

# 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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## ***Get-Together for Christine***

Everyone is invited to come and join Christine Tilly at the Reading Room in Weston Colville on Friday 12<sup>th</sup> January between 3 and 5 pm, and help to wish her well in her retirement.

Tea, coffee and cakes will be available. Come and have a cuppa and a chat! If anyone can't get there, and needs a lift, please contact me, and I'll try and arrange it. Any queries to me, Joyce, on 07980 404764 or [letterbox170@gmail.com](mailto:letterbox170@gmail.com).

## ***Tea and Cakes, Weston Colville***

The mulled wine really hit the spot at December's gathering, and for me at least got the festive season off to a fantastic start. We decided to donate the contributions given at the session to the homeless charity 'Crisis', so that we could help improve someone else's life, and perhaps they might be able to get tea and cake at Christmas.

Thank you to everyone who has supported Tea and Cakes throughout the year; we look forward to seeing you all again next year. Our first session will be on Friday 5<sup>th</sup> January, 3.30 - 5 pm at the Reading Room. If you haven't been before it would be a good New Year's resolution to give it a try!

***Melanie and the Tea and Cakes Team (291319)***



## ***Saturday Morning Café, West Wrattling***

Huge thanks to everyone who has so generously supported our monthly café this year! The money raised has been donated to local community projects such as the children's tennis week in August.

The Saturday morning café will run as usual on Saturday 6<sup>th</sup> January between 10.30 am and noon in the village hall. There is always a play corner set up for kids, and a bookstall with second hand books.

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

The café is organising a little movers dance morning on Saturday 27<sup>th</sup> January for preschoolers in the area, followed by lunch. Let us know if your little ones are interested in joining in.

***Sherry (290070) and Catherine (291307)***

## ***Seniors – an Opportunity***

The first meeting of the Seniors in the Reading Room will take place on Tuesday 23<sup>rd</sup> January at 2.30 pm.

There has been nothing specifically for our 60/65+ age group since the Happy Circle many years ago. Times have changed. We live longer these days and have our own interests and activities. This is an opportunity to work out what we would like to do.

There will be hot drinks and biscuits. Do come, enjoy yourselves and if possible bring a few goodies to share.

***'Elderly' Allen***

## ***The Pill Run***

Three of us go to the Linton Health Centre each week on Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays to collect the pills for our two villages. We have been leaving them at the post office and The Chestnut Tree pub, but as from January when the post office has closed we will be leaving all of them at The Chestnut Tree. If you live in Weston Colville and find it difficult to get to The Chestnut Tree then please let me know as soon as possible.

***Chloë Cockerill***

***Old Mill House, Mill Hill, Weston Colville  
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**Please send us your contributions, events, notices, photos and comments.**



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**West Wratting Oil Syndicate**

There will be a West Wratting syndicate fillup this month, and the order cutoff is Monday 8<sup>th</sup> January at 6.00 pm.

Place your orders either by email to me at [richardholness023@btinternet.com](mailto:richardholness023@btinternet.com) and please put 'Oil' 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 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.

Remember that syndicate orders take at least a couple of weeks from the cutoff date to be collated, brokered and delivered, but if you take the minimum of 500 litres every time there's a fill up, you'll always be buying at the best possible price. Details of the supplier, price and delivery dates will be placed on the West Wratting website [www.westwratting.org.uk](http://www.westwratting.org.uk) about three days after the order cutoff day.

Happy New Year!

*Richard Holness*



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### ***West Wrating Book Club***

At our December meeting and Christmas meal, eight of us including husbands discussed ‘The Reader on the 6.27’ by Jean-Paul Didierlaurent.

It was agreed that this was a rather odd book with a futuristic, almost Orwellian feel to start with, which made us think it was set in a future where books were not allowed. It then became clear that the ‘hero’ of the book, Guylain Vignolles, is actually working on a machine, the Zerstor, that pulps ‘remainders’. This is then turned into the paper for new books. One of our number suggested that the writing was rather awkward but this may have been due to the translation. Guylain and his co-workers are representative of those in lowly jobs, ignored and taken for granted by the better off, on the fringes of society but vital to keep it going. This is reflected in the initial reaction of the company to the terrible injuries sustained by his friend, Giuseppe, in an accident in the Zerstor and which has strange repercussions.

Guylain’s one pleasure in his grey and repetitive life is to rescue the odd pages which escape pulping and read them out loud on the train to work, no matter how graphic and disjointed they may be.

When he comes to the notice of two ladies, it results in first himself and then a co-worker, an inspired proponent of the alexandrine form of poetry, being invited to read to a group of elderly people. On his arrival, they are just dozing in their armchairs but his reading to them brings them alive. When he finds a memory stick on the train it opens up whole new possibilities as it contains the writings of a public lavatory attendant, a commentary on her daily life and the way people behave towards her, to the point of making her feel unable to use a laptop to write on

while she is working because it does not fit with their idea of the sort of person she should be. He sees in her a kindred spirit.

It was felt that the ending was rather sudden and somewhat weak. However, it is ultimately a book about the pleasure of reading to and being read to, the joy that words, whether poetry or prose can bring to otherwise grey lives, and that one should not make assumptions about people. One person suggested that it would not be a book she would keep but would pass on to others who might find pleasure in it. One or two said they would recommend it to others. The scores were mainly 6 out of 10, but with one 7.

We will meet again on Wednesday 17<sup>th</sup> January at 8 pm in The Chestnut Tree to discuss George Orwell’s ‘Down and Out in Paris and London’. Don’t worry if you don’t manage to finish it – you can still come and discuss it.

*Linda Gorman*

### ***Litter Picking – Weston Colville***

Referring to the request in December’s *Challenge*, the correct telephone number is 290036. I look forward to hearing from anyone wishing to volunteer. Litter pickers and bin liners will be provided.

*Colin McCall*

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**Weston Colville Cinema Club**

On Wednesday 3<sup>rd</sup> January we're showing a tale of farmers in Provence that will hopefully delight you. Our choice for 7<sup>th</sup> February is a multi-Oscar winning western directed by and starring Clint Eastwood. For details, see posters at the Reading Room or look on the Reading Room website, [www.thereadingroom.org.uk](http://www.thereadingroom.org.uk). Alternatively, email to subscribe to our mailing list. Both evenings will start at 7.30 pm with a pre-screening talk; admission is by voluntary donation; refreshments will be available; all are welcome. Enquiries: [jacquelinetheteacher@hotmail.com](mailto:jacquelinetheteacher@hotmail.com), 291475



**Weston Colville History Exhibition**

We've been sifting through records and photos on our village, including items from the Cambridgeshire Collection, the County Archive, and the Village Archive that Roger Whitehead and Tim Cockerill gathered together over 15 years with a lot of local help. We'll show a selection of these in the Reading Room this winter.

- ★ A chance to enjoy once more something you've seen before, and maybe something new . . . about your part of the village, or your cottage?
- ★ Trail for children to enjoy the exhibition.

The exhibition will be on for a week, from Saturday 30<sup>th</sup> December until Friday 5<sup>th</sup> January, 2 - 5 pm, with a special extended opening on Wednesday 3<sup>rd</sup> until 7 pm so that if you wish, you can double up and see it before the Cinema Club film. Donations welcome, under 18s and over 60s free; refreshments will be available. Enquiries: [jacquelinetheteacher@hotmail.com](mailto:jacquelinetheteacher@hotmail.com), 291475.

**Circular Walk**

We'll be heading out on New Year's Day at the later time of 11 am, for about five miles. If you're reading this on New Year's Day and you've missed us, then here's a diary note for our next walk: Saturday 3<sup>rd</sup> March at 10 am. Meet at the Reading Room, BYO lunch, and maybe something to share. Refreshments will be available and all are welcome. Enquiries: [jacquelinetheteacher@hotmail.com](mailto:jacquelinetheteacher@hotmail.com), 291475.

**Courtesy Needed**

*Extract from a letter from a Weston Colville resident:*  
 "I'd like to say thank you to the inconsiderate driver who drove past me at great speed in December in a silver VW. After you purposely drove through a line of freezing water, ice and slush I was soaked from head to foot. There was nothing coming the other way, and you could have avoided that band of slush. It wouldn't have been so bad if you'd stopped and apologised but I suppose that's too much to expect. You and other inconsiderate drivers can be sued for such behaviour. I wonder how you would have felt if it had been the other way round?"



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### Ministry Matters

Happy New Year from our Ministry Team! By the time you are reading this, I hope you will have heard that we have appointed a new rector to replace Dr Julie Norris to lead our group of seven churches (as I am writing this, the interviews for the post of rector have not yet taken place).



The Church of England has a complex system of appointing priests to new posts. At the very end of the process is the final decision of our Diocesan Bishop, who appoints and licenses the new priest.

But before that, all our churchwardens, who are all 'Bishop's Officers' appointed by the Bishop of Ely, the Right Revd Stephen Conway, have the responsibility of selecting the new rector.

In addition to that, every parish in the Church of England has a Patron who is also responsible for appointing the parish clergy. Our seven churches all have patrons who take their part in the appointment process, and they will be coming to the Installation Service to formally present the new rector to the bishop.

As you can see, it is a complicated procedure.

Back to celebrating the New Year! Whatever has been decided, on behalf of all the members of our ministry team, may God bless you and your loved ones in the year to come.

*Keith Johnson*

### Treasurer Required in Weston Colville

Would you like to make a real contribution to the future of St Mary's Church, Weston Colville?

The Parochial Church Council (PCC) is seeking a competent and trustworthy person to succeed the current treasurer and join the PCC.

Qualifications are not necessary but a sound grasp of financial management is important. A full handover will be provided.

To arrange an informal chat, please contact Fraser Rogers ([fraserrogers@gmail.com](mailto:fraserrogers@gmail.com), 07841 031330).

**Beauty and the Beast** ~ the Ellesmere Devils Pantomime Society presents a Bollywood pantomime from Wednesday 24<sup>th</sup> to Saturday 27<sup>th</sup> January. Tickets on sale online at [www.ticketsource.co.uk/edps](http://www.ticketsource.co.uk/edps)

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### *Weston Colville Neighbourhood Watch (NHW)*

Happy New Year, and ‘may all your troubles be little ones’. Now for that New Year resolution: let’s aim for better security at home to discourage thieves and keep ourselves safer?

There are no reports of trouble in either of our villages – a relief after the past few months. However there was a burglary, and tools were stolen from a van, in Balsham. Damage to windows was caused by stone throwing in Wilbraham, and Linton experienced a business burglary and theft of diesel.

Further afield there were four separate thefts of bags from vehicles by smashing windows. Please do not leave bags on view in any vehicle. Also for those who use their car to reach Whittlesford station, a car was stolen and items were stolen from another vehicle.

If you are over 65 and concerned about your security it is worth contacting The Bobby Scheme. This charity has helped several people in our village by providing and fitting alarms. There is no charge if you have been the victim of a crime, and only a donation if you haven’t. If you need better security call them on 01480 413311 and discuss your needs. For more information see [www.thebobbyscheme.org/](http://www.thebobbyscheme.org/).

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Online shopping is a very useful tool of our modern lives, and Action Fraud has advice aimed at keeping us out of trouble. Always check you’re on the correct website. To be secure, particularly when paying for something, the webpage should start with https and ought to show a locked padlock sign. It is also worth knowing that 65% of Action Fraud reports during the 2016 Christmas period were linked to online auction sites. Payments via bank transfer offer you no protection if you become a victim of fraud; however, Paypal and credit cards offer better protection.

Here’s wishing for a nice peaceful year ahead. No problems would be nice too! Wishful thinking again...

*Allen Scott (290837, [allen.scott70@googlemail.com](mailto:allen.scott70@googlemail.com))*

### *Weston Colville Parish Council*

Matters discussed at the November meeting included:

1. **Litter picking in the parish** – Colin McColl, who coordinates the West Wrating and Weston Colville Litter Pickers, gave an update of litter picking in the parish. He is looking for a volunteer to litter-pick the Six Mile Bottom road in Weston Colville .

#### 2. Planning

2.1 Planning discussed and voted by parish council:

Reference	Address	Proposal	Decision
S/3998/17/VC	Weston Woods Farm	Variation of condition 1 ( time limit – extend to 5 years)	All present voted to support

2.2 Status of applications with SCDC:

Reference	Address	Proposal	Status
S/2467/17	25 Spring Terrace, Church End	Two story extension to rear, first floor extension to side	Approved
S/2254/17	St Mary’s Church	Extension to churchyard burial ground	Approved
S/2984/17	Weston Woods	Installation of new portacabin office, access ramp and five parking bays	Approved
S/3699/17/DC	Linnet Hall Barn	Discharge of access consent	Councillor Durham to make comment on the planning website

### 3. Matters progressed since the last meeting:

3.1 *Website* – a quote has been obtained for £299 to create a parish website. This is being followed up.

3.2 *Car park transfer* from South Cambs District Council (SCDC) to Weston Colville Parish Council (WCPC). This has been complicated by an appeal against the council's land registry application for this site, which is now incurring considerable legal costs. Next steps will be discussed at the January meeting.

3.3 *Tree Warden Report* – the parish council is currently not responsible for any trees in the parish so no action is required by the tree warden.

3.4 *Ditch and stream clearing* – drains at Mill Hill / Brinkley Rd, Church End were reported by the Clerk to Highways as needing attention after recent heavy rain highlighted the issue of the amount of surface water flowing down the highway and not into the drains. Highways has made no progress with any of this. It was agreed that county councillor Batchelor would be provided with the details so he could follow this up and try to get some action on these issues.

A discussion was held regarding whether a communal skip should be placed in the Reading Room car park for village 'green waste', following a request from a parishioner. This was unanimously rejected on the basis it would be impossible to control what people actually dumped in the skip, which could lead to some extremely high disposal costs, especially if white goods were placed in the skip.

The council regrets the decision to close the post office but fully understands why this is happening, and would like to recognise the invaluable service Christine Tilley has given the village for over 33 years, and to wish her a long and happy retirement. It was agreed that the council would give its full support to any viable proposal to re-open a post office in Weston Colville if such a proposal is made.

### Date of next meetings:

Dates of full parish council meetings in 2018:  
8<sup>th</sup> January, 5<sup>th</sup> March, 14<sup>th</sup> May, 2<sup>nd</sup> July,  
3<sup>rd</sup> September, and 5<sup>th</sup> November.

Planning meetings ( if required ): 5<sup>th</sup> February,  
9<sup>th</sup> April, 4<sup>th</sup> June, 6<sup>th</sup> August, 1<sup>st</sup> October, and  
3<sup>rd</sup> December.

**Ray Vidler, Parish Council Chairman**

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### Weston Colville Parish Council – Vacancies

**Parish Clerk** – we currently have a vacancy for a parish clerk. This is a paid role for four and a half hours per week, which covers all the administrative responsibilities of the council. No previous experience is required, as training will be provided.

The council has six normal meetings per year, held bi-monthly, and if required up to a maximum of six planning meetings per year when and if there are any planning applications to consider.

Experience of either clerical or financial work would be useful but not essential.

**Parish Councillor** – we also have a vacancy for a parish councillor, who would be required to attend the six council meetings held each year and also may be asked to take responsibility for some of the council's work, if time is available. Formal training can be provided if required. The successful applicant would be co-opted onto the council until the next election, due in May 2018.

If you are interested in either of the above roles please contact Ray Vidler (01223 290010 or [rvidler@btinternet.com](mailto:rvidler@btinternet.com)) to discuss them in more detail or to make an application.



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### West Wratting Parish Council

A very happy New Year to you all, and I hope you had a peaceful and joyous Christmas.

The following items are some of the matters discussed at the parish council meeting on 13<sup>th</sup> November. The draft minutes are posted on the website and noticeboards.

1. Due to the resignation of Hanneke Okkenhaug we were pleased to co-opt Susan Locke on to the council; however due to her illness we were unable to do it on the 13<sup>th</sup>. We also need to fill the vacancy due to Rachel Causton's resignation. Both these councillors will be sadly missed.

2. Please see the planning details in the draft minutes on the noticeboards.

3. Update of affordable housing: the planning application will be sent shortly for the council to approve or not.

4. Finance: please see the draft minutes with the full details of authorised payments and receipts.

5. Maintenance: Cllr Nichols had been told by Highways that the road markings would shortly be carried out. The potholes along Common Road will also be filled in shortly.

6. Traffic issues & speed restrictions:

- a) Speed Indicator – £1179.02 has been paid as West Wratting's contribution towards the purchase of the speed indicator.
- b) Jellycat Lorries – Cllr Nichols has spoken to the manager and written twice about the size of vehicles coming through the village but had heard nothing back.
- c) Drains – these have been cleared out following the chairman's request to Highways.



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7. Village Hall:

- a) New safety flooring for the kitchen and back areas was discussed at the village hall meeting and costings were being sought.
- b) It was agreed that Cllr Bonfield should have a spare key to the hall as he lives nearest to it.
- c) Cllr Nichols requested the photos displayed on the noticeboard in the hall were laminated, and the chairman said he would be happy to do this.

The next parish council meeting will be held on Monday 8<sup>th</sup> January at 8 pm. All are welcome.

*Jenny Richards, Parish Clerk*



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**2018 Dates:**  
20th January, 10th March, 12th May, 8th September and 10th November

\*\* no market in July \*\*

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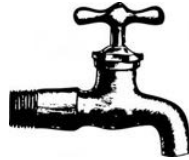
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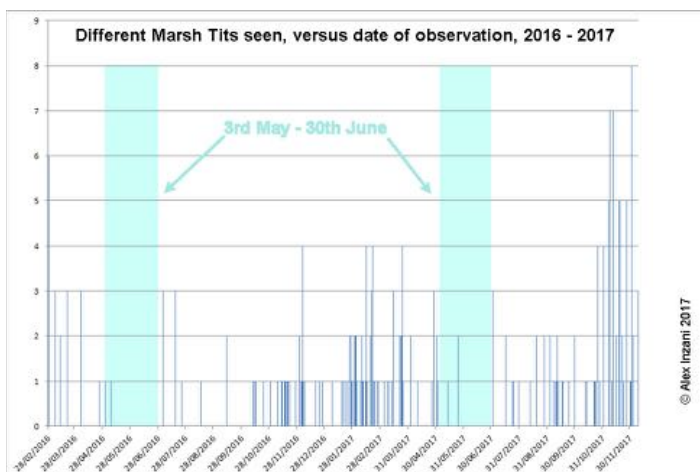
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### Weston Colville Marsh Tit Study

Happy New Year, Marsh Titters!

I've taken advantage of the overfed, overtellied festive spare time to dig through our data for golden pieces of knowledge – arr, Jim lad . . . I've done a Chris Packham and produced a chart:



A useful nugget jumps out from this chart straightaway: Despite weekly ringing sessions and almost continuous garden monitoring for nearly two years, Marsh Tits were not seen at all in June. In fact, for 2016 and 2017 combined, only four birds were seen from 3<sup>rd</sup> May until 30<sup>th</sup> June (three were seen in the woods, and only one in a garden). That's under 2% of the 226 total sightings in both years.

Conversely, 88 individuals were sighted from 1<sup>st</sup> March to 2<sup>nd</sup> May (39% of total). Of these 88 birds, 68 were seen in gardens and 20 in the woods.

So, like teddy bears' picnics, Marsh Tits breed in the woods, out of sight. March to June is considered to be the classic bird breeding season. Thus, our Marsh Tits are slow starters: they're sitting on eggs or chicks rather later than other birds, and indeed later than Marsh Tits in some other parts of the UK.

It also indicates that we should stop ringing Marsh Tits in the woods in May and June, to avoid any chance of disturbing the breeding of this Red-Listed species. So that's exactly what we're going to do in 2018: a self-imposed ban on woodland ringing in May and June. Spotting Marsh Tits with binoculars on your woodland walks with the dog, or ringing in gardens away from the breeding woods, won't bother this woodland specialist that can fly and nest out of your reach. So please keep those sightings coming in; without your scientific data, we wouldn't know anything about how best to protect these birds.

And – just because it's New Year – I'll pass on this tidbit from our parent Marsh Tit study at Monk's Wood Research Station. They use colour rings with two colours on them, as well as the single-colour rings which we use, which means that with two rings, they can have three colours per bird, necessary for the larger numbers of Marsh Tits they have in the National Nature Reserve. For ease of resighting, their birds – although all true Brits – can have different national colours: Spain (yellow/red-yellow), France (blue/white-red), England (white/red-white) etc. This paparazzi photo shows the Monk's Wood ambassador for Italy, sporting the national colours of green, white-red.\*



We wish you a Very Happy New Year and hope you make a resolution to keep spotting our Marsh Tits!

*Alex Inzani and your friendly neighbourhood  
Weston Colville ringing team,  
for the BTO National Ringing Scheme*

\* This effect is slightly lost when printed in black and white, but can be seen in all its glory in the email (colour) version of Challenge. If you'd like to be added to the emailing list for this, please contact:

editor@challengemag.co.uk



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## *The Meadow School*

Happy New Year to everyone from all at The Meadow Primary School; we hope 2018 is a fantastic year for all.

Back in November we talked about Unicef's World Children's Day, which this year had the theme of 'take over the world'. We were so inspired by this that I launched a competition for the Y6 children to apply for my job and take over for a day. I was overwhelmed with the number and calibre of applications, many of which were full of such wonderful ideas and thoughts – they made me quite teary. We eventually whittled the applicants down to ten and in December they took over my job for two whole days. The rest of this Meadow news update has been written by Aarnavh and Luke, who took on my role for one of those days!

The children were thrilled when school was covered in a blanket of snow creating a winter wonderland. There were lots of snowball fights and snowmen building competitions. We were really impressed with how sensible the children were while playing outside.

We also experienced the Infant production of 'Christmas with the Aliens'. Key Stage 2 got to watch the dress rehearsal to help them get ready for the real performances. It blew them away!

Another really lovely event was the Key Stage 2 Christmas Candlelit Carol Concert which we held in the church. It was a really enchanting evening. The children sang beautifully and the audience was engrossed.

All of the Y6 children who applied and were selected to be Headteacher for the day were thrilled and excited. We had to do playground duty, lunch duty,

meetings at Linton Village College, learning walks, assemblies, paperwork, meetings with other staff and anything else that Miss Connor would normally have to do. We all think it has been the best experience ever of being at school. We got to come dressed in our smart clothes and had our very own staffroom for the day (with chocolate biscuits!). It was so interesting to do all of the things Miss Connor does. We thought she sat in the office writing a lot but she really does a whole lot more! We have been so lucky to have this amazing opportunity and we have learnt so much.

A huge thank you to everyone who participated in the West Wrating Harvest Supper. Your generosity of raising over £300 has meant that we can buy some new books for our reading collections in the library. Thank you very much indeed.

We share photos and news of everything that happens at The Meadow on our twitter page, @Meadow\_Balsham. Take a peek!

*Nichola Connor, Headteacher*

## *Marsh Mail (news from Linton Village College)*

The new year creates an opportunity to set resolutions. For many, the indulgence of the festive season prompts a focus on developing a healthier lifestyle. For others, the new calendar year encourages a commitment to try a new hobby or skill.

The College's Sports Centre characteristically sees a spike in membership and use in January. Having such a facility for the community is part of what makes our Village College a special one. Chris Baker, our Sports Centre Manager, is keen to continue to increase participation, as is Margaret Kiddy, our Adult Education Manager, who has introduced a number of



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new evening classes, taster sessions and weekend workshops to develop our adult education learning programme.

The philosophy of the Village College movement was to ensure that schools were at the heart of their villages and provided opportunities for life-long learning and community activity. Having the school buildings and outdoor facilities busy outside the school day is an important aspect of our school character, as is welcoming visitors into the College to share special moments and activities.

At the end of the autumn term, we had lots of events of this nature. Our annual Coffee and Carols was a particular highlight, as was the Christmas Concert at Balsham Church and the Christmas Fayre with Granta School. Children benefit a great deal from performing to an audience beyond the school community and working in partnership with students and adults beyond LVC. Thank you to everyone who supported these activities.

Two of our students took part in a debating competition at the Houses of Parliament in December, competing against other schools. This was a great

public speaking challenge and one that provided a great deal of access to cultural capital.

Students at Linton Village College are fortunate to have staff who are committed to making these enriching extra-curricular activities possible, through planning trips and visits and providing opportunities to experience real-life learning. While many schools are stripping back non-academic provision due to financial and workload pressures, we remain committed to offering a rich, holistic education experience for all of our learners.

*Helena Marsh, Executive Principal*

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## ***Granta and Shelford Medical Practices Proposed Merger***

The NHS is changing rapidly. General practice remains the bedrock of the NHS but needs to adapt to be able to meet both current and future needs of our populations.

Nationally there is already a significant shortfall in GP numbers, and this is going to get worse. With an aging population, health care needs are more complex and patients are attending the surgery much more frequently than in the past.

Put simply, the traditional general practice which has worked so well for so long is no longer able to service patient needs. Government policy is that only large general practices will get access to new funding streams. Without this additional resource, patient care will suffer.

The GPs of both Granta Medical Practices (Barley, Royston, Linton and Sawston) and Shelford Health Centre believe that the best option for maintaining and improving services for our patients is through coming together to form a single practice. At present the practices are consulting on this proposed merger. We are keen to seek views of all those who might be affected.

The practice teams already work very closely together. We believe that by coming together the existing services provided to our patients will not just be more sustainable but that we will be able to add new services, enabling improved care in our practices. A merger also facilitates the hoped-for integration of community nursing and support teams with the practices as part of the nationally recognised 'Primary Care Home' model of integrated care.

There is no suggestion of, or intention to, shut any of the surgeries down nor to stop providing core general practice consultations from each site. Some administrative and specialist services may be delivered from a single location.

Already the Granta merged practices are better placed to retain and recruit clinical staff than many surrounding practices, ensuring high levels of continued service despite the national shortage of doctors and nurses in primary care.

Shelford and Granta Medical Practices are committed to providing the best possible care for our patients within the NHS system.

We are keen to evolve to remain as relevant for our community in the next half century as we have been since the foundation of the NHS. Together, with some 44,000 patients, we will be big enough to deliver modern healthcare while remaining small enough to care and be responsive to our patient needs.

If you have any queries please contact:

Gerard Newnham Practice Business Manager Granta Medical Practices 01223 727555 <a href="mailto:gerard.newnham@nhs.net">gerard.newnham@nhs.net</a>	Sandra East Administration & Communications Manager Shelford Medical Practice 01223 843661 <a href="mailto:sandra.east@nhs.net">sandra.east@nhs.net</a>
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## ***Granta Medical Practices Travel Clinic***

We have been providing a travel service here at Granta for over 30 years. To meet an ever increasing demand for travel advice, vaccinations and malaria tablets for travellers we will be expanding our service in the New Year.

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Many GP surgeries no longer provide travel services at all, so we are very excited to be able to offer our patients an increased, dedicated, and streamlined travel clinic which can offer more appointments during the week.

We will be able to offer our travellers the opportunity to purchase mosquito nets, insect repellents and travel packs with all those essential remedies, along with medical first aid kits and needle packs.

If you are planning to travel abroad, please download a risk assessment form from the website or collect one from reception. We will then provide advice on the recommended vaccinations, and any other advice you may need for your trip. We will contact you to book an appropriate appointment for you. This may be in our private clinic if you require yellow fever, rabies, Japanese encephalitis or malaria tablets, which you will need to pay for, or an NHS travel appointment will be offered if you are just needing hepatitis A, typhoid or a tetanus booster, which are free.

Remember, some vaccines need four to six weeks to complete courses, so please contact us in good time.

***Sandra Johnson, Travel Lead  
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***Small Villages Community Warden Services***

The Community Warden Service assists older people, aged 60 or over, in the villages of Balsham, Weston Colville, Horseheath, Castle Camps, Shudy Camps, West Wickham and West Wrattling, by supporting people to live independently in their own homes.

The warden makes daily contact with older people using the service either by telephone or in person to establish their well-being and what assistance is required. The service is provided Monday to Friday and can be provided on a permanent basis or for temporary periods (eg following hospital discharge).

**The Warden can assist with, for example:**

- Watering plants/feeding pets.
- Small amounts of shopping/posting letters.
- Collecting prescriptions/help with paperwork.
- Above all, to be a regular source of reassurance and information to support independent living.

The Warden Service is funded by SCDC, the parish councils and Cambridgeshire County Council. It is managed by Age UK Cambridgeshire and Peterborough and is open to local people for a small charge each week, payable to the warden.



We are pleased to welcome on board the new warden, Karen Williams, following the retirement of Sue Buckingham, who delivered an amazing service for many years. We thank Sue for all her hard work and commitment over the years, and wish Karen all the best in her new role.

If you are interested in finding out more about the Small Villages Warden Service please contact Karen Williams, Community Warden on 07436 102865 or by contacting Age UK Cambridgeshire and Peterborough on 0300 6669860.

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### West Wickham & District Local History Club

Our next meeting may be of particular interest to those from Weston Colville, as on Monday 8<sup>th</sup> January we welcome Richard Mortimer for a place names talk on ‘Middle Saxon Village Formation, and the -ham/-ton Divide’. Richard is a Senior Project Manager for Oxford Archaeology East (based at Bar Hill) with a research interest in the Middle Saxon period, and he’s a great speaker.

Meetings start at 7.30 pm in West Wickham Village Hall. Everyone is welcome; we have some members from Weston Colville and it would be lovely to have more from there and from West Wrating. There is a small charge of £2 for non-members (it does include tea/coffee and biscuits afterwards).

For further details please contact the secretary, Janet Morris (290863, [jmmorris@jmmorris.plus.com](mailto:jmmorris@jmmorris.plus.com)).

### Balsham Gardening Club

Those attending the Christmas event on 5<sup>th</sup> December were entertained by the Cambridge Harmony Chorus, a sixteen strong group of ladies, singing a capella in four-part harmony. The programme included a number of songs with a garden



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related theme, some of which were especially composed for the occasion. There was an opportunity for audience participation in a three-part and a four-part number, and finally a selection of seasonal tunes. All this was enjoyed with wine, nibbles, sausage rolls and mince pies. Thanks go to all the committee members who arranged the evening.

There is no meeting in January so the next meeting of the Balsham Gardening Club will be at 7.15 for 7.30 pm on Tuesday 6<sup>th</sup> February at the Meadow School, when Jennie Tipler will give an illustrated talk on Singapore Botanic Garden.

As always, visitors and new members are welcome.

*Jennie Tipler*

### The Ellesmere Centre, Stetchworth

#### STAFF VACANCY AT THE ELLESMERE CENTRE

To cover the office for four hours a week over two evenings, from 3.30 to 5.30 pm, plus one weekend a month (this will be mainly phone cover from home).

Will need to be available to cover for staff holidays.

Please apply in writing to the address below.

**Open Mic** is on Saturday 13<sup>th</sup> January and features the band ‘Silbury Hill’. This is the first time we have had the pleasure of hearing this band, who play a mix of folk music and acoustic rock. We will also hear many of our usual local musicians, which should make this another great night. If you would like to perform please call Rob on 01638 507997 or just come along to watch. Entrance £2.50; fully licensed bar and refreshments available.



**Crash & Burn** – Joanna Eden returns to the Ellesmere Centre on February 24<sup>th</sup> with Leigh to perform this new musical comedy cabaret, with some of the material from ‘The Unbearable Pleasures of Being a Woman’ and additional new material and songs which are guaranteed to make us laugh. ‘Crash & Burn’ was a winner at the Brighton Fringe and looks like being another great evening. Tickets available from the office.



*The Ellesmere Centre, [www.ellesmerecentre.org.uk](http://www.ellesmerecentre.org.uk)  
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Sunday 7 <sup>th</sup> January	United Service, Balsham	Bishop Stephen & Ministry Team	n/a	Louise	Maggie
Sunday 14 <sup>th</sup> January	Holy Communion	Rev Simon Talbott	Sisse	Fanny	Jenny
Sunday 21 <sup>st</sup> January	Morning Prayers	Steven Wheeler	Alex	Linda	Pauline
Sunday 28 <sup>th</sup> January	Holy Communion	Very Rev Keith Johnson	Ben	Jenny	Sue

St Mary's, Weston Colville (9.15 am)		
Sunday 7 <sup>th</sup> Jan	United Service, Balsham	Bishop Stephen & Ministry Team
Sunday 14 <sup>th</sup> Jan	Morning Prayers	Steven Wheeler
Sunday 21 <sup>st</sup> Jan	Morning Prayers	Steven Wheeler
Sunday 28 <sup>th</sup> Jan	Holy Communion	Revd Dr Carrie Pemberton Ford
January Flowers & Cleaning		Gay & Emma

## 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

### January 2018

- Mon 1 History exhibition in Reading Room (until Fri 5)
- Mon 1 Circular walk from Reading Room
- Wed 3 Weston Colville cinema club, Reading Room
- Fri 5 Tea & Cakes, Reading Room, Weston Colville
- Fri 5 First Friday bridge, West Wratting
- Sat 6 Saturday Morning Café, West Wratting
- Mon 8 Cutoff date, West Wratting oil syndicate orders
- Mon 8 Weston Colville parish council meeting
- Mon 8 West Wratting parish council meeting
- Mon 8 West Wickham history club meeting
- Tues 9 Linton WEA course 'The English Garden' begins
- Fri 12 Chris Tilly retirement gathering, Reading Room
- Fri 12 Pop-up pub, Weston Colville
- Sat 13 Balsham Community Market
- Wed 17 West Wratting book club, The Chestnut Tree
- Thur 18 Lunch club, The Chestnut Tree
- Sat 20 Progressive supper, West Wratting
- Tue 23 Seniors group, Reading Room, Weston Colville
- Wed 24 - Sat 27 'Beauty & the Beast', Ellesmere Centre
- Sat 30 Coppicing, Lower Wood, Weston Colville

### February 2018

- Tues 6 Balsham Gardening Club meeting

<b>Mobile library:</b> first Tuesday of each month (2 <sup>nd</sup> January, 6 <sup>th</sup> February)	
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Post Office, Weston Green	1.50 - 2.15
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Revd Kathy Bishop, Associate Priest  
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 Very Revd Keith Johnson, Honorary Associate Priest  
tel: 890835 email: [jkeith1412@gmail.com](mailto:jkeith1412@gmail.com)  
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 Mrs Rosemary Mead, Authorised Lay Minister  
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 Mr Keith Day, Authorised Lay Minister  
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#### Churchwardens:

St Mary's – Ian Ashbridge (291344)  
 Philippa Coates (290842)  
 St Andrew's – Sebastian Bain (403415)  
 Alex Walsham (291491)

#### Parish Council Contacts:

Weston Colville Parish Council Chairman – Ray Vidler,  
[ray.vidler@haindaniels.com](mailto:ray.vidler@haindaniels.com), 01223 290010  
 West Wratting Parish Clerk – Jenny Richards,  
[j.richards597@btinternet.com](mailto:j.richards597@btinternet.com), 01223 665260  
**Church Administrator:** Caroline (Cazzy) Walshe,  
[7churches.seven@gmail.com](mailto:7churches.seven@gmail.com), 01223 891443  
**Parish Nurse:** Claire Gillett,  
[7churches.parishnurse@gmail.com](mailto:7churches.parishnurse@gmail.com), 07498 994205

**Black bins:** Wed 3<sup>rd</sup> & Monday 15<sup>th</sup> & 29<sup>th</sup> January,  
 Monday 12<sup>th</sup> & 26<sup>th</sup> February  
**Blue bins:** Tuesday 9<sup>th</sup> & Monday 22<sup>nd</sup> January,  
 Monday 5<sup>th</sup> & 19<sup>th</sup> February  
**Green bins:** Tuesday 9<sup>th</sup> January,  
 Monday 5<sup>th</sup> & 19<sup>th</sup> February

**Editor:** Anne Bragg (290550) or email:  
[editor@challengemag.co.uk](mailto: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.

**February issue's copy date:**  
**Saturday 20<sup>th</sup> January.**