

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 Village Hall

The committee is keen to recruit new members as part of its succession planning process. We have a new Bookings Secretary who will take up the role soon, and Maggie is still active and will help with a handover hopefully in the next few weeks. After many years of service our treasurer intends to step down at the end of this year, which will give ample time for a handover. Like Maggie, Mick has been an invaluable resource and we will miss him.

Our Events Team has been busy: the Race Night is all go (see the advert on page 3 of *Challenge*); a Bingo Night and an Indian curry night with music is being planned; and a cards and board games evening will be held on Friday February 14th from 6 to 9 pm. Tea, coffee and nibbles will be available courtesy of 'The Café'. There will be a collection of games and playing cards available but please bring your favourite games, join in the fun and share with others.

Interested in joining the committee or for other information? Please contact me.

***Martin Davey (07740 774625,
martin.davey5@btinternet.com)***

Kingsway Solar Community Action: Next Steps

After a hectic December, KSCA had hoped for a well-deserved break over Christmas. However, Kingsway chose to release their Environmental Impact Assessment Scoping Report (a total of 328 pages plus four appendices) on 17th December, despite advice from the Planning Inspectorate to avoid the holiday period due to reduced capacity for responses. Local councils, including parish councils, had until 14th January to provide feedback on what the report includes. KSCA was pleased to support the parish

councils in preparing their responses, which are now available to read and download on the KSCA website.

We are not alone! KSCA has put together a list of all the large solar projects in the pipeline, showing where they are in the planning process. We've also explained how the development process works, so you'll know when you can have your say on the Kingsway project. The next big step is the Statutory Consultation, which Kingsway plans to hold in summer 2025.

There will be an official announcement in local and national media with details about the consultation, including dates, locations (for any in-person events), as well as online forums. During this consultation, we'll need support from experts like ecologists and lawyers to make sure our community is properly represented. If you can help, please get in touch!

If you want to get involved or stay updated on everything about the solar farm, visit our website at kingswayaction.org, or follow us on Facebook and Instagram. Together we can be stronger!

A big thank you to everyone who has supported us through our GoFundMe campaign! Your help is greatly appreciated and has been vital in raising awareness. Our work continues.

Ellen Collier

Tea & Cakes



We hope you all had a lovely afternoon at our recent tea and cakes session. We will meet again at the Reading Room on Friday 21st February, 3.30 - 5.00 pm as usual.

Thank you for your generous December donations totalling £160, very gratefully received by Emmaus in time for Christmas.

Val and the Team

West Wrating Café

Saturday 1st February, 10.30 to 12 noon in the village hall.

Do join us for our regular First Saturday of the Month café. Jackie from 'Wildly Preserved' will be joining us again, with her wonderful variety of jams, marmalade and fermented goodies!

It's the perfect opportunity to catch up and chat and enjoy freshly brewed coffee, tea and delicious homemade cakes. Everyone is welcome.

Sherry & Jan

ScurryBus to The Chestnut Tree

We are pleased to confirm that we are now in a position to start operating the ScurryBus, as we have successfully been granted the permit which allows the ScurryBus to transport members around the local community.

As a way of introducing the ScurryBus, we will be holding an Open Day at The Chestnut Tree on Saturday 22nd February where people can come and view the ScurryBus for themselves and also enjoy the facilities at The Chestnut Tree.

We are planning on having the ScurryBus depart from West Wickham and Weston Colville/West Wrating at various times during the day commencing around noon and finishing in the late evening. Probable timings are:

11.30 am	arriving for brunch, amongst other things
2.00 pm	in time for Wales v Ireland Six Nations Rugby match
4.30 pm	ahead of England v Scotland Six Nations Rugby match
7.00 pm	to sample the very first Village Supper Night

Return trips will be at 2.30 pm, 5.00 pm, 7.30 pm and 11.00 pm.

We will be granting a one-day trial membership to anybody who wishes to use the ScurryBus on this day. In order for this Open Day to work successfully, prebooking of travel will be essential.

We ask that individuals and families notify us in advance so that they can be granted temporary membership, confirm timings and pick up points etc.

Please make contact by email

to scurryltd@gmail.com or by text to myself on 07795 848716, alternatively pop into The Chestnut Tree and leave your details behind the bar.

We look forward to seeing you on the day.

Paul Mower

Weston Colville Book Exchange

All the books in the kiosk were changed at the end of January. Do keep an eye on what is on offer.



Candlemas

Sunday 2nd February, 6 pm at St Mary's

Candlemas is celebrated on 2nd February, and is a celebration of light and dedication.



These days we celebrate the coming of light into the world with the symbolism of candles. In the dark times of winter and with the threat of solar panels dominating our landscape, we all need a bit of light in the darkness, so come and help us do just that!

Whatever your faith or none, please join us in bringing a bit more light into the world at Candlemas and rededicate yourself for the year ahead. Light a candle in St Mary's and take it home. There will be a very short (20 minutes) dedication ceremony with traditional beeswax candles at 6 pm followed by a glass of wine/soft drinks and a social time. Everyone is welcome. It will be a fun event for children and anyone who likes sharing the light!

Bob Coates (07785 361345)

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West Wrattling Book Club

Our book for January was the Booker Prize-winning 'Orbital' by Samantha Harvey. The author wrote this book during the covid lockdowns, drawing in particular on the live feed from the International Space Station, and follows 24 hours of orbits. We all enjoyed this book very much.

In between meteorological observations and other scientific experiments, and when they are not sleeping, the ISS crew spend much of their time observing space and the earth going past. The details of the physical effects on their bodies is enlightening. The language is beautiful, with the author finding so

many different ways to describe the countries and continents passing beneath them. It highlights both the astronauts/cosmonauts' personal thoughts of family and friends left behind on Earth as well as the larger picture, seeing the world as a single entity with no borders, highlighting how connected and reliant on each other we are, as are they on the space station. And yet there is the knowledge that there are wars and natural disasters going on below them. It draws attention to how much of the latter is caused by human action. This is a thought-provoking, brilliant and inspiring read. Scores were between 8 and 9.5 out of 10.

Our next meeting will be at The Chestnut Tree on Wednesday 19th January at 7.30 pm to read 'The Spinning House' by Caroline Biggs, the story of the infamous arrest and imprisonment of unchaperoned women found walking the streets of Cambridge after dark in the nineteenth century.

Linda Gorman (290653)

CHARITY RACE NIGHT
Saturday 22nd March
Doors open 7pm
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Parish Matters

The seasons within our liturgy emphasise waiting for God's revelation. We began with Advent, a season of waiting, and now we are at the finishing line with Candlemas, the feast of the Presentation of Christ in the Temple – the moment when the waiting is over, and Christ has come!

I have a deep interest in the education and support of children. I believe they are our future, and we have a responsibility to guide and encourage them to explore the love and wonder of God.

Bringing a child into God's house may not be to everyone's taste; it can be daunting. But it is a vital part of our faith and community. It is an action that resounds in heaven, significant both for the child and for those waiting to receive them. In Luke 2:22 - 40, we see Mary and Joseph bringing Jesus into God's house for the first time. Like any parents, they are hoping for welcome, blessing, and comfort. Waiting to receive them are Simeon and Anna, whose joy in this tiny baby is palpable.



I think there's an echo of Candlemas whenever a child is brought to church, especially for the first time. It's always a holy and fragile moment. I believe the best way to welcome children isn't necessarily with something flashy, but simply by being there, ready to receive them in a space made for them. I've witnessed children's lives enriched by church relationships, where some of their favourite people are not other children, but adults who take time to chat, show interest in their latest fascinations, and share biscuits.

Think of what can be received from these moments: the congregation receiving the fulfilment of their hopes and prayers, and the child and family receiving a joyful welcome. May we, as parents, have the faith of Mary and Joseph to bring our children into God's house; and may we, as the church, welcome them with Simeon and Anna's joy when that small, thumb-sucking, fidgety, rosy-toed baby is brought into the temple!

Revd Hannah Threlfall

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Millie

Many thanks to all the lovely people who have expressed their sadness at Millie's passing. She was such a presence in our lives and was exceptional in the way she seemed to touch all who met her.

*Alan and Jan Ogden,
Church End*



Royal British Legion Poppy Appeal, 2024

The total of donations from our four villages (West Wrattling, Weston Colville, West Wickham and Balsham) including those from PCs and PCCs, West Wickham Hub and Coffee Morning, and Meadow School, amounted to £1084.08.



Having received notification from the Royal British Legion of just £18 in donations made via our ECF03 QR code, it appears that this method of donation is not popular locally.

Grateful thanks to The Chestnut Tree, The Bell, The Black Bull, The Coffee Shop and Balsham PO for hosting collecting tins and poppies, and to those looking after poppies at Sunday services and other events, and to every donor.

Margaret Johnson, Honorary Poppy Appeal Organiser

Hildersham Concert, the Sonare Choir

On Saturday 22nd March at 7.30 pm is our third concert in support of the Friends of Holy Trinity Church, Hildersham. This will be the professional vocal ensemble Sonare Choir, with one voice to a part, Soprano, Mezzo-Soprano, Tenor and Bass, singing unaccompanied. The title of their programme is 'Elements' and includes works by Mozart and Britten as well as popular and folk songs such as Linden Lea. For more information contact Athene Hunt, huntcam2015@gmail.com



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St Mary's Window Repairs

Almost exactly 200 years ago, St Mary's church tower collapsed, destroying a fair bit of the church on the way. Amazingly, within a year the place was rebuilt. Fragments of the ancient medieval stained glass – those not destroyed in the Reformation – were incorporated into new windows in the north wall. These are historically very important, as few examples of medieval stained glass survive. We need to take action to conserve these.



Despite the extraordinary achievements of those who oversaw the reconstruction in 1825, two further windows have now sustained 200 years of weather battering and the leadwork and wooden frames are now badly degraded. If we don't act quickly, we'll come into the church after a storm and find glass strewn all over the place.

Restoration work on ancient glass is highly specialised and the only local company who can tackle the work has a long waiting list – literally years. We don't have that long, but fortunately a 'window' has opened in their schedule (sorry) and they can start work almost immediately. They can also repair the leadwork and glazing in the worst two Georgian windows. The problem is that we simply don't have the funds in the church to pay for this kind of repair work which costs thousands of pounds.

Thankfully one highly-generous parishioner has agreed to pay for the conservation of the medieval

glass. Another former member of the church has kindly made a major donation, so we are left with about £4,000 to raise in order to keep the church weatherproof. Now we need your help!

People always say that The Church has loads of money, and that may be. But none of it reaches this little outpost in Weston Colville. We have to be self-sufficient. Please consider whether you can make a donation. Everything will help. If you are a UK taxpayer, it's possible for us to reclaim the tax you paid on any contributions, through Gift Aid. All we need is your name and address, and an email or note saying you wish your donation to be gift-aided. We can do the rest.

You can give with a card or a smartphone in the church, by cash or cheque, or by direct transfer if you prefer. (Barclays, 20-74-05, Acc 50935883)

This is an urgent appeal to meet the cost of repairs which are essential, and beyond our church's means. We are (thankfully) not faced with the crisis of 200 years ago, but to keep the church open for all the people in the village, we need to act quickly to keep the glass in, the weather out – and the door open.

Many thanks.

Ian Ashbridge / Bob Coates, Churchwardens
(ian@agrarian.biz / cheviotbob@me.com, 07785 361345)





**The Parish Church of St Mary,
Weston Colville, CB21 5PE**

Thank you for your donation/s to the church.

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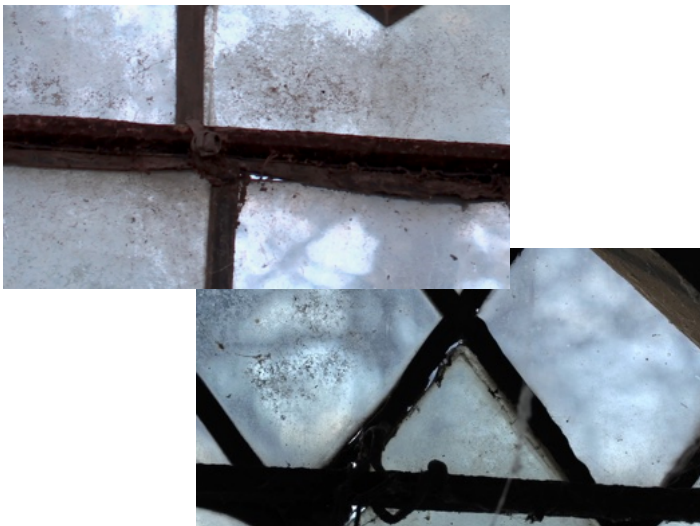
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some money to help mend
the windows at St. Mary's.

Thank you

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Alex (age 10)



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Weston Colville Parish Council

A meeting was held on Monday 6th January. Full minutes and meeting documents can be found on <http://www.westoncolville.org.uk>.

Age UK – a presentation from the Age UK Warden Scheme was received from Sarah Lees. Currently two of the twelve people being looked after by the Small Villages Warden live in Weston Colville. She said the wardens aimed to reduce loneliness, isolation, collect prescriptions, signpost to other organisations, and support people and their families. Wardens were mental health trained, dealt with bereavement, and were dementia friendly. A recent report conducted by South Cambridgeshire District Council (SCDC) demonstrated social value return, the warden scheme offered high value for money, however there was a £6,000 deficit for 2025/26 (£500 per client). SCDC had dropped their funding for this financial year. Sarah hoped there would be an increased contribution from WCPC, but she was grateful for all donations so far. The scheme did not receive direct money from the main Age UK charity, despite being under their umbrella. Sarah Lees was thanked for her presentation, and funding will be considered when the budget is discussed.

Flooding – this had been better on Common Road since the culvert was cleared by a parishioner, but the PC was still waiting for a Floods Risk Officer to bring a consultant out to create a long-term solution. Flooding had been high at Horseshoe Lane ford, the day before the meeting. Debris had been found in the culverts.

Footpaths – requests had been made by a number of parishioners for a dog waste bin at the bottom of Horseshoe Lane. Previous applications to SCDC had been unsuccessful.

MVAS (Moveable Vehicle Activated Signs) – Cllr Russell had now taken over the MVAS. The devices would be moved to Chapel Road and Brinkley Road coming into the village. There were spare brackets, so they could go in different locations.

Kingsway Solar Farm Environment Impact Assessment (EIA) – a letter from the Planning Inspectorate requested comments for the Environment Impact Assessment, as a consultee of the application. Cllr Durham had attended a joint PC meeting on 5th December, where a representative from Stop Sunnica was present; they had won their case with the planning inspectorate etc, however Ed Miliband had pushed the proposal through in two days and Stop Sunnica, SCDC and Cambridgeshire County Council (CCC) did not appeal due to the legal costs involved.


Kingsway Solar Community Group (KSCG) were acting as a really good resource. It was important to collaborate between the PCs. Cllr Vidler had created a document specific to Weston Colville for the EIA scoping document, using West Wrattling PC's document as a basis. The reasons for objection were based on planning objections. It was clear that Kingsway Solar had not surveyed Area C, due to the unsuitability of the area, such as roads, flooding, battery electric storage risk, landscape and visual amenity. There were lots of mistakes, listed buildings not incorporated, etc. Cllr Pagonis proposed an opening for the document, adding major concerns in bullet points.

Cllr Garrod thanked Cllr Vidler for the amount of work carried out in a very short amount of time from 17th December to 14th January. There would be a list of pictures appendices, views from listed buildings were required, and photographs from heritage settings.

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Listed properties and views: Weston Colville Hall, Three Horseshoes Farmhouse, Church, Lane Cottage, Pathways, Pound Farm, Pound Farm Barns. KSCG had Map Capture What 3 Words with views, just for parcel C, for Weston Colville. Simon Chandler (West Wrattling PC Chairman) asked that endorsements were made for West Wrattling's report – there was a draft map with photos. It was suggested including a reference to the Environment Agency flood plan. Weston Colville was not listed as a residential area in the Kingsway Solar documents.

Setting up a working group was discussed, comprising two councillors, three parishioners, and a Kingsway Action member. It would be a long-term project, over at least next three to five years. Cllrs Batchelor and Harvey were very supportive. Cllr Batchelor suggested having a joint meeting with planners involved with the Sunnica application, before the formal consultation.

Policies – the biodiversity policy will be brought back in March. Cllr Garrod would amend the policy using CCC and SCDC policies. It was suggested liaising with local bodies – land owners, PCC, and Woodland Trust etc. Hedging for new area round pond had been ordered from the Woodland Trust by Cllr Jennings.

BT Digital Voice – The clerk would take action on the email sent by Cllr Batchelor.

Village Event 2025 – to celebrate 80th VE Day and the official opening of the playground – discussion to be moved to March.

Playground – the works for the fenced area were completed in November. The deposit had been paid for the second stage, which would be installed in mid/late January. Funds from Thalia had been received, and a donation of £1,000 from Field Compost Ltd. Final costs for playground due were £18,057.50, plus VAT. It was proposed to acquire signage for sponsorship/inspection signs, budget up to £200. Picnic benches would be discussed in March.

Precept 2025/26 – The precept was determined at £15,000. £2,000 was budgeted to start a fund for fighting Kingsway Solar proposals. SCDC made an error on the precept last year, and although the PC had received the correct amount, parishioners were charged a reduced rate, and therefore it would appear that there would be a large increase this year.

Dates of Parish Council Meetings in 2025 – 3rd March, Wednesday 7th May, 7th July, Wednesday 10th September, 3rd November.

Jess Ashbridge, Parish Clerk



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West Wrattling Parish Council Meeting

The council met on 13th January. Below is a summary of the discussions and decisions.

Public Participation – a resident shared updates on local footpaths, encouraging feedback from others via the village website.

Council Business

- *Planning Training*: the clerk will arrange two planning webinar sessions for councillors by polling for suitable dates.
- *Challenge Magazine Grant*: a £150 annual contribution was approved.
- *Village Hall Grant*: a grant application for £1,548 to support the village hall was not approved. The council is exploring alternative funding and insurance options with the Village Hall Management Committee.
- *AgeUK Community Warden Scheme*: the council approved increasing its contribution to £275 to continue supporting this important local service.

Finance – the council reviewed and approved the budget for 2025/26, setting the precept at £14,300. Bank balances were noted to remain healthy.

Planning – no new planning applications were received, though updates on ongoing applications were discussed. The council will draft a formal parish plan to help guide future developments. The approved hedge works at Randswood Farm were also noted.

Lamb’s Yard Development – the council confirmed it will take ownership of the wildlife area being constructed as part of the Lamb’s Yard development. Necessary arrangements, including insurance liability during the ten-year support period, are being investigated.

Village Hall – updates were received on discussions with Dyason Developments regarding the village hall. Cllr Ryder is compiling photographic records of the building’s current condition for reference.

Kingsway Solar Farm – the chairman provided an update on the Kingsway Solar Farm Working Group. The council’s response to the EIA scoping report was submitted before the 14th January deadline. Summaries of meetings are available on the village website.

West Wrattling Sports Pavilion – the council discussed several matters:

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- Approval was given for an event on 7th February featuring a ZZ Top tribute band.
- Two darts teams were admitted as affiliated clubs of the pavilion.
- Rule changes were approved, including:
 - Reducing the quorum for committee and general meetings.
 - Increasing the number of guests members may sign in.
- Progress is being made to review and revise the pavilion's lease and agreement. A working group comprising councillors and pavilion committee members will begin drafting updates.
- The council will continue supporting additional bin collections and approved grass-cutting costs for 2025.

The Sports Pavilion Working Group will propose a solution for fast-tracking event approvals. Grant applications to the Wadlow Wind Farm Community Fund are also being prepared.

Small Assets – research is underway for repairing the historic Pound and repurposing the old telephone box. The defibrillator battery will be replaced in October 2025, with pads replaced in April 2026. These costs are being budgeted for future years.

Road Safety, Highways, and Footpaths – the 20 mph speed limit application will be resubmitted by the end of January. Residents are reminded to share footpath-related feedback via the village website.

Reports from District Councillor Henry Batchelor and County Councillor Geoff Harvey were received and are available online.

Next Meeting – the next parish council meeting is scheduled for Monday, 10th March, at 7.30 pm in the village hall. Residents are encouraged to attend and raise any matters of local concern.

For full meeting minutes and further updates, please visit the village website.

Cameron Biggs, Clerk (07769 253264)

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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.

Balsham Picture House

Our next film, on Saturday 1st February, will be ‘Captain Phillips’ (12) starring Tom Hanks as Captain Richard Phillips, and based on the true story of the hijacking by Somali pirates in 2009 of the US-flagged ‘Maersk Alabama’ off the East coast of Africa. The film is a gripping story of the event and the relationships developed between Phillips and Muse the Somali pirate captain.

Normal start time of doors open at 7 pm and film at 7.30 in the Balsham Church Institute. Dave’s bar will be open as usual before the film for refreshments,

Dick Paden

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Linton Area Learning Alliance (LALA)

The title of the next series of lectures for Linton Area Learning Alliance (LALA) is: ‘The Friendly Invasion – the arrival of the US Army Air Force in the UK’. These will take place on Tuesday mornings starting 4th February for 8 weeks, from 10.15 to 12.30 at Linton Village Hall, Coles Lane, Linton CB21 4JS.

The tutor, Ian McLachlan, says that the course explores the social and cultural impact of the USAAF in East Anglia during the second World War - GI brides, race relations, crime etc – focusing on human interest stories rather than aircraft and battle tactics. It also ties in with the 80th anniversary of the end of WWII and the departure of the Americans from their bases.

For further information please contact Sue Mudge on 01223 892737 or mudges.linton@btinternet.com

Balsham WI

Balsham WI will celebrate its 100th birthday this year and to celebrate, each meeting in 2025 will focus on a different decade. Our first meeting this year saw us travel back in time to 1925.



All members wore a hat to the meeting (as was customary in those days). A member was able to get the committee minutes from the 1920s from the County Archives and, with the help of local newspaper stories, the census and a local historian among others, was able to put together an interesting presentation. We heard about the start of the WI, what Balsham was like at the time, and details of early members and their programme.

We also had a visit from Miss Lily from the music hall in town with a recitation, as well as a few games appropriate to the period.

Our next meeting on 13th February (7.30 pm at The Pavilion) will have a 1930s theme. Prospective members are always welcome.

Save the date: we are planning an afternoon tea for members past and present on Saturday 16th August at the Church Institute. More details nearer the time.

Debbie Mower

The Balsham Singers

The Balsham Singers would like to say a big thank you to everyone who helped make their Christmas Concert such a great event: our loyal advertisers, our front of house crew, the PCC (especially Nigel); we are grateful for the use of the church, the Church Institute and the Sports Pavilion;. most of all, thanks to our fantastic audience – the church was full but hopefully everyone was comfortably seated. A sum of £500 was sent to Ocular Melanoma UK as a result of our raffle and a choir donation.

The next day we sang carols around the village Christmas tree, and on 20th December we were invited to sing for the Royal Papworth Hospital Charity, and were pleased to make a donation to their fund raising day. An unprecedented three gigs in a week!

Thank you all for your support. In 2025 Balsham Singers will be 30 and we will have some celebrating to do. More details next month.

Jo Stinton

Buttercups Pre-School

Buttercups Pre-School is desperately in need of new committee members and trustees!

We need a full committee and a minimum number of trustees in order to continue to be able to offer childcare services in our community and to run fundraising events to keep the setting open.



Can you spare an hour every half term for a committee meeting and some additional time each term to help with fundraising activities?

Although we welcome parents, carers and relatives of children at Buttercups, you do not need to have a direct connection with the setting. You may simply be looking to give something back to your community or have some free time to commit to a charitable organisation.

If you are interested in becoming a committee member or trustee then we would love to hear from you. Please email buttercupsccommittee@yahoo.com

Note that committee members and trustees will be subject to DBS checks.

Charlotte Vallins

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The Meadow Primary School, Balsham

This term, we are especially delighted to welcome the new grounds team from East Cambridgeshire District Council. Their passion and dedication to improving our outdoor spaces are clear, and we’re excited to see the positive changes they will bring, from creating spaces for learning and play, to ensuring our surroundings are safe and well-maintained. We’re looking forward to the transformation of our school grounds into a purposeful and inspiring environment.

Looking ahead, we’re also excited to restart swimming lessons in the summer term. Swimming is a vital life skill, and we are committed to ensuring every child has the opportunity to develop water confidence and safety awareness. However, providing this essential experience comes with significant costs for the upkeep of facilities and the delivery of high-quality teaching.

To make swimming sustainable for the future, we are reaching out to our local community. If you know of any businesses or organisations that might be willing to support this initiative, whether through sponsorship or donations, we would be incredibly grateful. Please contact Ellen Campbell in the office on 01223 894400 or via email: office@meadowprimary.org if you know of anyone who may be interested in helping. Together, we can ensure that every child has the opportunity to thrive, both in and out of the classroom.

We’d also like to take a moment to thank the wonderful members of our local community who already support us in so many ways – whether by coming in to hear readers, assisting with school activities, or offering time and skills. Your generosity and involvement make a real difference, and we truly appreciate everything you do for our children.

Faye Facer, Assistant Headteacher

Linton and Brinkley Rangers present

Bingo and Bakes



Friday 28th February 7pm

Eyes down 7:30pm
Linton Infant School hall

£7 including 4 games and cakes at half time

To book a spot please email
1stlintonrangerunit@gmail.com

Profit towards international trips in 2025 and 2026

Marsh Mail

We were very honoured to welcome author and poet Michael Rosen in January. Michael is a British children's author, poet, presenter and academic and is now a professor of children's literature in the Department of Educational Studies at Goldsmiths, University of London. He has also served as Children's Laureate.

This was our second visit from Michael. This time he conducted a series of workshops for a range of different year groups. Michael gave a poetry workshop to the whole of Year 7 where he told stories of his family's experiences during the Second World War, and the students worked together to create some very moving poetry on themes of family, home, flight,



empathy for others, and compassion. After lots of book-signing and interactions with students and staff, he worked with LVC dance company to plan a collaboration for a concert in June, and he finished the day writing protest song lyrics with GCSE musicians. At the end of the day, very unexpectedly, we had a visit from ITV who filmed an interview with Michael Rosen performing his poems in our library, with the homework club looking on silently. This was broadcast on ITV Evening News on the same day.

As well as our visit from Michael, the cast of 'We Will Rock You' (our latest school production) were lucky enough to be given an all-day workshop from Richard 'Woody' Woodford, alumnus of LVC and West End singer/actor/dancer. As well as directing



and giving feedback to the cast, he spoke about his career and, in particular, the path he has taken since leaving LVC. Thanks to the Friends of LVC for funding this opportunity. 'We Will Rock You' runs at LVC from 6th to-8th February; tickets are now on sale.

Laura Heard

Peter and Ruth Lloyd Trust Award 2025

We are now inviting applications for pupils starting university in September 2025.

The award is intended to be of assistance in the purchase of books, materials, equipment etc. For further information about the trust and the award please contact: Jonathan Drury (01223 290087).

For an application form please apply via email to: peter.ruthlloydtrust@sky.com

The application form and supporting documents must be received at the latest by 5th April 2025.

Jonathan Drury

LINTON & DISTRICT HISTORICAL SOCIETY TUESDAY 18th FEBRUARY 2025



Crime scene search

a talk by Alex Mair
UK Police Search Adviser

LINTON VILLAGE HALL
COLES LANE - 7.30 p.m.

Refreshments and Raffle

Visitors and new members always welcome

West Wickham & District Gardening Club

West Wickham & District Gardening Club has been going through a sea change in the last year and is continuing to evolve in 2025. With a greater variety of talks and local garden visits than ever before, stalls at village fairs and numerous social gatherings, our aim is to be a club for all our communities.

Over the past 12 months we have been delighted to welcome members and many new visitors of all ages to our events including the spring plant sale and rejuvenated summer fair, both of which we will build on this year. The photography competition is running again* and the excellent homemade cakes baked by the members will, as always, be a central feature of these gatherings!

Whilst many members are keen gardeners, there are an increasing number who just want to find out a little more about nature, ecology and plants. Sharing knowledge after the monthly meetings is, of course, invaluable with tips from the more proficient members helping out those of us with much less knowledge.



With the trend for indoor gardening continuing to grow, 17th February sees us welcoming Dr Manos Kanellos who will be talking on the subject of 'How to Set Up and Maintain a Terrarium'. Dr Kanellos is a plant physiologist who has been growing orchids for many years and is a qualified judge for the RHS Orchid Committee.

So why not come and join us to find out how to create your own indoor glasshouse? Non-members are always welcome for a £2 entry fee. All meetings are held at 7.30 pm in West Wickham Village Hall.

Annual membership is £8 per person. Please contact Sue Boase (07716 401646, wwdgc@westwickham.org).
Sally Collins, Vice-chair (wwdgc@westwickham.org)

* *Photography titles this year are: Frozen, Light and Dark, Terrific Trees. All categories are open to children, with a special prize awarded for the best under 16's entry. Entries to be received by the end of August.*

Linton Library

A friendly welcome awaits you at Linton Library: come and say hello to our new Library Assistant, Vicky; browse our shelves in the warm; use our computers for free, or contribute to the jigsaw puzzle.

Author Talk: Jo Browning Wroe is coming to give a talk on Wednesday 12th February, 2 pm at the Library. The event is £5. Please book your place by contacting the library or email cambourne.referral@cambridgeshire.gov.uk

Valentine Craft: drop-in session on Friday 14th, 2 - 4 pm. This event is aimed at children (with their parent/carer).

50 Things Story and Craft Event: Tuesday 18th, 10.30 - 12.30 pm. This event is aimed at children under 5 (with their parent/carer). The event is free but please book your place by contacting the library.

IT Club: every Wednesday 5 - 7 pm, knowledgeable volunteers are here to offer help, including how to use the Addenbrookes MyChart patient management software.

Vicky Anandraj and Ann King,
Community Library Assistants, Linton Library

February 2025

FEB	9.30 am	11.00 am	Afternoon & Evening
2 nd		United Service with Holy Communion – Balsham, <i>Revd Iain McColl</i>	Candlemas Service (6.00 pm) – Weston Colville, <i>Revd Iain McColl</i>
9 th	Holy Communion – West Wickham, <i>Revd Iain McColl</i> Morning Worship - West Wrating, <i>Steven Wheeler</i>	Morning Worship – Balsham, <i>Revd Hannah Threlfall</i> Morning Worship – Great Abington, <i>Steven Wheeler</i> Café Church – Hildersham, <i>Revd Iain McColl</i>	Taizé service (6.00 pm) – Weston Colville, <i>Revd Hannah Threlfall</i>
16 th	Holy Communion – West Wrating, <i>Revd Iain McColl</i> Morning Worship – West Wickham, <i>Alistair Collen</i>	Morning Worship – Balsham, <i>Revd Hannah Threlfall</i> Holy Communion – Little Abington, <i>Revd Iain McColl</i>	Evening Prayer (6.00 pm) – Hildersham, <i>Alistair Collen</i>
23 rd	Holy Communion – Weston Colville, <i>Revd Kath Bishop</i> Morning Worship – West Wickham, <i>Alistair Collen</i> Creative Church (10.00 am) – Abington Hub, <i>Revd Hannah Threlfall/Rosemary Mead</i>	Holy Communion (BCP) – Hildersham, <i>Revd Kathy Bishop</i> Holy Communion (11.15 am) – Balsham, <i>Revd Michael Wilcockson</i>	Evening Prayer (4.00 pm) – Little Abington, <i>Revd Hannah Threlfall</i>

Details of all our services can also be found on the website: www.grantavale.org.uk



FEBRUARY 2025

- Sat 1 West Wrating Saturday Café
Balsham Picture House, ‘Captain Phillips’
- Sun 2 Candlemas, St Mary’s, Weston Colville
- Tues 4 LALA talks begin – ‘The Friendly Invasion’
- Wed 5 Oil Co-operative Order Deadline
- Fri 7 ZZ Top Tribute Band, West Wrating
- Wed 12 Author Talk, Linton Library
- Thur 13 Balsham WI
- Fri 14 Valentine Craft Session, Linton Library
Card & Board Games Evening, West Wrating
- Sat 15 West Wrating Progressive Supper
- Mon 17 West Wickham & District Gardening Club
- Tues 18 Story & Craft Event, Linton Library
Linton & District Historical Society
- Wed 19 West Wrating Book Club, The Chestnut Tree
- Thur 20 Lunch Club, The Chestnut Tree
- Fri 21 Weston Colville Tea & Cakes, Reading Room
- Sat 22 ScurryBus Open Day, The Chestnut Tree
Charity Race Night, West Wrating Village Hall
- Fri 28 ‘Bingo & Bakes’, Linton

MARCH 2025

- Mon 3 Weston Colville Parish Council
- Mon 10 West Wrating Parish Council
- Sat 22 Onare Choir Concert, Hildersham

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

Black bins: Wednesday 5th & 19th February,
Wednesday 5th & 19th March

Blue bins: Wednesday 12th & 26th February,
Wednesday 12th & 26th March

Green bins: Wednesday 12th February,
Wednesday 12th March

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

Mobile library: fourth Thursday:

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

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:

Thursday 20th February