

Challenge

The Parish Newsletter of Weston Colville and West Wrattling

The views expressed herein are those of the contributors.

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A Get-Together at The Chestnut Tree

We truly hope that, in spite of current figures, 2022 will be a bit more predictable in what we are able to do, and so are planning a village get-together at The Chestnut Tree on Saturday 29th January, to reconnect, get to meet people who have moved into the village, and celebrate how lucky we are to live in such a wonderful village.

We thought the event should start at 5.30 pm to accommodate people with children. The Chestnut Tree is happy to do a buffet for us for £10 a head. This price includes children under age 10, but we will still need numbers for young children to ensure they are catered for. There will be a welcome drink but you need to buy drinks after that. Pay the pub on the day.

As always, the pub will ensure that government guidelines are observed. It might be sensible for people to do a home lateral flow test before attending. Please could you let any of the following know if you are coming, by Sunday 23rd January,:

Sherry O'Donovan (*sherry.odonovan@gmail.com*,
290070)

Suan Rowland (*suanrowland@btinternet.com*,
290788)

Sisse McCall (*sisse.mccall@googlemail.com*,
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290199)

Jan Davey (*jan.davey5@btinternet.com*,
07808 725495)

Amanda Raeburn (*amandajroy@hotmail.com*,
07772 993190)

Weston Colville Circular Walk

Join us for our now customary New Year walk, of about five miles. We'll meet at the Reading Room on Saturday 1st January at the later time of 11 am. BYO lunch and maybe something to share back in the Reading Room. All welcome, refreshments available.

291475, *jacquelinetheteacher@hotmail.com*

Tea & Cakes

Apologies for cancelling the festive Tea & Cakes in December; unfortunately the many viruses circulating depleted the available team, coupled with keeping people safe before Christmas.

We have booked Friday 21st January and Friday 11th February for the New Year, but may have to postpone these too, depending on how the government guidelines go. Updates will be posted on the village WhatsApp group.

Thank you to everyone who contributes their time and energy to make Tea & Cakes a continued success.

Val and the Team

West Wrattling Café

Our next West Wrattling café will be in the village hall on Saturday 8th January, from 10.30 am to 12 noon.

We are looking forward to catching up again over coffee and cake in the New Year. Please do come and join us!

Sherry (290070) and Catherine (291307)

West Wrattling Book Club

Our January book is 'Jane Eyre', to be discussed at the next meeting, at 7.30 pm in The Chestnut Tree on Wednesday 12th January.

Linda Gorman (290653)

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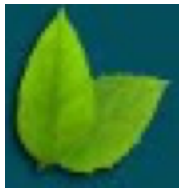
Portable Pint and Pimp My Fish

The 'Portable Pint' is holding a pop-up pub in association with the 'Pimp my Fish' food van on Friday 4th February (ohhh, I challenge you to say that fast after a few pints!). Please come along with friends and support this. More details will be posted nearer the date.

The Reading Room Committee

Veganuary Evening

Something new for the New Year! For about ten years now we've been vegan for the month of January. During this time, we've gradually learnt how to enjoy delicious, nutritious food that varies week to week, and some of our recipes have become year-round favourites. We're inviting anyone who's interested to come and share a meat-free, dairy-free feast with us at the Reading Room. If you're curious, and/or you'd like to spend an evening in good company, join us? It's on Saturday 22nd January, and dinner will be served at 7.30 pm. It's £10 a head for a two-course meal, BYO drink, just call or email by Thursday 20th January to book.



Jacqueline and Alastair Douglas

(jacquelinetheteacher@hotmail.com, 291475)

St Mary's Christmas Bazaar

We would like to thank all those who helped with, contributed to, and supported the Christmas Bazaar at St Mary's Church, Weston Colville.

We were lucky with the weather; it was a good atmosphere, and we successfully raised over £1,610 towards the upkeep of our church.


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Weston Colville Cinema Club

Until recently, Cinema Club has been sufficiently popular to make it worth our while in terms of preparation time. Of late, however, numbers have dwindled to the point of making us question its future. That said, we love doing it, we know our 'regulars' value having cinema in the village, and we're not ready to give up. So we thought we'd put together our Top Five reasons to come:



1. It offers a chance to see a film on the big screen locally and enjoy it with neighbours and friends;
2. there's always an introduction to hear interesting snippets about the film that might help you appreciate it more;
3. we provide cushions for your comfort;
4. all we ask is a donation of £2 - 3;
5. if you like the idea of your village having a monthly cinema club from autumn to spring . . . use it or lose it!

We are aware we're putting out this message in difficult times, but we're also told that we will live with this virus for some while and we know that well-managed community events are good for our

wellbeing. We offer a Covid-secure space with enough room in our Reading Room to enjoy a socially-distanced screening – seats can be arranged allowing your party to sit together – and when not in your seat, masks are recommended.

We're open to hearing anything that we could do to make it easier or more appealing to come. So far, we've offered a wide variety of films including comedy, drama, musicals, sci fi, adaptations, foreign language films, and westerns. If you would like to request a film, just drop me a line.

We begin the year with an appropriately snowy offering on Wednesday, 5th January. One of our regulars has chosen David Lean's epic romantic drama 'Dr Zhivago'. The programme starts at



7.30 pm with an introduction to the film. Donations, refreshments available, all welcome.

jacquelinetheteacher@hotmail.com, 291475

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Parish Matters

I can hardly believe we have arrived once again at the beginning of a new year. I wish you all a very Happy New Year.



What hopes do we have for 2022? What are the expectations we have for the year ahead? We might also ask ourselves what do I want? Or we could ask what small act of kindness and care can we do for others?

The pandemic has shown us how we can make a difference by all sorts of small actions for our neighbours and friends, and at the moment with the Omicron virus spreading we will need to carry on. Despite our hope that this pandemic is ending we are learning to live with it. It is more important than ever to ask ourselves how can we approach the new year? The answer lies in the poem by Minnie Louise Haskins: 'The Gate of the Year' which speaks of hope even when we cannot see into the future very clearly

The Gate of the Year –'God Knows'

And I said to the man who stood at the gate of the year:

"Give me a light that I may tread safely into the unknown."

And he replied: "Go out into the darkness and put your hand into the Hand of God.

That shall be to you better than light and safer than a known way."

So I went forth, and finding the Hand of God, trod gladly into the night.

And He led me towards the hills and the breaking of day in the lone East.

Darkness can be frightening. I am reminded of a story I tell my granddaughter that as a child one day we had a power cut at home and so out came the candles to help us to see. It happened to be bedtime. My mother and two brothers and I climbed the stairs seeing the shadows dancing on the wall of the staircase leading onto the landing. It felt really



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strange and yet we had to trust that we would not come to any harm, and we didn't. As we go into the new year some may have had a really good time but others maybe facing bereavement or illness.

By remembering we have just celebrated Christmas and the birth of Jesus we can receive hope just like the shepherds and wise men on a journey to the manger to meet the Christ child. Jesus the saviour of the world comes to those who are in darkness helping us to take the next step forward. God loves us all so much so that whatever we face we are not alone. We can trust the words of Julian of Norwich: "All things shall be well and all manner of things shall be well".

This year when thinking of new year's resolutions we could each day perform small acts of kindness with great love, as Mother Teresa of Calcutta suggests for the vulnerable in our society. You won't go far wrong with this approach in 2022.

In Balsham on Sunday 9th January there will once again be a Plough Sunday service, starting at 9.30 am. The Balsham ploughmen have a long-held tradition of collecting money for good causes in the village. All are welcome to join us for this service to find out more about this tradition.

Rev Kathy Bishop

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Platinum Jubilee – Village Celebrations?

HM the Queen will be celebrating her Platinum Jubilee in June 2022. An additional Bank Holiday has been awarded, and the weekend 2nd - 5th June 2022 will see the majority of the national celebrations marking this historic milestone taking place.

On behalf of the village, Weston Colville parish council put an article in the September issue of *Challenge*, asking for suggestions as to how the jubilee might be celebrated, but received only one reply.

This is not a parish council event, though I am happy to co-ordinate the efforts if required, and some limited funding is available. It is a community event, and needs involvement from the community if it is to be the success we hope for. Please do get in touch if you think you can add to the day, or have any additional idea we can work with.

Previous jubilees have been celebrated with sports day events, flower competitions, church services, a rerun of the Coronation on video, a hog roast, a bring a picnic party, a group photograph, a Punch & Judy show, and the planting of a commemorative tree. Jubilee mugs were given to the children of the parish. Cake sales were held to help provide some funding.

If you would like something along these lines again, or have some fresh ideas of your own to share, please do let us know. If you would be willing to assist in the organisation contact me at *bridgetdurham@btinternet.com* or via the parish council website, <https://westoncolville.org.uk/contact-us/> If any group or organisation would like to look after their ‘bit’ for the day, that would be appreciated. A bar, perhaps, or a musical entertainment, a church service, a display of royal memorabilia?

Let’s see if we can have an event to remember.

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Nature Notes

We have some very good news about your Marsh Tits – several colour-ringed birds were spotted in December. Green over White over Red ‘Henry’, Black over White over Black ‘Rasputin’ and Red over White over Green ‘Useless Eustace’ have all been seen at Joyce Oliver's legendary bird feeders in Weston Colville. Henry was one year old, Rasputin two years, and Eustace was four years old. Pretty good, but Black over Red ‘Moaty’ was seen by the Heald family and Len and Ben Eeles in Church End. This venerable bird was ringed as an adult in 2017, so it was at least five years old when seen in December. It is our oldest known surviving Marsh Tit.

Bird ages are determined from the start of the calendar year, so, given the high chance all these birds will still be alive a couple of weeks later, they will all be one year older in 2022. Moaty is now at least six years old, just over half the age of the oldest Marsh Tit ever recorded in the UK. So Moaty is still a spring chicken!

For those of you wondering what bird was hiding under the Santa hat last month, it was a male Brambling (*Fringilla montifringilla*) in winter plumage. Sadly, this bird migrates back to northern

Europe for the spring and summer months, so we don't see its magnificent breeding plumage, shown here (with thanks to eBird).



With hope and best wishes for 2022,

*Alex Inzani and the
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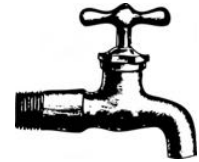
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At the time of writing this piece, we are experiencing a high level of staff absence. We have no doubt that this will continue as Covid, 'flu and Norovirus continue to take their toll over the winter months, combined with ever-changing Covid guidelines. We will continue to try and provide the best possible service we can to all of our patients, but please bear with us as day-to-day operations may be disrupted. Below are some hints and tips to help you help yourself and in turn help us and the NHS:-

SELF-CARE: you can treat many minor illnesses such as colds and coughs, sore throats and upset stomachs at home. Make sure you are stocked up with healthcare essentials such as pain relief (eg Paracetamol), cough and sore throat remedies, upset stomach treatment, rehydration treatment, heartburn / indigestion treatments, and a first aid kit.

USE YOUR LOCAL PHARMACIST: they can offer you advice and guidance on your symptoms and on the best treatment for you – no appointment needed.

USE THE NHS UK SYMPTOM CHECKER
www.nhs.uk: this helpful tool can guide you through your symptoms and direct you to the most appropriate health service for your needs.

RING NHS 111, OPTION 2: if you are experiencing a mental health crisis this First Response Service puts your mental health first. It provides 24-hour access, 7 days a week, 365 days a year, to mental health care, advice, support and treatment.

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Thank you for your continued understanding, patience and support.

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Marsh Mail

While it was not been possible to have our full calendar of regular festive events, we continued to mark the season in a range of ways. A Christmas Jumper Day was held in December to raise money for a number of charitable causes. The whole of Year 7 learnt Christmas carols in French and Spanish in their lessons to perform an inter-class singing competition.

Coming together as a community to enjoy live music is a highlight of the school calendar. It is a shame that it was not safe to do so en masse, huddled together in Balsham Church. I am grateful to colleagues for finding ingenious ways to celebrate and share the musical talents of LVC students.



Our team of peripatetic music teachers compiled a virtual Christmas Carol Concert. A recording of readings and performances from a variety of ensembles were streamed on the school's website. The variety of talent was a joy to listen to.

Helena Marsh



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It was great to see the whole squadron parade on Remembrance Sunday, with 2523 Linton parading through both Castle Camps and Linton. Having not been back face to face very long it was fantastic to see the cadets turned out so smartly, in numbers sufficient to parade both the Union Flag and the squadron banners.

We continue to thrive, with five new instructor cadets – congratulations to Sergeants Fenn and Murray and Corporals Morris, Newell and Vellacott. Passing the assessment isn't easy and we look forward to you teaching on squadron.

Our first class cadet training has been completed, and our new first class cadets have also been awarded their St John's Ambulance Essential First Aid certificates, a fantastic qualification to hold.



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2 nd		United Service with Holy Communion – Balsham, Revd Iain McColl/Amanda Goodman
9 th	Holy Communion – Weston Colville, Revd Iain McColl Plough Sunday Service – Balsham (9.30 am), Rev Kathy Bishop	United Service with Holy Communion – Little Abington, Revd Iain McColl
16 th	Morning Worship – West Wrating, Steven Wheeler	United Service with Holy Communion – Balsham, Revd Iain McColl
23 rd	Holy Communion – West Wrating, Revd Iain McColl Morning Worship – Weston Colville, Steven Wheeler	United Service with Holy Communion – Hildersham, Revd Iain McColl
30 th	Holy Communion (BCP) – Hildersham, Revd Iain McColl Holy Communion – West Wickham (9.30 am), Rev Kathy Bishop	United Service with Holy Communion – Balsham, Revd Iain McColl

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Revd Kathy Bishop, Associate Priest
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jess@agrarian.biz, 07779 277647
West Wrating Parish Clerk: Jenny Richards,
j.richards597@btinternet.com, 01223 665260
Community Warden: Lucy Cameron,
Lucy.Cameron@AgeUKCAP.org.uk, 07436 102865
Parish Nurse: Kim Cox,
7churches.parishnurse@gmail.com, 07498 994205

DIARY

January 2022

Sat 1 Weston Colville Circular Walk
Wed 5 Weston Colville Cinema Club
Sat 8 West Wrating Café
Mon 10 West Wrating Parish Council Meeting
Tues 11 LALA course begins, Linton
Wed 12 West Wrating Book Club
Thur 20 Lunch Club, The Chestnut Tree
Fri 21 Tea & Cakes, Weston Colville Reading Room
Sat 22 Veganuary Evening, Reading Room
Sat 29 Village Get-Together, The Chestnut Tree

Mobile Post Office: Thursdays, Reading Room car park, Weston Colville, 12.30 - 1.30 pm

Mobile library: first Tuesdays – 4th Jan, 1st Feb
High Street, West Wrating 12.15 - 12.45 pm
Weston Green 1.50 - 2.15 pm
Mill Hill, Weston Colville 2.20 - 2.50 pm

Black bins: Wed 12th & Monday 24th January, Monday 7th & 21st February
Blue bins: Thur 6th, Tues 18th & Mon 31st Jan, Mon 14th & 28th December
Green bins: Collections were suspended from Mon 13th December because of the number of operatives absent. It is hoped to resume on **Tues 18th January** (and then Mon 14th Feb)



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

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

Please note February issue's copy date:

Thursday 20th January