



Challenge



The Parish Newsletter of St Mary's, Weston Colville and St Andrew's, West Wrattling
The views expressed herein are those of the contributors.
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With Thanks

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

Anne



Christingle Family Service



West Wrattling Church
Sunday 11th December
4 - 5 pm

Tea and Cakes afterwards

Kids - come and help prepare the craft
for this on **Saturday 3rd December**
during the Village Hall Café, 10.30 am

Festive Food Fayre

SAT 3rd DEC

4.30 - 6.30 PM | **THE READING ROOM WESTON COLVILLE**

and Father Christmas too!

in aid of St Marys Church, Weston Colville & local charity 'Reach'

Donations Please, for Weston Colville Christmas Fayre

Donations to our preserves and cakes stalls would be welcome. Jams, chutneys, preserves, relishes, and other homemade goodies can be delivered to the Reading Room on the afternoon of Saturday 3rd December (from 3 pm, please), or before that to Lucy Malby (lucy.malby@gmail.com) at 26, Mill Hill. Cakes can be given to Philippa Coates (cheviotpfc@aol.com) at Cheviot House, or taken to the Reading Room on the Saturday afternoon, again from 3 pm, please.

Thank you!

CHRISTMAS SERVICES



Sunday 11th December

4.00 pm – **Christingle & Songs of Praise**,
St Andrew's

Sunday 18th December

10.45 am – **Carol Service**, St Andrew's

6.00 pm, – **Candlelit Carol Service**, St Mary's,
followed by mulled wine and mincepies

Saturday 24th December, Christmas Eve

4.00 pm – **Crib Service**, St Andrew's

4.30 pm – **Crib Service**, St Mary's

11.30 pm – **Midnight Mass & Carols**, St Andrew's
(Preacher: Rev Dr Carrie Pemberton-Ford)

Sunday 25th December, Christmas Day

10.00 am – **Holy Communion & Carols**,
St Mary's (Preacher: Canon John Pinder)

Sunday 1st January

10.00 am – **Holy Communion**, Balsham
(United Service, Rev Keith Johnson)

The Chestnut Tree

Thank you to everyone who came along and supported our recent Beer Festival. We are happy to report that you helped us raise an incredible £1587.50 for the campaign to save the swimming pool at Meadow Primary School, Balsham. An additional £100 was donated to Breast Cancer Care, courtesy of The SODS (Sad Old Dads!) who won the quiz. It was, once again, a great weekend, and such a pleasure to visit the school with Rebecca to give them such a large cheque; so well done everyone, we were blown away by your generosity!

On other news, our Festive Menu is now available. We can accommodate groups of up to 22 people and our new-look dining room is cosier than ever, so if you are looking for somewhere to celebrate, please give us a call or pop in for details of how to book.



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On Thursday 29th December we will be hosting our **Christmas Quiz** from 8 pm. It is helpful if you could give us a call so that we have an idea of numbers, but you can also just turn up on the night. Teams of no more than four people please, cash prize for the winners, and complimentary hot dogs will be served at half time.

There will be a **New Years Eve Party** on Saturday 31st December. Come and see the new year in with us – lots of great music, complimentary food, and fireworks at midnight.

We would like to say thank you to everyone who has kept our lending library so well stocked. We have well over 800 books, so please come along and have a browse. Also, please allow a little longer for prescriptions as we approach Christmas. We will continue to pick them up from Linton as frequently as possible, but we know that they can be delayed at this time of year.

Finally we would like to thank you for your continued custom and friendship throughout this year. Merry Christmas everyone, and a very Happy New Year.

Best wishes,

Peter & Rachel

CHRISTMAS TREES DIRECT FROM THE GROWER AVAILABLE WEEKENDS



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Saturday Morning Café, West Wrattling

The Saturday morning café will run as usual on Saturday 3rd December, between 10.30 am and 12 noon in the village hall. There will be a stall with hand knitted goods, and the café will be Christmas themed, with mince pies, mulled wine, and a Christmas crafts table for the children.

The café works by different volunteers offering to serve and donate cakes every month (including at least one dairy and gluten-free offering). There is always a play corner set up for kids, a bookstall with second hand books, and table tennis for those fancying a game.

We would like to say a huge thank you to everyone who has volunteered at our café to help serve teas and coffees, set up and clear away, and also our amazing cake bakers. Our café is for the benefit of our local community and we are so pleased it is getting lots of support and proving a great way to catch up with so many people. The proceeds from the December café will be donated to the village hall for the new floor.

Please come and join us for a catch up over tea / coffee and delicious cake.

Sherry (290070) and Catherine (291307)

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West Wrattling Over 60s

As yet another year draws to a close, our final meeting of the year will be Christmas luncheon at The Chestnut Tree, West Wrattling, on **Tuesday 6th December** (please note date) at 1 pm. Please remember to bring along your prize for our raffle.



May I take this opportunity to thank the cooks among us, who have kindly supplied meetings and members with a lovely variety of cakes during the year.

Wendy Halls

Tea and Cakes, Weston Colville



We had a fantastic turnout for November's Tea and Cakes. Thank you, as ever, to everyone who made cakes, helped out, and came along.

We are planning a festive theme to December's gathering, with mulled wine and mince pies on offer, as well as other Christmassy favourites. We suspect it might not be such a busy get-together, as lots of families will be taking advantage of the teacher training day on that day for a long weekend away. So please come along and get the festive season off to a good start with us on Friday 2nd December, 3.30 - 5 pm at the Reading Room. All are welcome.

Melanie

Progressive Supper, West Wrattling

This will take place on Saturday 21st January. Please get in touch with me as soon as possible if you would like to take part. Thank you.

Sherry (290070, sherry.odonovan@gmail.com)

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West Wratting Village Hall AGM

The AGM of the Village Hall Management Committee is scheduled for Monday 12th 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)

Interregnum

By the time you read this, preparations for Christmas will be well on the way. Many of you will have made Christmas puddings and the Christmas cake, and prepared numerous mince pies. I have every intention of doing all of this but haven't done it yet! The lead up to Christmas can be hard, but let me share an experience with you that might incorporate a sense of expectation. We had a power cut in Linton on Sunday



that lasted three and a half hours. The roast potatoes weren't cooked and so to begin with it was a case of waiting. There was nothing to be done because the phone did not work, and so stillness. After a while

the candles were lit and the sense of expectancy grew as to when the power would return. By the time I was nice and relaxed the lights appeared, and life began again.

How many times can we say that we are forced to slow down, in order to prepare for Christmas? Try it; it is an opportunity to think about what Christmas really means.

Our parish nurse Teresa Letimier has sadly left, but the good news is that Claire Gillet is settling in as a temporary replacement. We are working together as a team and good things are happening.

The meeting on 5th September at West Wickham regarding the role of a parish nurse operating in the village was a very positive one, with a contribution from a villager who had experienced this type of care for his elderly parents in South Africa. Several people wanted to contribute financially to the fund so that this village would be able to have access if and when they needed it. This is great news.

The schools are preparing to come into Balsham church for their Christmas concerts. Helen Jukes (from LVC), Keith Johnson and I met the other evening to organise the arrangements for the carol concert for Linton Village College on 12th December, with the Meadow School having their concert on Wednesday 14th December. It is a delight to welcome them all.

May I and the rest of the Ministry team wish you a blessed and happy Christmas. We hope to see many of you at one of the numerous Christmas services that are taking place across the seven churches.

Rev Kathy Bishop

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West Wrating Sports Pavilion

Wishing you all a very Happy Christmas and a Happy
New Year, from all involved with the West Wrating
Sports Pavilion.

Many thanks to all of you who have kindly supported
us throughout the year – very much appreciated.

Blanche Miller, WWSPC Secretary

West Wrating Oil Syndicate

Because we are never offered a significant reduction
in the run up to Christmas, there will not be a fill up
this month.

The next fill up will be in January, with a delivery
cutoff time and date of 6 pm on Monday 9th January.
Please don't place your orders before 1st January as
they may get written on pieces of scrap paper and then
lost in the usual chaos that reigns at Holness Towers.
A reminder will be in the January Challenge, if I
remember to put it in.

The village website (www.westwrating.org.uk) has an
explanatory page about how the oil syndicate (sort of)
works.

Richard Holness

INR Clinics at Linton Health Centre

As from week commencing 9th January it will no
longer be necessary to pre-book your appointment for
an INR / Warfarin blood test.

We will be holding a walk-in clinic every Tuesday
morning between 8.15 am and 12 noon with a
Phlebotomist. You will need to book in with
reception when you arrive.

We hope our new system will make this easier for
everyone.

Carol Thexton

*Office Manager, Granta Medical Practices
Linton Health Centre (01223 891456)*

Thought for the Month


Please light the way!

During these dark winter months,
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West Wrating Parish Council



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Weston Colville Cinema Club

On Wednesday 7th December we'll show 'Miracle on 34th Street', a classic feelgood, seasonal comedy, starring Maureen O'Hara, Natalie Wood and Edmund Gwenn. Made in 1947, multi-Oscar-winning and hailed by many as the best Christmas movie ever, it tells the story of a department store Santa Claus who claims to be the real Santa.



On 4th January, we're taking Cinema Club's first adventure into sci-fi with a 1972 film. 'Silent Running' has been suggested by one of our regulars, and inspired such later films as 'Battlestar Galactica' and 'Star Wars'. Set in a future world in which plants have become extinct, our hero botanist tenderly tends

the few specimens remaining, in domes just outside the orbit of Saturn. Cue a brand of sci-fi that's both haunting and comic, with acclaimed effects and soundtrack.



Both films are in the Reading Room at 7.30 pm, with refreshments available, all welcome.

Jacqueline Douglas
(291475, jacquelinetheteacher@hotmail.com)
and **Jeremy Newton** (newtonjed@gmail.com)

Weston Colville Circular Walk

In November we had a blue and gold walk, on a sunny autumnal day. Our next circular walk will be on New Year's Day, Sunday, 1st January; meet at the Reading Room at 11 o'clock, BYO lunch, and maybe something to share. You can put your lunch in the fridge before we set off, if you'd like, and refreshments will be available.

Jacqueline and Alastair Douglas (291475, jacquelinetheteacher@hotmail.com)




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Open Mic Night

An evening of sharing and entertaining in the Reading Room, on Saturday 11th February 8.00 pm, refreshments available, all welcome. If you play an instrument or sing, are an aspiring standup comic, dancer or mime artist, we'd love you to come along. There will be a PA system available and the opportunity for impromptu collaborations or a free-for-all jam. We aim to have a mix of scheduled acts and spur-of-the moment turns, so are looking to establish the scale of interest before firming up the programme. If we've got your attention and you'd like to know a little more, please contact one of us by mid January.

Andrew Trist (andrew.trist@icloud.com),

Jacqueline Douglas (291475, jacquelinetheteacher@hotmail.com)

Balsham Singers Concert

The Balsham Singers' Christmas concert will be on Saturday 17th December, at 7.30 pm in Balsham church. There will be excerpts from Bach's 'Christmas Oratorio', Mozart's 'Regina Coeli' and Holst's 'Te Deum', plus of course a medley of traditional carols for all to join in.

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Save the Children Coffee Morning

The Save the Children Coffee Morning in Balsham on 11th November was a very happy occasion, and our thanks go to Martin and Cassie Walshe for allowing the event to be held in their home, Mulberry Cottage. It was very well attended, and £435 was raised. So on behalf of the Linton & District SCF group thank you to all those who helped to make it such a success, either by coming or by donating money and goods.

Jenny Richards

Carers Urgently Required

Are you a caring person? Would you like to earn a bit extra? We are looking for someone to join our current carer in the mornings at 7.30 am and/or evenings around 8.00 pm Monday to Friday, also Saturday mornings around 7.45 am and Saturday evenings at 7.00 pm. The support is to cover all aspects of personal care for a placid and interesting young man with complex care/health needs living in West Wrating. Good rate of pay.

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West Wrating Book Club

The book we discussed in November was ‘Tender is the Night’ by F. Scott Fitzgerald, which people found to be a difficult read and hard to get into, with one person unable to manage it at all. This was somewhat surprising to those of us who had read and enjoyed ‘The Great Gatsby’, and may have had something to do with it not being in chronological order.

One person described it as somewhat esoteric and existential, although it was agreed that it was a good study of human nature, with intelligent observation. One quote suggested as an example of this was “Later she remembered all the hours of the afternoon as happy – one of those uneventful times that seem at the moment only a link between past and future pleasure, but turn out to have been the pleasure itself.” It was thought that it could have been shorter and written more tightly. Others felt that the writing must have been good because they were instantly transported to the time and place, and that it was a description of a rather unattractive type of rich American society. There were also instances which shone an unpleasant light on their attitude to black people.

It was thought to be a very good description of the times and a particular class, with the Hollywood

glamour of ‘sweet young things’ falling for older men. It was interesting as a study of the disintegration of a brilliant man with a great future when he falls in love with the wrong woman. Fitzgerald obviously drew on his wife’s schizophrenia for the character of Nicole, although wrongly attributing the latter’s illness to her father having abused her. One wondered if the misogyny shown was a reflection of the author’s attitude to women or whether he wished to show the unpleasantness of such attitudes. The visual descriptions of the beautiful scenery seemed to make it perfect for making into a film (which was, in fact, done in 1962). It was particularly evocative for one of our number who had spent time in Nice and Cannes, and felt it seemed not to have changed much from the time described in the book. She had actually listened to it on CD but had had to keep winding back to keep track of events.

Despite all the difficulties, it was still felt worth while reading it, such choices broadening our horizons. Most gave a score of 7 – 7.5 out of 10, although the person who had listened to it gave it a 9, perhaps a reflection of the way this format put across the story and personal experiences of the place described. Some would not recommend it although it would be a good read for anyone who wishes to stretch their reading experience.

The December meeting will be our pre-Christmas meal on 14th December at 7.30 for 8 pm, when we will review ‘The Girl on the Train’ by Paula Hawkins. We still have a couple of places free for the meal so please let me know if you wish to attend.

Our first meeting of the New Year will be on Wednesday 18th January when we will be discussing John Le Carré’s memoir ‘The Pigeon Tunnel’.

Linda Gorman

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Weston Colville Neighbourhood Watch (NHW)

The West Wrating area has experienced problems this past month – a locked shed was broken into and £2,000 of domestic equipment was stolen; also a group of ‘foreign hoodies’ were trying to stop and enter passing vehicles on Honey Hill. At the Balsham end of the same road a vehicle had its window smashed. A forced entry took place in Wilbraham, the people involved left when disturbed by the householder, and the police seized their vehicle.

Further away, bigger villages have seen more burglaries and theft than seems normal. The largest thefts were two mobile saunas mounted on trailers, a burger van and a motorcycle with its trailer. Many other items have been stolen including jewellery, cash and cards, bicycles, phones, iPods and a laptop.

A householder was cold-called by a man offering to do gardening work for £50, then two men appeared and blocked the householder’s view. He discovered that a laptop and £250 had been stolen.

The police made two suggestions about cold calling. ‘If you are not sure, don’t open the door’ and ‘Please consider the Buy With Confidence Scheme’ (a Trading Standards approved scheme which is designed to promote and support good reliable

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The police suggestions help us to protect ourselves, encouraging us to look after our security, have good locks and use them, and think about other security measures. At holiday time work with your neighbours to look after each other’s property. If you feel threatened or suspicious contact the police on 999 for immediate help. (See also article on page 18)

Christmas is a-coming. Best wishes to you, one and all.

Allen Scott (290837, allen.scott70@googlemail.com)

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Weston Colville Parish Council

The following items were discussed at the Weston Colville parish council meeting on 7th November:

District Councillor's report – the Local Plan is still continuing, and is due to be completed next year.

The Boundary Commission has meant that Castle and Shudy Camps are no longer in our area. As a result, there will only be one councillor, rather than two. Linton will in future be included in South rather than East Cambs. Discussion on Devolution is continuing, with a decision expected on 17th November.

Highways – the public consultation on speed limits is now finished and a costed report is awaited. Estimates have been obtained for installation of a footpath on Mill Hill, but both figures were thought to be very expensive.

Winter Gritting Routes – the route covering Weston Colville showed no changes. The route is circular covering Mill Hill, Chapel Road, and Common Road to Church End.

Wind Farm Fund – following a report on allocation of funds, one successful application from Brinkley was for illuminated signs giving motorists a reminder

of their speed. The cost was £4,500 for two signs. Cllr Scott suggested this might be something that Weston Colville could apply for and instal at Church End. Evidence of need is required but there is historic evidence of speeding via the Speedwatch initiative. If necessary the equipment could be borrowed to do another survey of speeding.

River Maintenance and Verges – the ditch behind College Farm and watercourse is being dug out.

Grilles still need clearing, and some drains have collapsed. Cllr Durham is still in contact with Brian Heffernan to address the problems. The drains around the Reading Room need to be looked at.

Pop up Pub – an alternative contractor has been found to provide the beer. It will be fully funded except the charges for use of the Reading Room. The three month trial will start once evenings are lighter in the spring.

Planning – outline plans for the Horseshoe Road ex-garage site were discussed. The proposal is for one large detached house. The council were of the opinion that the space would be better used for two low cost houses. This view was sent to the Planning Department.

Tea and Cakes – following the suggestion at the last meeting that the council would use the donation normally given to Age Concern to fund a Christmas party for elderly people in the village, Cllr Durham made an approach to the committee who organise the regular Tea and Cakes. After discussion it was agreed that £25 would be donated by the parish council to fund presents for the children at the Christmas Tea and Cakes. The money for the elderly would remain in the Briggs Gift fund, to be considered next year.

Christine King, Parish Clerk

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West Wrating Parish Council

First of all there are thanks to be given. Cllr Rachel Causton asked me to thank all those who volunteer to keep the childrens play area clean and tidy all the year round. The new log traverse bar is now in place and the surface areas have been power-washed, with thanks to Robert Covey who did this job for free.

Colin McCall, the Tree Officer, who recently had a bad car accident on the Common Road, asked that something was put in Challenge about the dangers of this road, with cars driving much too fast, and advising people to drive much more slowly.

At the parish council meeting on 14th November the following items were discussed:

Maintenance –

Diseased trees – Michael Rowland attended the meeting to discuss the diseased trees in Hayter Close. Two have died from honey fungus and this is now spreading. It was agreed that the diseased trees need cutting down and the stumps ground out, top soil removed and reseeded. If the trees are replaced care needs to be taken that they are resistant to this disease.

Play area – Cllr Causton was pleased with the new log traverse bar and the power-washing of the

surfaces. She hopes to extend the surface area up to the gate and will get some quotes. She was thanked for her work in getting this done.

Dog Poo Sites – these were discussed and agreed and SCDC, who have already received a map showing where the bins should be located, will be notified that the parish council are happy with this.

Traffic Issues & Speed Restrictions – the chairman outlined the scheme put together by Cllr Nichols to apply for a Minor Highways Improvement Scheme grant. It is hoped to add 40mph speed limit signs beyond the 30mph signs in order to slow traffic coming into the village, and in some places to move the 30mph sign further out.

The draft minutes will be put on the two village noticeboards and the next parish council meeting will be held on Monday 12th January at 8 pm.

Happy Christmas and a good New Year.

Jenny Richards,
Parish Clerk



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The Marsh Tits of Weston in November

Christmas is coming, and your Marsh Tits are doing their best to get fat. They are filling their cute little faces at feeders across the woods and gardens of Weston Colville. Sunflower hearts are their preference, but fat balls and peanuts are good too. In the cold, they're not terribly fussy eaters! They need to eat to keep warm.

Marsh Tits weigh at most around 11 grammes, about the same as a £1 coin. But their body temperature is the same as ours, 37°C. Being tiny, their surface area is vast compared to their mass, so they lose heat rapidly. If it wasn't for the amazingly good insulating properties of their feathers, they could not remain this warm, even when well fed – they'd be dead in minutes. Quite literally, they're wearing their own duvet. The earliest known feathers are about 144 million years old, from the flightless dinosaur *Tianyulong confuciusi*, first described in 2009. (It may not be the direct ancestor of birds). From that point, feathers allowed animals to stay warm, show off, and eventually to fly. Flight feathers are probably one of the main reasons why birds survived beyond the immensely successful dinosaurs,



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which ruled the Earth for 180 million years. (Modern humans have been around for 0.2 million years).

One of the latest additions to our stable is the perky young Marsh Tit Y291462 'White over Red on Left', a totally laid-back little bird, unfazed by its temporary human carers. Colonel Kaye turned up at just the right moment to release it back into the wild. It seemed to find the Colonel's hands warm and inviting on a chilly morning, and took its time taking off, which allowed us to take this charming picture of The Colonel and the Bird.



We are pleased to announce that there are now eleven colour-ringed Marsh Tits living their lives around Weston. They're listed below. Please keep an eye out for them.

Colour Rings, on left leg	Metal ring	Age	Weight (g)	Date	Where ringed
Green over Red	Y291374	Adult	11.5	03/07/16	Great Coven's Wood
Grey over Red	D779503	Adult	10.8	03/07/16	Great Coven's Wood
Blue over Red	S320010	Juvenile	9.7	03/07/16	Great Coven's Wood
Grey over Green	Y291372	Adult	10.3	17/07/16	Lower Wood
Blue over Green	S320047	Juvenile	10.9	17/07/16	Lower Wood
Yellow over Green	S320053	Juvenile	11.3	24/07/16	Lower Wood
Grey over Blue	S320099	Adult	10.7	11/09/16	Mel's garden
White over Blue	Y291409	Juvenile	10.8	11/09/16	Mel's garden
White over Green	D779564	Adult	10.6	22/10/16	Lower Wood
White over Red	Y291462	Juvenile	10.5	30/10/16	Great Coven's Wood
Green over Blue	Y291485	Juvenile	10.1	06/11/16	Mel's garden

At Monks Wood Research Station on the far side of Huntingdon, up to 60% of their young Marsh Tits do

Domestic Help for You

I have over 30 years of experience in domestic, personal and child care. If you need help with any of the following, please give me a call:

- House Keeping
- Light Gardening
- Shopping
- School Runs
- Pet Care/Dog Walking
- Personal Care

My rates are very competitive and I can provide excellent references from previous employers.

Dianne on **01223 290527** or **07878 226910**

not survive their first winter. We're hoping that our birds are different, but we need your help to find out.

As always, report sightings to Mel Stammers on Mill Hill, or myself at cambsmarti@gmail.com. We'll get back to you with what we know of the life history of the bird you've seen.

Congratulations to Ben and Len Eeles, who were the first to spot our colour-ringed Marsh Tits chobbling away at their feeding station. They keep coming back to Len and Ben's, so it's clearly a first-class eaterie for the little fellas . . .

Marsh Tits make an excellent snack for sparrowhawks, who are not slow to catch on if you regularly get Marsh Tits visiting your feeders. It may well be worth putting a big chicken-wire cage around your feeding station if you see Sparrowhawks. It won't trouble the smaller birds and will prevent them being ambushed by the Sprawks while they've got their beaks in the food trough.

Hoping you all have a great run-up to Christmas,

Alex Inzani

BTO National Ringing Scheme

Candlelit Service of Carols and Readings

Sunday 11th December at 6 pm
St Augustine's, Burrough Green

Do join us for this service of Carols and Readings by Candlelight.

All welcome to stay afterwards for mulled wine and mince pies.

Contact: Lucy Talbot 01638 507060
peterandlucyt@btinternet.com

Fouling by Dogs

A number of incidents of fouling by dogs around the village, particularly on the recreation/cricket ground, have been reported recently and over the summer.

The majority of owners behave responsibly and pick up after their dogs. However dog mess left by a minority of irresponsible owners is often the cause of complaints to local authorities and councillors.

It is illegal to leave your dog's faeces lying around in a public area. If a dog is in your care for any length of time, it is your responsibility to clean up its mess.

Make sure you pick up the mess straight away, seal the bag and place the waste in a bin. This could be a dog waste bin or a normal litter bin or, if this is not possible, take the bag home and put it in your own bin. Do not throw the bag over a fence, hang it on a tree or leave the bag on the pathway. Make a note of where the public bins are on your route so that you can dispose of the waste responsibly.

Who is responsible for clearing away dog fouling?

It is the responsibility of the dog owner or the person in charge of the dog to clear up any dog foul left by their dog. The regulations state specifically that being unaware that the dog has fouled, or not having a suitable means of removing the faeces, is not a reasonable excuse for failing to clean up after a dog.

What can you do?

If you do not clear up after your dog, you could be fined. The maximum penalty for committing an offence is £1,000 in a magistrate's court.

Alternatively an authorised officer of an authority may issue a fixed penalty notice; the amount of the fixed penalty can be set by the local authority and is usually between £50 and £80. As well as clearing up your dog's mess, as a dog owner you can help reduce any health risk to the public by regularly worming your dog.

If you have information about a dog walker/owner who fails to pick up, report it to South Cambridgeshire District Council on 03450 450 063. Try to provide as much detail as possible so that any appropriate action can be taken.

Thank you for your cooperation.

Weston Colville Parish Council

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Linton Music Society Concerts

The Linton Music Society invites you to their next two concerts. On Saturday 10th December, the Lucy Cavendish singers perform ‘Songs for a Winter’s Night’ in St Mary’s Church, Linton, at 7.30. The programme includes well known favourites as well as a selection of medieval, classical and traditional pieces, accompanied by guitar, harp and lute.

The next concert, on Saturday 28th January, will be at Linton Village College. Patrick Hemmerle, a prize winning French pianist based in Cambridge, will play music by Brahms, Novak and Schumann.

Tickets are £12 (£10 concessions) on the door, or why not consider becoming a member for £42 (£38 concession) which would include the next five concerts. Young people under 21 are only £2 per concert, or a family ticket is £25. More information from 01223 893480.



Balsham Community Market

I would like to thank all of you who made the cold and wet journey to come along and support the first ever Balsham Community Market on 12th November. I have never seen the Institute so full.

It certainly seems our first market was hugely successful, with lots and lots of happy visitors, and many of the food producers sold out very quickly. The atmosphere in the Institute was buzzing and it did look wonderful decked out in fairy lights and Christmas decorations, with delicious smells permeating from the café kitchen.



Twelve farmers and food producers gave up their Saturday afternoon to bring us their produce and homemade goodies. We had a range of meats, ice creams, savoury foods, sourdough bread, Greek food, homemade preserves, chocolates, fudge, cakes, fruit juices, crackers, bird food and feeders, and plenty of orders being taken for Christmas deliveries.

I hope you enjoyed the first community market and will come regularly to support these bi-monthly markets. We need to have a regular flow of visitors to secure the market's future. Hopefully the buzz will entice you out to January’s market on 14th January.

Debbie Paton (balshammarket@gmail.com)
www.facebook.com/balshammarket
<https://balshammarket.wordpress.com>

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www.westwratting.org.uk

for information on:

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

Come along to 2nd Linton Guides'

Santa's Grotto

A fun filled afternoon for all the family with Santa, crafts, games, gifts and cake stall.

Free Entry

Meet Santa for only £3.50 with a gift for every child

Where: The Bell - 2 West Wickham Road, Balsham, CB21 4DZ

When: Saturday, December 10th, 2016

Time: 3:00-5:00



Balsham Gardening Club

We had a good turnout for the AGM, and special thanks were given to Ian Creek who was standing down as President after many years of support. We are very pleased that Sara Himsworth has agreed to take on this role. We also said goodbye to Lyn Bobrow, who has worked tirelessly in organising the many and varied outings that have taken place. With Sue Isted moving we have lost another hard working person, so we are hopeful that new members will come forward to join the committee. It isn't onerous and we do hold our meetings in the pub!



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Our speaker was Stephen Poyser, who has been a hobby beekeeper for over thirty years and currently has a total of twenty hives around Cambridge.

We were given an insight into the fascinating world of the honey (or should that be nectar?) bee. Stephen referred to honey bees as a civilised but ruthless society, and his talk highlighted both aspects. He managed to explain the intricacies of the life cycle, pollination and royal jelly with an interesting and amusing delivery. Indeed, his description of the demise of the male bee after mating is one that will probably stay with us for some time!

We were saddened to hear that there are no longer any true wild honey bees in Cambridgeshire but pleased that every year more people are coming forward and showing an interest in learning more about these creatures. In order to encourage and protect bees we, as gardeners, can do our bit by ensuring we provide the right plants. The RHS has a factsheet 'Perfect for Pollinators' which can be found on their website.

There will be Christmas entertainment and a meal at the next meeting, on Tuesday 6th December: pre-booked fish and chips (or substitute,) and a talk from the English Spirit Distillery.

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email: richardkenyon_1@hotmail.com

The Meadow School

The run up to Christmas is always slightly frantic in a Primary School. Not only are we normally fighting an array of illnesses and tired 4 and 5 year olds who are coming to the end of their first term in school, we also have to constantly Hoover up glitter and sequins and organise over 90 Infant children into angels, shepherds and a medley of other nativity costumes. There will be halos that slip, children who get star struck on the stage forgetting their dance moves and just stand and wave, and there is always one child who falls asleep mid performance, but this is Christmas and we all absolutely love it! This year the Infant production is 'Hey Ewe' and I am assured that there will be no real livestock in attendance in either this or the carol service this year!

Although our focus has changed to celebrating Christmas, sparkles, presents and spending time with our family and friends, we took time in November to think of others, be charitable, and reflect on how lucky we are in our lives. On 11th November we remembered all of those who served in the armed forces, lost their lives, or whose lives have been affected by war. We learnt about the meaning of the poppy, when it was first created, and how it is made today. When the church bells rang at 11 am we stood shoulder to shoulder in silence, reflecting on how fortunate we were compared to others. After our period of reflection the children then placed the pennies they had brought onto a giant poppy. All of the money we collected through this and the sale of poppies will go to the Royal British Legion.



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We also supported another very worthy charity, Children in Need, by wearing spots to school and holding a cake sale. The children again had time to reflect upon their own lives and how their donations would help.

We have also been able to appreciate charity ourselves, as through the generous funding of the Cambridge Community Foundation and Wadlow Wind Farm we have got our Forest School area up and running. The staff all had an evening experience of making fires, building dens and creating mud faces, and learning about the ethos of a Forest School session. Our Reception classes have had several sessions and we can see huge benefits and impact already, so we have decided to alter our timetable and enable every single class across the whole school to have a block of Forest School sessions, led by our Forest School leader, across the academic year.

So as we move towards Christmas, our message to everyone is make time for family and friends, enjoy the festivities, but also take a moment to remember just how lucky we all are.

From everyone at The Meadow, we wish you all a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

Nichola Connor, Headteacher

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The Marsh Mail (news from Linton Village College)

Schools are a microcosm for society as a whole; they encapsulate and reflect, in miniature form, the elements of wider society.



While schooling is often viewed as an individualistic pursuit to obtain knowledge, skills and qualifications, it has a broader purpose: to socialise children into citizens of their communities and of the world. In addition to the formal, academic curriculum, education influences and shapes students' beliefs, moral codes and attitudes.

In recent years there has been a much greater emphasis on schools' responsibility for teaching and promoting what the government has termed as 'British Values'. While there has been much conjecture about the title and its potential for misinterpretation or misappropriation, at LVC the essence of the fundamental British Values, as listed below, is valued and taught and promoted throughout the curriculum, explicitly and implicitly:

- Democracy
- The rule of law
- Individual liberty
- Mutual respect for and tolerance of those with different faiths and beliefs, and for those without faith.

Recent global events and topical issues provide us with opportunities to explore how these values affect lives and behaviours, at school and in wider society.

One of our core values at Linton Village College is to be caring. The month of December is a time when students have plentiful opportunities to engage in community activities that demonstrate care, empathy and respect for others. Students are involved in fundraising for national charities, such as Save the Children's Christmas Jumper Day, and support other chosen beneficiaries through our annual Charities Morning Fayre. Other causes closer to home include Jimmy's Night Shelter and our Coffee and Carols morning for elderly local residents.

Regardless of religious beliefs, the seasonal sentiment of 'peace on Earth and goodwill to all men' resonates in the acts of kindness that our students demonstrate towards others at this time of year. While we are awash with commercial pressures and schmaltzy

LlamaDrama presents

The Wonderful Wizard of Oz

based on the book by L Frank Baum

Townley Memorial Hall, Fulbourn Centre,
Home End, Fulbourn CB21 5BS

Wednesday 11th & Friday 13th January (7.30 pm)
& Saturday 14th January (2.30 pm & 7.30 pm)

NB - NO performance on Thursday 12th January

LlamaDrama is thrilled to bring you, early in the New Year, a brand new adaptation of the much-loved story, *The Wonderful Wizard of Oz*, which has a talented cast



of over twenty adults and children, many of whom live within Fulbourn itself, who will bring all the best loved (AND most hated!) characters of the book to life, whilst adding original touches. There will be colourful costumes, great effects, and new songs, which you will find yourself humming as you leave!

The show is directed by Andrew Clark and produced by Carole Ransom.

Tickets are £9 (adults), £7 (Senior Citizens 60 and over) and £5 (children 16 and under) and can be reserved online at www.llamadrama.org.uk or telephone the Box Office on 01354 694782 (please leave a message if necessary and we will return the call if you leave your phone number), or email the box office at: boxoffice@llamadrama.org.uk Unreserved seats can be bought on the door.

PLEASE NOTE THAT THERE ARE NO BOOKING CHARGES ON ANY TICKETS --EVEN MORE REASON TO COME AND SEE THIS MARVELLOUS SHOW!

marketing, the genuine generosity and compassion of our children gives hope for the kind of people they will grow into and the positive impact that they will have on their communities.

Helena Marsh, Executive Principal

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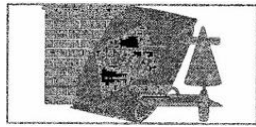
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Cambridgeshire Fire and Rescue Service

It is the time of year when we're enjoying a tippie with friends, cooking heaps of delicious food, and decking the halls. The fire service has these messages to make sure your festive cheer doesn't go up in smoke:

- Kitchens are a fire hotspot, so take care while cooking festive fancies. Never leave cooking unattended, and turn off appliances when not in use.
- Switch off fairy lights and unplug them before you go to bed or leave the house. Make sure they conform to the British Standard and never overload plug sockets.
- Be careful when drinking alcohol while smoking or cooking.
- Finally, make sure you have a working smoke alarm which is correctly fitted and works. And NEVER take the batteries out to power presents!

For the latest news, incidents and safety advice, or to contact us, log on to www.cambsfire.gov.uk

Securing Your Home

Burglaries are happening regularly across villages in South Cambs, usually during the day when properties appear to be empty, with cash and jewellery being the common things stolen. Have you considered how secure your property is? Chief Inspector James Sutherland from South Cambs Policing team created an online quiz designed to confirm how safe your property is. The 'bad-wolf test' takes just two minutes to complete, and tells you how safe your home is from burglars. You get a score of bricks, twigs or straw.



Anyone who gets the STRAW rating is given an email contact address and given the opportunity to have an officer from South Cambs Police come out and do a free full home security survey.

Try the quiz, at <http://tinyurl.com/bad-wolf-test>, to see how safe your home is.

Another option is the Bobby Scheme, a local charity which provides a service to older or vulnerable people by improving home security to reduce crime and the fear of crime. The Bobby Scheme works with a number of partner agencies, including the police, fire service, local authorities, Age UK and others.

Trained staff come out and fit a range of security devices such as window locks, door chains, personal attack alarms, window and door alarms, to help people feel safe in their own homes. Other security advice and reassurance is also provided. On average it costs the Bobby Scheme £130 to work at each home, so they do ask people to consider making a donation so that they can continue to provide such a great service. This is how the scheme works:

- If you have been a victim of crime and you are over 60, you can receive a free visit.
- If you are 65 and over or disabled and would like a visit from the Bobby Scheme to reduce your chance of becoming a victim, they ask for a contribution of £30.00 towards their costs.
- Key safes supplied and fitted from £50 and £80.
- Other specialist products are available for purchase.

The number to call if you would like a visit from the Bobby Scheme is 01480 413311 or 07866 602100.

They also have a website, www.thebobbyscheme.org

PCSO 7239 Leanne Fisher
Business Watch & Engagement Officer for South
Cambs, based at Sawston Police Station
(leanne.fisher@cambs.pnn.police.uk , 01223 497610)

1st Horseheath Brownies

This term we have been concentrating on the Road Safety interest badge. With the darker nights and foggy weather we decided the girls needed to be more road aware so that they are safe when out with their friends. We are also getting ready for Christmas. The salt dough decorations are baked, painted and varnished ready for the tree at the United Reformed

Church in Castle Camps. The cards have been decorated and calendars made for the Over 60s Luncheon in December.

Our joint meeting with 1st Linton Guides went really well; the girls all mixed together and made some really pretty cards, with some nightlight snowmen and peg reindeers.

We will be ending the term by enrolling Matilda and decorating mini Christmas cakes. We will return on Wednesday 11th January. May we take this opportunity to wish you all a very Merry Christmas and the happiest of New Years.

Pauline, Katie & Laurené (brownies@horseheath.info)

The Ellesmere Centre, Stetchworth

Join us on a magic carpet ride all the way to old Peking for this year's traditional family pantomime, 'Aladdin'. Brought to you by The Ellesmere Devils, this pantomime will have you rolling in the aisles with laughter. If you have one wish for the year ahead, make it to see Aladdin! Tickets can be bought from www.ticketsource.co.uk/edps Performances are Wednesday 25th January – Saturday 28th January at the Ellesmere Centre, Stetchworth.

Street Dance classes have now started on Wednesday evenings. If your child is interested in joining please email premierperformingarts.co.uk to register

Football classes on Monday after school are now run by Premier Sports and are once again proving popular. Email premiersports.org to book a place.



Mature Keep Fit – in January we will be starting a Mature Keep Fit session on Friday mornings, 11 am - 1 pm. There will be a chance to try carpet bowls, kurling, table tennis or badminton (12 - 1 pm only), or even a gentle session in the gym (upstairs) for the more able. Afterwards join others for a cup of tea and cake in the Gredley Room. Come along and join us on Friday 13th January for the first session. Make this your New Year's Resolution! Cost: £4 for 2 hours, refreshments included.



Homeless Collection – we are collecting items for the homeless shelter in Cambridge; items such as warm men's clothing, sleeping bags, hats, scarves, gloves, toothpaste/brush, soap, combs, deodorant, sweets etc. (There is a full list in

the centre or on our Facebook page.) Please leave any items you may have in the box provided at the centre, and we will deliver them to 'Winter Comfort' in the second week of December.

The staff and trustees at the Ellesmere Centre would like to wish you all a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

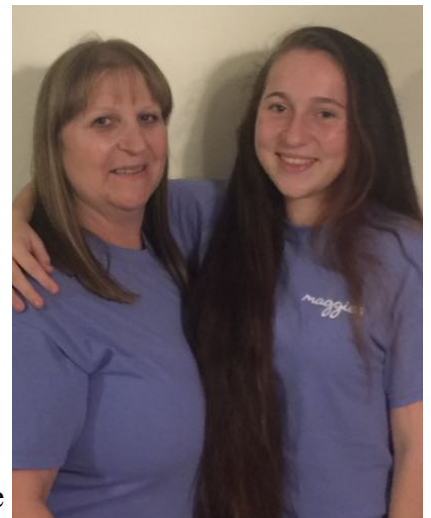
www.ellesmerecentre.org.uk, 01638 508212,
office@ellesmerecentre.org.uk

Maggie's Wallace Centre

On Tuesday 20th December at her school, Linton Village College, local teenager Frayr Bridgeman, from Balsham, is having over 16 inches of her hair cut for Maggie's Wallace Centre in Cambridge. Her mum Angela is having 7 inches cut..

Frayr says "My mum is my inspiration for this. This

incredible woman is a two times cancer survivor. Maggie's Wallace Centre really helped getting her through this tough time . . . I want everyone to be offered the support she was given. I would like to raise sponsorship money for the centre so more people like my mum



can receive support. I have also decided to donate my hair to the Little Princess Trust so a young child with cancer can have long hair again."

You can sponsor Frayr on her justgiving page www.Justgiving.com/fundraising/Frayr-Bridgeman



Maggie's offers free practical, emotional and social support to people with cancer and their family and friends. The centre is open every day, Monday - Friday, 9 am - 5 pm. You don't need an appointment – just come in and see us, in 21 Milton House, Puddicombe Way, only a short walk from the visitors' car park 1.

For further information about Maggie's Centre in Cambridge please go to

www.maggiescentres.org/our-centres/maggies-wallace-cambridge

St Andrew's, West Wrating (10.45 am, unless otherwise stated)

			SET UP	FLOWERS	CLEANING
4 th Dec	Holy Communion	Rev Dr Carrie Pemberton Ford	Sisse	Louise	Sue
11 th Dec	Christingle & Songs of Praise (4 pm)	John and Scilla Harvey, and Very Rev Keith Johnson	n/a	Louise	Fanny
18 th Dec	Carol Service	Archdeacon Alex Hughes	Fanny	All available	Pauline
24 th Dec	Crib Service (4 pm) Midnight Mass (11.30 pm)	Rev Kathy Bishop Rev Dr Carrie Pemberton Ford	Sebastian	Linda	tbd

St Mary's, Weston Colville (9.15 am, but see page 2 for other December service details and times)

	FLOWERS	CLEANING
December	Stephen & Jane	Gay
January	Maureen	Rosemary

Roman Catholic Mass

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

DIARY

December 2016

- Fri 2 Tea & Cakes, Weston Colville
- First Friday Fun Bridge, West Wrating
- Sat 3 Saturday Morning Café, West Wrating
Farmers' Market, Linton Village Hall
Festive Food Fayre, Weston Colville
- Tues 6 West Wrating Over 60s Christmas lunch
Balsham Gardening Club
- Wed 7 Weston Colville Cinema Club, Reading Room
- Sat 10 Santa's Grotto, Balsham
- Sun 11 Christingle Service, St Andrew's
Carols & Readings, Burrough Green
- Mon 12 West Wrating Village Hall Management AGM
- Wed 14 West Wrating Book Club meal
- Thur 15 West Wrating Lunch Club, The Chestnut Tree
- Sat 17 Balsham Singers Christmas Concert, Balsham
Carol Concert, Great Thurlow
- Sun 18 Candlelit Carol Service, St Mary's
- Sat 24 Crib Service (4.00 St Andrew's, 4.30 St Mary's)
Midnight Mass, St Andrew's
- Thur 29 Quiz, Chestnut Tree
- Sat 31 Coppicing work party in Lower Wood
New Year's Eve party, Chestnut Tree

January 2017

- Sun 1 Circular walk from Weston Colville
- Wed 4 Weston Colville Cinema Club, Reading Room
- Mon 9 West Wrating oil syndicate orders cutoff
- Wed 18 West Wrating Book Club
- Sat 14 Community Market, Balsham
- Sat 21 Progressive Supper, West Wrating

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: 290643 email: steven@juicyfruitsuk.com
Mrs Rosemary Mead, Authorised Lay Minister
tel: 891718 email: leonardavmead@hotmail.com
Mr Keith Day, Authorised Lay Minister
tel: 891527 email: keithdday@btinternet.com

Churchwardens:

St Mary's – Roger Whitehead (290524),
Philippa Coates (290842)
St Andrew's – Sebastian Bain (403415),
Alex Walsham (291491)

Parish Council Clerks:

Weston Colville – Christine King,
wcpc@typo.demon.co.uk, 01223 290963
West Wrating – Jenny Richards,
j.richards597@btinternet.com, 01223 665260

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

Parish Nurse: Claire Gillett,
7churches.parishnurse@gmail.com, 07498 994205

Black bins: Tues 13th & Wed 28th December,
Tues 10th & 24th January

Blue & green bins: Tues 6th December,
Wed 4th & Tues 31st January

Blue bins only: Tues 20th December,
Tues 17th January

Mobile library: fourth Wednesdays

High Street, West Wrating	12.10 - 12.55
Post Office, Weston Green	2.05 - 2.25
Mill Hill, Weston Colville	2.30 - 3.05

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. Contributions can also be left at Weston Colville Post Office. Some may have to be edited, to fit the space available, and are published at the discretion of the editor.

**January issue's copy date: Tues 13th December
(Earlier than usual, just for this month!)**