@christchurchparishcouncil.org.uk with your experiences or concerns.

Thank you.



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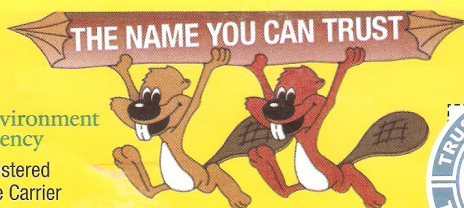
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WELLE CINEMA Three Holes Village Hall

SUNDAY 2ND MARCH
WILDING (PG) plus the Upwell Tractor run

Documentary. Wilding tells the story of a young couple that bets on nature for the future of their failing, four-hundred-year-old estate. The young couple battles entrenched tradition, and dares to place the fate of their farm in the hands of nature. Ripping down the fences, they set the land back to the wild and entrust its recovery to a motley mix of animals both tame and wild. It is the beginning of a grand experiment that will become one of the most significant rewilding experiments in Europe

SUNDAY 6TH APRIL
ONE LIFE (12)

ONE LIFE tells the true story of Sir Nicholas 'Nicky' Winton, a young London broker who, in the months leading up to World War II, rescued 669 predominantly Jewish children from the Nazis. Nicky visited Prague in December 1938 and found families who had fled the rise of the Nazis in Germany and Austria, living in desperate conditions with little or no shelter and food, and under threat of Nazi invasion. He immediately realised it was a race against time. How many children could he and the team rescue before the borders closed?

Fifty years later, it's 1988 and Nicky lives haunted by the fate of the children he wasn't able to bring to safety in England; always blaming himself for not doing more. It's not until a live BBC television show, 'That's Life', surprises him by introducing him to some surviving children – now adults – that he finally begins to come to terms with the guilt and grief he had carried for five decades.

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Remember that our website has lots more information about school.

January 2025

Happy New Year! Life at Townley never seems to stand still, we are always seeking to achieve the best for our children. One of the ways we seek the best for our children is to ensure staff receive the continuing professional development they need in order to deliver the curriculum so children can learn and remember more. Miss Saward is working with the Maths Hub to ensure maths outcomes remain strong for our children. However, children cannot learn if their wellbeing needs are not met. As a whole staff we have been able to access training such as Recovery through Relationships, Solution Circles and Trauma as part of the Enhanced Resource Base project, we are fortunate that this project will bring benefits for all of our children, not just the children who are due to be placed with us.

Emperor Class (Y5/6) are reading William Shakespeare's 'A Midsummer Night's Dream', retold by Andrew Matthews. We have been working on our retrieval skills. In **English** our new unit is 'writing third person stories set in another culture.' Our model text is 'Son of Sobek,' which is set in Ancient Egypt. In **Maths** we are continuing with our unit on fractions and have been comparing fractions by the numerator, by the denominator and by comparing it to 1/2. We have added and subtracted fractions where the denominator is the same. Our **RE** unit this term is, 'What happens when we die? (part one). The class learnt about why some people believe in a soul.



Emerald Class (Y3/4) are reading 'The Girl Who Stole an Elephant'. We have all been practising how to solve multiplication and division, year 3 have been recalling the various methods taught to complete addition, subtraction, multiplication and division. At the same time, year 4 complete daily times tables lessons. We have started 'Going for Gold'. Every week, we focus on 2 facts while reviewing what we learnt over the Autumn term. We are learning about States of Matter in **Science** and this week we were considering 'melting'. Our task was to find out what the melting point of butter was.

Hawker Class (Y1/2) we thought you might like to see some of our finished sewing projects! Mrs Lyons has helped us learn how to hand sew a running stitch to make purses! In Guided Reading we are reading Paddington Bear and using various extracts to predict future events as well as looking at how we can retrieve specific information. In English we have started to plan a story that is set in Kenya.



EYFS Class (YN/R) Traction Man is a picture book by Mini Grey that follows the adventures of an Action-Man style hero with an outfit for every occasion. We love this story! We are also reading Supertato by Sue Hendra and Paul Linett involves a badly behaved pea who escapes from the freezer in a supermarket at night and plans to cause chaos for the fresh vegetables. We have been making our own Supertatos! We have loved exploring the ice this week!

Remember that you can find out more about us on our website or Facebook page. If you are thinking of applying for a place at our school and would like to more, call and make an appointment, we would love to show you around.

The Iceni and Stonea Camp: Walking in the Footsteps of Boudicca

Located close to Christchurch, Stonea Camp is a site of profound historical significance, offering a glimpse into the vibrant life of the Iceni tribe. This Iron Age hill fort was not only a stronghold but a spiritual and communal hub, where the tribe's identity was forged and defended. Walking through Stonea Camp today, is truly walking in the footsteps of Boudicca, the legendary queen who led her people in a historic revolt against Roman rule.



The Iceni: Masters of Craft and Culture - The Iceni tribe, whose territory spanned modern Norfolk, Suffolk, and parts of Cambridgeshire, were skilled farmers, traders, and metalworkers. Their artistic flair evident in their coinage, which the tribe started to mint before the Roman invasion of Britain and their jewellery, which reflected their identity, spirituality, and political autonomy.

The coins, often depicted horses, intricate patterns, and inscriptions, highlighted their connection to Celtic traditions. Some coins included the name of Anted (ios), believed to have been the tribal leader at the time of the Roman invasion, and Prasutagus believed to have been Anted's son, both of whom served as client kings under Roman rule. This title indicated a semi-autonomous status: while the Iceni paid tribute to Rome, they retained a degree of independence, reflected in their ability to mint coins. These coins were not just currency but also tools of propaganda. Their designs emphasising the Iceni's strength, wealth, and resilience, with symbols such as horses representing freedom and power. They provided an enduring testament to the tribe's cultural sophistication and defiance against Roman domination.

Stonea Camp: A Fortress in the Fens - Stonea Camp was a linchpin in the Iceni's territory. Its position on a natural rise within the Fens made it an ideal location for both defence and community activities. Before the Fens were drained, the landscape was dominated by wetlands, waterways, and marshes, which the Iceni skilfully used to their advantage. The camp's earthworks, included ditches and ramparts, forming a formidable defensive barrier. Its elevation offered clear views of the surrounding landscape, allowing early detection of potential threats. However, Stonea Camp was more than a military outpost - it was a cultural and spiritual centre.

Feasting, Spirituality, and Druids - Life at Stonea Camp extended beyond defence; it was a place of feasting, rituals, and spiritual practices. Feasting was central to Iceni culture, fostering alliances and celebrating seasonal changes. These gatherings were also opportunities to honour their pagan gods, whose presence was believed to be intertwined with the land, sky, and waters. The Iceni's belief system was deeply rooted in nature. Sacred sites such as waterways played a vital role in their spiritual practices.

Priests, known as Druids, served as religious leaders, healers, and keepers of tribal knowledge. They oversaw rituals, including sacrifices and offerings to the gods, which reinforced the tribe's unity and connection to the divine. The elevated position of Stonea Camp within the Fens likely held spiritual significance. Surrounded by wetlands, it was perceived as a bridge between the physical and spiritual realms. Archaeological discoveries of animal bones and other ritual deposits suggest that Stonea was a sacred site for offerings and ceremonies, where the Iceni sought divine favour.

Prasutagus: Client King of the Iceni - By the mid-1st century AD, the Iceni found themselves under the shadow of the expanding Roman Empire. After Emperor Claudius's invasion of Britain in AD43, the Iceni became a client kingdom, with Anted and then Prasutagus recognised as their rulers. Prasutagus navigated the delicate balance of maintaining Iceni independence while fulfilling Roman demands for tribute. His coinage which bore his name, reflected both loyalty to Rome and pride in Iceni identity. This arrangement allowed the Iceni to flourish briefly, expanding their trade and consolidating their wealth. However, tensions simmered beneath the surface, and Rome's increasing demands would soon ignite a crisis.

The Tragedy of Boudicca - Prasutagus' death around AD60 marked a turning point in Iceni history. In his will, he left his kingdom jointly to his daughters and the Roman Emperor Nero, hoping to secure the tribe's future under Roman rule. Instead, Roman officials violated the will, seizing Iceni lands and wealth. Worse still, they brutally humiliated Boudicca, believed to have been Prasutagus' widow, brutally attacking her and her daughters. This act of violence sparked one of the most significant rebellions in Roman Britain. Boudicca, a charismatic and determined leader, held off the Romans longer than any military leader in the ancient world; she rallied the Iceni and allied tribes to rise against Roman oppression. Her forces attacked major Roman settlements, including Camulodunum (Colchester), Londinium (London), and Verulamium (St Albans), leaving destruction in their wake.

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Stonea Camp and the Revolt - Although direct evidence linking Stonea Camp to Boudicca's revolt is scarce, its strategic importance suggests it may have played a part. As a fortified site, it would have been a natural gathering point for the Iceni, serving as a base for planning and organising resistance. However, if so, it would have been in plain sight, as the Romans had constructed the tallest stone tower to the north of the hillfort, overshadowing the camp completely. However, the camp's proximity to waterways would have facilitated the movement of supplies and warriors. Walking the grounds of Stonea Camp today, it's easy to imagine hearing the echoes of Iceni warriors preparing for battle, their resolve steeled by Boudicca's impassioned calls for freedom. However, there is clear evidence from finds at Stonea Camp, and from historical evidence, that a brutal attack did happen at Stonea Camp, an attack I will write about in a later article.



The Fall and Legacy of the Iceni - Despite Boudicca's initial successes, the revolt ended in devastating defeat according to Roman historians Tacitus and Cassius Dio. Roman forces, disciplined and well-equipped, crushed the uprising in a decisive battle. The Iceni suffered

harsh reprisals, with their lands and autonomy stripped away. Stonea Camp, like many Iceni sites, fell into obscurity as the tribe's independence was extinguished. Over the centuries, the Fens reclaimed the site, softening its earthworks and burying its secrets.



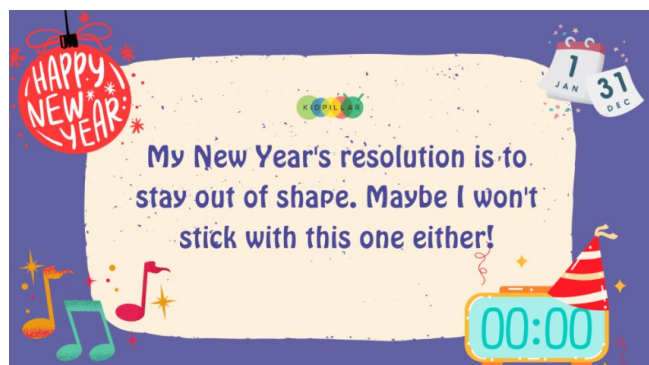
The Iceni Tribe, Ceremony and Jewellery - The Iceni's artistry extended beyond coinage to their jewellery and ceremonial objects, such as torcs and decorative torches.

Torcs, often crafted from twisted gold or bronze, symbolised status and power, while their intricate designs reflected the Iceni's reverence for the natural world.

Ceremonial torches, adorned with elaborate carvings may have been used in Druidic rituals. Fire held deep spiritual significance for the Iceni, symbolising purification, transformation, and divine connection. These torches would have illuminated feasts and ceremonies, casting flickering light over the gatherings at Stonea Camp, many of which were observed by the Romans to the north.

If you would like to know more about Stonea Camp, or would like information on forthcoming open days at the site, a presentation or guided tour, please email, Heritage, Culture & Community (HCC) Stonea at hccstonea@gmail.com, follow our facebook page <https://facebook.com/hccstoneacamps>, or our Instagram page, https://www.instagram.com/hcc_stonea, we would be delighted to assist.

Amanda Carlin – Chairman HCC Stonea.



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