

The Parish Newsletter of Weston Colville and West Wratting
The views expressed herein are those of the contributors.
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Weston Colville Circular Walk

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*

Time for Stillness and Prayer

Compline is a short contemplative service for the end of the day, held on alternate Thursdays at St Mary's, Weston Colville. The next dates will be Thursday 2nd and Thursday 16th January, at 7 pm. All are welcome.

Steven Wheeler

Saturday Morning Café, West Wratting

Our next café will be on Saturday 4th January between 10.30 am and 12 noon in the village hall.

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. In 2019, all proceeds from the bookstall went to Granta School.

Sherry (290070) and Catherine (291307)

Tea and Cakes

Happy New Year to all who come along and help out at Tea and Cakes.

We meet this month in the Reading

Room on Friday 17th January, 3.30 - 5 pm. I hope you have room for some cake, washed down with a cuppa, after all the festivities. All welcome.

Melanie (291319)

Weston Colville Seniors

Happy New Year to you all.

Our Christmas lunch at The Chestnut Tree on 10th December was enjoyed by eighteen members – great food, great company in attractive surroundings – rounding up this difficult year in the best way possible.

We will not be meeting in January, due to unforeseen circumstances, but will restart on Tuesday 11th February at the new time of 2 pm.

Charlotte will get us going with our chair yoga session after a nice warming cup of tea, to be followed by our own Tim Cockerill's talk and presentation on 'The History of Weston Colville'.

We are a small friendly group who would love to welcome new members. We are open to anyone over 60 from any of our local villages. If you would like to know more please contact me.

Val Scott (290837, valscakesuk@gmail.com)

Granta Vale Community Hub

- Friendship, Community and Care Balsham Church Institute, Church Lane, Balsham CB21 4DS on Thursday 2nd January, 2 - 4 pm.



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email Problems?

Some people seem to be having problems receiving emails from the 'editor@challengemag.co.uk' address. If you think this may apply to you, please check your spam box. Thank you.

Anne



cathycraskecreative.co.uk

Our January film will be on Wednesday 8th to avoid New Year's Day, and we're showing 'The Last Emperor', great for the big screen.

Weston Colville Cinema Club



For February, following the popularity of 'The Odd Couple' late last year, it will be 'Some Like It Hot'.

Both films at 7.30 pm. All welcome, introduction to films, refreshments, donations.



Jacqueline Douglas (291475, jacquelinetheteacher@hotmail.com)

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West Wratting Oil Syndicate

There will be a West Wratting oil syndicate fill-up this month, with an order cut-off at 6.30 pm on Monday 13th January.

Place your orders either by email to me at WestWrattingOil@gmail.com, putting your surname in the subject box (if you don't get a reply from me to your emailed order within 48 hours, please place your order with The Chestnut Tree pub by phone), or by phoning the pub during licensing hours – not too late, please – on 290384. Please also make sure that you tell me if you have any special delivery requirements, such as 'Phone day before for gate to be unlocked' etc. In addition to the regular suppliers, I may use BoilerJuice or another order consolidation website. whoever gives the best price.

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Christmas Wreaths

A happy morning was spent making wreaths at Weston Colville Hall. Ruth gave a demonstration showing how they were done, and then everyone made their own selections from a huge range of



greenery and decorations, and went home with the beautiful wreaths they had produced, after enjoying a delicious cup of soup with home-made bread.

Many thanks to Gay and Ruth; funds raised went to the upkeep of St Mary's.

Anne

West Wratting Speedwatch

We planned six sessions for the last quarter of 2019 and managed to operate three, volunteer availability being the limiting factor. We were on the High Street on 8th December with one speeding motorist out of 56, while The Common saw ten speeding out of 201 on 23rd October. We have another six sessions planned for the first quarter of 2020.

Mill Lane: we have requested a visit from Cambridge Speedwatch to agree a location and code so we can operate sessions there, as residents have reported a rise in the number of speeding vehicles. We have also requested formal speed measurements (tubes across the road) to be taken at key points: Honey Hill, Six Mile Bottom Road, and The Common. The data will

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be used to see if a case can be made for more 'direct' enforcement action.

If you are interested in volunteering please contact me (martin.davey5@btinternet.com) or Tim Bonfield (thetimb@timab.plus.com).

Martin Davey

West Wratting Recreation Ground Gates

I am sure many of you are aware that the gates have been built; however there is further work to do on the keypad locking mechanism. Until remedial work is completed the gates will be left unlocked. Please use the gate closure sliding latch on the top of the gate to open them, and please close them and return the latch to the closed position once inside and upon leaving. Please do not leave the gates unsecured at any time. Thank you.

Martin Davey

West Wratting Book Club

We will meet on Wednesday 15th January at The Chestnut Tree to discuss 'Milton Place' by Elisabeth de Waal, grandmother of Edmund de Waal.

Linda Gorman



January 2020



Parish Matters

May I wish you a happy and prosperous New Year. I can hardly believe we have reached 2020, when it seems like yesterday that we celebrated the Millennium. Time is a strange concept because some events are over in a flash, especially if it is a special occasion like getting married, and yet on the other hand, we have a sense of our childhood going on forever.

I have been out of the parishes for six months to enable me to help with my new grandson, who is adorable and now almost six months old. What joy a new life brings. I am looking forward to being part of the church family of the Granta Vale parishes again.

In January we have Plough Sunday at Balsham ensuring the tradition set up decades ago still continues. This is church life acknowledging the seasons and the place God has for us in the passage of time.

My other big highlight was going to the Holy Land with a group from Bury in November. There were so many blessings on that trip. In Jerusalem we stayed opposite the wall which has been standing for centuries. The buzz and excitement was truly



amazing. To visit sites I had only imagined took my breath away, because on one level they were ordinary, but these were the same sights that Jesus saw when he was on earth. Our second hotel was at Tiberias by Lake Galilee. To see the sun rise on a new day as the light danced on the water left me full of wonder. Jesus had seen this landscape just as I was seeing it. Amazing!

All in all I realise time passes quickly and we are encouraged to make the most of the time we are given. Being able to have those moments of time gives us memories we can share with others. Without it 2020 may vanish without trace. I wish you many happy moments and look forward to seeing you all soon.

Rev Kathy Bishop

Cursillo

I have been spending time recently as the Spiritual Director of the Diocese for a retreat movement called Cursillo. There is a banner in Balsham church to attract your attention to it. Bishop Stephen's aim this year is to encourage all congregations to pursue the goal of having a rule of life so that we all receive nourishment in our Christian journey. Cursillo is one way to do this. The aim of Cursillo is to offer a weekend retreat for people who have a hunger to get to know God in a deeper way, and to equip people to support each other in their search to find Him. There are talks, fun, surprises, and meetings with people who are like minded.

After the weekend there are small groups to attend to ensure that piety, study and action are followed:

- Piety moments are when we are aware of something special, a connection from God.
- Study does not mean lots of words: perhaps a TV programme or a painting to reflect upon.
- Action is sharing those special moments to help others and finding God in our ordinary world to make it holy.

The next Cursillo weekend is 23^{rd} - 26^{th} April and there is one on 22^{nd} - 25^{th} October, both at Bishop Woodford house in Ely.

If you feel you would like to know more please contact me.

Rev Kathy Bishop (892288, revkathy@hotmail.co.uk)

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Lower Wood Needs You!

Lower Wood has had some radical surgery in recent months and if you have visited the wood you will see the large area that has been cleared by a logging machine. It is impossible not to feel a sadness for what has been lost by the ravages of ash die back. Unfortunately Lower Wood was the very first wood in Cambridgeshire to have the disease confirmed by The Forestry Commission, so it is one of the first to have felling done on this scale. The reason the trees had to be removed was because of the rate that they were collapsing onto the footpath. Unfortunately they were all in such a fragile state that felling by chainsaw was far too dangerous, so the decision was made to bring in large machinery.

The churned up soil, whilst looking awful, could allow seeds buried long ago to come to the surface and we may well see long lost species returning to the wood. so the next couple of summers will be very interesting and we will be keeping a watch to see what comes up. We will also be replanting the area with other species to speed up the regeneration. The fact that Lower Wood was clear felled between the two wars and has regrown since that time means that all the trees are of similar age. Coppicing along the main

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ride has allowed us to develop more structure to the wood, so that we have a lot of mature stands of trees surrounding areas that are clear felled and some that are regrowing. This diversity allows the woodland flora and the understory of small trees and bushes to flourish.

I hope you will all continue to visit the wood and keep an eye out for any new and interesting plants, birds and mammals that recolonise the felled area. If anybody would like to join the work parties and help us maintain the coppice cycle, you will be very welcome. We will be in the wood on the last Saturday of the month until February, meeting on the main ride after 10 am. (Mill Hill, Weston Colville, CB21 5NY)

Duncan Mackay (voluntary warden for the Beds, Cambs and Northants Wildlife Trust)

Lower Wood is a fragment of typical ancient woodland with flourishing populations of woodland flora including bluebells, oxlips and early-purple orchids in the spring. In the summer purple drooping flowers of water avens and delicate blue speedwells line the woodland paths. Autumn or winter walks through the wood reveal different types of fungi including velvet shank with its yellow cap and velvety brown stem. Wildlife Trust

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Weston Colville Marsh Tit Study

Your Marsh Tits have been hitting the garden feeders hard since October, and will continue to do so until March. Our study suggests that this winter feeding is critical for the youngsters. Leftover roast potatoes make a good substitute for fat balls, btw.

On 7th December, four Marsh Tits were encountered at Joyce Oliver's feeders on Mill Hill: Green over White over Black 'Czar Nicholas', Blue over White over Black 'Anastasia', Red over White over Green 'Useless Eustace' and our newbie Red over Blue over White 'Tatiana', shown expertly held by Joyce. Three

of these birds were already ringed, so had allowed themselves to be recaptured by walking into our specially-designed cage trap. They know this trap, yet considered capture, measurement and release a good trade-off for a free meal (our warm hands on a cold day might be a factor, too). This is comforting evidence that the birds are not put off by our activities – a key goal of any conservation research.



The amazing news is there are still more unringed Marsh Tits around Joyce's garden. Another was photographed on 12th December. If this is repeated around all the gardens of Weston Colville and West Wratting, your Marsh Tits are doing very well, unlike the national trend.

Len and Ben Eeles have been doing sterling sighting work down at Church End. In particular, they have identified a two-year-old male, Blue Right, Red Left 'Perky'. This bird was ringed as a juvenile near Johnny and Emma's Moat House in August 2017 and

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has hardly been seen since, so Len and Ben's sightings show that 'Perky' is still alive and true to his name nearly two and a half years later. An excellent sighting to illustrate the special nature of the



environment around Weston Colville and West Wratting.

Another interesting point raised by Len and Ben – it's not just the smaller birds which are cold and hungry now. They photographed this Buzzard sitting

nonchalantly on a TV aerial right over the flight-path to their garden feeders. If you see birds of prey hanging around like this, try stopping feeding for a couple of days till the raptor gets bored and moves off to look for snacks elsewhere.



Please keep up the good work of

resighting in this New Year. Our study and your Marsh Tits depend on you keeping your eyes peeled through the kitchen window and on bracing woodland walks. Let us know your sightings and your thoughts at cambsmarti@gmail.com, Chassenge,

or m_stammers@btinternet.com. Thank you!

Alex Inzani and the cool South Cambs Ringing Group

St Andrew's Flowers and Cleaning Rota

Two of our stalwarts from the cleaning rota have recently moved away, and left an opening, so we would be very grateful for anyone who might be able to help out. Cleaning only takes half an hour to an hour every few weeks. We would also be glad of one or two more people to help with flowers. You do not need to be a trained florist. It can be very relaxing to do, and rewarding to see one's handiwork helping to make St Andrew's more attractive and welcoming, whether you are a churchgoer or just someone who appreciates our wonderful ancient church.

If you think you can help in any way, please contact me on 290653 or Sebastian Bain on 403415.

Linda Gorman

The Meadow School, Balsham

Christmas in a primary school is always great fun with high levels of excitement in the days leading up



were so impressed at how each child rose to the challenge. All children learn a dance and a lot of songs, and trying to ensure that everyone is the right place, at the right time, in the right costume, is always the greatest challenge! Thank you to everyone who was involved in helping it to be such a success.

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The Key Stage 2 Carol Service is an annual highlight too. As usual, the church was packed full of families and the Year 6 readers, aided by a tableaux of Year 3 children, re-told the Nativity beautifully. A Meadow tradition in recent years has been a visit from Declan the donkey, who adds to the authenticity so well! Our Christmas season would certainly not be the same without help from our school and local community. Mrs Sarah Bassett gives her time so willingly to accompany the production and carol service and we are so grateful for her help. This year the infants were treated to some fabulous scenery and a new stable, provided by the very skilled Mrs Carmichael and Mr

The topic for Years 3 /4/5 is 'Crime and Punishment', with a trip to Norwich Castle to study how this has changed across the ages. Year 5/6 are studying 'Around the World', and the Infants are learning about some real life super-heroes throughout history in their topic 'Not all Superheroes wear Capes'. If you feel you have any skills or expertise you can add to these topics, then please do get in contact. We are always grateful for any help in school, especially with readers and with our Forest School sessions. If you have a spare hour in your week, then please do get in touch.

Nichola Connor, Headteacher

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Marsh Mail

Much of the magic of Christmas is the traditions that serve to remind us of the important things in life, family and community; Christmas lunches and carol services, decorations festooning our homes, and mulled wine keeping out the cold.

The Music Department, led by Helen Juckes, is integral to Christmas at Linton Village College. Holy Trinity Church, Balsham was packed to the rafters on 10th December for the Christmas service, when students from all years performed a wide range of favourites including Elgar's 'The Snow', 'Chanson de Nuit', and carols by Britten and Rutter. The Year 7 choir also put together a Christmas medley with a big band. It was a truly heart-warming sight to see proud parents, grandparents and excited students together in church celebrating and enjoying the festive spirit. It is a huge event to organise and our thanks go to Mrs Juckes for her leadership, and Holy Trinity Church for hosting, in making the service such a success.

The following week the Drama and Music Departments also hosted a 'Live Lounge for Cambodia' evening to raise money for the Year 11 expedition to Cambodia.





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It is sometimes easy to forget that Christmas traditions don't just happen. They require nurture, love and hard work to maintain them. This year, one LVC tradition lapsed which we will restore for Christmas 2020. Twenty five years ago, Jenny Pullin, Head of Food Technology and Lead Tutor, hosted an afternoon tea for twenty members of the community as part of a Year 9 project. It grew! Since then, Mrs Pullin (now in her 36th year at the college) organised the 'Coffee & Carols' morning each December in the college hall, complete with music, decorations and Year 9 students serving food and refreshments to over 120 members of our local community. To see three, sometimes four, generations from the villages sharing Christmas was a wonderful example of the village college community ethos being lived out and has often brought out the odd sentimental tear in staff, guests and students alike. Charities including CLIC Sargent, Haverhill Food Bank and Anglia Air Ambulance have also benefitted from the event's raffles through the years. Our thanks to Mrs Pullin for all her hard work and organisation of such an important event for so many people for the last quarter of a century, and 'Coffee & Carols' will be back' in 2020.

LVC's annual Charities Fayre on the last day completed the autumn term. Students raised money for a number of local charities through an array of different stalls and activities. The students' entrepreneurial skills were very much on show in a celebratory atmosphere. It was a wonderful way to end the term in the Christmas spirit and to remind everyone of the values of giving, family and community.

Doug Brechin, Assistant Principal

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Parish Matters

Village Calendar

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

Balsham Gardening Club

Members gathered for our Christmas social evening on a bitterly cold December night, and enjoyed nibbles and wine before our own member Dave Arnold demonstrated how to create a Christmas



wreath and table decoration. The wreath was kindly donated to



our raffle. Members were provided with foliage, a dish, foam, candle, and baubles to make our own festive

creations. It was interesting to see how much they differed but all looked lovely.

We meet again in the Meadow school on the first Tuesday in February.

Hazel Leeson





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Balsham WI

We had a very special guest at our Christmas party in December, Ian Cummings of 'The Great British Bake Off' fame. Ian gave us a most



interesting talk about his career as a photographer and his time on the Bake Off, and then treated us to the most scrumptious chocolate cake infused with spices and orange oil, which gave an extra dimension to our festive fayre supper.

Ian was persuaded by his wife to apply to be on the show, and was voted star baker three weeks running. I think we were all amazed by how very time-consuming being a contestant is. I think it's fair to say that Ian excels at working in organised chaos! Ian is a fascinating and most amusing speaker and we all thoroughly enjoyed his talk.

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 14th January, is an an open meeting so non members are welcome. Linda Scoles will give us a talk called 'The Yanks are Coming'.

Alison Clarke (894031)



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2523 (Linton) Squadron Air Training Corps

I am delighted to say that the squadron annual inspection went very well. We are covering all the areas of the cadet training syllabus effectively and we passed with flying colours.

The dining-in night was a huge success and it was great to see the cadets suited and booted for our annual meal with disco. It was great to see everyone relaxing, and to see our Commanding Officer at the front of the conga!

Cadet Corporal Coates completed the wing Senior NCO course, culminating in the issue of his silver leadership badge. Congratulations! This is a two day course and a big achievement.

Further staff courses will enable us to provide more training than ever on the squadron. We look forward to being able to deliver courses in first aid, leadership and radio in the new year.

We also look forward to a bumper year of Duke of Edinburgh awards, with more bronze and silver awards coming to fruition in the new year, and to the 2020 camp schedule.

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Amy Metcalf

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Opening times: Tuesday mornings (10.30 am – 12.30), Thursday evenings (7.30 pm - 9.00 pm), and Friday mornings (10.30 am - 12.30).

Phone 01638 666456 for information, or email: rlewis@burroughgreen.com.

Rachel Lewis

GRANTA Medical Practices

Surgery Opening Dates

Granta Medical Practices will be closed on Wednesday 1st, Saturday 4th and Sunday 5th January, but open as normal on Thursday 2nd and Friday 3rd January.



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Greater Cambridge Local Plan: The First Conversation

Ever walked past a building and wondered how it got planning permission? Worried about climate change and how we are going to adapt? Trying to buy a house and finding it really difficult?

The Council's Local Plan is the document that shapes our area's future and answers these big questions. It covers the key themes of climate change, biodiversity and green spaces, wellbeing and social inclusion, and great places. It will affect what kind of new homes get built and where, where businesses can grow and how buildings, streets and spaces should be designed. As a result, the Local Plan affects all of us – yet most people have never even heard of it. But things are changing and we want you to be a part of it.

For the first time ever, Cambridge City Council and South Cambridgeshire District Council are preparing a joint Local Plan for the Greater Cambridge area, and we want to do better than ever before at working with you all to make it happen.

We will be starting a big conversation with the community, with many different ways to get involved, online and offline, on Monday 13th January. Please look out for more information nearer the time, and get in touch at www.greatercambridgeplanning.org. Help shape our future together!

Great Gardens, Famous Gardeners

The LALA course 'Great Gardens, Famous Gardeners' with Andrew Sankey starts on Tuesday 14th January at Linton Village Hall, Coles Lane, Linton from 10.00 - 11.45. £50 for the ten weeks. Come along and be inspired! Further information from Sue Mudge (01223 892737).

January 2020

JANUARY SERVICES							
Thursday 2nd	7 pm	Compline – a contemplative candlelit service	Weston Colville	Steven Wheeler			
Sunday 5 th	10.30 am	Joint Service – family Eucharist with children's Balsham activities		Rev Iain McColl			
Sunday 12 th	9.15 am	Morning Prayer – a short service for all ages	Weston Colville	Steven Wheeler			
	4 pm	Café Church – an informal meeting with visiting speaker, and children's activities	The Rectory, Balsham	John & Scilla Harvey			
Thurs 16th	7 pm	Compline – a contemplative candlelit service	Weston Colville	Steven Wheeler			
Sunday 19th	9.15 am	Holy Communion – a traditional sung service	Weston Colville	Canon John Pinder			
Sun 26th	10.45 am	Holy Communion – a traditional sung service	West Wratting	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)

DIARY

January 2020

Wed 1 Circular walk, from Reading Room

Thur 2 Community Hub, Balsham

Fri 3 First Friday Bridge, West Wratting Sat 4 Saturday Morning Café, West Wratting

Weston Colville Film Club, 'The Last Emperor' Wed 8

Mon 13 West Wratting Oil Syndicate order deadline

Tues 14 LALA course begins, Linton

Balsham WI

Wed 15 West Wratting Book Club

Thur 16 West Wratting Lunch Club, The Chestnut Tree Fri 17 Tea & Cakes, Weston Colville Reading Room

Sat 25 Coppicing Party, Lower Wood Revd Iain McColl

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

Revd Kathy Bishop, Associate Priest

tel: 892288 email: revkathy@hotmail.co.uk Mr Steven Wheeler, Licensed Lay Minister tel: 290396 email: steven@juicyfruitsuk.com

Churchwardens:

St Mary's – Ian Ashbridge (291344) St Andrew's – Sebastian Bain (403415)

Church Administrator: Caroline (Cazzy) Walshe, 7churches.seven@gmail.com, 01223 891443

Weston Colville Parish Clerk: Jess Ashbridge,

jess@agrarian.biz

West Wratting 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

		Set up	Flowers	Cleaning
St Andrew's:	5 th Jan	n/a	Fanny	n/a
	12th Jan	n/a	Fanny	Fanny
	19th Jan	n/a	Jenny	n/a
	26th Jan	Alex	Linda	Sue
St Mary's:	January		Rosemary, Maureen	Philippa

Mobile library: 7th January, 4th February

High Street, West Wratting 12.15 - 12.45 pm Post Office, Weston Green 1.50 - 2.15 pm Mill Hill, Weston Colville 2.20 - 2.50 pm

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.

> February issue's copy date Monday 20th January



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High Street, West Wickham





Monday 13th & 27th January, Black bins:

Monday 10th & 24th February

Blue bins: Tuesday 7th & Monday 20th January,

Monday 3rd & 17th February

Green bins:

Tuesday 7th January, Monday 3rd February