



Challenge



The Parish Newsletter of St Mary's, Weston Colville and St Andrew's, West Wrating
The views expressed herein are those of the contributors.
Printed by E & E Plumridge Ltd, Linton (Cambridge 891407)

Christingle Family Service



West Wrating Church

Sunday 8th December, 4 - 5 pm

Children come at 3.45 to make Christingle

Tea, Mulled Wine, Cakes and Bonfire afterwards

Everyone welcome

West Wrating Over 60s

We will be meeting for our Christmas lunch at The Chestnut Tree on 4th December at 12.30, with our Christmas raffle. There won't be a meeting in January.

Wendy Halls



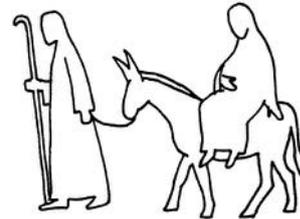
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St Mary's, Weston Colville CRIB SERVICE with CAROLS by candlelight

The story of the Nativity told by the children of the village



Christmas Eve, 4.30 pm

Mulled wine and mince pies

Angels, Shepherds and Kings Needed!

If you are ten years or under, we would love your help to enact the Nativity story at the Crib Service in Weston Colville on Christmas Eve. Please get in touch with Kaye Morris (katieb@gmx.com) for more information.



MAKE YOUR OWN CHRISTMAS WREATH

DEMONSTRATION and WORKSHOP
all materials, and soup, provided
Saturday 7th December, 10.30 - 1 pm
Weston Colville Hall, CB21 5PE

To book a place, contact
ruthhazleman@hotmail.com, 01223 290543
or redman.tessa@gmail.com, 01223 290807
£15 (payable to Weston Colville PCC)

Merry Christmas!

December 2019

CHRISTMAS TREES DIRECT FROM THE GROWER



AVAILABLE WEEKENDS

7th/8th and 14th/15th DECEMBER

9 am - 4 pm Saturdays

10 am - 4 pm Sundays

From R D JAGGARD, Charter House, Burrough Green
Tel 01638 507330

With Thanks and Seasonal Greetings

I'd like to give my usual thanks to everybody involved with *Challenge*, especially those hardy souls who distribute and deliver it throughout the year,



THE SNOW QUEEN

Hans Christian Anderson

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2PM

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With live music, song and a great story with characters all ages will love, this beautiful adaptation will warm hearts this Christmas

Mulled wine and children's refreshments will be served during the interval

THIS WILL BE VERY POPULAR SO PLEASE BOOK NOW!

and to the advertisers and parish councils whose support allows it to be distributed free of charge to every household in both villages, and of course to everybody who sends articles, news, and reports. Thank you all.

Almost all the contributors this month added their best wishes for a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year. Forgive me, but to save space, please accept these here from everyone, including me!

Anne

Saturday Morning Café, West Wrattling

Our next café will be on Saturday 7th December between 10.30 am and 12 noon in the village hall. This month, there will be a Christingle craft table for the kids, as well as the usual play corner. Zoe will also be displaying and selling her beautiful Christmas wreaths.

The proceeds from the December café will go to the refurbishment of the village playground.

The café works by different volunteers kindly offering to serve and donate cakes every month, and the money raised is donated to local community projects. This year, all proceeds from the bookstall will go to Granta School.

Sherry (290070) and Catherine (291307)

Tea and Cakes

Thank you to everyone who helped out and came along to our November gathering.



We will meet next on Friday 20th December in the Reading Room, 3.30 - 5 pm. There will be mulled wine and mince pies, as well as the usual refreshments. We will be collecting in aid of



Jimmy's. We look forward to seeing you; all welcome.

Melanie (291319)

West Wrattling Charity Bingo Night

We had another wonderful evening of bingo games and supper at West Wrattling Village Hall on Saturday 23rd November. Huge thanks for all your support in taking part and/or generously donating raffle prizes! We raised a total of £717 which will go towards the West Wrattling Playground refurbishment and the St Andrew's Church Restoration Fund.

Catherine / Claire / Sarah / Anne

GARDEN MAINTENANCE

We offer a professional and reliable service from lawn mowing to new planting projects. Other services include tree surgery and hedge cutting.

Please telephone Zara or Francis at

Napier Garden Planning

Tel : 01638 508847

Westley Waterless, Newmarket
e-mail: napierfz@aol.com

West Wrating Village Hall AGM

The AGM of the Village Hall Management Committee is scheduled for Monday 9th December at 7.30 pm, when the report and accounts for the last financial year will be presented. All interested residents of our village are welcome to attend.

Mike Rowland (290788), Anne Catchpole (290967)

West Wrating Playground – Silent Auction

Fund-raising for the replacement children's playground is progressing well and we hope to have sufficient funds to commence the work in 2020. To help with our fund-raising efforts, Allianz Insurance UK have kindly donated two rugby tickets for any Saracens home game in 2020, together with a rugby ball signed by the Saracen players, including a number of the current England world cup team. Both items are to be auctioned individually. All bids are to be emailed to Alex@wdbproperty.co.uk or posted through the door of 59a High Street West Wrating by the closing date (14th December). Please include your contact details, the item you are bidding for and the amount you would like to bid. PLEASE DIG DEEP, these wonderful prizes will make excellent Christmas presents and all funds raised will go towards the new playground. Happy bidding.

Alex Brown, West Wrating Playground Committee

Weston Colville Seniors

At our November meeting we decided to change our format for the winter and started off with a warming cup of tea and a session of chair yoga with Charlotte, which we all enjoyed.



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I had decorated a Christmas cake for our raffle and demonstrated how to make a sugar snowman complete with robins on a separate iced cake board, which was also added to the very generous donations from our members. Jenny Whitehead was very happy to win the cake, and the raffle raised £16 for our funds.

There will not be a meeting in the Reading Room for December as we will all be meeting up at The Chestnut Tree on Tuesday 10th at 12.30 for our Christmas lunch at 1 pm.

Our next meeting in the Reading Room will be on Tuesday January 14th starting at the new time of 2 pm with a warming cup of tea and biscuits followed by chair yoga with Charlotte.

This will lead us into our talk by Kate Hales from Healthwatch about their work in local health and care services in Cambridgeshire and Peterborough. There will be ample time for your questions and comments on this subject.

I wish you all a very Merry Christmas and hope to see you in the New Year.

Val Scott (290837, valcakesuk@gmail.com)

Granta Vale Community Hubs

– Friendship, Community and Care

Balsham Church Institute, Church Lane, Balsham CB21 4DS on Thursday 5th December, 2 - 4 pm.

Abington Institute, 66 High Street, Great Abington CB21 6AB on Tuesday 17th December, 2 - 4 pm.

The Parish Nurse will be there as well as a representative from REACH. Free tea, coffee and cake, and the opportunity to meet others.

7churches@community.gmail.com





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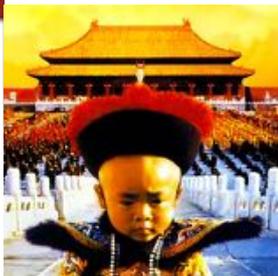
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Weston Colville Cinema Club

On 4th December we will have the wonderful ‘Love Actually’, perfect for the run-up to Christmas.



In January we’ll show ‘The Last Emperor’, on the 8th as the traditional ‘first Wednesday’ falls on New Year’s Day, so we thought we’d avoid that. Both films will start at 7.30 pm. All welcome, introduction to films, refreshments available, donations.



Jacqueline Douglas
(291475, jacquelinetheteacher@hotmail.com)

Weston Colville Circular Walk

Against a backdrop of rain and rugby, our November walk was the smallest group yet. We were joined by



Jo Sinclair, pictured here against an autumnal backdrop (I’ll leave you to imagine the colours, unless you’re reading this in the emailed

version) who is compiling a book of Cambridgeshire walks for publication, and had seen our notices.

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The next walk, of approximately five miles, will be on New Year’s Day, meeting in the Reading Room at the slightly later time of **11 am**. BYO lunch and maybe something to share back in the Reading Room afterwards. All welcome, refreshments available. Enquiries: 291475, jacquelinetheteacher@hotmail.com

Weston Colville Folk Evening

The Reading Room will host ‘Camus’ (pronounced ‘car-mus’) featuring our very own David Somerville. Fresh from Cambridge Folk Festival and en route to the festival in St Neots next June, he and his friends will entertain us on Saturday, 7th December.



David Somerville –
Northumbrian small pipes,
keyboard

Greg Smith – fiddle, viola

Andrew Burn – melodeon,
Northumbrian small pipes



The three friends have been playing together in various folk bands for over forty years and their music is an eclectic mix of material from the folk traditions of countries including England, Scotland, Ireland, USA, Spain. David says: “if we like the tune we’ll play it”.

The music begins at 7.30 pm, donations on the door, refreshments available, all welcome. Enquiries: 291475, jacquelinetheteacher@hotmail.com

Weston Colville Oil Co-operative

Ordering deadline: **noon, Sunday 1st December.**

Ordering details were printed in November’s *Challenge*, or contact your representative:

Church End to the bottom of Mill Hill:

Alastair Douglas (291475, or salguoda@hotmail.co.uk)

Chapel Road, Common Road, Horseshoe Lane:

Anne Vidler (290010, or anne.vidler@talk21.com)

Mutton and Lamb

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01223 290076 or 07970 154161
(Farringford, Mill Hill, Weston Colville)

West Wrating Oil Syndicate

There is no fill-up this month. The next syndicate order will be in January.

Phil Tempest (westwratingoil@gmail.com)



West Wrating Book Club

We discussed two books at our November meeting: 'The Diary of Anne Frank' and 'Wilding' by Isabella Tree.

Anne Frank was a German-Jewish girl whose family emigrated to Holland in 1933 because they were Jewish and her father had become Managing Director of a Dutch company. Her diary was written in Amsterdam from June 1942 until August 1st 1944. On August 4th 1944 Anne and her family, and the members of another family hiding in a secret annex, were arrested by the SS. Anne was eventually taken to the concentration camp Bergen-Belsen in Germany where she died of typhus just prior to the liberation of Europe by the allies. Anne's father was the only family member who survived and he subsequently published his daughter's diary and held speaking engagements about her life.

The diary, written to a pretend friend Kitty, served as a way for Anne to express herself most articulately about the difficulties living within very close confines with her own family and another family and living constantly under threat of being discovered by the Nazis.

Much of the diary describes a very typical teenager with the usual conflicts with parents, in particular,

conflicts between Anne and her mother. Anne describes in painful detail the minutiae of everyday life such as the food rationing, but also the terrifying daily reality of the seizure and transportation of the Jewish population of Amsterdam.

The club members agreed that it was not appropriate to assign a score to the diary, but would certainly recommend it as a poignant personal account of a German-Jewish girl's experience of the Holocaust.

Lee Haviland

Most of those of us who read 'Wilding' enjoyed it very much and found it inspiring. This is a book about a bold but controversial project to allow the Knepp Castle estate to return to its natural, wild state after 20th century agricultural practices had proved uneconomic, one of the first of its kind in Britain. A selection of comments included "loved it, would read it again and again", "enjoyed it a lot", and "I loved the ethos". One person had reservations but still found some very interesting and valuable ideas in it. It was also felt by some that it needed better editing in places.

However, overall, it was agreed that it was an amazing and fascinating project which, although only feasible at this scale to large landowners and not possible to do with all agricultural land, was doing important work which could make us all review our preconceptions of what are 'normal' wildlife habitats and behaviour patterns. The discussion of the state of the soil, the importance of mycorrhizal fungi for carbon sequestration, and the release of trace elements vital to human health, is very timely. There is much to consider about how we use the land and how we can draw inspiration from this project, such as making small changes on our own land, gardens and local environment, and seeing overgrown hedgerows, verges and small areas of scrubland as important for wildlife and our own wellbeing. ('Listen again' to <https://www.bbc.co.uk/programmes/m00088kx>) Everyone would recommend it and scores ranged from 8 to 10 out of 10.

We will be meeting on Tuesday 17th December for our Christmas meal, with readings or poems relating to Christmas, gift giving etc.

We will then meet on Wednesday 15th January to discuss 'Milton Place' by Elisabeth de Waal, mother of Edmund de Waal.

Linda Gorman

Merry Christmas!

December 2019

From the Rectory

Advent is here, a time when we unpack our traditions and wait with anticipation for Christmas. The sense of excitement can become palpable; it's as though there is a deep instinct in us that Christmas is a time for seeing good in each other and the world, and for celebrating before God with joy and thanksgiving.

Each of us has our own particular traditions we cherish during Advent. As a child I looked forward to my parents playing an old record of Christmas songs by Andy Williams; the smell of pine needles in the lounge as we set up the Christmas tree, laden with familiar decorations; readings of 'The Night Before Christmas' and Charles Dickens' 'A Christmas Carol'. 'A Christmas Carol' is known for its memorable characters and vivid depiction of a Victorian Christmas: the streets of London carpeted in snow; the Christmas pudding like a speckled cannon-ball; crisp leaves of holly, ivy and mistletoe. It's a tale of fear and longing, hope and redemption, where cold-hearted Scrooge, once so isolated in his self-centredness, has his life disrupted through a series of ghostly revelations and begins to experience renewal through friendship, joy and kindness.

A mixture of fear, longing, hope and redemption also lies at the heart of the Christmas story. "Do not be afraid" says the angel to Joseph, to Mary, to the shepherds. A reminder that the good news of Jesus' coming as Saviour, the promise of the Word which 'became flesh and lived among us' is both all that humans most deeply long for but also a powerful disruption in our lives and the world.

Yet the gospel tells us we need not fear this interruption and renewal. In Christ, God is fulfilling



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the deepest hopes for freedom and human dignity; we only have to let the Word be born in us and speak in us. As we then approach Christmas and enact once more our own traditions, we are also invited to approach Jesus and take our part in this greater story. To look with wonder upon the one who was born as Emmanuel, 'God is with us', and to kindle on earth the fire of his love.

Revd Iain McColl

Weston Colville Marsh Tit Study

It's Christmas! Presents, overeating, binge screenwatching, bracing walks, relatives you can't stand . . . it's all part of the fun.

Speaking of infotainment, Weston Colville and West Wrattling are in the news: Have a look at the podcast of my interview on Marsh Tits at Cambridge 105 Radio (<https://cambridge105.co.uk/phil-rowe-06-11-2019/>). Phil Rowe even let me have a rant about fearless and ferocious Blue Tits!

Over Christmas, please bear in mind those nice relatives out in the cold and unable to join in in the festivities – your garden birds. These small creatures need to maintain a core temperature of around 39°C, when the ambient temperature is below zero. Their lives are on a knife-edge in winter. A bird can lose 10% of its body weight overnight. Scraps of all sorts will provide the energy they need to survive the cold and dark. Thank you.

Another thing to remember is that wild birds can appear tame when it's freezing. They will allow you to get very close. They're not being friendly – they simply don't have the energy to escape from you. Their stress levels will soar if you approach, and they will use up what energy they have left to try to move. This energy could be the difference between life and death for them. Please leave apparently tame birds

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well alone. They're not docile, they're wild, exhausted and scared of you. If you're worried about a bird, contact the RSPB or RSPCA – they'll tell you what's best to do in your case.



Now for some Christmas good news: we are delighted to welcome Marsh Tit AZH6720 Green over White over Black 'Czar Nicolas'. S/he graced the imperial sunflower heart feeder in Joyce Oliver's garden bistro in Weston Colville

on 17th November, gaining its colours and a portrait record with Santa, as shown here.

A very interesting colour-ringed Marsh Tit showed up at Joyce's on Monday 18th November, which we are very keen to spot again. This Marsh Tit is carrying Red, Yellow and White colours on one leg. It isn't one of ours or Dr Richard Broughton's at Monks Wood National Nature Reserve. Some birds like this have been seen in Suffolk, but the originator is unknown. It must have come some distance to get here. There is an outside chance it's foreign, which would be a truly remarkable record. (We know that miracles do happen. A few years ago, a Blue Tit – well known as a sedentary species – was encountered at Sandwich Bay in Kent carrying a Lithuanian ring.) A good photo of Red, Yellow and White would get your name in *Challenge* and even a scientific paper! (#BlatantBribesRUs).

Please email your sightings and photos to me at cambsmarti@gmail.com or *Challenge*. It's always good to get Christmas post . . .

Alex Inzani and the festive South Cambs Ringing Group

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Weston Colville Parish Council

At the meeting held on 13th November the following items were discussed and where relevant agreed.

Public Participation Session – a letter was received from the developer of Ivy House, wanting to meet the Council when pre-planning advice had been received from SCDC. Various dates had been suggested for an evening meeting; following discussion, the Clerk was instructed to write and request a daytime site visit.

District and County Council reports and items of interest – a report was received from Cllr Harvey (see full minutes)

SCDC decisions – S/1514/19/FL, S/2384/19/FL, S/2078/19/FL - all approved. S/2079/19/LB, S/2783/19/FL, S/2967/19/FL – out for consultation.

Matters in hand/Arising since last meeting

Website – Cllr Pagonis was absent from the meeting, but had informed Cllr Vidler that the website would be ready to circulate by the end of the week. A parishioner has been taking photos of the village to add content.

Street lighting – the payment for the street lighting will be sent by direct debit at the end of November for the year. The cost is 50% higher as an individual council than it was paying CCC.

Hedges – the clerk wrote to the owners of the hedges, and had received a reply from one before the meeting. His hedges do not impact on the verges, but he was willing to meet with councillors to discuss. He had asked if there was anything the PC could do to prevent people walking over his land from Mill Hill to Jaggard's wood yard – he had put signage up, and these had been knocked down – the tracks are not public rights of way. The clerk had suggested that he write to *Challenge* as it is not something the PC can assist with. Cllr Garrod volunteered to meet with the

landowner. The clerk was instructed to facilitate a meeting. Trevor Potter has carried out only two cuts so far due to the dry summer, so will cut the full width of the verge for the final cut, and the invoice is likely to be reduced from the amount quoted.

Church End phone box – the clerk had approached Community Heartbeat, who own the Church End phone box, about maintenance; they submitted an adoption form, as it will not be housing a defibrillator. The PC is not interested in taking it on. It was determined that Cllr Jackson would approach the Reading Room.

Matters for the Council to discuss/vote on

Challenge newsletter – following a discussion it was determined that the PC would increase its contribution to the *Challenge* magazine from £100 to £120, after a request from the editor.

SID and LHI – a feasibility report was received. Following discussion it was determined not to install gates at the four entry points in the village, which would cost the PC £1,200 and instead to have speed roundels and slow signs painted on the road, which would cost the PC circa £500. Cllr Hubbard was requested to revert back to the Highways Officer with the new suggestion.

Footpaths – an update was received regarding the bridge on Footpath 19. The landowners are unwilling to pay to divert the footpath, as it would cost £3-£4,000, or to have the bridge replaced, so they will just wait for it to fall down. Cllr Garrod had been approached by several parishioners about the new bridge by the chapel, as there have been concerns raised due to the big step up and down at each end of the bridge. Cllr Durham to raise this with the Footpaths Officers, to see if an intermediate step could be added.

Poppy Appeal – it was determined to increase the contribution made by the PC to the Royal British Legion from £5 to £10.

Dates of Parish Council Meetings 2020 –

6th January, 3rd February (planning), 2nd March, 6th April (planning), May 14th (Annual Parish Meeting and Annual Meeting of the Electors), June 1st (planning), July 6th, 3rd August (planning), 7th September, 5th October (planning), 2nd November, 7th December (planning)

Charitable Donations – the charities that are supported by the PC are the Cricket Club, *Challenge*,

Merry Christmas!

December 2019

Parish Nurse, Royal British Legion and CAPALC. Challenge and RBL were discussed above, the Cricket Club is meeting on 2nd December to discuss the future (the senior section has demised, the juniors still play). The money from the PC goes towards the mower servicing, and petrol. It was determined to support and reassess in a year's time. There was a discussion about the value of the Parish Nurse scheme, and whether parishioners in the village were assisted. It was determined to re-evaluate in the middle of the year, when the charitable donation would be due.

Scams – it was determined to become part of Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Against Scams Partnership (CAPASP) if there were no costs involved. .

Playground – the fence needs replacing at the Recreation Ground. It was suggested that a grant should be applied for from the Wadlow Wind Farm.

Date of Next Meeting: 6th January 2020 - Parish Council Meeting (planning, if required – 2nd December).

Ray Vidler, Chairman (rvidler@btinternet.com)

Jessica Ashbridge, Clerk (jess@agrarian.biz)

West Wrating Parish Council

At the parish council meeting held on Monday 11th November the following were some of the matters discussed. The full draft minutes are available on the two village noticeboards.

Opportunity for public statement: a resident from Six Mile Bottom Road spoke about her concern for the safety of children and adults due to the lack of a footpath to access the school bus and village amenities from Six Mile Bottom Road to the junction. Cllr Davey has contacted the police who have agreed to monitor volume and speed of traffic. Cllr Glennon Lynch has contacted Great Cambridge Partnership about funding for this footpath. The parish clerk will enquire the cost of such a footpath from Highways.

Parish Nurse Project: Suan Rowland gave a short outline of the progress that has been made in the past year, creating two venues for mainly older people to meet and chat to the Parish Nurse, Age UK, or Reach who are always present at these 'get togethers'. The hub is on the first Thursday every month in Balsham, in the Village Institute 2 - 4 pm.

Planning:

S/ 2931/1 9/FL	Wadlow Farm	Erection of a single storey bldg for use in outdoor sport	Refused & withdrawn
Pre/ 0327/1 9	Recreation ground	Replace existing play equipment, safety surface & fencing with new equipment	
S/ 3060/1 9/FL	St Andrews Church	Ext rendering of chancel & nave etc.	Supported
S/ 3442/1 9/VC	17 The Common	Variation of condition	Supported

Finance: details in draft minutes.

Transport: a Combined Authority Bus Survey is at: <https://www.smartsurvey.co.uk/s/FutureBus/CombinedAuthorityBusSurvey> The more people who complete this, the better chance of an improved bus service. (see page 10 of Challenge)

Maintenance:

Fox Road Barriers: at a meeting to discuss the possible gating of the bridleway Cllr Lock was told it was highly unlikely as the evidence collected was not bad enough to warrant a gateway. Please notify the police of any unacceptable behaviour.

Sale of telephone box: those who had responded to a request for comments were against this sale, as were the parish council, and therefore the request will be turned down. How about someone offering to turn it into something useful, eg library, information bureau?

Recreation ground & pavilion:

- The gate is now in place but due to a safety problem when opening the gate the code has not yet been issued. The parish council has agreed to contribute towards the cost of the gate.
- The defibrillator battery needs replacing. The parish council agreed that a decision was needed to replace it immediately at the next joint meeting on 13th November.

Play area: grant applications are being made and below is a list of funding and donations so far.

£9,995 lottery fund; £101.20 donations and games; £900 Ben's bike ride; £1,000 anonymous donation; £150 August cafe; £1,000 cafe; £100 donation; £110 October café.

The next parish council meeting will be held on Monday 13th January 2020.

Jenny Richards

www.westwratting.org.uk

for information on:

What's On	Directory	Parish Council
Parish History	Local Sports	Village Hall Events
Church News	Parish Matters	Village Calendar

Please send us your contributions, events, notices, photos and comments.

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Local Bus Survey

Is our local bus service suitable for your needs? Have your say by participating in the Cambridge and Peterborough strategic bus review. The survey will allow everyone who takes part the opportunity to give feedback on the current service and give their opinion on a range of suggested improvements, including a more frequent service, an expansion of the bus network, and new routes. Other ideas such as more use of alternative fuels and electric buses are also sought.

The survey can be accessed online at www.smartsurvey.co.uk/s/FutureBus/ or by phoning 07377 001512. Don't delay, the closing date is 13th December! Please complete the survey if you are interested in seeing improvements to our current bus services.

Used Postage Stamps



I now have a new outlet for used postage stamps, and the profits from selling them go to 'Embracing the Middle East'. I should, therefore, be very grateful if you could save stamps from your Christmas post – just cut or tear them off the envelopes – any denomination or country welcome. If possible please deliver them to Nine Chimney House, Balsham, or I can collect them if you get in touch with me. Thank you.

Joanna Sanders
(893063, sanderschimneys@uwclub.net)

* Eat Well * Live Well * Celebrate Community

BALSHAM CHRISTMAS MARKET

Saturday 14th December

2pm to 4pm Balsham Church Institute

14 stalls of excellent quality, locally produced food and gifts

Cafe serving Christmas Themed High Teas (booking essential)

Tombola








Caroline Pinkham-Smith

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Foot Health Practitioner

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The Peter & Ruth Lloyd Trust Award

We are pleased to report that this year the Trust presented its twelfth annual award to Evan Chandler.

Evan is from West Wrating and after successfully obtaining A-levels at Hills Rd, Cambridge, has gone to the University of Kent to study Computer Science – including a year in industry. Very well done!



As always it was a pleasure for the trustees to meet such enthusiastic and interesting candidates during the selection process.

We are now inviting applications for pupils starting university in September 2020. Normally one scholarship is awarded each year and the amount has kindly been increased to £1,000. Broadly speaking the degree course should be from one of the following:- Architecture, Engineering, Geography, History, Law, Mathematics, Sciences, Medicine, and Veterinary Medicine.

The applicant should be living in one of the parishes bordering the old RAF Wrating Common airfield –

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The award is intended to be of assistance in the purchase of books, materials, equipment etc.

Final decision and award will be made immediately after A-Level/Baccalaureate results and university offers are known.

For further information about the trust and award please contact Jonathan Drury (01223 290968). For an application form please apply via email to: peter.ruthlloydtrust@sky.com

The application form and supporting documents must be received at the latest by 31st March 2020.

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December 2019

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The Meadow School

It has been a pleasure to show the new intake of children for September 2020 around school. There have been many positive comments about how lovely the learning environment is and how polite and well-mannered the children are. We are always proud to show prospective parents around our school and we hope that they are left feeling encouraged about their child joining.



In November, our Parent and Staff consultation began for the transition to a new Academic Trust. To those who are not aware, CHET (Chilford Hundred Education Trust) has been looking for a larger trust to join with, as part of their work on ensuring access to the best resources and support for our local young people. After a very rigorous selection process, Anglian Learning was chosen. It was essential that the trust we joined remained true to our beliefs of being local and small enough to build good relationships, as well allowing schools to remain autonomous. We believe that the future relationship with Anglian Learning will be perfect to continue to allow schools in our trust to flourish. The staff and

parents who attended the meetings were extremely encouraged and we are looking forward to this change.

In school, we are always looking for extra ways to help to enhance our own teaching and the provision we offer children. This term we have been fortunate enough to have a number of organisations support the delivery of our Science Curriculum. Astra Zeneca Science, in conjunction with Cambridge United, have been making weekly visits to Heron Class to help deliver the Science Curriculum and Sixth Form Students from The Perse have kindly come in to help teach Year 5 and 6 Science too. It has been fantastic to observe the level of engagement of the children in some difficult scientific concepts. Miss Totterdale has also been working with The Ogden Trust to continue to enhance science provision in school. Part of this work is to provide a box of science equipment for the children to use outside during playtimes. This has been very well received by the children and it's great to watch how they use it independently.

If you know of anyone who can offer help in any way to support our curriculum delivery, then please do get in touch with the school office.

Nichola Connor, Headteacher

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Marsh Mail

The last month has included lots of events for LVC students to raise awareness of important issues and funds for those in need. On 1st November we marked the end of 'GloWeek' with wearing bright items of clothing as part of the charity's national autumn road safety campaign 'Be Seen Not Hurt'. Assemblies focused on important aspects of road safety, given that nights are drawing in. The initiative also involved us raising money for the Childhood Brain Injury Trust.



This charitable event was particularly poignant as it coincided with the return of one of our Year 11 students, Sam Norris, after a serious motorbike accident in a British Youth Championships race in Glasgow in June that caused him to be on life support and resulted in an acquired brain injury. We are proud of the progress that Sam has made through his intensive rehabilitation and are thrilled to have him back within the LVC community.

We marked Remembrance Day with wearing poppies, two minutes' silence across the school and one of our students playing The Last Post. This has become an important and moving tradition at LVC to remember and pay our respects to those who have given their lives in war and conflicts.

Children in Need Day was celebrated with a variety of fundraising activities including a non-uniform day and a 'Pennies for Pudsey' collection. It is easy to make assumptions that children in Linton and surrounding villages are not touched by the hardship and deprivation in the same way as students attending city schools. However, LVC's community serves a range of diverse families in very different personal circumstances and a large proportion of our students benefit from accessing specialist support services provided by childhood charities.

I begin my maternity leave at the start of December. My colleague, Doug Brechin, Assistant Principal at the college, will take over the writing of this LVC news column in my absence.

Helena Marsh, Principal



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Merry Christmas!

December 2019



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Christmas & New Year Opening Times



Saturday 21st December – closed
 Sunday 22nd December - closed
Monday 23rd December – open as normal
Tuesday 24th December – open as normal
 Wednesday 25th December – closed
 Thursday 26th December – closed
Friday 27th December – open as normal
 Saturday 28th December – closed
 Sunday 29th December - closed
Monday 30th December – open as normal
Tuesday 31st December – open as normal
 Wednesday 1st January 2020 – closed
Thursday 2nd January 2020 – open as normal
Friday 3rd January – open as normal



Saturday 4th January – closed
 Sunday 5th January – closed

Your local pharmacist can advise you on many minor illnesses, such as coughs, colds, sore throats and upset stomachs
 If you need urgent medical assistance when we are closed please ring NHS111
 If your condition poses an immediate threat to life please ring 999

Italian History and Culture

Great Bradley’s next WEA course is aimed at people with an interest in ‘Everything Italian’. There is so much history, so this is an overview of the middle ages, the renaissance period, the historical ‘Risorgimento’ (unification) and will include modern day politics, some geography and modern culture.

The course will run on Wednesdays, 15th January to 26th February: seven weeks of two hours, 10 am to 12 noon. Cost: £55. It will take place in Great Bradley Village Hall, CB8 1LH.

To enrol please book online at enrolonline.wea.org.uk or telephone 0300 303 3464 (phoning is easier!). Fees can be paid at the first meeting, but WEA HQ would appreciate knowing numbers before the course begins, so please do enrol before you come. Further information from Peter Smith (01440 783278).

Great Gardens, Famous Gardeners

The newly formed Linton Area Learning Alliance (LALA) has enjoyed a well-attended course this term entitled ‘Working Lives’. In January we start a new topic of ‘Great Gardens, Famous Gardeners’. We will welcome Andrew Sankey who has delivered courses to the WEA group in the past. The ten session course will explore eight influential gardens and their creators and will include Hidcote, Chatsworth, Blenheim, Stourhead, Levens Hall and Biddulph Grange.

The LALA course starts on Tuesday 14th January at Linton Village Hall, Coles Lane, Linton from 10.00 – 11.45 and ends on 24th March. There will be no meeting on 18th February to coincide with school half term. Fees will be £50 for the ten weeks. Come along and be inspired! Further information from Sue Mudge (01223 892737).

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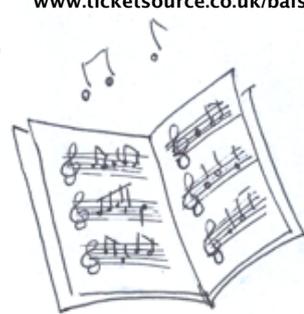
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Balsham Gardening Club



At our AGM and we were delighted both that Sara Himsforth will remain as our president and Sue Lock will continue as our chairman. Our committee remain the same with Bren Williamson as our secretary and Jennie Tipler our treasurer, and Alice Warley, Annie Marks, Victor Plumb and Hazel Leeson. Harold Gawthorp has sadly had to step down, and was thanked in his absence for all his loyal work over many years. Dave Arnold has kindly offered to help with organising outings for next year until another committee member joins our team.

Following our AGM, our speaker Nigel Start gave a very accomplished presentation of 'The History of English Gardens'. He joked that he would have to cover the history from pre-Roman times to the present day in just 45 minutes – no mean task!

Our next meeting will be our members' Christmas party on Tuesday 3rd December, at 7.30 in the school hall. Our own member Dave Arnold will be demonstrating table decorations, and members will be able to make their own. We will have a finger buffet with wine. Please bring your own soft drinks if you prefer.

Hazel Leeson

West Wickham & District Gardening Club

We were very fortunate to have Dr Olivia Norfolk come at short notice to describe her ten years of research into desert gardens as havens for biodiversity, and what she has learnt from the Bedouin of South Sinai. The Bedouin try to grow most of their food in small oasis gardens, and with only around three days' rain per year they harvest the water in aquifers and use only goat manure as fertiliser. Her advice was to let your lawn grow some weeds, and to be more aware of which plants certain insects prefer. We can learn a lot from the ways of the desert tribes.

Our next meeting is a Christmas quiz with our usual wine and food, plus a raffle for Beeches vouchers, on 16th December – nothing scary, just a bit of fun, so hope to see you all there.

Rosemary Yallop



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2523 (Linton) Squadron Air Training Corps

It has been a busy month of public events starting with helping to marshal the Linton fireworks. We put in a good shift, assisting with car parking, gate marshalling and breakdown duties. Despite the rain, morale was high! On Sunday 10th November Linton cadets attended two separate remembrance parades, first parading through Castle Camps and to the RAF memorial in the



morning, then through Linton in the afternoon with both the union flag and our squadron banner. Preparations are well underway for the ATC Sunday parade which will see Linton play host

to surrounding squadrons for a formal parade through the village in February.

CI Bradley Wright, Training Officer
 (07943 873272, training.2523@aircadets.org)



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Balsham WI

Clare Mulley, an outstanding speaker and broadcaster, gave us a fascinating and vibrant talk about her book ‘The Women who flew for Hitler’ in November.



Hanna Reitsch and Melitta von Stauffenberg were talented, courageous and strikingly attractive women who fought convention to make their names in the male-dominated field of flight in 1930s Germany. With the war, both became pioneering test pilots and both were awarded the Iron Cross for service to the Third Reich, but they could not have been more different, and neither woman had a good word to say about the other. Hanna was middle-class, vivacious and distinctly Aryan, while the darker, more self-effacing Melitta came from an aristocratic Prussian family. Both were driven by deeply held convictions about honour and patriotism but ultimately while Hanna tried to save Hitler's life, begging him to let her fly him to safety in April 1945, Melitta covertly supported the most famous attempt to assassinate the Führer. Their interwoven lives provide a vivid insight into Nazi Germany and its attitudes to women, class and race.

Our monthly meetings are held on the second Tuesday of the month at 7.30 pm at the Meadow School, Balsham. Our next meeting, on 10th December, is a members’ Christmas meeting.

Alison Clarke (894031)

Christmas Warnings

50% of all fires in the home start in the kitchen and more than half of those are as a result of distraction whilst cooking, particularly when we’re enjoying a tippie with friends, cooking up festive Christmas feasts for the family, and entertaining loved ones.

Merry Christmas!

December 2019

With all the fun to be had it is easy to be distracted when cooking.

We want to help ensure your festive cheer doesn't go up in smoke this Christmas by sharing our tips for safe cooking over the festive season:

- Never leave cooking unattended
- Do not cook when tired or under the influence of alcohol, drugs or medication that makes you drowsy
- Regularly clean the grill pan and oven. Built up fat can easily catch fire
- Never leave anything cooking if you leave the house
- Do not leave anything flammable on or near the hob – tea towels, oven gloves and even washing baskets can catch fire
- Take care when using microwaves. Fires can start when people put food in for too long.
- Oven chips or temperature controlled deep fat fryers are safer than using a chip pan. If you do use a chip pan, do not fill it more than one third with fat and turn the heat down if the oil starts smoking.

Fire can break out in household appliances so you should regularly maintain dishwashers, washing machines and driers, never leave them on if you go out or go to bed, and register your appliances online to ensure you are made aware of any faults or recalls.

Have a working smoke alarm on each floor of your home. If it keeps going off when you are cooking it is probably in the wrong location or you may have the wrong type of smoke alarm. Never take the batteries out of your smoke alarm.

If you do have a fire in the house, get out, stay out and dial 999.



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The Ellesmere Centre

Past Times Cafe – the monthly coffee morning at the centre for those living with dementia will start in the spring.

Strong as a Girl – new fitness class on Mondays, 6 - 7 pm, just for girls 7 - 11 yrs old, to promote physical fitness as well as self-confidence and mental well-being. Come and join an amazing group of girls supporting other girls to be as strong as they can be. Contact Sarah at savvyhealthandfitness@gmail.com or 07961 812931.

Open Mic – 4th January. Details to follow; come along for another evening of great music, licensed bar and refreshments. Entrance £3.

The Ellesmere Centre, www.ellesmerecentre.org.uk
(01638 508212, office@ellesmerecentre.org.uk)



Ellesmere Devils Pantomime Society

We are pleased to announce that tickets are now on sale (available online now at www.ticketsource.co.uk/edps) for our January 2020 production: **Cinderella!**

Join us from 29th January - 1st February for the most famous pantomime of them all, the classic rags to riches story! Cinderella lives a life of drudgery, bullied by her horrible ugly sisters, Dotty and Potty, with only her best friend Buttons to cheer her up. ... Despite the best efforts of her two malicious ugly sisters, Cinderella shall go to the ball with the help of her magical hairy godmother!

With a cast of local performers, great songs and dazzling sets and costumes, this pantomime is not to be missed! We will have you tapping your toes, singing along and laughing until your sides split.

Amy Metcalfe

Linton Community Christmas Lunch

If you're on your own this Christmas, then come and join us for Christmas Day lunch at the Church

Pavilion, Linton at noon for 12.30. Places are limited to 25 and cost £5; please contact Judy on 892241 to reserve your place.



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Merry Christmas!

December 2019

Girlguiding

Girlguiding groups in the Linton district are giving girls a space where they can be themselves, have fun, build brilliant friendships, gain valuable life skills and make a positive difference to their communities. We build girls' confidence and raise their aspirations, give them the chance to discover their full potential and encourage them to be a powerful force for good.

All the badges and activities have been updated to equip girls to take on the world. From unearthing artefacts for the Archaeology badge, to camping at a festival for the Festival-goer badge, there's something to challenge and inspire every girl.

Recently, local girls have been scuba diving, rock climbing and pond dipping. They have built dens with chairs, made monsters out of plastic milk bottles and egg boxes, built campfires, and cooked outside. Girls can go away on sleepovers, holidays and camps with Girlguiding, from Newmarket to all over the world!

We run Rainbows (5 – 7 years) in Linton, Brownies (7 – 10 years) in Linton, Horseheath, Balsham and Brinkley, Guides (10 – 14 years) in Linton and Brinkley, Rangers (14 – 18 years) in Linton and Brinkley, and there's a Linton Trefoil Guild for those over 18 years old who would like to enjoy an evening of guiding with friends doing amazing things.

Register your daughter's interest at www.girlguiding.org.uk/joinus. If you'd like to find out more about volunteering, go to www.girlguiding.org.uk/get-involved/. To find out more, contact Louisa Powell-Owens on 01223 833776 or lintondistrict@gmail.com

Louisa Powell-Owens, District Commissioner

1st Horseheath Brownies

This term we celebrated our 50th birthday, with cake of course, and celebrated our half-centenary with one of the first Brownies, Rose Barker nee Davies. Rose was accompanied by her sister Irene who was too old for Brownies but did help at the meetings. They were both interested in how the programme has changed over the years but were both glad that the unit was still going strong.

We have already made our Christmas cards and started on the baubles for the village church. We are going to make felt Christmas stockings for the URC

tree this year and this will tick off two unit meeting activities, in the 'Express Myself' theme.

Next term we will be getting ready for our annual holiday to the Jarman Centre. This year we will be joined by 1st Linton Brownies, and hope to complete the new Royal Astronomical Society challenge badge whilst we are there.

Over time our numbers have dropped, and we are now down to seven Brownies. Girlguiding does give every girl a voice, a space to grow and develop into the leaders of the future. If you would like to know more about Brownies please check out the Girlguiding website (www.girlguiding.org.uk) or drop us an email message at horseheathbrownies@gmail.com.

Pauline, Katie and Laurené

Open Arms – Making Connections

There are thought to be 50,000 people at risk of loneliness in



Cambridgeshire, and with winter approaching, life may get lonelier, as we all tend to stay indoors for longer. For some people, ill health and bad weather may confine them to their homes, as the fear of falling in icy weather and darker nights mean they're too nervous to go out. Working neighbours may be out all day, so they'll see few people during the week.

Villages are great at keeping the community connected, though it's easy to overlook the impact of seasons. In winter, timing events or meetings in daytime, or providing door to door transport, can help to prevent isolation. Helping with shopping, especially bulkier items, gives an opportunity for a chat, or sharing a treat.

Making connections, however small, can mean so much, whether it's smiling, chatting at the checkout, catching up with friends by picking up the phone or contacting them through social media. Keeping connected by knowing what is happening in your community gives a sense of belonging which improves wellbeing.

The Open Arms project supports action against loneliness, so if you have an idea that could help build connections in your community we can help you to make it happen.

Please contact us on sarah.b@care-network.org.uk or 01954 211919.

Merry Christmas!

December 2019

A Carer's Story, continued

In October's Challenge Frank Breslin described his life after his wife Barbara was diagnosed with Alzheimer's disease in 2012. His story continues:

Our CPN (Community Psychiatric Nurse) was of great help, not only from the medical angle, but also by arranging the provision of funding from Social Services to help with respite care, regular personal care for Barbara, (provided by Carers Trust), and to give me occasional breaks.

She also organised visits to care centres, as possible future respite care providers, and access to services such as Occupational Therapy and Physiotherapy.

After the new Care Act came into force, and the Carer's Grant was no longer available, I was re-assessed as a carer and received a direct payment from the County Council, which I put to good use to pay for Barbara's personal care.

Carers Trust operate the 'What If?' scheme whereby 24 hours of free emergency care is provided should I be indisposed and unable to look after Barbara.

Another organisation in the NHS which has been tremendously helpful is the DCSS (Dementia Carers Support Services) which not only organises various very enjoyable events and groups, but also provides a 'befriender' in the form of someone who has been, or is, a carer themselves and volunteers to give advice and a shoulder to cry on as and when needed – a vital lifeline when things get tough.

In summary, therefore, there is a wealth of financial, practical, and emotional support available, and without it life as a carer would be very difficult indeed.

In June 2016, Barbara suffered falls, cystitis attacks, was unable to swallow medication, had frequent vomiting and was immobile. She also developed double incontinence. Barbara is epileptic, and the situation was worsened by occasional seizures and frequent falls.

I was getting to the stage where I couldn't cope, and a GP arranged for her to be admitted to hospital for her problems to be 'sorted out', and a month later she was moved to a nursing home in Chesterton. From there, in November 2016, a place was found for Barbara in Home Close Care Home, Fulbourn, and she is still in residence there.

However, circumstances have changed considerably for the better in the past few years.

Two-and-a-half years on, and Barbara's condition has improved dramatically – she now can walk unaided, her memory has returned almost completely, she is lucid, sensible, chatty and reads a lot, besides keeping up to date with news and other programs on TV. She comes home most weekends and we have had short holidays locally on three occasions. We enjoy listening to music and we frequently go to concerts, and the garden and its wildlife are a great source of pleasure, but the rules prevent Barbara being absent from the care home for more than three nights, so longer breaks are not possible.

When Alzheimer's was first diagnosed, over seven years ago, I thought that there would be a steady decline in Barbara's condition, but this has not happened – in fact quite the reverse – and I am both surprised and delighted at the unexpected and very welcome improvement in Barbara's condition over the past two to three years.

The message clearly is to stay optimistic and make the most of the situation by living life to the full as far as circumstances allow.

Revd Iain McColl

tel: 890693 email: mccoll.iain@gmail.com

Revd Kathy Bishop, Associate Priest

tel: 892288 email: revkathy@hotmail.co.uk

Very Revd Keith Johnson, Honorary Associate Priest

tel: 890835 email: jkeith1412@gmail.com

Mr Steven Wheeler, Licensed Lay Minister

tel: 290396 email: steven@juicyfruitsuk.com

Mr Alistair Collen, Licensed Lay Minister

tel: 894230 email: alistair.collen@hotmail.co.uk

Mrs Rosemary Mead, Authorised Lay Minister

tel: 891718 email: leonardavmead@hotmail.com

Mr Keith Day, Authorised Lay Minister

tel: 891527 email: keithdday@btinternet.com

Mrs Jeanine Kennedy, Pioneer Minister and LLM

tel: 893838 email: jeaninekennedygv@gmail.com

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Weston Colville Parish Clerk: Jess Ashbridge,
jess@agrarian.biz

West Wrating Parish Clerk: Jenny Richards,
j.richards597@btinternet.com, 01223 665260

Parish Nurse: Claire Gillett,

7churches.parishnurse@gmail.com, 07498 994205

Community Warden: Carol Poll,

carol.poll@ageukcap.org.uk 07436 102865

St Andrew's, West Wrating (10.45 am)			SET UP	FLOWERS	CLEAN
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Sunday 8 th December	Songs of Praise (Christingle), 4 pm	Scilla & John Harvey	n/a	n/a – Advent	Jenny
Sunday 15 th December	Carol Service	Alistair Collen	Fanny	Linda - Advent	n/a
Sunday 22 nd December	Holy Communion, jointly with Weston Colville	Rev Iain McColl	Alex	All available	Sue
Tuesday 24 th , Christmas Eve	Crib Service, 4 pm <i>Midnight Mass, Balsham, 11.30 pm</i>	Jeanine Kennedy Rev Iain McColl	Sebastian	n/a	n/a
Wednesday 25 th , Christmas Day	Holy Communion, jointly with Weston Colville, 9.15 am	Rev Iain McColl & Jeanine Kennedy	Sebastian	n/a	n/a
Sunday 29 th December	<i>Holy Communion Balsham, 10.30 am</i>	(Rev Kathy Bishop)	n/a	Jenny	n/a

St Mary's, Weston Colville (9.15 am)		
Sunday 1 st December	<i>United Service, Balsham, 10.30 am</i>	(Rev Iain McColl)
Thursday 5 th December	Compline, 7 pm	Steven Wheeler
Sunday 8 th December	Morning Worship	Steven Wheeler
Sunday 15 th December	Holy Communion	Rev Iain McColl
Sunday 22 nd December	<i>Holy Communion, West Wrating, 10.45 am</i>	(Rev Iain McColl)
Tuesday 24 th , Christmas Eve	Crib Service with Carols by Candlelight, 4.30 pm <i>Midnight Mass, Balsham, 11.30 pm</i>	Steven Wheeler (Rev Iain McColl)
Sunday 29 th December	<i>Holy Communion Balsham, 10.30 am</i>	(Rev Kathy Bishop)

Roman Catholic Mass

Every Saturday 5.30 pm, Sundays 10 am and noon, at St Philip Howard Church, Cherry Hinton. Every Saturday at 6.30 pm, Sundays 10 am, Haverhill (St Felix Roman Catholic Church)

Mobile library: 3 rd December, 7 th January	
High Street, West Wrating	12.15 - 12.45 pm
Post Office, Weston Green	1.50 - 2.15 pm
Mill Hill, Weston Colville	2.20 - 2.50 pm

Black bins:	Monday 2 nd & 16 th , Tuesday 31st Dec , Monday 13 th & 27 th January
Blue bins:	Monday 9 th & 23 rd December Tuesday 7th & Monday 20th January
Green bins:	Monday 9 th December, Tuesday 7th January

Colour email Challenge

If you'd like to see **Challenge** in colour as a PDF sent by email, please let me know, and I can add you to the mailing list.

Anne

DIARY

December 2019

- Sun 1 Weston Colville Oil Co-op order deadline
- Tues 3 Balsham Gardening Club
- Wed 4 West Wrating Over 60s, The Chestnut Tree
Weston Colville Film Club, 'Love Actually'
- Thur 5 Community Hub, Balsham
- Fri 6 First Friday Bridge, West Wrating
- Sat 7 Saturday Morning Café, West Wrating
Wreath Workshop, Weston Colville Hall
'Camus' folk evening, Reading Room
- Mon 9 West Wrating Village Hall AGM
- Tue 10 Weston Colville Seniors, The Chestnut Tree
Balsham WI, members' meeting
- Sat 14 Playground Silent Auction closing date
Balsham Christmas Market
Balsham Singers' Concert
- Mon 16 West Wickham & District Gardening Club
- Tues 17 West Wrating Book Club
- Thur 19 West Wrating Lunch Club, The Chestnut Tree
- Fri 20 Tea & Cakes, Weston Colville Reading Room
- Sun 15 The Snow Queen, St Mary's, Weston Colville
- Tues 17 Community Hub, Abington
- Thur 19 West Wrating Lunch Club, The Chestnut Tree
- Sat 28 Coppicing Party, Lower Wood



Editor: Anne Bragg (290550) or email:
editor@challengemag.co.uk

Thank you for all your articles, news, etc. If these are sent by email, they are always acknowledged; if you don't get a reply, your items haven't been received, so please resend. Some contributions may have to be edited, to fit the space available, and are published at the discretion of the editor.

January issue's copy date

Thursday 12th December – this is earlier than usual, so please take note!