

# Challenge

The Parish Newsletter of Weston Colville and West Wrating

The views expressed herein are those of the contributors.

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## ***West Wrating Community Café***

Happy New Year! Our first café of 2023 will be on Saturday 7<sup>th</sup> January at the village hall from 10.30 am until noon. Do join us for tea, coffee, hot chocolate and, of course, lovely homemade cakes.

***Sherry (290070) and JanC***

## ***Tea and Cakes***

Thank you to everyone who visited in December and donated so generously to our chosen charity 'Reach'. To our regulars who visit T&Cs every month, your chats and support are very much appreciated by our small community. The next meeting is Friday 20<sup>th</sup> January, 3.30 - 5 pm.

***Val and the team***

## ***A Warm Welcome continues . . .***

The Warm Hub at the Reading Room will continue through January and probably to March if the facility is useful. Opening details are as follows:

Monday	Quiet day for home workers, crafters and readers
Tuesday	Social day for all
Wednesday	Social day with events including home-made soup and roll at 12.30
Thursday	CLOSED
Friday	Quiet day

Free refreshments and WiFi, of course.

Opening times have changed slightly: 11.00 to 16.00. People seem to go home as it gets dark!

The Warm Hub will close after Tea & Cakes on Friday 16<sup>th</sup> December and open again on Monday 9<sup>th</sup> January.

My continued thanks to the loyal band of volunteers who have kept the place running.

***Bob Coates (cheviotbob@me.com, 07785 361345)***

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

We will meet on 11<sup>th</sup> January for a New Year meal. We hope to have readings of our favourite poems on the subject of New Year or winter. The review of 'The Marriage Portrait' by Maggie O'Farrell will be in the February Challenge. Happy New Year.

***Linda Gorman (290653)***

## ***Weston Colville Winter Lunch***

Save the date, March 5<sup>th</sup>, for Winter Lunch 2023!

Superb Sunday roast with veggie option at the Reading Room; bar / raffle / great company.

Raising funds for St Mary's and local charities.

Get it in your diary now! More details to follow in February's Challenge.

***Weston Colville PCC***

## ***Weston Colville Circular Walk***

For our now-traditional walk on New Year's Day we'll meet at the Reading Room at 11 am to deal with those cobwebs. BYO lunch and maybe something to share back in the Reading Room afterwards; refreshments available. All welcome – come and join us? Enquiries: [jacquelinetheteacher@hotmail.com](mailto:jacquelinetheteacher@hotmail.com), 291475.

***Jacqueline Douglas***

## ***Balsham Picture House***

The January film, on Saturday 14<sup>th</sup> January, will be the recently released family film 'The Railway Children Return' (PG) starring Jenny Agutter and Sheridan Smith. (Please note the date is a week later than previously advertised.)

***Dick Paden***

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***The Chestnut Tree – Planning Application***

We remain as committed as ever to the pub and wish to remain here for a number of years yet, however COVID made us seriously re-evaluate our work/life balance, especially as we are now in our fifties. To allay any possible fears anyone may have concerning the pub, we wish to make everyone aware that we are about to submit a planning application to build a house. Full plans will be available to view shortly by visiting the planning portal for South Cambs District Council.

The site includes areas which are surplus to the operation of the pub. We therefore intend to demolish the garage to the south and utilise the area and our private garden to provide a new car park. This will not result in any loss of parking as it will be delineated, and there will also be cycle parking and a designated disabled space. Low level perimeter lighting will be installed, thereby reducing light pollution from the current overhead lighting to the existing car park, and noise pollution will be reduced due to the use of permeable block paving rather than shingle. The car park entrance will also be in a safer position as it will no longer be close to the junction. The commercial bins will be re-sited and the removal of the ugly garage will provide a clear view of the lovely stone wall to the rear. The pub garden will still be of a good size to comfortably accommodate up to eighty people outside.

Although comfortable, the living accommodation above the pub makes it very difficult for us to relax and live a 'normal' life whilst not at work. This is also impacting on our teenage daughter who, now she is older, needs more privacy and space. As is common with most pubs, we do not have a kitchen or any dining or entertaining space upstairs. We

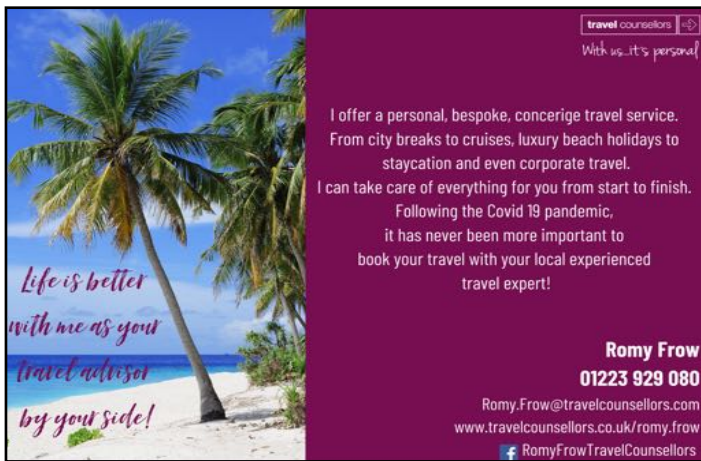
therefore wish to build a family home for ourselves, in the existing car park, whilst we continue to run the pub. This will also enable us, when we reach retirement, to remain in the village where we have lived for so long.

We sold our home to purchase the pub which, at the time, was in a poor state of repair and running at a loss. Thankfully, after ten years of hard work and continual investment, this is no longer the case, but during that period pub values have barely moved, whilst house prices have surged by 70%. This means that we could potentially face zero financial return on our investment and would struggle to get back on the housing ladder.

We believe that our plans will help protect the pub, as well as addressing our current and future needs as a family. Once we do come to retire the site will be sold as a going concern and we believe the absence of surplus land will make the site less attractive to a property developer.

Our plan is to build an Eco House and the level of disruption to the pub and our neighbours will be minimal. The majority will be constructed off site and the house should be up and watertight in two weeks, with a total build time of twelve weeks. As a nod to the smithy which originally stood where the garage is currently, our new home will be of a traditional design, clad in black larch to give the appearance of a barn. We hope it will be viewed as an attractive addition to the village.

***Peter & Rachel***



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**Parish Matters**

First and foremost, please allow me to wish you a very Happy New Year. It is hard to believe that we are at the beginning of a new year, 2023. I hope you all had a joyous advent and Christmas times with those who you know and love.



I have always thought that January has been a good time to reflect; taking stock of all that has been in the last year and our hopes and expectations for all that will be, this coming year.

What will 2023 bring, I wonder? My mind turns back to those Eastern travellers long ago who saw a star in the sky, set out on an uncharted journey and eventually found a King. Not the sort of King expected, but one who opened up new horizons for the whole world. The one who offers us unconditional love, forgiveness, and the way back to God; with no reason to hide away. When I reflect in January, I am asking questions which search for deeper meaning. What sort of Journey will you take this year?

As Christians it's not so much of us walking with God but rather God walking with us. So, no matter what twists and turns the road takes us this coming year, or even if we slip from following in God's way, He will

never give up on us and will never let us walk alone. "Rejoice in the Lord always; again, I will say, Rejoice. Let your gentleness be known to everyone. The Lord is near. Do not worry about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God." Those verses seem to offer a us the light of a star to guide us as we navigate our journey in the year to come.

My brothers and sisters in Christ, may you know God's presence and grace as He walks with you into this New Year. My hope and my prayer are that God grants you the desires of your heart in 2023.

*Reverend Ben Brady*



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**Call for Winter Aid for Ukraine Refugees**

A collection of winter items for the people of Ukraine is to be held on Saturday 14<sup>th</sup> January at Abington Primary School car park from 9 am until 1 pm. It is being supported by  **Rotary** in Saffron Walden headmaster Guy Underwood and Revd Ian McColl of the Granta Churches.

The ongoing conflict in Ukraine creates continuing hardship for those displaced and affected by the war. The current need is for good warm clothing and thermal garments, blankets, duvets and sleeping bags, towels, sheets and bedding items, toiletries and cleaning materials, medical supplies – bandages, plasters – and activity games for children.


Tony Collett of Rotary in Saffron Walden will have a lorry parked on the playground in the High St and with others will be on-hand to take items from cars. Cash donations to assist in transportation costs are also accepted and



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- Medical supplies - bandages, plasters

and more - check out the full list - scan this QR code or go to: [www.uk-aid.org/news/article/ukraine-crisis](http://www.uk-aid.org/news/article/ukraine-crisis)



**Please bring your donations to Abington Primary School on Saturday 14th January 2023 from 9am until 1pm for the Rotary van collection.**

**Organised by**  **Rotary** in Saffron Walden **Supported by**  **People of Action**  **Granta Vale Churches**

*Rotary in Saffron Walden working with UK-Aid*

these can also be made at the Rotary collection point in cash or by credit card on the 14<sup>th</sup> January. “As the war continues more is still needed and it's really comforting having Rotarians on our side to fight this massive problem” said Alan Hilliar, co-founder of UK-Aid.

Please call me on 01223 893447 if you want me to collect items, and by the way Jeremiah’s Café at the institute will be open from 10 am for those who would like a winter warmer.

**Tony Collett, Saffron Walden Rotary**

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**\* In 2023 I would like to . . . stay healthy**

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Also, are you up to date with the vaccinations you are eligible for, eg flu, shingles, pneumonia? If you are unsure please do not hesitate to contact us and we can check for you.

**\* In 2023 I would like to . . . go on holiday**

Are you planning a holiday of a lifetime in 2023? The Granta Travel Clinic team can give you advice on what vaccines and medications you may need for your trip away. Simply fill out a travel form via our website or call in to pick up a leaflet.

*Sandra East, Head of Patient Services*

*(sandra.east@nhs.net)*

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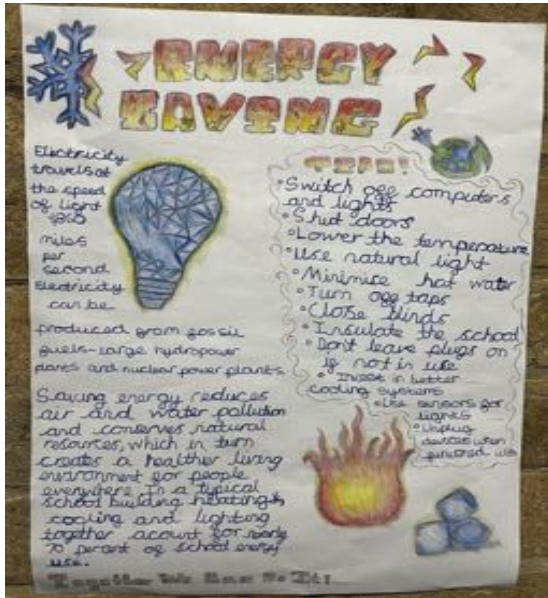
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## ***The Meadow, Balsham***

It certainly has been a very busy but productive end of term for us all at The Meadow!

**School Council** – our School Council, made up of Year 6 team captains and a representative from each class, has been having regular meetings throughout the term focusing on our year-long Eco Campaign, and have come up with ways to try and save energy in school, created posters to display



around our school, and led a Team Assembly to inform the rest of the school as to what they can do to help the campaign.

**Maths Workshops** – Mrs Searle, our Maths Subject Leader, ran two Problem Solving Workshops for



parents and carers. After explaining how we teach the pupils to solve maths problems, and strategies that could be used at home to support this, the adults went to work with the children in the classrooms. Both adults and pupils enjoyed this time explaining these strategies and working together.

**Sporting Events** – we have competed in many sporting events over the term. The last one of the term was Cross Country at Wimpole Hall. Four teams of boys and four teams of girls in Key Stage 2 had to run for a mile over uneven and muddy ground. The children did themselves and the school proud by giving 100% effort but also supporting every single runner. They stood on the finish line and cheered all

finishers across the line regardless of which school they attended. One of our pupils finished third out of 120 boys and another won one of the 'Spirit of the Games' awards. The Year 5 and 6 team came third overall out of 24 schools, which was amazing!

We are looking forward to returning to school in January 2023, refreshed and ready for some new learning as well as welcoming parents and carers in for Spelling, Writing and Reading workshops.

*Nicky Butcher, Deputy Head*

## ***Marsh Mail***

The month of December was filled with festivities including our Christmas Arts Showcase, a trip to watch the choir at Kings College, and a range of charitable events, including a reverse advent and fundraising through a Christmas jumper day and fayre.

It has also been a really busy time of year for our oldest students who have received their mock exam results and have been making applications for sixth form colleges. We are fortunate to have a very strong team of invigilators from the local community. The expertise and organisation of this group of staff really helps to create a smooth and efficient exam process.

It was lovely to welcome back last year's Year 11 cohort and their families for the GCSE presentation and awards evening, and to hear about how well they have transitioned to post-16 education. The speeches from form tutors and conversations afterwards highlighted the importance of relationships between staff and students and each other as part of the school community.

We are grateful for the amazing work of the Friends of LVC who support school events such as this. A new Friends committee is in place and they play an active role in raising funds to improve educational facilities and experiences for our young people. LVC students also benefit hugely from the funds from the Linton Fireworks display.

We look forward to our school production taking place on 2<sup>nd</sup> – 4<sup>th</sup> February; tickets for 'High School Musical' are available via Ticket Source.

*Helena Marsh*



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## Mobility Aids Loan Service

A small team of dedicated volunteers from Christchurch, Newmarket, has been providing a Mobility Aids Loan service in the Newmarket area for several years. There is a great variety of equipment, and a lot of it, so do let people know that it is there to be loaned out with a small deposit. Do ring (and leave a message if out of hours) and someone will get back to you.

Sample of equipment available: back rests; bath seats and boards; bed cradle; bed over-table; commodes; crutches; leg-raisers; perching stools; raised toilet seats; shower stools; toilet surround frame; walking frames/sticks; wheelchairs (adult & child).

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### *The Golden Age of Dutch Art*

Linton Area Learning Alliance (LALA) starts a new course, 'The Golden Age of Dutch Art' from 10<sup>th</sup> January on Tuesday mornings in Linton Village Hall, Coles Lane from 10.00 am to 11.45, including a coffee break. The cost for the 10 weeks is £50.

We will welcome back Deborah Monteiro, who has presented very informative and well-illustrated art courses in previous years. Deborah says "The history of Holland in the 17<sup>th</sup> century is a unique success story of a newly independent country giving birth to a flourishing culture and wealthy society that can be understood perfectly through its artistic production. This golden age sees artists of different classes catering for its own people and creating a variety of art that reflects the new ethos and interests of the time. This will provide a vital legacy for developments in European art in the future."

Please contact me for more information or to register interest.

*Sue Mudge (892737, muges.linton@btinternet.com)*

### *Linton Library*

Our new monthly '**Read a Little Aloud**' session: Friday 6<sup>th</sup> January, 10.45 am – 11.30am. Relax and listen as library volunteers and staff read from a variety of stories, poetry and literature for adults.

**Knit and Natter:** 2 pm on Tuesday 10<sup>th</sup> and 24<sup>th</sup> January. Bring along your latest craft project.

**Rhyme and Storytime** will be 10.30 – 11 am on Tuesday 17<sup>th</sup> and 31<sup>st</sup> January.

**Library opening hours:** Tuesday 10 am - 5 pm;  
Wednesday 4 - 7 pm; Thursday 2 - 5 pm;  
Friday 10 am - 5 pm; Saturday 10 am - 1 pm.

*Ann King, Community Library Assistant, Linton*



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**It's Panto Time**, "oh no it isn't!" The Ellesmere Devils Pantomime society is performing 'Dick Whittington' from Wednesday 1<sup>st</sup> February to Saturday 4<sup>th</sup> February. Tickets are available from [www.ticketsource.co.uk/EDPS](http://www.ticketsource.co.uk/EDPS)

*The Ellesmere Centre, [www.ellesmerecentre.org.uk](http://www.ellesmerecentre.org.uk)  
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JAN	9.30 am	11.00 am	4.00/6.00 pm
1 <sup>st</sup>		<b>United Service with Holy Communion</b> – Balsham, <i>Rev Iain McColl/Steven Wheeler</i>	
8 <sup>th</sup>	<b>Holy Communion</b> – Weston Colville, <i>Revd Iain McColl/ Rev Ben Brady</i> <b>Morning Worship</b> – West Wickham, <i>Alistair Collen</i>	<b>Holy Communion</b> – Little Abington, <i>Revd Iain McColl/Rev Ben Brady</i> <b>Morning Worship</b> – Balsham, <i>Hannah Threlfall</i>	<b>Evening Prayer (6.00 pm)</b> – West Wrating, <i>Alistair Collen</i>
15 <sup>th</sup>	<b>Holy Communion</b> – West Wrating, <i>Revd Iain McColl</i> <b>Morning Worship</b> – West Wickham, <i>Church Warden led</i>	<b>Holy Communion</b> – Balsham, <i>Revd Iain McColl</i> <b>Holy Communion</b> – Great Abington <i>Revd Ben Brady</i>	<b>Evening Prayer (6.00 pm)</b> – Hildersham, <i>Revd Ben Brady</i>
22 <sup>nd</sup>	<b>Holy Communion</b> – West Wickham, <i>Revd Iain McColl</i> <b>Holy Communion</b> – Weston Colville, <i>Revd Ben Brady</i>	<b>Holy Communion</b> – Hildersham, <i>Revd Iain McColl/Alistair Collen</i> <b>Holy Communion</b> – Balsham, <i>Revd Ben Brady</i>	<b>Evening Prayer (4.00 pm)</b> – Little Abington, <i>Alistair Collen</i>
28 <sup>th</sup>	<b>Morning Worship</b> – Hildersham, <i>Steven Wheeler</i> <b>Holy Communion</b> – West Wrating, <i>Revd Iain McColl</i> <b>Holy Communion</b> – West Wickham, <i>Revd Ben Brady</i>	<b>Holy Communion</b> – Balsham <i>Revd Iain McColl</i> <b>Holy Communion</b> – Great Abington <i>Revd Ben Brady</i>	

## DIARY

### January 2023

- Sun 1 Weston Colville Circular Walk  
 Sat 7 West Wrating Café  
 Mon 9 Weston Colville Warm Hub reopens  
 West Wrating Parish Council meeting  
 Tues 10 LALA course begins, Linton Village Hall  
 Wed 11 West Wrating Book Club, The Chestnut Tree  
 Weston Colville Parish Council meeting  
 Sat 14 Collection for Ukraine Refugees, Abington  
 Balsham Picture House  
 Thur 19 Lunch Club, The Chestnut Tree  
 Fri 20 Tea & Cakes, Weston Colville

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[john@easterncountiesoilservices.co.uk](mailto:john@easterncountiesoilservices.co.uk)

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

**Mobile library: fourth Thursday:** 26<sup>th</sup> Jan, 23<sup>rd</sup> Feb  
 High Street, West Wrating 10.20 - 11.00 am  
 Reading Room, Weston Green 11.10 - 11.45 am  
 Mill Hill, Weston Colville 11.50 - 12.15 pm

### Revd Iain McColl

01223 890693, [mccoll.iain@gmail.com](mailto:mccoll.iain@gmail.com)

### Rev Ben Brady

01223 344920, [evdbenbrady@btinternet.com](mailto:evdbenbrady@btinternet.com)

### Mr Steven Wheeler, Licensed Lay Minister

01223 290396, [steven@juicyfruitsuk.com](mailto:steven@juicyfruitsuk.com)

### Churchwardens:

St Mary's – Ian Ashbridge (291344)  
 St Andrew's – Sebastian Bain (07736 198101)

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

**Weston Colville Parish Clerk:** Jess Ashbridge,  
[jess@agrarian.biz](mailto:jess@agrarian.biz), 07779 277647

**West Wrating Parish Clerk:** Jenny Richards,  
[j.richards597@btinternet.com](mailto:j.richards597@btinternet.com), 01223 665260

**Community Warden:** Lucy Cameron,  
[Lucy.Cameron@AgeUKCAP.org.uk](mailto:Lucy.Cameron@AgeUKCAP.org.uk), 07436 102865

**Black bins:** Tuesday 10<sup>th</sup> & Monday 23<sup>rd</sup> January,  
 Monday 6<sup>th</sup> & 20<sup>th</sup> February

**Blue bins:** Wed 4<sup>th</sup>, Monday 16<sup>th</sup> & 30<sup>th</sup> January,  
 Monday 13<sup>th</sup> & 27<sup>th</sup> February

**Green bins:** Monday 16<sup>th</sup> January,  
 Monday 13<sup>th</sup> February

**Editor:** Anne Bragg ([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, so please resend. Some contributions may have to be edited, to fit the space available, and are published at the discretion of the editor.

**Copy date for February's issue:**  
**Friday 20<sup>th</sup> January**