

Challenge

The Parish Newsletter of Weston Colville and West Wrating

The views expressed herein are those of the contributors.

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RAF Wrating Common, Remembrance Day

There will be a short service at the memorial on Remembrance Sunday, 10th November, at 12 noon.

The memorial is situated at Weston Woods Farm, Weston Colville, CB21 5NR. We hope to be joined by some of the veterans who served with XC Squadron, 1651 Heavy Conversion Unit and 195 Squadron.

Also, cadets from 1451 (Haverhill) Squadron of the Air Training Corps will be on parade.

Wreaths will be laid in memory of all those who served here and throughout the world, especially those who gave their lives in the cause of freedom.

Attendees are invited to lay wreaths or crosses for those they wish to remember, and anyone is welcome to attend.

WE WILL REMEMBER THEM.

Dan Heath, for Friends of Wrating Common



Weston Colville Folk Evening with Camus

A reminder if you haven't yet booked – Camus return to the Reading Room on Friday 22nd November.

Their visits are becoming something of an annual fixture! Some who joined us last year wrote: “We all thoroughly enjoyed the whole event” and “they are brilliant”. The band has recently been joined by champion piper Edric Ellis, and they've been working on some new songs and tune sets. They've played at the Cambridge, Ely, and Sidmouth Folk Festivals, but this is the gig they enjoy the most, so they're really looking forward to returning to the Reading Room with their new line-up:



David Somerville – Northumbrian smallpipes, keyboard
Greg Smith – fiddle, viola, vocals
Edric Ellis – Northumbrian smallpipes, border pipes
Andrew Burn – melodeon, Northumbrian smallpipes, vocals
Brian Cleary – guitar, bouzouki, vocals

See camusmusic.net for more about the band.

- * £5 a ticket (proceeds to Jimmy's Night Shelter)
- * book your seat in advance
(jacquelinetheteacher@hotmail.com or 291475)
then pay on the door
- * refreshments available 7.30 pm
- * music starts 8.00 pm.

Jacqueline

Christmas Wreath Making

Saturday 30th November, 10.30 am - 1 pm

Come and join us in St Mary's Church for a fun Christmas Wreath-making session. No experience needed.

Cost: £25, including demonstration, all materials, coffee and a homemade soup lunch. (If you can, bring your own secateurs.)



To book a place, please contact Gay.

Gay Redman (290807, redman.tessa@gmail.com)



West Wrating Village Hall

We had a very successful Harvest Supper on 12th October with nearly 60 in attendance. All enjoyed the complementary drink, salmon, ham and vegan main course with all the trimmings, followed by a cheese course.

The auction was fantastic, and at times hilarious, and the raffle prizes keenly sought after. We raised £1,500 towards the never-ending maintenance of the village hall and church, the money being shared 50/50.

Many people gave both time and donations; putting on such an event takes a huge amount of work and I would like to thank everyone involved in delivering such a great event. Last but by no means least thank you to all who attended and joined in the fun – the musical biscuit box stole the show!

Our next event is the Wine Tasting on 2nd November at 7 pm. Please promote this event with your friends and family and help make this another success. It costs approximately £3,500 a year to keep the hall functioning; energy, licences, insurance and inspections all mount up and this is before anything breaks, so your help in keeping this public space in use is much appreciated. Thank you.

*Martin Davey,
Chair, West Wrating Village Hall Committee*

Tea & Cakes

Our next Tea & Cakes will be on Friday 15th November in the Reading Room, 3.30 pm - 5.00 pm as usual.

Everyone is welcome. Come to meet up with friends – and make new ones as well – over a cuppa and a slice of delicious homemade cake. In addition, Jenny will be bringing her hand-made cards.

Val and the Team

West Wrating Café

The next café will be on Saturday 2nd November, 10.30 am until 12 noon in the village hall. Everyone welcome; do join us for our usual Saturday café serving fresh coffee, tea and homemade cakes.

We will be joined by Kate, who will be taking Christmas orders for her beautiful block print designs for cards and fabrics. Also Jeanette will be holding a table top sale, a trial run for a possible regular event.

Please note Café Christmas (see poster) is on Saturday 30th November and will replace our regular café on the first Saturday in December.

Sherry and Jan

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West Wrattling Football Club



Soul music after the first team's football game on Saturday 16th November from 5 pm until approximately 8.30 pm. All are very welcome to watch the game (kick-off 3 pm) or come along and enjoy the music afterwards.

*Blanche Miller,
WW Sports Pavilion Secretary*

St Andrew's Churchyard Autumn Clear-up

The autumn clear-up will take place on Saturday November 16th, 10 am - 12 noon. After the warm and damp summer, there is plenty of work to be done.

Everyone is welcome and it is a great opportunity to get together. Doughnuts and coffee, tea and squash will be served as usual. Looking forward to seeing you.

Cobby

Special Groove
West Wrattling Football Club
Bull Lane CB21 5NP



5pm Saturday 16th November
Following the First Team match

Anastacia, Stevie Wonder, Amy Winehouse, Paulo Nutini, Joe Cocker, Etta James, Average White Band, Jackson Five, Chic, Tina Turner, Talking Heads, Buddy Guy, Peter Gabriel, Luther Allison, Otis Reading, The Temptations, Doobie Brothers, Wild Cherry, Cyndi Lauper, Jackie Wilson, Bob Marley, Sister Sledge, Simply Red, Beats International, and more...

RAF Wrattling Common Memorial

We are always pleased to hear from anyone interested in getting involved with the airfield memorial. With just two services per year to arrange, as well as year-round general maintenance, this is not an onerous project to assist with but is very rewarding. It is hoped that, with the continued support of people in the locality, this important memorial to our community's war effort will survive for many generations.

Dan Heath, for Friends of Wrattling Common
(rafwrattlingcommon@gmail.com, 07736 737174,
01440 730192)

www.westwrattling.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.

Kbroffee

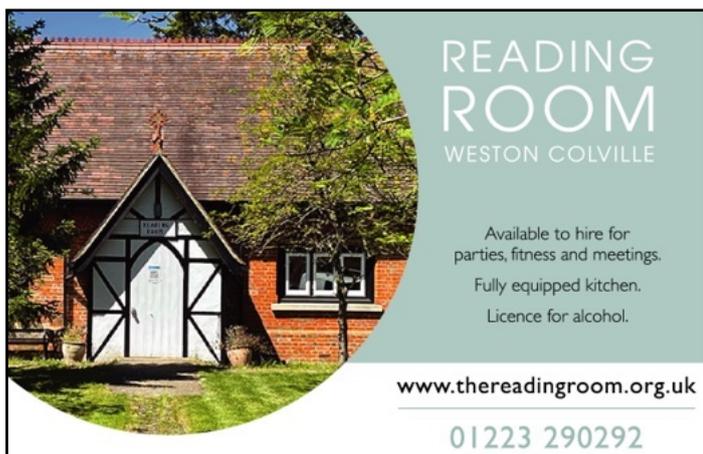
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The Chestnut Tree

Last month we announced a proposal for starting a minibus service with the aim of ferrying people from the villages of West Wrating, Weston Colville, and West Wickham to the pub and back – the Scurry Bus Initiative.

I am very pleased to confirm that approximately 25 people have already signed up, and as such they have agreed to pay a monthly fee that also enables them to receive discounts when visiting the pub. We need approximately double this number of people for the scheme to succeed. Full details and membership forms are available at The Chestnut Tree. Please pop in and have a free cup of coffee, over which we can explain the benefits in a bit more detail.

At this juncture I can confirm that a Community Interest Company would be set up to run the minibus on a not-for-profit basis, using a section 19 permit to transport members of the public in the community. Depending on how successful the scheme is, the idea would be expanded so that we would have live entertainment and theme nights, such as a village quiz night, a village supper club, a village games competition, etc. The minibus would do runs each night, picking up from West Wickham and Weston



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Colville and then later on reversing the journey to take people home. It is worth pointing out that the minibus could also be available for other activities for groups of people to enjoy together, whether it be rambling, theatre, market days, places of interest, etc.

Please do consider supporting this initiative as collectively for what is a few pence per day the combined villages of West Wrating, Weston Colville and West Wickham would have a unique service linking them to their local rural pub.

When first explaining the above to one of the regulars, I was informed that there used to be a horse and cart that performed a similar service taking people home at night. At certain points along the way hay was available for the horse to stop and enjoy whilst the patrons got off. The horse was so used to traversing this route that it didn't even need a driver!

This year's **Rugby Autumn Internationals** are only available to watch on TNT Sports. The Chestnut Tree now has the capability to show these and will be doing so. Looking forward to enjoying the match with you.

Paul Mower (07795 848716, scurryltd@gmail.com)

St Mary's Church Bells

Since the spring, some of you may have heard the bells of St Mary's ringing again after a silence of about thirty years, mostly on Sunday evenings for our regular practices. A few of you might even feel we are getting better!

Our little band is now at a stage where we can accept other learners who may be interested and are starting from scratch. It takes a few weeks of regular supervised tuition to handle a church bell safely, but once learned is a skill you don't lose (I had a 27-year break). It takes a bit of dedication and perseverance, but we now have some sufficiently experienced ringers we can put around learners. We also benefit from support from Balsham and Brinkley ringers and teachers too.

If you are interested in learning more or just having a general chat, please email ian@agrarian.biz or call 07870 636019.

Ian Ashbridge



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West Wratting Book Club

Our latest book was ‘Lessons in Chemistry’ by Bonnie Garmus.

The story is set in a Southern Californian town in the 1950s and early 1960s. The main characters are Elizabeth, a very gifted scientist trying to make her way in the male-oriented misogynist era when American women were, generally, expected to be ‘homemakers’ and nothing else, and Calvin, a very intelligent, high-flying scientist. That brilliance also, engenders jealousy from their peers. They are both damaged by their early lives and that intelligence does not extend to their emotional lives. There is, also, a dog.

This is a very enjoyable, if quirky, book which examines the problems caused by being different, and the desperate need to fit in and conform with social norms. It also explores other people’s expectations of, attitudes towards, and treatment of women, some of which still exist. One of our readers described it as great fun with a lot of truisms and accurate descriptions of personalities, while others thought the stereotypical depiction of men, women, children and other subjects was overdone, anachronistic, too modern in some attitudes, and unsubtle. One person thought it laugh-out-loud and was not bothered by the latter. However, overall, it was thought to be a well-written, easy read.

Scores were between 6 and 8 out of 10.

We will next meet at The Chestnut Tree at 7.30 pm on Wednesday 13th November to read ‘Paper Money’ by Ken Follett.

Linda Gorman (290653)

Oil Co-operative

Ordering deadline: noon, Sunday 1st December.

Church End to the bottom of Mill Hill:

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

Chapel Road, Common Road, The Green, Horseshoe Lane:

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

West Wratting

Peter Harris (07879 444126 or sowesticom@gmail.com)

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The price will not be known until the order is placed. Once placed we will give you the number to ring to make your payment prior to delivery.

Weston Colville Playground

Work on the first stage of the playground renovation on the cricket field will be commencing on Monday 11th November. The fence near the cricket pavilion will be taken down on Thursday 7th November. The equipment inside the fenced area will be replaced.

For your children's safety, please keep them away from the play area until the works are completed. It is hoped that the second stage will be completed in the New Year.

Jess Ashbridge

Parish Matters

I have been very fortunate this summer to have visited Scotland with its lochs and glens, in contrast to the green rolling hills of Gloucestershire where I grew up. My last trip, however, pulled me up short when climate change became a reality. Excess rainfall had caused flooding and affected roads had to be shut.



As I travelled, changes had to be made to the route – I needed patience to navigate unknown roads, and trust and hope that eventually I would end up at my destination!

It is a bit like our changing season from summer to autumn as the clocks went back at the end of October. Shorter days and more darkness – yet there are signs of hope in the traditional services we attend every year.

On All Saints Day on 1st November, we remember those who have given their lives to God and followed him by living a holy life. We all know people who have lived their lives in this way but would not necessarily recognise themselves as saints.

All Souls’ Day on 2nd November calls to mind those we have loved and lost over the years. Our services of light and hope take place at Little Abington (4 pm) and Balsham (6 pm). If you would like to light a candle to remember a special person, do come and share with others offering thanks for that person’s life.

We also join together for our Remembrance Day services to remember the sacrifice of those who gave their lives for us so that we have the freedom we do today.

In this time of change to the season we are reminded in St John’s Gospel that the light shines in the darkness and the darkness does not overcome it. I remember watching the film ‘The Box of Delights’; when the film reaches the close, the choir of the cathedral enter in darkness, except for a few candles. The choir sing ‘O come all ye faithful’ as the electric light comes on, which I find incredibly moving. May you experience your own moving moment in the dark days ahead. Go with hope and you shall see the light.

Revd Kathy Bishop

A Christmas Carol

Coming to Soul Space, St Mary’s, on Thursday 12th December at 7 pm. Booking now open! Details on the website: www.thisismytheatre.com

Jane Pryor

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Quiet Meditation Times

Seven of us met in Weston Colville church for a quiet morning of meditation, poetry, and rural videos, including Hannah, who led the meditation, and Iain, our Rector. Bob Coates had taken the rural videos, and had also made the soup and bread for our 'simple' lunch, and Philippa came to help serve it and plenty of cheeses.

The next quiet meditation time will be on Saturday 23rd November, 2.30 - 5.00 pm, in St Mary’s. The theme is based on ‘beginning again’ because the season of Advent begins the next day.

There will be another quiet time during Advent.

Joanna Sanders, Bob Coates

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Peter and Ruth Lloyd Trust Award 2024

We are pleased to report that the Trust presented the 2024 award of £1,000 to Benjamin Clarke, from Brinkley. Ben is now at Oxford University undertaking a master's degree in Biochemistry. Well done Ben!



As always, it was a pleasure for the trustees to meet such enthusiastic and interesting young people from our locality during the selection process.

If you, or one of your children, are going to university in September 2025, watch out next month for how to apply to the Peter and Ruth Lloyd Trust, or email the secretary for more details:
peter.ruthlloydtrust@sky.com

Poppy Appeal 2024

Please give generously in exchange for a poppy once again this year. Your donations are so needed by the Royal British Legion during their annual fundraising, in order to continue to provide much-needed support for our forces community of veterans past and present. A fine example of that support is the courses at the Battle Back Centre, a lifeline when ex-servicemen and women are overwhelmed confronting physical and mental challenges and issues such as homelessness and unemployment.



Poppies and a few sundries, such as wooden crosses and reflective poppies, are available at The Chestnut Tree in West Wrating and also at Balsham's pubs, Post Office and Coffee Shop and at church services. Once again the QR code, to be seen on the collecting tins, can be used for convenience to just 'click and donate'. Gift aid can also be added if wished, even on small donations

Thank you once again for everyone's generosity in supporting our ex-service men and women and their families, and also remembering those who died in the two world wars to protect our freedom.

*Margaret Johnson,
 Voluntary Poppy Appeal Organiser*

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Balsham Singers

The Balsham Singers Christmas Concert will be on Saturday 14th December at 4 pm in Holy Trinity Church, Balsham.

Tickets are available online at: www.ticketsource.co.uk/balshamsingers, and also locally in Balsham and Abington post offices from 1st November. Last year the concert sold out; be sure to secure your seat.

Jo Stinton

A Baroque Celebration

with the **Azur Ensemble** on Monday 9th December at 7.30 pm. This is the second concert in a series of events in support of the Friends of Holy Trinity Church, Hildersham.



The performers are graduates from the Royal College of Music, Historic Performance

Faculty, under the guidance of Professor Ashley Solomon.

Their programme will include music by JS Bach, Telemann, Vivaldi, Scarlatti and Handel, and will have harpsichord accompaniment.

Tickets at £15 are available from www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/a-baroque-celebration-tickets-1045008517607?aff=oddtcreator or at the door.

For more details contact Athene Hunt: huntcam2015@gmail.com

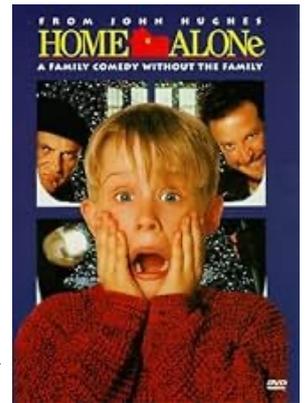
Balsham Picture House

On Saturday 2nd November we will be screening the terrifying mystery A HAUNTING IN VENICE (12).



Hercule Poirot (Kenneth Branagh), now retired and living in Venice, reluctantly attends a seance where a murdered guest thrusts the detective into a sinister shadowy world.

On Saturday 7th December we will show the classic Christmas film HOME ALONE (PG), a feel-good and ever popular Christmas film for all. Join us for our Picture House Christmas celebration with FREE drinks and nibbles for all before this classic film.



Normal start time of doors open at 7 pm and both films at 7.30 in the Balsham Church Institute. Dave's bar will be open as usual before the film for refreshments, but all free for the December party!

Dick Paden

Newmarket Hockey Club

The club welcomes new players; for more details, contact Oliver Pitt (07581 745300).

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Linton & District Historical Society

We enjoyed a thoroughly entertaining evening in October with Susan Grossey, who spent a ‘life in crime’ after graduating from Cambridge University and working for 25 years advising financial institutions and others on how to spot criminal money; this led on to a highly successful new career as an author based on this fascinating subject.

After briefly telling us about her books, Susan asked for stories and experiences from the audience. This did not disappoint and led to an extremely enjoyable evening. Those unable to attend but who would like to find out more can contact Susan via www.susangrossey.com

Our next meeting will be at 7.30 pm on Tuesday 19th November in Linton Village Hall, Coles Lane, with Ken McDonald and ‘**SomeHundred Parish Churches**’. Refreshments and raffle; visitors and new members always welcome.

Margaret Creek
(ldhscams@gmail.com, 893915 or 678835)

Balsham WI

At our October meeting, Dr Gwenda Kyd delivered her talk on ‘Incredible Edible and Drinkable Plants’. We learnt about some of the chemical compounds in various fruits and vegetables we eat, and how they are good for us, often better in conjunction with others. We also heard how some of the popular old wives’ tales about some common vegetables came into being, as well as some historical facts about them. The talk was greatly enjoyed by all present.

Our next meeting will take place on 12th November, when our speaker will be Susan Widlake of Millhouse Millinery, who will be giving a talk and demonstration.

Visitors are always welcome – why not come and try us out? Our meetings are held on the second Tuesday of each month at 7.30 pm in the Pavilion, Balsham. Please get in touch if you are interested in joining us – balshamwi@gmail.com, or send a message on Facebook, @Balsham WI.

Debbie Mower (balshamwi@gmail.com)

Withersfield Christmas Bazaar

23rd November, 10 am to 1 pm
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Balsham Gardening Club

Balsham Gardening Club was given some great ideas for 'The Garden in Winter' by Peter Jackson at its October meeting. Peter gave us the benefit of his knowledge and expertise, built up while at Scotsdales as a director and plant expert, covering all types of winter gardening, from bulbs to trees.

Alongside suggestions for particular species and varieties, illustrated with lovely slides, Peter's ideas for gardens of all sizes were to use containers, to remember stem colour and plant shape for winter tracery, and to grow scented plants. The huge range of varieties of daffodils and snowdrops now available will give colour over a longer period, especially with a greenhouse to bring them on in pots. He suggested grasses for unusual winter interest, including evergreen variegated types like carex, and clump-forming bamboos. He gave us many ideas for shrubs and trees, for colour, scent and shape, including pyracantha, callicarpa, holly, cotoneaster, daphne, winter honeysuckle, hebe and more.

A tip for our limey soil in Balsham is to watch for yellowing caused by magnesium deficiency and lime induced chlorosis, which is iron deficiency. Both can be avoided by special feeds, before symptoms are seen.

The club's next meeting is its AGM on Wednesday 6th November, at 7.30 in the Pavilion. Nancy Stephenson will cover a wide range of farming issues including compassionate farming and intensive agriculture. All are welcome, although with falling interest, the club will be deciding whether it can continue.



Andy Mitchell

West Wickham & District Gardening Club

At the club's AGM we said 'thank you' to the outgoing treasurer, Andrew Morris, who formally stepped down from the committee he was instrumental in founding over 40 years ago.

At the drinks party that followed the AGM, Andrew was awarded the RHS Recognition Award for his unfailing dedication to the club over these four decades. A well-deserved retirement beckons, although we are happy to say that Andrew will continue to support the club in a less formal capacity.

With a packed programme for the end of the year, the new committee won't be resting on their laurels. Here is a run-down of the remaining events for 2024 which members (and non-members who'd just like to find out more about us) can enjoy.

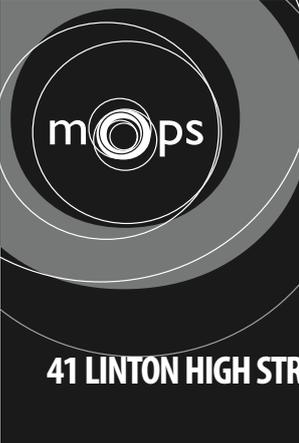
Monday 18th November: Jim Paine – 'Botanical Gardens: A Grand Tour'. Jim is a well-known speaker with a background in international conservation as well as rich experience as a former garden nursery owner. Jim will whisk us off on a tour of wonderful botanical gardens close to home and far away. 7.30 pm at the Village Hall, West Wickham.

Saturday 7th December: West Wickham Christmas Fayre, where the club will have a presence with ideas for sustainable decorations, and Christmas cards for sale produced by village photographers. 2 - 4 pm at the Village Hall, West Wickham.

Monday 16th December: Christmas social evening. This year we will be taxing our brains with a light-hearted gardening quiz as well as enjoying the traditional wine and nibbles for our end-of-year celebration. 7.30 pm at the Village Hall, West Wickham.

Membership for 2024/2025 began at the beginning of October and is open to everyone in West Wickham and the surrounding area. If you fancy joining us to learn about gardening, share your successes, make some new friends, or simply enjoy discounts with local suppliers and 50% discount on entry to RHS gardens, we'd love to hear from you. Annual membership is £8 per person. Please contact Sue Boase (07716 401646, wwdgc@westwickham.org).

Sally Collins (wwdgc@westwickham.org)



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MOPS HAIR SALON

The Ellesmere Devils Pantomime

Ahoy there! Get ready to set sail on a fantastical adventure with The Ellesmere Devils Pantomime Society as they present ‘Wendy – A Peter Panto’! Adapted by Matthew Attwood, this magical, fun-filled twist on J M Barrie's classic tale will have you laughing, cheering, and maybe even helping Wendy save the day!

Wendy loves to tell her brothers, John and Michael, stories of Peter Pan and Neverland before bedtime, but she’s ready for more than just storytelling—Wendy’s about to create her own adventure! Brave-hearted, bold, and unstoppable, she’s leading the way to Neverland, where she’ll meet Peter, the mischievous Tinker Bell, the hilarious Lost Boys, a crew of drunken sailors, mermaids, ghosts, and one very hungry crocodile!

Packed with magic, mayhem, colourful characters and catchy songs – and of course lots of “He’s behind you!” moments, this is the pantomime adventure you won’t want to miss. Neverland is calling—are you ready to join in the fun?

Performances are Wednesday 29th January to Saturday 1st February 2024. Tickets are available at www.ticketsource.co.uk/edps

Amy Metcalfe



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Christmas Market, Sunday 17th November, 11 am - 3 pm. 26 Stalls; Refreshments; Raffle. £1 entry.

Festive Wreath Making Workshop, Friday 29th November, 7 - 9.30 pm. Contact oliveandjasminflorals@gmail.com or 07877 675286 for more details or to book.

Ellesmere Community Hub – come and join us in the warm, for a free hot drink, a biscuit and some company.

Every Wednesday and Friday morning between 9 am and 11 am. Everyone welcome.

New Acting Classes every Tuesday (5 - 6 pm for ages 8 - 11, 6 - 7 pm for ages 12 - 16). Contact Hope at hopetamududley@gmail.com or 07990 981176.

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

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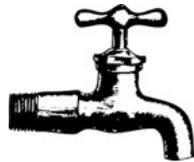
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The Meadow Primary School

We were beyond excited to welcome Jeff Rich, the legendary drummer from Status Quo, to The Meadow Primary School! Jeff spent the afternoon with our pupils, sharing his passion for music and giving them a hands-on experience with percussion instruments. Jeff commented, "I have thoroughly enjoyed my visit to The Meadow Primary School. The pupils' high energy and brilliant participation are what make these visits special. If one child is now inspired to learn an instrument, then my work here is done!"



During this unique session, over 200 percussion instruments were provided for our pupils, allowing every child to play alongside Jeff as he performed on the drums. It was a truly unforgettable experience that has inspired many of our students to explore music further. We're incredibly grateful to Jeff for sharing his talent and enthusiasm with us!

We are excited to announce the launch of our brand-new website, <https://meadowprimary.org/> Designed with our school community in mind, the new site provides dedicated pages for newsletters and news updates, ensuring you stay informed of everything happening at The Meadow.

You can now easily access important documents and policies, contact details, and an overview of our curriculum. Additionally, our interactive calendar will keep you updated on upcoming events, so you'll never miss a thing! We invite everyone to explore the website and make the most of these new features.

On Friday, 11th October, our pupils took part in the Meadow Mile to raise money for our school, and we are thrilled to announce that we have raised £1,261.50 so far! The children had a fantastic time dressing up in costumes inspired by the letter 'M' – from magicians to minions, there was no shortage of creativity and fun!

We would like to extend a heartfelt thank you to everyone who has supported this fundraiser, from family members to the wider community. Your generosity makes a big difference, and we are incredibly proud of the effort our students put into both their costumes and their commitment to completing the Meadow Mile.



Faye Facer, Assistant Headteacher

Marsh Mail

Our Open Evening at the end of September was a huge success, despite the torrential rain. It was a great opportunity to showcase the school to prospective Year 6 families. I was impressed by how many LVC students volunteered to be helpers and tour guides on the evening, and by the passion and personal insights shared by our student leaders during the presentations.

Our Head Student, Kuba, also demonstrated great independence and initiative through his successful application to the Henry Morris Memorial Trust Fund. Kuba was fortunate to receive funding to embark on a trip to the Isle of Man. Having always been interested in the Celtic history of the island, Kuba used the trip

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as an opportunity to find out more about the island's politics, history and geography. As part of this project, Kuba met with

His Excellency the Lieutenant Governor Sir John Lorimer at Government House and discussed with him various topics, including the role of the Lieutenant



Governor, Crown Dependencies and Manx Culture. Kuba also met virtually with the Chief Minister and spoke with him about education on the island. Kuba, who has future aspirations in International Diplomacy, was awarded the 'Lieutenant's Governor's Award for Outstanding Effort and Dedication to Duty' for his project and interview.

Other successes include our MFL trips to Spain and France this month. These trips are a great opportunity for our GCSE language students to experience both speaking and the culture of the language they have chosen to study.

Helena Marsh

BUTTERCUPS PRE-SCHOOL

CHRISTMAS CRAFT FAYRE

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Granta Medical Practices

During winter, services such as GP surgeries and hospitals experience increased patient demand, mainly due to cold weather and peaks of common infections and ailments.

Between us all, we can help alleviate some of the demand by using alternative health services for those more minor conditions.

A number of pharmacies offer an extended service called Community Pharmacy Consultation Service (CPCS), where they can review and treat a number of minor illnesses and ailments. You can contact your

local pharmacy directly or our reception teams can arrange a referral for you. If you are calling us with a minor illness or ailment, our reception teams may also signpost you to CPCS in the first instance.

There are many conditions covered by CPCS, including (but not limited to) generalised pain and swelling, sore throats, bites and stings, headaches, constipation and diarrhoea, colds and flu, mouth ulcers, tiredness, and vomiting.

Additionally, pharmacists are able to offer treatment and prescribe medication for some conditions without you needing to see your GP. This is called Pharmacy First. Conditions that can be treated and prescribed for include:

- Earache (aged 1 to 17 years)
- Impetigo (aged 1 year and over)
- Infected insect bites (aged 1 year and over)
- Shingles (aged 18 and over)
- Sinusitis (aged 12 years and over)
- Sore throat (aged 5 years and over)
- Urinary tract infections (UTIs) (women aged 16 to 64 years).

If you contact us with an eye problem, our reception teams may signpost you to the Minor Eye Conditions Service (MECS). MECS is made up of a team of eye specialists who treat non-emergency eye conditions that do not need hospital attention. Conditions covered include acute red eyes, acute irritated or inflamed eyes, sticky discharge or acute watery eyes, ingrowing eyelashes, foreign bodies in the eye. and recently occurring flashes or floaters.

If you require any further information about any of the above services please do not hesitate to speak to your local pharmacy or our reception teams, or email us on cpicb.grantapatientervices@nhs.net

Sandra East, Head of Patient Services

McGrath

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CPRE Concerns

Winter Fuel Payment & the Cost of Living:



we recognise that our rural communities are facing a disproportionate impact from the wider economic crisis.

Future winter fuel payments will only be made to those in England and Wales on low incomes who receive pension credit or other means-tested benefits, meaning millions of pensioners will no longer receive the payment designed to help with the cost of adequate heating.

Rural consumers often have to afford the high cost of oil, bottled gas, coal or smokeless fuel, which is paid for in advance. The pension increases coming into effect in April 2025 will be delivered in small payments in arrears, so they will not help this winter.

We've updated the Cost of Living support page on our website for those affected by the loss of the winter fuel payment: www.cprecamb.org.uk/cost-of-living-support.html This page details resources to help with the cost of living, such as financial support, energy saving advice and warm hubs.

CPRE has joined the 'Warm This Winter' coalition calling for urgent action from the government. To add your voice, go to www.warmthiswinter.org.uk/.

The move to digital voice technology and the effect on rural dwellers: we're concerned about the move by BT and others to replace the old copper wire telephone system with digital voice technology (Voice over Internet Protocol – VoIP). BT hoped for this work to be completed by December 2025. However national concern and campaigning, particularly regarding the impact this would have on the elderly and vulnerable, has seen this deadline moved to end-January 2027.

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Issues that may affect rural dwellers and rural businesses include:

- The impact on those living in rural areas where there is no, or variable, mobile signal, and those who do not use computers.
- Digital voice technology is reliant on stable and secure broadband provider servers. What happens if servers go down – possibly for days?
- Telecare devices and alarms: the switch to digital landlines will affect telecare devices and other equipment in the home and workplace.
- Power cuts: a digital phone will only work in a power cut if it has a battery back-up, because it uses home electricity.
- The risk of fire and explosion from re-chargeable batteries, as has happened with e-bikes and scooters.

For more information go to: www.cprecamb.org.uk/cpre-news/2024/05/14/bts-move-to-digital-voice-technology-effect-on-rural-dwellers/ or contact administrator2@cprecamb.org.uk.

Tracey Hipson
CPRE Cambridgeshire and Peterborough

Linton Library

Come in for cosy reads on dark days. You'll always find a warm and friendly welcome here. Relax with a jigsaw puzzle, use our free WiFi, a library computer, or have a look at our Local Studies display, part of the Cambridgeshire Collection, regarding the history of Cambridgeshire, its people, places and organisations.

Craft Club – Saturday 30th, 10.30 – 11.30 am, aimed at 4 - 10 year olds. Come along and make some Christmas crafts!

Do you like reading stories aloud? We have a volunteer vacancy for story time for 0 - 4 years. Tuesday mornings, weekly in term time. Pop in if you're interested.

Ann King (0345 045 5225,
www.cambridgeshire.gov.uk/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

NOV	9.30 am	11.00 am	4.00 pm / 6.00 pm
3 rd		United Service with Holy Communion – Balsham, <i>Revd Iain McColl</i>	
10 th	Holy Communion – West Wickham, <i>Revd Iain McColl/Alistair Collen</i>	Remembrance Day Services (10.45 pm) – West Wrating, <i>Steven Wheeler</i> Balsham, <i>Revd Hannah Threlfall</i> Hildersham, <i>Revd Iain McColl/Alistair Collen</i>	Taizé service (6.00 pm) – Weston Colville, <i>Revd Hannah Threlfall</i>
17 th	Holy Communion – West Wrating, <i>Revd Iain McColl</i> Morning Worship - West Wickham, <i>Alistair Collen</i>	Holy Communion – Little Abington, <i>Revd Iain McColl</i> Morning Worship – Balsham, <i>Alistair Collen</i>	Evening Prayer (6.00 pm) – Hildersham, <i>Steven Wheeler</i>
24 th	Holy Communion – West Wickham, <i>Revd Kathy Bishop</i> Holy Communion – Weston Colville, <i>Revd Iain McColl</i> Creative Church (10.00 am) – Abington Hub, <i>Rosemary Mead/</i> <i>Revd Hannah Threlfall</i>	Holy Communion – Balsham, <i>Revd Iain McColl</i> Holy Communion – Hildersham, <i>Revd Kathy</i> <i>Bishop</i>	Evening Prayer (4.00 pm) – Little Abington, <i>Revd Hannah Threlfall</i>

DIARY

NOVEMBER 2024

- Sat 2 West Wrating Café
Wine Tasting Evening, West Wrating
Balsham Picture House, 'A Haunting in Venice'
- Mon 4 Weston Colville Parish Council
- Wed 6 Balsham Gardening Club
- Sun 10 Remembrance Service, West Wrating Memorial
- Sun 17 Christmas Market, Ellesmere Centre, Stetchworth
- Tues 12 Balsham WI
- Wed 13 West Wrating Book Club
- Fri 15 Weston Colville Tea & Cakes, Reading Room
- Sat 16 West Wrating Churchyard Clear-up
Soul music, West Wrating Football Club
- Sun 17 Christmas Market, Ellesmere Centre, Stetchworth
- Mon 18 West Wickham & District Gardening Club
- Tues 19 Linton & District Historical Society
- Thur 21 Lunch Club, The Chestnut Tree
- Fri 22 Folk Evening, Weston Colville
- Sat 23 Quiet Meditation, St Mary's, Weston Colville
Christmas Craft Fayre, Balsham
Withersfield Christmas Bazaar
- Sat 30 West Wrating Café Christmas
Wreath-making Workshop, St Mary's

DECEMBER 2024

- Sun 1 Oil Co-operative Orders Cut-off
- Sat 7 West Wickham Christmas Fayre
Balsham Picture House, 'Home Alone'
- Mon 9 Baroque Concert, Hildersham
- Thur 12 'A Christmas Carol', St Mary's, Weston Colville
- Sat 14 Balsham Singers Christmas Concert

Churchwardens:

St Mary's – Ian Ashbridge (01223 291344)

Bob Coates (07785 361345)

St Andrew's – Sebastian Bain (07736 198101)

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

Weston Colville Parish Clerk: Jess Ashbridge,
clerk@westoncolville.org.uk, 07779 277647

West Wrating Parish Clerk: Cameron Biggs,
clerk.westwratingparishcouncil@gmail.com

Community Warden: Lucy Cameron,
Lucy.Cameron@AgeUKCAP.org.uk, 07436 102865

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

Mobile library: fourth Thursday: 28th Nov
High Street, West Wrating 11.10 - 11.50 am
Reading Room, Weston Green 12.00 - 12.35 am
Mill Hill, Weston Colville 12.40 - 1.05 pm

Black bins: Wednesday 13th & 27th November,
Wednesday 11th December

Blue bins: Wednesday 6th & 20th November,
Wednesday 4th & 18th December

Green bins: Wednesday 6th & 20th November,
Wednesday 4th December

As usual for this time of year when less garden waste is generated, collections of green bins will switch from their fortnightly collection pattern to monthly collections from December until March.

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 December issue:

Wednesday 20th November