

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 Saturday Café

Our next café will be on Saturday 4th February in West Wrating Village Hall from 10.30 am until noon.

We had such a good turn out in January, and welcomed new families to the village. It was great to have some youngsters playing with the toys and enjoying hot chocolate! So please do join us for delicious home made cakes and coffee. Everyone is welcome.

Sherry and Jan

Tea and Cakes

It was lovely to reconnect with everyone at T&Cs in January after the festive season. February's session will be after the school half-term holiday, on Friday 24th, 3.30 - 5 pm. To all young people taking mock exams at that time, come and recharge your brain cells with a guilt-free piece of cake, and good luck!

Val and the Team

Weston Colville Winter Lunch

March 5th, 12.30 for 1 pm,
in the Reading Room

- Superb Sunday roast, pudding and coffee
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23rd February

5 - 8 pm

Reading Room, Weston Colville

Tech Clinic

Is your iPhone giving you a phobia? Does your laptop do a flip flop? Is Alexa all xxxx's? Join our IT clinic from 11.00 am to 1.00 pm on Friday 3rd February in the Reading Room Warm Hub.

We can't promise to solve all issues but we might be able to point you in the right direction. Also, shared knowledge is a valuable thing, so bring your device and your troubles and let's see what we can do. If the clinic is popular, we may well repeat it!

*David Poulton (IT expert),
Bob Coates (for the Warm Hub)*

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The Warm Hub Continues . . .

The Warm Hub at the Reading Room will continue through February and if there is demand, March as well. The Reading Room is open weekdays, 11 am - 4 pm, except for Thursdays, with free refreshments and WiFi. There will always be someone to chat with over a cuppa!

All four days will be 'social days', with a quieter desk area for anyone who needs peace (bringing headphones is recommended).

Wednesdays have been our busiest days, most probably because of the excellent soup'n'roll lunches provided by Emma Kaye and Ruth Hazelman.

There will also be craft events led by Jess Ashbridge and Philippa Coates each Wednesday afternoon, 1.30 - 3.30 pm.

Our first Tech Clinic will take place on Friday 3rd February (see details on front page of *Challenge*).

We are grateful for the continued support of the Weston Colville Parish Council and ACRE in making this possible.

Bob Coates (07785 361345) & Reading Room Trust

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West Wrattling Oil Syndicate

There will be a West Wrattling oil syndicate fill-up this month with an order cut-off of Monday 6th February at 6.30 pm. Place your orders either by email to me at westwrattlingoil@gmail.com, putting your surname in the subject box, or by phone/text on 07982 291922. I will reply to all communications within 48 hours. If you require a 'fill-up' please provide a rough estimate of the quantity and also make sure that you tell me if you have any special delivery requirements.

Remember that syndicate orders take at least a couple of weeks from the cut-off 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 price.

Phil Tempest (westwrattlingoil@gmail.com)

Weston Colville Oil Co-operative

Ordering deadline: **noon, Sunday 12th February.**

Church End to the bottom of Mill Hill:

Alastair Douglas (291475, or salguoda@hotmail.co.uk)

Chapel Road, Common Road, Horseshoe Lane:

Anne Vidler (290010, or anne.vidler@talk21.com)

Any orders left by email will always be acknowledged; if you do not get a reply, we haven't received your order. Please don't phone before 8 am or after 10 pm (leave a message during the day). We keep a note of any special requirements, such as needing a phone call the day before delivery to arrange access; please let us know if you wish to change these. The minimum delivery is 500 litres; this is a Trading Standards ruling because of the accuracy of lorry gauges. To get the minimum ask for 500 litres; do not ask for a 'top up' because you might get a 'fill up'.

Please ensure we have your correct address and post code. If you are close to running out, tell your contact. The price will not be known until the order is placed, and the supplier may ring for payment before delivery (failure to reply to this call may put your order in jeopardy) or bill you direct after delivery.

Anne Vidler

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Weston Colville Circular Walk

For our New Year walk, we had sunshine after the rain and managed to avoid the worst of the mud. The route took us towards Burrough Green and home via Brinkley and Willingham Green.



The next walk-and-lunch will be on Saturday 11th March; we'll meet at the Reading Room at 10 am. BYO lunch and maybe something to share back in the Reading Room afterwards. All welcome – come and join us?

jacquelinetheteacher@hotmail.com, 291475

Weston Colville Book Exchange

The book exchange is running low on books. If you have had or are having a post Christmas clear-out, please remember your local book exchange. For the odd book, there is a box on the floor of the book exchange, otherwise please drop off bags/boxes with any of us or give Joyce a call (07980 404764) to arrange collection. Happy reading in 2023!

Joyce, Jackie, Jacqueline and Emma

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Weston Colville Parish Council

Weston Colville Parish Council has vacancies for parish councillors to join the council by co-option.

Anyone eligible is invited to consider whether they feel able to take part in the work the council carries out for the benefit of the village, and in helping influence decisions taken at higher tiers of government to ensure that the views and opinions of the villagers of Weston Colville are taken into consideration.

Parish councillors strive to improve the quality of life within the parish. Examples of the tasks they undertake include commenting on local planning applications, maintenance of the playgrounds, speed indicator device data collecting and management, flooding working party, and being a point of contact for parishioners in relation to local matters.

If anyone feels able to put themselves forward in this way, please contact the clerk, Jess Ashbridge, on 07779 277647.

If you would like information as to what this voluntary role involves in more detail, and its impact on your 'spare time', do contact us so we may answer any questions.

Please note that candidates must be eligible to stand for the position, namely:

- be aged 18 years or over, be a qualifying British or Commonwealth citizen, and be on the electoral roll in the parish;
- or, during the whole of the twelve months before he/she is nominated as a candidate, have occupied land or other premises as owner or tenant in the parish;
- or, during the same period, have resided in that area or within three miles thereof;
- or, during the same period, had his/her principal or only place of work in that area.

We look forward to hearing from those interested.

*Jess Ashbridge
(Clerk, Weston Colville Parish Council)*

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West Wratting Book Club

Our December book was 'The Marriage Portrait' by Maggie O'Farrell, the fictionalised story of Lucrezia di Cosimo de' Medici and what happened to her after her marriage at the age of 15 to Alfonso II d'Este, Duke of Ferrara.

All enjoyed this book and described it as an exciting read with excellent writing and quite haunting, and a sense of immediacy and menace, making you feel you were there. It is an interesting and well-researched picture of life for women in Renaissance Italy. It shows, in particular, the expectations of those born into aristocratic families and contrasts this with that of the servant class. The differences between the city states, not least the dialects, are highlighted. It is culturally and politically interesting, with one of our number seeing parallels with the way women are treated in Afghanistan, with reference to our previous read. One person wondered if we were in danger of applying modern attitudes to the story, in particular, women being married at such a young age.

Scores were between 8.5 and 9.5 out of 10.

We met in January with partners for a New Year meal at The Chestnut Tree pub. We all enjoyed catching up after Christmas and talking about books we had received or had been reading. This meant that we did

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not get to our Winter/New Year readings. However, here is an appropriate poem by Longfellow:

Woods in Winter

When winter winds are piercing chill,
And through the hawthorn blows the gale,
With solemn feet I tread the hill,
That overbrows the lonely vale.

O'er the bare upland, and away
Through the long reach of desert woods,
The embracing sunbeams chastely play;
And gladden these deep solitudes.

Where, twisted round the barren oak,
The summer vine in beauty clung,
And summer winds the stillness broke,
The crystal icicle is hung.

Where, from their frozen urns, mute springs
Pour out the river's gradual tide,
Shrilly the skater's iron rings,
And voices fill the woodland side.

Alas! how changed from the fair scene,
When birds sang out their mellow lay,
And winds were soft, and woods were green,
And the song ceased not with the day.

But still wild music is abroad,
Pale, desert woods! within your crowd;
And gathering winds, in hoarse accord,
Amid the vocal reeds pipe loud.

Chill airs and wintry winds! My ear
Has grown familiar with your song;
I hear it in the opening year,--
I listen, and it cheers me long.

We are reading two short books for February, 'The Sense of an Ending' by Julian Barnes and 'The Lover' by Marguerite Duras. We will meet at The Chestnut Tree at 7.30 pm on Wednesday 8th February.

Linda Gorman (290653)

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Parish Matters

When our village churches were first built, some six or seven hundred years ago, Christmas was a season of celebration and feasting that lasted for well over a month. Officially the festivities ended on 2nd February, the Feast of Candlemas.



How things have changed. We know now that Christmas is over when Easter chocolates start appearing on the supermarket shelves early in January!

The Bible reading for Candlemas records the words of a holy old man who finds the child Jesus in the Temple in Jerusalem. Simeon thanks God for this gift of having at last seen the child destined to be a 'light of revelation' and hope to the world, and so he can die in peace. Candlemas gets its name from the candles, the lights people would bring to church on that day, to be blessed and lit through the long dark days of winter and deprivations of Lent before Easter finally arrived. Yet for us, this February, finding things to reasonably hope for may seem something of a stretch.

Our forebears endured precarious lives. But in our generation, we have learned to take for granted predictable seasonal weather, and steady progress on many fronts: an increased standard of living, longer

healthier lives, and an increasingly democratic world. And all this progress, probably not driven by a God in the sky as much as by the science and reason which have made us, we believe, the masters of our own destiny.

However, there's much happening in the world today to make you wonder if the progress we enjoyed is stalling. The relationships within and between nations is again creaking badly. And we are only promised increasingly severe weather events and uncertain seasonal patterns.

Falling back on the certainties of our ancestors isn't an option. So is there anything we might still learn from the light and hope of Candlemas, within the whole pattern of the Christian year, to help sustain us in our uncertain times? Things which perhaps our village forebears, in their lives bound more closely together, took for granted, but in a world of rivalry, greed and increasing suspicion we fail to see. I think there is. In our community, we all need each other. And to 'make it' with each other we need the light of seeing our mutual vulnerabilities, and the light of compassion and sacrifice, and the light to find joy in each other as the only underpinning giving our lives real meaning and true hope.

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Potholes

The local roads have many potentially dangerous potholes. The parish councils meet bi-monthly with the Highways representative and district and county councillors to discuss this. Other issues are also reported, eg for West Wrating: repainting the 'give way' sign at the junction with Honey Hill, the repainting of the 30 mph signs at the entrances to the village, and the state of the pavement in the High Street.

This link can be used to report problems with roads and pavements:

www.highwaysreporting.cambridgeshire.gov.uk/

Action will be taken faster if multiple people have made reports. Please contact the parish clerks if you feel any pose an immediate threat to safety.

Mira Nichols, West Wrating PC

Jess Ashbridge, Weston Colville Parish Clerk

West Wrating Parish Council

The following was discussed at the parish council meeting held on Monday 9th January. The minutes will be posted on the noticeboards.

Planning: concern was expressed by four parishioners regarding the planning application by the owners to build a house in the grounds of The Chestnut Tree public house. They thought that the loss of parking and garden space would cause a loss of business ending possibly with the sale of the pub or change of use. The chairman explained that the council had not yet received the documentation and so was unable to comment until the application was looked at in detail and discussed at a planning meeting. The parish clerk would apply for an extension of the date comments have to be sent by.

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22/04689 – Borehams: Martin Davey raised two matters on behalf of the Village Hall Management Committee concerning the proposed development.

- a) *Footpath provision:* a footpath linking the new houses to the bus stop must be provided but there appear to be conflicting proposals with no mention of the three school buses that pick-up and drop off five days a week. Cllr Williams-Gray said he would add further comments to those already made but not yet published.
- b) *Boundaries:* clarification is required on the boundaries between the Boreham land and the village hall. This has been requested from the Planning Dept with, so far, no response. Cllr Williams-Gray will seek clarification.

22/02487 – 81 High St: the parish clerk will check with Planning if planning permission has been granted.

Finance – full details of authorised payments etc are shown in the draft minutes.

Budget for 2023/24 & Precept: a 3% increase in the precept for 2023/24 will be requested. There would be no major changes in the budget.



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S106 monies: these are monies which could be contributed in relation to the proposed development of The Lamb Yard to be spent on community activities such as the play area or the sports ground or on improving facilities which would be of benefit to the village in the village hall. Any further ideas would be most welcome.

Maintenance –

Highway Problems: there is a Joint Parish Meeting on 26th January which Highways would be attending.

Pocket Park: it was agreed not to make a decision about replacing the gate until the spring. A sign ‘Pocket Park’ will be placed at the park’s entrance.

Winter gritting: the parish clerk will check how many salt bins there are and also if they have been filled with salt. **Volunteers are needed to salt the paths in the area where you live.**

Recreation Ground & Pavilion –

Parking on roads: WWFC have agreed to put cones out on match days but residents wishing to prevent parking in front of their drives would need to put out their own cones.

Defibrillator: Cllr Parsons has now been handed the responsibility of this equipment and the formal position with the emergency services as Custodian from Martin Davey, who set up the installation and care of the equipment whilst a councillor, and continued to do so up until now. The chairman thanked him for all his work.

Traffic Issues & Speed Restriction Equipment: the speed indicator sign poles are now in place, the work carried out by Martin Davey and Tim Bonfield, who were thanked.

LHI initiative: Martin Davey, who submitted the LHI bid last year has re-submitted this with some minor alterations and increased costs. The bid is for road markings, eg roundels or dragons teeth and village gateways to improve road safety. Thanks were given to Martin Davey for doing this work.

Any Other Business: Cllr Lock announced with regret her resignation as a Councillor. The chairman thanked her for all the work she has done since becoming a parish councillor.

Next Parish Council Meeting – Monday 13th March at 8.00 pm. All are welcome.

Jenny Richards, Parish Clerk


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Weston Colville Parish Council

A meeting was held on Wednesday 11th January, where the following items were discussed. The full minutes and meeting documents can be found on <http://www.westoncolville.org.uk>

Warm Hub – a representative of the Reading Room Trust came to discuss the warm hub and request funding from the parish council. The attendance figures varied, and were on a par with other warm hubs, some people would come for the day to work, some would come for an hour for lunch. He thanked the volunteers and the council for their initial donation, and requested that the PC consider funding the £328 shortfall in funding which would cover the Warm Hub until the end of March.

Resignation of Councillors – the resignation of Ian Ashbridge had been received. He was thanked for all the work he had done for the Parish Council. Following publication of the resignation, an election had not been called. Three seats were available. The article in *Challenge* for December had not yielded any results, and another will be placed.

Flooding – a parishioner had contacted the clerk about flooding on Chapel Road during the heavy rain

on 23rd December, with photographs, and assumed it was due to ditches not being well managed on the West Wrattling Estate. The clerk advised that it was more likely due to the properties further down the road, as the drains ran well into the ditches further up the road. Most drains had been cleared on Mill Hill, bar three, as the team could not lift the drain covers. The drainage works at 71/72 Common Road were still outstanding due to the electricity cable under the surface of the verge. Grips had been cut through the village.

HMRC to get information to facilitate this.

Coronation – the Coronation of King Charles III will take place on 6th May. A post would be added to the Village WhatsApp group to gauge interest in holding an event on Sunday 7th May. Cllr Harvey would look into whether the Street Trader Licence was relevant for the PC.

Precept – for 2023/24 this will remain at £12,500.

Dates of Next Meetings –
6th February (planning), 6th March.

Jess Ashbridge, Parish Clerk

www.westwratting.org.uk

for information on:

What's On	Directory	Parish Council
Parish History	Local Sports	Village Hall Events
Church News	Parish Matters	Village Calendar

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



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District and County Councillor's Report

'Making Connections' Consultation – thank you to all those who fed their views into the Greater Cambridge Partnership's public consultation on their proposals to improve public transport in our area with the introduction of a 'sustainable travel zone' which would be funded via a congestion charge.

There were record numbers of responses, in the region of 24,000, which equates to around 15% of the entire population of South Cambridgeshire (this doesn't sound like a lot, but it is!).

Persistent Organic Pollutants (POPs) are found in various **Waste Upholstered Domestic Seating (WUDS)** such as sofas and upholstered dining chairs. Such materials should not be landfilled.

The law against landfilling of POPs was introduced in 2007, but the Environment Agency recently announced it would become more rigorous in its enforcement. The Environment Agency announced in August 2022 that it would soon expect councils to cease landfilling upholstered seating, and instead to incinerate it. It published its Final Regulatory Position Statements on this matter on Monday 19th December 2022, with implementation starting on Sunday 1st January 2023.

The short notice over Christmas has provided little time to organise incineration capacity, and the County Council is therefore seeking an extension of at least a month while it works through options and liaises with its waste contractor Thalia (formerly Amey) and with the district councils who collect Cambridgeshire's waste. This does however mean that from 1st January the council will not be able to dispose of soft furnishings until a method of disposal acceptable to the Environment Agency has been identified and put in place.

Weston Colville Warm Hub – Cambridgeshire ACRE and South Cambs District Council are working with communities all across the district to open warm hubs to help people struggling with fuel cost or just wanting an opportunity to get together. There are now twenty up and running with another seven on the way. Weston Colville's Warm Hub is open in the Reading Room.

New Hosts for Ukraine Guests Needed – Cambridge City and South Cambs have between them about 500 hosts for Ukraine guests. With the war in Ukraine continuing, the six-month hosting arrangements have needed to be renewed, though not all hosts are in a position to do so. Anyone who might be able to provide a spare room for a guest from Ukraine is asked to get in touch with SCDC. We need new homes for about 200 people. For this reason the councils have launched the GOT A SPARE ROOM campaign. If you are interested all you have to do is text ROOM to 88802. <https://www.scambs.gov.uk/support-for-ukraine-it-all-starts-with-a-spare-room/>

Electric Vehicle Charging – the District Council has introduced a grant of up to £5,000 per application for electric vehicle charging points on community/public buildings within the district. It's a great opportunity for us to expand our electric charging network and make our area more accessible for those wanting to travel here via electric vehicle. See <https://www.scambs.gov.uk/climate-emergency-and-nature/grants-funding-and-community-support/electric-vehicle-charge-point-grant/>

SCDC: Geoff Harvey (geoff.harvey@gmail.com)

CCC: Henry Batchelor (henrybatchelor89@gmail.com)

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The Meadow School

On the Monday of the first full week of term, we learned that OFSTED would be visiting The Meadow for a two-day ungraded inspection. One inspector visited and carried out an intense and vigorous inspection of Early Reading and Art, as well as focusing on behaviour, safeguarding, staff workload and wellbeing, plus pupils’ wider development. We could not have been prouder of the staff and children who carried on showcasing what they do each and every day to a high standard. Details of the report will be published shortly.

As part of our Sports Premium funding, we have provided sessions on how to ride and scoot safely for all Year 1 and Reception children. The children showed their use of one of the characteristics of effective learning ‘Persevering Parrot’ an awful lot! Many of them told the instructor, Julie, that they knew how to scoot or use a balance bike and were very surprised when they had to learn how to glide. The children have more sessions to complete, and we are looking forward to seeing how they continue to progress.

The children have launched into their new learning topics for the spring term:

Foundation and Key Stage 1: Fire and Ice (focusing on the significant individuals: Scott and Polar Antarctic explorers;

Years 3 and 4: Roman Britain / Empire (where did they come from and where did they settle?);

Years 5 and 6: Earth Matters – Extreme Weather and the effect of climate change on people’s lives and environments (extreme weather events in History).

Year 3 and 4 have already had their experience day. It was fantastic to see so many of the children in their Roman-themed costumes partaking in a range of activities: making shields, mosaic bookmarks, and own clay coins, and being archaeologists and digging for Roman artefacts. The children thoroughly enjoyed the hands-on experience.

Years 5 and 6 are getting very excited at performing to friends and family at The O2 in London alongside 5,000 - 8,000 other children as a single choir, with the singer Heather Small.



As well as being an amazing experience, it will help with their self-belief, self-motivation, confidence and ability to communicate as part of a team, which is invaluable!

Nicky Butcher, Deputy Head

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Nature Notes

Now is the time when your garden birds really appreciate feeding. February is the last time we see many of our juvenile Marsh Tits which we colour-ringed the previous year, and this may be connected to food. Please let us know if you see any Marsh Tits this month; it's particularly important data to help conserve this sharply declining species.

cambsmarti@gmail.com or via **Challenge** – thank you.

You'll have noticed that birds are resplendent in their breeding finery and are establishing nest sites and territories. Magpies look particularly good at the moment, flashing colours from blue into the ultraviolet, and I've seen Jackdaws starting to build in chimney pots (householders beware!).

It's also the time to enjoy Snowdrops and Sweet Box, *Sarcococca spp.* Snowdrops convince me that Spring has sprung now and are also important to Bumblebees, amongst the earliest of insects to emerge. They can only fly when their flight muscles reach 38°C (which is why you can find them shivering their wings first thing on a cold morning). To raise their temperature, Bumblebees need the energy in nectar from early flowers like Snowdrops.

Like many species from the Himalayan region, Sweet Box evolved in harsh environments and is tough and unfussy. These evergreen relatives of Box (*Buxus spp.*) do not suffer from Box blight or the beautiful but ravenous Box Tree moth. They tolerate shade, and flower in the late winter and early spring, when their abundant small white flowers produce a strong, heaven-sent scent which carries for metres around, especially in sunshine. Good places to see Sweet Box are the paths from the car park and along the Winter Garden at Anglesey Abbey, and on the path from the main lawn into the café at Cambridge University



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Botanic Garden. The commonest species is *S confusa*, but I think the best scented is *S hookeriana digyna* 'Purple Stem': imagine honey being pumped out of a fire-hose on a cold, sunny morning in February, and you'll get the gist.

Never fear, spring will soon be here!

Alex Inzani and the South Cambs Ringing Group

Balsham Horticultural Society

Our Christmas meeting was a very jolly and different evening, when Bryan Thurlow alias 'The Perennial Mr Potter' gave a light hearted and amusing performance as a Suffolk gardener in bygone days. He came dressed in the part and with an assortment of props.

Our next meeting will be on Wednesday 1st February at 7.30pm in the Church Institute. Our speaker will be Peter Jackson from Scotsdales, discussing 'Plants for Winter Interest.'

All welcome. £3 for guests. Refreshments and raffle.

Hazel Leeson

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Linton & District Historical Society

Unfortunately, our January talk on the Dogs Trust was unavoidably cancelled at short notice, after our speaker hit a pothole and became stranded by the roadside waiting for the recovery service.

Don't forget our next meeting, on Tuesday 21st February at 7.30 pm in Linton Village Hall. Bill Key will reflect on the 63 years he has been rowing on the Cam, taking us on a journey along the River Cam encompassing the history, events and notable landmarks, including a history of the Bumping Races, boathouses, mooring, notable landmarks, fishing, wildlife and the environment. For further details telephone 01223 893915 or 01223 678835, or email ldhscambs@gmail.com

Margaret Creek

Operation Christmas Child

Thank you very much to all of those who filled boxes, gave items for the boxes, gave money donations, made and bought cakes, helped at the processing centre, and prayed.



15,129 boxes were checked and packed during one week at the east of England pop-up processing centre at City Church, Cambridge, to start their journey

The boxes have gone to Central Asia and Albania. Boxes from other centres will go to Ukraine and the surrounding countries for the refugee children, and further boxes will go to other countries around the world. These will bring some joy in a very difficult time, and the opportunity to hear about the gospel story. Many thanks,

Jane Furlow (Connect Volunteer for OCC)

We Need You . . .

Girlguiding is the leading charity for girls and young women in the UK. Being a part of Girlguiding is extremely rewarding and a lot of fun.

Could you showcase your skills, or do you want to gain more? Could you inspire our girls to do more than they think they can?

Our Guide units would like more helpers each week. We also need commissioners in our area. Do you have managerial skills that could hold termly meetings with leaders? If you think you have the correct skill set and could help lead the leaders of the future, please get in touch.

Louisa Powell-Owens
(lintondistrict@gmail.com, 07711 614328)

1st Horseheath Brownies

We all had a great time at the Panto at the beginning of December. Emilia was called up on stage to help the Dame and with the song, which this year was 'Sweet Caroline'. Emilia did well and was given a goodie bag containing a box of Maltesers, note pad, pencil, pen, rubber and balloon (deflated). It was great to see someone we knew up on stage.

At Brownies for the new term we recently made kites out of bamboo kebab sticks, tissue paper, sticky tape and string. We hope to complete a chocolate heist, trash fashion and room in a box soon.

Also this term we will be off to the Jarman Centre in Newmarket for our annual holiday. This time we will be joined by Balsham Brownies and we will be Detectives, so if you need something investigating please speak to us after the end of March as by then we will know what we are doing and can help you.

Pauline and Katie

Balsham WI

It was a case of whodunnit at our December meeting, a Murder Mystery evening. It turned out that none of us had been able to guess who was guilty so we may need to brush up on our detective skills and have another round of this at some point in the future as it was a really fun evening!



On Tuesday 10th January we welcomed the very knowledgeable Jan Ellam who gave us a talk on old Balsham, with the help of 'Elsie May Plumb's Schoolgirl's Book of Verse', a delightful 96-verse poem written about the village by Elsie in 1931. We followed in Elsie's footsteps as she made her way from her home in one of the cottages which once stood at the Lime Kilns on Cambridge Road, into and around Balsham and back again. On the way we learnt some fascinating snippets about our village's past, such as there were once eight pubs, two windmills, and many shops and businesses!

Our next meeting will be on Tuesday 14th February and with that being Valentines Day the theme for the evening will be 'Show the Love' – in this case some self-love, as we welcome Laura Hawksley, a Biodynamic Massage Therapist, who will be giving a talk and a demonstration on the value of light touch massage for wellbeing and managing chronic conditions, and Bodyshop at Home representative Charlotte who will be talking to us about skin care and showcasing some of her products.

We are a friendly bunch and new members are always welcome. Our meetings are held on the second Tuesday of each month at 7.30 pm in the Pavilion. Please get in touch if you would be interested in joining us – balshamwi@gmail.com – or send us a message on Facebook, @Balsham WI.

Sarah Evans (290802)

The Ellesmere Centre, Stetchworth

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

The Ellesmere Centre, www.ellesmerecentre.org.uk
(01638 508212, office@ellesmerecentre.org.uk)

Help and Support When You Need It

We thought it might be useful to do a series of short articles on the various forms of help available for people who have some form of physical or mental impairment. It's so easy to forget what help is available or to think it's not meant for you.

Attendance Allowance – government funding to help with medical problems.

Someone can get Attendance Allowance if they've reached State Pension age and the following apply:

- they have a physical disability (including sensory disability, for example blindness), a mental disability (including learning difficulties), or both. This includes the disabilities that arise from a potentially terminal illness, such as cancer;
- their disability is severe enough that they need help with care or someone to supervise them, for the sake of safety;
- they have needed that help for at least six months (unless they might have six months or less to live, in which case they can claim immediately).

Attendance allowance is paid at two different rates, as shown below.

Rate	Level of help you need
Lower: £61.85	Frequent help or constant supervision during the day, or supervision at night
Higher: £92.40	Help or supervision throughout both day and night, or a medical professional has said you might have six months or less to live

You can spend your Attendance Allowance however you like – it's up to you. Lots of people spend it on something that makes life a bit easier, for example: paying for taxis; helping towards bills (like food and fuel); paying for a cleaner or gardener.

Other benefits you get may increase if you get Attendance Allowance.

You do not have to have someone caring for you in order to claim but if you do have a carer, or are a carer for someone, check out Carer's Allowance as you may be eligible for that too.

To find out more about Attendance Allowance and to make a claim go to www.gov.uk/attendance-allowance.

Suan Rowland (suanrowland@btinternet.com),
Diana Edwards, Jenny Knowelden

February 2023

FEB	9.30 am	11.00 am	4.00/6.00 pm
5 th		United Service with Holy Communion – Balsham, <i>Rev Iain McColl</i>	
12 th	Holy Communion – Weston Colville, <i>Rev Ben Brady</i> Morning Worship – West Wickham, <i>Alistair Collen</i>	Holy Communion – Little Abington, <i>Rev Ben Brady</i> Morning Worship – Balsham, <i>Hannah Threlfall</i>	Evening Prayer (6.00 pm) – West Wrating, <i>Alistair Collen</i>
19 th	Holy Communion – West Wrating, <i>Revd Iain McColl</i> Morning Worship – West Wickham, <i>Church Warden led</i>	Holy Communion – Balsham, <i>Revd Iain McColl</i> Holy Communion – Great Abington <i>Revd Ben Brady</i>	Evening Prayer (6.00 pm) – Hildersham, <i>Revd Ben Brady</i>
26 th	Holy Communion – West Wickham, <i>Revd Iain McColl/</i> <i>Alistair Collen</i> Holy Communion – Weston Colville, <i>Steven Wheeler</i>	Holy Communion – Hildersham, <i>Revd Iain McColl/ Alistair Collen</i> Holy Communion – Balsham, <i>Revd Ben Brady</i>	Evening Prayer (4.00 pm) – Little Abington, <i>Revd Ben Brady</i>

DIARY

February 2023

Wed 1 Balsham Horticultural Society
 Wed 1 - Sat 4 Ellesmere Centre, 'Dick Whittington'
 Fri 3 Tech clinic, Weston Colville Warm Hub
 Sat 4 West Wrating Café
 Mon 6 Order deadline, West Wrating Oil Syndicate
 Wed 8 West Wrating Book Club, The Chestnut Tree
 Sun 12 Order deadline, Weston Colville Oil Co-operative
 Tues 14 Balsham WI
 Thur 16 Lunch Club, The Chestnut Tree
 Tues 21 Linton & District Historical Society
 Thur 23 LOLs Pizza, Weston Colville
 Fri 24 Tea & Cakes, Weston Colville

March 2023

Sun 5 Winter Lunch, Weston Colville
 Mon 6 Weston Colville Parish Council meeting
 Sun 11 Weston Colville Circular Walk
 Mon 13 Weston Colville Warm Hub reopens

Revd Iain McColl

01223 890693, mccoll.iain@gmail.com

Rev Ben Brady

01223 344920, evdbenbrady@btinternet.com

Mr Steven Wheeler, Licensed Lay Minister

01223 290396, 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, 01223 891443

Weston Colville Parish Clerk: Jess Ashbridge,
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

Black bins: Monday 6th & 20th February,
Monday 6th & 20th March

Blue bins: Monday 13th & 27th February,
Monday 13th & 27th March

Green bins: Monday 13th February,
Monday 13th & 27th March

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

Mobile library: fourth Thursday: 23rd Feb, 23rd Mar

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

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.

Copy date for March issue:

Monday 20th February