

Challenge

The Parish Newsletter of Weston Colville and West Wratting

The views expressed herein are those of the contributors.

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RAF Wratting Common

There will be a short service at the memorial on Remembrance Sunday, 9th 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 Wratting Common
(rafwrattingcommon@gmail.com, 07736 737174)

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.

West Wratting Café Christmas

Saturday 6th December, 10.30 am - 1.30 pm. This has become a very popular event. There will be lots of Christmassy stalls, mulled wine and of course lovely cakes and mince pies! Do join us and pick up some original Christmas gifts. Everyone welcome.

Sherry & Jan



Tea & Cakes

Thank you to everyone who came and supported our October Tea & Cakes. Thank you also to the team setting up the Reading Room and baking delicious cakes.

Please come and join us for our next event on Friday 21st November in Weston Colville Reading Room, from 3.30 - 5.00 pm.

We are a very friendly group, and all are welcome.

Val and the Team



Christmas Wreaths & Candle Decorations

Saturday 29th November, 10.30 am - 1 pm

Come and join us in St Mary's Church, Weston Colville, for a fun Christmas Workshop, making wreaths and candle decorations.



Cost: £30, including demonstration, all materials, coffee and a homemade soup lunch. No experience needed. (If you can, bring your own secateurs.)

To book a place, please contact Gay.

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

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Fundraising for a Defibrillator

There is a very short time to get the heart started after a cardiac arrest to stand any chance of survival. A defibrillator hugely increases that chance if the heart has stopped.

Jennie, landlady of The Chestnut Tree with the help of Sam Smith, has set up a Gofundme page (https://www.gofundme.com/f/raising-for-a-community-defibrillator?lang=en_GB) following a recent sad incident, so there is speedy access for residents at that end of the village. We need to raise £1,295 for a defib and case which be fitted on the outside of the pub and will be available to anyone 24/7.

Once installed, a Community CPR Training Session will be arranged via MAGPAS Air Ambulance to benefit anyone who may wish to attend. Details for this will be posted at a later date.

Please help us hit our target as it could potentially save yours or someone else's life.

The Chestnut Tree & Friends

Collection for Ukraine

A collection for the people of Ukraine will be held on Saturday 8th November at Abington Primary School from 9.00 am until 12.30 pm. Organised by local Rotarian Tony Collett, this will be the sixth collection that the school has kindly supported and is in addition to the seventeen that Rotary has organised in Saffron Walden. They have resulted in 15 tons of food and 43 brand-new generators that have been supplied to UK-Aid who have arranged delivery since the inception of these collections.

According to the United Nations office in Ukraine there were 49,431 casualties in Ukraine by the end of July and 3.7 million are internally displaced within



Wine Tasting Event

In West Wrattling Village Hall
Hosted by Corney and Barrow

Saturday 15th November at 7pm. More exciting wines from around the World presented with tasting notes and viticulture details

There will be a tasting of 6 to 8 wines. Wines can be purchased for the evening, delivery or both! Stock up for Christmas.

Tickets: £15 including a drink on arrival and "Nibbles" Contact Doug Clarke for tickets, make up a table or join in and make new friends

EMAIL: DOUGATGALEWOOD@HOTMAIL.COM

PHONE/TEXT: 07818 400723

Charity number: 273557

Ukraine's borders. They need warm clothing and footwear in good condition and sheets, blankets [not pillows, nor duvets]. Everyday canned and dried food, baby food, gluten-free items, medical aid, toiletries, and cleaning materials, cooking utensils, torches, batteries and toys, games and educational items. In addition, donations in cash or by card can be made at the Rotary collection point on 8th November. All monies donated will be going towards the purchase of pallets of food and generators.

Tony Collett says, "The response to our previous collections from residents of the local villages has been truly heart-warming so I am hopeful it will be the same this time." If anyone has any queries contact Tony on 01223 893447.

West Wrattling Progressive Supper

I hope to arrange another Progressive Supper for Saturday 31st January. Anyone living in West Wrattling is welcome to take part. For more information or to add your name to my list, please email me.

Sherry O'Donovan (Sherry.odonovan@gmail.com)



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Great Expectations

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Jane Pryor

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FRIDAY NIGHT INN

THE READING ROOM.



7PM 10PM

WESTON COLVILLE

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Folk evening – Camus

Thank you to Camus for a wonderful evening of music and general joy last month. The Reading Room was merry and we were treated to old favourite Camus compositions, and very specially a song recorded in our village in the sixties, and mentioned by Gabrielle in this publication last month: 'Sweet Smiling Face'. Also, thanks to those who supported this event – in addition to the door money and bar proceeds, the band generously donated their CD sales.

The evening raised £371.61. When I took this to Jimmy's Night Shelter on East Road, the manager was very grateful, saying it represents a year's dinners for one resident; much appreciated in these difficult times.

Jacqueline

St Andrew's Churchyard Clear-up

The churchyard clear-up will take place on Saturday 15th November from 10 am - 12. The usual coffee and doughnuts will be on offer and everyone is welcome, if only for a chat..

Looking forward to seeing you all.

Cobby (290046)

Jo Taylor

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West Wratting Book Club

Our book for October was 'Lone Wolf' by Adam Weymouth.

This is the story of the author's journey in 2022, just as Europe is opening up after the coronavirus pandemic, following the amazingly long journey taken by a wolf from December 2011 to March 2012. It took him from Croatia, across Slovenia and Austria to Italy, taking in farmland, forests, mountains, thriving towns and ruined villages.

He encounters other scientists and naturalists who support the re-introduction of wolves and those who blame them for the loss of their livelihoods due to predation by them. As well as following Slave (pronounced Sh-laugh-ts), he investigates our interactions with wolves over the millennia, the mythology, and, today, the use by right-wing political parties to stir-up hostility towards them amongst farming communities to gain support, and the parallels with the experiences of and attitudes to illegal immigrants.

Although one person described it as just another of "those books" most of us loved this book, especially the way the author used his journey to investigate so many themes, and thought it beautifully written,

particularly the descriptions of the wilderness. One or two skipped some of the detail to find out what was happening to the wolf, while another would have liked better maps. We would definitely recommend it as a good read.

Scores were mainly 9 and 10 out of 10, with one 6.

We will next meet at The Chestnut Tree on Wednesday 12th November at 7.30 pm to review 'Paris Echo' by Sebastian Faulks.

Linda Gorman (290653)

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This month's lucky winning numbers are: first 2, second 12 and third 16.

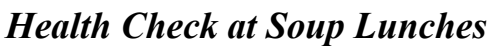
The draw was held on Saturday 4th October at the café. The lottery is open for new players: just contact Jan at jan.davey5@btinternet.com.

The Harvest Supper was a great success; thank you to all those who worked so hard to put on this social event. The night was kicked off by Reverend Hannah, followed by the food with a main course of salmon and ham, then apple cake and a cheese course. The raffle was drawn and then the auction which ranged from wonky vegetables to a BMW car! Next up is the wine tasting; see the advert on page 2 in this edition of *Challenge*.

Our Village Hall AGM is on 9th December when a new committee is selected. Why not come along and join the team? Our plan to reduce carbon emissions was agreed at our last meeting and we will now start the process of seeking grant funding. Progress is being made on a plan for the garden/child play area.

Martin Davey, Chair (penywaen1@gmail.com)





Bob Coates (07785) 361345)

Alistair Collen



Kingsway Solar Community Action

A huge thank you to everyone who came along to our objection workshops and to those who attended the Kingsway Solar presentations to raise your concerns. We're also grateful to everyone who submitted a response to the Stage Two statutory consultation. Our aim was to encourage as many personal and well-informed submissions as possible, and together we achieved just that!

Thank you also for your donations to our GoFundMe campaign, which supported our community activities and helped make our 'No Way Kingsway' signs so visible across the villages during the consultation. Your generosity has kept the campaign active and seen.

Community survey results – our analysis of the community survey (completed by more than 200 residents) formed a key part of KSCA's consultation response. Over 90% of respondents oppose the proposed Kingsway Solar project, with 86% strongly opposed. The top concerns were visual impact on the landscape, loss of productive farmland, and harm to wildlife and nature. Despite this, residents overwhelmingly support renewable energy when delivered in fairer, more sustainable ways, such as rooftop solar, brownfield developments, and community-owned projects rather than large industrial schemes on farmland.

Support the legal fund – our Crowd Justice campaign is raising funds for the legal challenge. The platform ensures donations only go towards a properly funded case; if a target isn't met, pledges are automatically refunded. This gives every supporter confidence that their contribution will make an impact. Crowd Justice also provides a transparent

way to collect small donations securely and track progress publicly. Every pledge, large or small, helps.

Step into Nature – as the seasons change, please keep logging wildlife sightings on *iRecord*. Your observations of birds, bats, flowers, and hedgerow species are vital evidence of the biodiversity that could be affected by the Kingsway Solar development. Every record counts.

What happens next? Our work continues. KSCA will register as an Interested Party when the Planning Inspectorate opens the next stage. This allows us to contribute formally to the Examination and provide feedback as the proposal is reviewed.

The fight to oppose this industrial solar development is not over, and your continued involvement remains essential.

Useful links:

- Become a KSCA member to stay involved: <https://kingswaysolarcommunityaction.co.uk/how-to-join-us/>
- Request a No Way Kingsway sticker: email hello@kingswayaction.org
- Donate to KSCA campaign via GoFundMe to support our work: www.gofundme.com/f/no-to-kingsway-solar-farm
- Donate to legal funds: crowdjustice.com/case/kingswaysolarcommunitylegalaction
- Follow KSCA on Facebook and Instagram [#kingswaysolaraction](https://www.instagram.com/kingswaysolaraction) for real-time updates.

Kathy Day

Weston Colville Parish Council

An extraordinary meeting of the parish council was held on Monday 20th October. Meeting documents were available on: <https://www.westoncolville-pc.gov.uk> (search for '2025').

Present: Bridget Durham, John Garrod, Rachel Jennings, Constantine Pagonis, Emma Rayner, Matt Russell, and Jess Ashbridge (clerk). Also present, in part, 15 parishioners.

Cllr Durham welcomed those present. Apologies were accepted from Cllr Vidler.

Public Participation Session – a parishioner raised concerns about having his land used for access for the Kingsway solar farm, without any consultation with him. It was explained that they do not consult with



landowners, for inter-array areas or the connection corridor, at this point, as this wasn't a planning application. The lack of communication was raised as a serious downfall.

Another parishioner was very concerned that panels would be neighbouring their listed property, and also queried why the plans were going ahead before the connection to the National Grid through Burwell. It was advised that connection to Burwell would be in place by 2033; if there was any delay they would face large fines. Land use would be considered, relating to listed buildings.

A parishioner advised that there would be an inverter placed behind the smallholding off Horseshoe Lane, causing constant noise, and that the documentation stated that it would be louder in damp/foggy conditions which, due to the area sitting in a hollow, were likely to be frequent. She was very upset that Weston Green was not listed as a residential area, despite it being a highly populated area.

A parishioner was concerned about how the community funding would be spent. It was advised that this would be consulted on further down the line. Kingsway had already advised that they would not use a set up such as the Cambridge Charity Foundation (CCF), which was responsible for distributing funds from the Wadlow Wind Farm.

A parishioner in Church End was concerned that their houses would be surrounded on three sides, and was also concerned about the problems with battery fires over the chalk aquifers. It was advised that the KSCA had hired a hydrologist to look at the issue of pollution of the aquifer.

A parishioner was concerned about the miscommunication from Kingsway advisers, hearing many different opinions about the same options. It

was advised that trying to delay them was one of the tactics, as they seem to be in a terrible hurry to push things through.

A parishioner felt that the human impact had been woefully not taken into account, on safety and health grounds, with HGV traffic, and dust, two to three years of construction causing noise impact on students, etc.

A parishioner raised serious concerns about the competency and confidence in Kingsway Solar, their lack of engagement, and motivation – simply their motivation is money! They were also concerned that the land would not return to agricultural use, and would be sold off for housing.

Cllr Durham implored that each person and every member of the household submitted a personal response to the consultation, on the areas that would have the greatest effect on their lives. The PC's response would be more inline with planning conditions, and would try not to be as driven by the emotions raised by the proposal.

Planning

24/00192/FUL, Mines Park, Chapel Road – the parish council determined to object to the application on the following grounds: that the development was outside the village envelope; and the road would not support increased traffic. Highways had refused previous applications, however the access splay had been increased by removing hedgerows; the ecology report was 3½ years out of date; the archaeological report was not complete; flooding would seriously impact Chapel Road; the road on the site would need to be permeable; plus there was strong evidence of barn owls, pipistrelle bats, and great crested newts on the site.

Kingsway Solar – a report from the meeting held between Kingsway Solar and the parish council on 15th October was received (see meeting documents). The Statutory Consultation would be running from 17th September to 29th October. Each councillor would focus on certain areas, and provide information for Cllr Durham to collate ready for submission:

The **next parish council meeting** will be on 3rd November. Agenda items will include biodiversity and the pond.

Jess Ashbridge, Clerk

Advent Quiet Afternoon – 22nd November

We are continuing our pattern of quarterly ‘Quiet Afternoons’. These are a chance to reflect and explore aspects of faith through peaceful meditations and devotional activities. With Advent approaching, we will be thinking about preparation, carving out a couple of tranquil hours from the hubbub of the run up to Christmas to think about what Jesus’ arrival in the world means for us today.

Join us in St Mary’s Church on Saturday 22nd November at 2.30 pm. It will be very informal, with a simple structure and plenty of opportunity for quiet contemplation. There will be refreshments and a chance to chat afterwards, or just leave quietly in a peaceful mood.

Bob Coates (07785 361345)

Taizé Service

The next Taizé service will be held at St Mary’s Church on 30th November at 6.00 pm. This is a one-off change from our usual slot in the second week of the month.

For those unfamiliar with Taizé services, these are a style of meditative and informal Christian worship based on the practices of the ecumenical Taizé Community in France. They are short and characterised by simple readings, repetitive sung chants, periods of silence, and candlelit prayer. Taizé services are designed to help people of all backgrounds to find a reflective and unifying spiritual experience. In many countries, they have become particularly popular with young people (and those young at heart too). Most people stay on afterwards for refreshments and a chat.

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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)

Any orders left by email will be acknowledged; if you do not get a reply, we haven’t received your order. There is a minimum order of 500 litres. We can no longer order fill ups, due to pre-payment requirements. Please don’t phone before 8 am or after 10 pm. If you are close to running out, please tell us so we mark you as urgent.

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.

Just a Minute!

Hildersham Church Council and the Friends of Hildersham need some assistance – could you help us?

We need someone, working as a self-employed contractor, to help us produce agendas and documents, take minutes of meetings and maintain membership records for the Friends, along with other administrative tasks.

Meetings are held in the evenings, approximately one per month, and last two hours

You need to be able to provide your own equipment and office and, other than when attending meetings,

organise how you provide the agreed contracted service.

We will pay an agreed fee for the service provided based on an indicative rate of £14.50 per hour

Interested? Please contact Keith Day at keithdday@btinternet.com or 01223 891527 for further details.

Update from your local MP, Pippa Heylings

Over parliamentary recess I took the opportunity to meet and hear from residents and organisations in South Cambridgeshire. One issue has dominated – the serious funding cut facing the Arthur Rank Hospice. This wonderful organisation, which provides vital end of life care for the terminally ill, is being forced to plan for the closure of 9 of its 23 beds – a reduction of 40% of its inpatient capacity. At the time of writing, the hospice is facing a funding deficit of £829,000.

I have visited the hospice on several occasions and heard from their CEO Sharon Allen, their amazing staff and the patients and families who treasure this resource. Together with Cambridgeshire's Liberal Democrat MPs Charlotte Cane and Ian Sollom, I have set up a petition to call on the government to save these vital palliative care beds. Over 14,000 people have signed our petition calling for a rethink, with 4,500 signatures in just the first 24 hours! I have been so heartened by the extraordinary response of residents as news of this became public. This is a resounding call to action that has been well reported in the media.

Given the level of response and the concern shown, our petition is now addressed directly to the Prime Minister as well as to the Secretary of State for Health. If we can get more signatures, we plan to hand in the petition to Number 10 Downing Street – so please do sign it here – www.pippaheytings.org.uk/campaigns/save-arh-beds – and share as widely as you can to save these precious Arthur Rank Hospice beds and the skilled staff who provide the care for them.

If you would like to help the hospice further, you can find details to donate to their Protect our Care campaign at www.arhc.org.uk/donate.

Alongside campaigning to save the hospice, I've also been out on the doorsteps listening to residents, holding surgeries and meeting constituents at my

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'meet your MP' events. These are just a few of the things I've been working on over the last few months that I wanted to share with you. If you would like to keep up to date with my work, you can register for my e-newsletter, at [www.pippaheytings.org.uk/ newsletter](http://www.pippaheytings.org.uk/newsletter)



Pippa Heylings MP

Balsham Picture House

Our November film evening doesn't clash with Bonfire Night for once and will be on **1st November** when we will show the film **LEE** (15). Doors open at 7 pm and film at 7.30. Dave's bar open as usual before the film for refreshments.

BALSHAM PICTURE HOUSE



Lee Miller (Kate Winslet) recounts her experiences in 1977 through a series of flashbacks.

Lee, a former fashion model and budding photographer from New York falls in love with Roland Penrose in 1937 while leading a free-spirited life in Europe. They relocate to London, where Lee works for Vogue magazine during WW II and becomes a U.S.War correspondent. Lee travels to the front lines to embark on a mission to uncover the hidden truths of the Third Reich.

In the wake of betrayal, a reckoning will come over the truths of her own past.

Saturday 1st Nov.

Advance notice for the Christmas film evening which will be **Saturday 6th December**, and we will celebrate Christmas early with all drinks and festive nibbles on the house. In a departure from our usual genre we will be showing the last and best of the Disney's Pirates of the Caribbean trilogy - 'At World's End'.

Dick Paden

Buttercups Community Pre-school

We would like to extend a big welcome to our new children and their families who have joined the Buttercups setting. This is where their new journeys begin!



Autumn brought us a glorious sunny day to walk around the village for our scavenger hunt fundraiser. Thank you to everyone who came and took part; we raised a much needed £100 which will go into our fundraising pot.

SAVE THE DATE – Sunday 7th December. We will have a wonderful collection of craft and trade stalls and delicious refreshments. More details to follow, so watch out for notices and posters.

Charlotte Vallins

The Meadow Primary School, Balsham

This month has been filled with colour, community, and connection. Our children took part in our annual fundraising walk, the 'Meadow Mile' – a much-loved event that raises vital funds to support our pupils. The money raised will help us provide the extra resources and enriching experiences that our school budget wouldn't otherwise stretch to, including our exciting OPAL (Outdoor Play and Learning) journey. This year's theme was 'Colour', and the children certainly rose to the challenge! Dressed in bright, cheerful outfits, they brought a splash of joy and energy to the walk, showing off their creativity while supporting a great cause. The event was filled with smiles, laughter, and plenty of community spirit.

We've also had a fantastic start to the year for educational visits and hands-on learning. Our Year 5 and 6 pupils stepped back in time with an immersive Victorian experience at Burghley House, dressing up in period clothing and taking part in traditional Victorian activities. Meanwhile, Year 3 and 4 enjoyed a fascinating Iron Age Experience Day at Wandlebury Country Park, where they explored the Iron Age hill fort and discovered what life was like for people living during that time. Both trips provided wonderful opportunities for the children to deepen their historical understanding through practical, memorable experiences.

Alongside these adventures, we've loved welcoming parents and carers into school to work alongside us in

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helping their children reach their full potential. From 'Meet the SENCO' coffee mornings to phonics workshops, these events have been a great way to share ideas, strengthen relationships, and celebrate our partnership with families. One particular highlight was our Welcome Evening, where children came to school dressed in their pyjamas for a cosy bedtime story (complete with hot chocolate!) while parents heard important information about the year ahead.

We're always delighted to welcome new families into our community. If you'd like to learn more about Meadow, our ethos, or upcoming open events, please visit our website or contact the school office. We'd love to show you what makes our school such a special place to learn and grow.

Faye Facer, Assistant Headteacher

Linton Village College

At Linton Village College, our dedicated Future Pathways and Careers team, Mrs Scally and Mrs Neeves, are



passionate about guiding students as they begin to explore the world of work. This journey starts early, with Year 7 students engaging in careers education from the moment they join us in September.

Already this academic year, students across nearly every year group have taken part in career-focused



events. Year 7 enjoyed 'What's My Line?', a fun and interactive guessing game where students asked questions to identify the professions of visiting volunteers. Year 8 will soon take part in a skills development day, hosted



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by Form the Future, a valued community interest company we've partnered with for several years.

Year 9 students recently attended an Industry Day at The Junction in Cambridge, where they explored careers in the arts.

Workshops covered sound engineering, lighting design, and pathways into the music industry. A highlight was the behind-the-scenes tour, including the lighting gallery, followed by a Q&A session with professionals in the field.



For our Years 10 and 11, the Post-16 Open Evening offered valuable insights into future pathways, whether through apprenticeships or college. We were thrilled to see so many Year 10s actively engaging with their options, including preparations for their summer term work experience.

At LVC, we believe every student deserves the opportunity to dream big, and by fostering strong partnerships between school and home, we aim to ensure that every student feels confident and supported as they navigate their next steps and build futures with purpose.

We'd also like to hear from former students of Linton Village College who are willing to share their career journeys since leaving us. Your achievements help inspire our current learners. If you're able to help, please contact Mrs Scally at nscally@lintonvc.org

Laura Heard

1st Horseheath Brownies

We are working on the theme 'Skills for my future', and after the half term holiday will be getting ready for Christmas. Time does seem to fly by. We also have a STEM day in Ely in November, organised by the Girlguiding county, and there are also plans for a district residential in February, near Norwich.

Pauline, Katie, Esther & Ella
(horseheathbrownies@gmail.com)

Balsham WI

The October meeting covered the Noughties, the decade of 9/11 and 7/7 and the global financial crisis in 2008.

The iPhone and Kindle were launched, and Facebook, Twitter, Wikipedia, YouTube and Spotify entered our lives. The Euro currency started, and England won the Rugby World Cup. Nationally many projects took place to mark the millennium including The Millennium Dome, London Eye, Eden Project and Rosie Green Wood in Balsham. Balsham WI also celebrated its 75th Birthday, and the film 'The Calendar Girls' was released.

As part of our centenary celebrations, we have arranged a showing of 'The Calendar Girls' on 7th November at 7 pm at the Church Institute. Any former members of Balsham WI are welcome to attend.

Our next meeting will take place on 11th November in the Pavilion at 7.30 pm, and will feature a round-up of the WI over the last 100 years.

We are a friendly group, and new members are always welcome. Please get in touch if you are interested in joining us – balshamwi@gmail.com – or send a message on Facebook, @Balsham WI

Debbie Mower



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Balsham Singers

Rehearsals are well underway for our 30th anniversary Christmas concert:

Saturday 13th December in Holy Trinity Church, Balsham, at 4 pm.

Tickets, to include seasonal refreshments, are £12 (under 16s £1) and are available NOW at Balsham and Abington Post Offices and online at: <https://www.ticketsource.co.uk/balshamsinger>

Jo Stinton

CHRISTMAS FAYRE

BURROUGH GREEN READING ROOM

Saturday 29th November, 10.30 – 15.00



Have a browse through the gifts, enjoy some retail therapy

Stock up for Christmas and have a chance to win a tombola prize

Enjoy a leisurely light lunch and catch-up with friends

Home crafted Cards, Knitwear, Jams, Marmalade, Jellies and Chutney, Floral displays

Photo Frames, Jewellery and lots more

Light Lunch - Homemade soup & roll,

Jumbo Sausage Rolls, Quiche or

Pizza with salad, cakes and pastries.

Tea & Coffee



CASH ONLY please

If you would like to have a table selling your home crafted produce, contact Kathie:

k.f.butcher@btinternet.com



LINTON & DISTRICT HISTORICAL SOCIETY TUESDAY 18th NOVEMBER 2025



We welcome Richard Adams who will give us an insight of the history and what remains of this important airfield

LINTON VILLAGE HALL

COLES LANE - 7.30 p.m.

Refreshments and Raffle

Visitors and new members always welcome

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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.

The Ellesmere Centre, Stetchworth

This year's **Christmas Market** is on Sunday 16th November, 11 am - 3 pm We have some new stalls and our lovely regulars selling everything from jewellery, handmade cards, doggie jumpers, crochet items, chocolates, spirits and much more.

Hot Food Refreshments Raffle £1 Entry

The Ellesmere Centre **Community Shop** is open as usual Monday to Friday from 9 am until 12 noon. Fresh bread, pastries and delicious sausage rolls are delivered Tuesdays and Thursdays. Newspapers can be reserved, and a good range of groceries and sundries is stocked.

Do you have **construction project** experience? The Trustees are looking to drive the Ellesmere Centre into the future with an exciting project that will benefit the wider community and future-proof the centre. If you are interested in helping us with this task, please contact Susanne Hinde on 07870 612535.

Please visit our new website for up-to-date details of our adult and children's classes along with upcoming events: www.ellesmerecentre.org.uk

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

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Withersfield Christmas Bazaar

22nd November, 10 am to 1 pm
Withersfield Village Hall, CB9 7RY

Craft Stalls, Christmas Gift Ideas,
Cakes & Bakes, Tombola,
Refreshments



For more information, please contact
Steph Watson on 07730 536200 or
email steph.watson@me.com

West Wickham & District Gardening Club

With the dry weather, we have had the bonus of a fantastic display of drought-tolerant dahlias in our gardens – a perfect plant for our changing climate.



Consequently, we are delighted to be welcoming flower-grower and floral designer Kim O'Brien to talk to us about 'Growing Dahlias as Cut Flowers' on Monday 17th November at 7.30 pm in West Wickham Village Hall. Entry free for members; £2 for non-members. With the new speaker system now operational we are able to host much larger groups and anticipate this talk will be very well attended.

Kim won a gold medal for her debut show garden at the BBC Gardeners' World Autumn Fair, and has been on BBC Radio Cambridgeshire.

Sally Collins (wwdgc@westwictrebkham.org)



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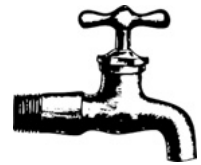
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Linton Library

Come in for cosy reads on dark days. You'll always find a warm and friendly welcome here. Relax with a jigsaw puzzle, find a new author or use our free WiFi.

The library can supply **free ferrules** (rubber feet) for walking aids to keep them in safe condition.

'Clueless at Christmas' with crime authors Nicola Upson and Mandy Morton introducing their latest Christmas titles, on Wednesday 5th November, 2 - 3.30 pm. Tickets are £5, book in the library or contact cambourne.referral@cambridgeshire.gov.uk

Daylight Readers: our book groups meet on Friday 21st, one at 10.30 am and the other at 2.30 pm. The morning group has space for new members.

Rhythm & Rhyme: Tuesday mornings 10.30 - 11 am for 0 - 4 years (term time only). We would love to see you and your little ones there!

Knit and Natter: every Tuesday, 2 pm - 4 pm. Bring along any craft project you're working on.

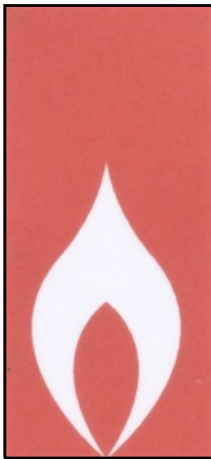
IT Drop In: every Wednesday 5 - 7 pm, knowledgeable volunteers are here to offer help with information technology, including how to use the Addenbrookes MyChart patient management software.

Games Afternoon: weekly, Thursday 2 - 4 pm. Come and meet new people, board/card games provided or bring your favourite to share.

Lego/Duplo: Friday 10 - 11 am, weekly (every 1st, 2nd & 4th Friday). Come along and entertain your 0 - 4 year old.

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

Vicky Anandraj & Ann King
(www.cambridgeshire.gov.uk/library)



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Vaccines

Make sure you're protected this winter – anyone eligible for their COVID-19, flu, RSV or pneumococcal vaccines should make sure they've had them this winter. Each vaccine has a slightly different eligibility criteria:

- RSV vaccine – for anyone who is pregnant, aged 75 - 79, or anyone who turned 80 years old from 1st September 2024.
- Pneumococcal vaccine – for anyone 65 or over (only one dose is needed).
- Flu vaccine – for anyone aged 65 or over (including those who will be 65 by 31st March 2025); have certain long-term health conditions; are pregnant; live in a care home; are the main carer for an older or disabled person, or receive a carer's allowance; or live with someone who has a weakened immune system.
- COVID-19 vaccine – for anyone aged 75+; those aged between six months and 74 years and have a weakened immune system because of a health condition or treatment; and people who live in a care home for older adults.

For some people who have got used to have their COVID-19 and flu vaccine together in winter, this



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might mean a change for them as the COVID-19 vaccine age criterion has changed from people over 65 to people over 75.

To find out more about these vaccines, and how to book them, or find a walk-in clinic, please visit The Vaccinators website: <https://www.cpics.org.uk/the-vaccinators>



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MOPS HAIR SALON

NOV	9.30 am	11.00 am	6.00 pm
2 nd		United Service with Holy Communion – Balsham, <i>Revd Iain McColl / Alastair France</i>	
9 th	Holy Communion – West Wickham, <i>Revd Iain McColl / Steven Wheeler</i>	Remembrance Sunday Services: – Weston Colville, <i>Revd Iain McColl / Steven Wheeler</i> – Balsham, <i>Revd Hannah Threlfall</i> – Great Abington, <i>Alistair Collen</i>	
16 th	Holy Communion – West Wrating, <i>Revd Iain McColl</i> Morning Worship – West Wickham, <i>Alistair Collen</i>	Holy Communion – Balsham, <i>Revd Iain McColl</i> Holy Communion – Little Abington, <i>Revd Hannah Threlfall / Alistair Collen</i>	Taizé service – Hildersham, <i>Revd Hannah Threlfall</i>
23 rd	Holy Communion – Weston Colville, <i>Revd Iain McColl</i> Holy Communion – West Wickham, <i>Revd Kathy Bishop</i> Creative Church – Abington Hub, <i>Revd Hannah Threlfall / Alastair France</i>	Holy Communion – Balsham, <i>Revd Kathy Bishop</i> Holy Communion (BCP)– Hildersham, <i>Revd Iain McColl</i>	Evening Prayer (4.00 pm) – Little Abington, <i>Revd Hannah Threlfall</i>
30 th	Holy Communion – West Wrating, <i>Revd Hannah Threlfall</i> Holy Communion – West Wickham, <i>Revd Iain McColl</i>	Holy Communion – Balsham, <i>Revd Hannah Threlfall</i> Holy Communion – Great Abington, <i>Revd Iain McColl</i>	Taizé service – Weston Colville, <i>Steven Wheeler</i>

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

DIARY

NOVEMBER 2025

Sat 1 Balsham Picture House, 'Lee'
 Mon 3 Weston Colville Parish Council
 Sat 8 Collection for Ukraine, Abington
 Sun 9 Remembrance Service, RAF Wrating Common
 Tues 11 Balsham WI
 Wed 12 Granta Medical Talk at Soup Lunch
 West Wrating Book Club
 Sat 15 St Andrew's Churchyard Clear-up
 Wine Tasting Evening, West Wrating
 Sun 16 Ellesmere Centre Christmas Market
 Mon 17 West Wickham & District Gardening Club
 Tues 18 Linton & District Historical Society
 Thur 20 Lunch Club, The Chestnut Tree
 Fri 21 Tea & Cakes, Reading Room
 Sat 22 Advent Quiet Afternoon, St Mary's
 Withersfield Christmas Bazaar
 Fri 28 Pop-up Pub, Reading Room
 Sat 29 Wreaths & Candles Workshop, St Mary's
 Burrough Green Christmas Fayre
 Lower Wood Working Party
 Sun 30 Oil Cooperative Order Deadline

Black bins:	Wednesday 12 th & 26 th November, Wednesday 10 th & 24 th December
Blue bins:	Wednesday 5 th & 19 th November, Wednesday 3 rd , 17 th & 31 st December
Green bins:	Wednesday 5 th & 19 th November, Wednesday 3 rd & 17 th December

Revd Iain McColl, 01223 890693,
mccoll.iain@gmail.com
Revd Michael Wilcockson, Rural Dean
associate.priest@stmaryslinton.org.uk
Revd Hannah Threlfall, Community Minister
01223 481090, RevThrelfall24@outlook.com
Mr Steven Wheeler, Licensed Lay Minister
01223 290396, stevenwheeler406@gmail.com

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@westwrating.org.uk

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 December issue:
Thursday 20th November