



# Challenge



The Parish Newsletter of Weston Colville and West Wrating

The views expressed herein are those of the contributors.

Printed by E & E Plumridge Ltd, Linton (Cambridge 891407)

On Zoom

## Christingle Family Service

Sunday 13 December 4-5 pm

A Christmas celebration with songs,  
oranges, candles and stories

Please register to join us, giving name,  
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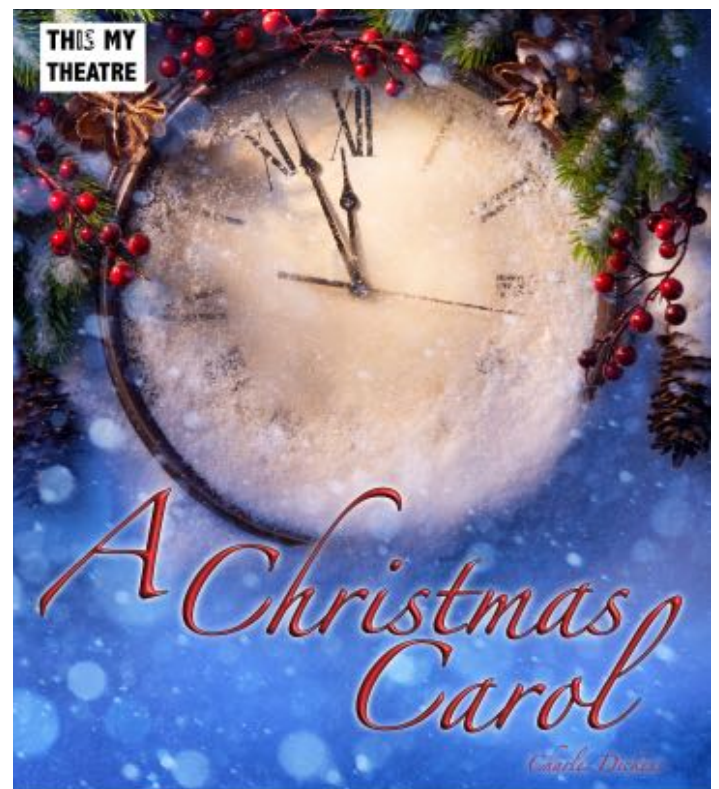
My name is Emily and I am  
hand-making mini chocolate  
Christmas puds to raise money  
for under-privileged children  
and communities in Borneo.



With Camps International and my school, I will be  
travelling in July 2021 to undertake various charity  
works such as working in schools, building basic  
sanitation facilities, and replanting rain forest trees  
and crops.

The individual chocolate Christmas puddings (200g)  
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*Emily Jackson*



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**Weston Colville:** Jo Jackson ( 07798 525300) or Mel Stammers (07890 296998)

**West Wratting:** Suan Rowland (290788, [suanrowland@btinternet.com](mailto:suanrowland@btinternet.com)) or Donna Gilmour (07986 006129, [donna.gilmour@hotmail.com](mailto:donna.gilmour@hotmail.com))

Please note: a separate Weston Colville WhatsApp group for general village issues has been set up. If you wish to join, contact Jackie Brearley on 07984 655116.

Some additional information which may be useful: South Cambs has a business support team providing general support and guidance: email [openforbusiness@scambs.gov.uk](mailto:openforbusiness@scambs.gov.uk) for help.

REACH Haverhill is a fantastic charity. They will help with emergency food supplies, benefit advice, advice with debt issues, and form filling, eg for the DWP. Phone 01440712950 or email [info@reachhaverhill.org.uk](mailto:info@reachhaverhill.org.uk)



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**NHS Responders:** 0808 196 3646, 8 am - 8 pm, 7 days a week, for adults 18 or over.

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**Professionals** can refer for: – the above service on a patient's behalf; – local volunteers who can take patients to GP or clinic appointments.

**The Silver Line:** a free, confidential telephone helpline for adults over 55 years old, offering information, friendship and advice.

0800 470 8090, 24 hours a day, 7 days a week

**Age UK – Advice Line:** a free, confidential national telephone service for adults over 60 years old, their families, friends, carers and professionals, if you're feeling lonely or need some practical help and support.

0800 678 1602, 8 am to 7 pm, 365 days a year

**Age UK – Local:** information on local voluntary/befriending services, for Cambridge and Peterborough residents over 60.

0300 666 9860, 9 am - 1 pm, Mon/Tues/Wed/Friday

**Age UK – Friendship Telephone Service:** a self-referral telephone befriending service for adults over 60 years (waiting list applies).

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**First Response Service (FRS)** – linked to the NHS 111 service for Cambridgeshire adults of 18 and above, who are in mental health crisis or who feel that they may need to access mental health services. 24 hours a day, 7 days a week; to arrange support please call 111 and select option 2.



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## Small Villages Community Warden

I'm Faye Parker, and I have recently become the Small Villages Community Warden for Age UK Cambridgeshire and Peterborough.

I live in one of the small villages myself, and am looking forward to being able to support our older people to the best of my ability.

If you would like to speak to me about the service we offer, please do get in touch by phone or text on 07436 102856, or you can email me at [Faye.Parker@AgeUKCAP.org.uk](mailto:Faye.Parker@AgeUKCAP.org.uk).



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*Ellen Collier*

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Associate AGRA member



## Small Villages Community Warden Scheme

(covering Balsham, Horseheath, Castle Camps, Shudy Camps, West Wickham, Weston Colville, West Wrating)

Are you aged 60 or over?

Would you like help to continue to live independently in your own home?

The Community Warden is able to offer assistance by providing a daily phone call (Mon - Fri) and support such as:

- Making drinks and a light meal
- A home visit
- Collecting prescriptions
- Small items of shopping
- A listening ear
- Help with paperwork and making appointments
- Signposting to other services where appropriate.

If you are interested in this service and would like more information, please call **Faye Parker** on **07436 102865**

There is a FREE 2 week trial and then a small weekly fee afterwards if you wish to remain on the scheme.

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### West Wratting Oil Syndicate

There will be a West Wratting Oil Syndicate fill-up this month with the order cut-off Monday 7<sup>th</sup> December at 6.30 pm. Place your orders either by email to me at [WestWrattingOil@gmail.com](mailto:WestWrattingOil@gmail.com), and put your surname in the subject box, or by phone/text on 07982 291922. I will reply to all communications within 48 hours. If you require a 'fill-up' please provide a rough estimate of the quantity. Please make sure that you tell me if you have any special delivery requirements. In addition to the regular suppliers, I may use BoilerJuice or another order consolidation website, whoever gives the best price. Remember that syndicate orders take at least a couple of weeks from the cut-off date to be collated, brokered and delivered, but if you take the minimum of 500 litres every time there's a fill up, you'll always be buying at the best price.

**Phil Tempest** ([westwrattingoil@gmail.com](mailto:westwrattingoil@gmail.com))

### West Wratting Village Hall AGM

The AGM of the Village Hall Management Committee is scheduled for Monday 14<sup>th</sup> December at 7.30 pm, when the report and accounts for the last

[www.westwratting.org.uk](http://www.westwratting.org.uk)

for information on:

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

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

financial year will be presented. As usual all interested residents of our village are welcome to attend, but this will be a virtual meeting using Zoom. If you would like to be present please contact me.  
**Mike Rowland** (290788, [rowlandmgm@btinternet.com](mailto:rowlandmgm@btinternet.com))

### Weston Colville – Litter-picking Hub

I have commandeered some litter picking equipment and placed it in the telephone box in Weston Green. While on family walks in our beautiful countryside, please take the long handled picker, bucket and bag and help maintain the greenery surrounding our village.



Keep Britain Tidy!

**Jo Jackson** (291258)

### West Wratting Recreation Ground

The gate code for the recreation ground can be obtained from the Parish Council or Colin Miller (07899 998881). The defibrillator code has changed, and is now 1999.

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## Book Exchange at Church End

We have a seasonal theme for Christmas in the phone box. You'll see we've also increased the space given to children's books. If you've had a lockdown clearout or have books to put in after Christmas, donations are always welcome. If it's a bagful, please drop them with one of us, or call Joyce on 07980 404764 to arrange collection. We'd love to hear from you with any feedback or questions.



**Joyce, Jackie B, Emma Kaye and Jacqueline**  
– *Community Bookworms*

## West Wrattling Book Club

The book we read and discussed at our November meeting, held via Zoom, was 'Apeirogon' by Colum McCann.

This is a novel written around the true stories of two men, a Palestinian, Bassam Aramin, and an Israeli, Rami Elhanan, whose young daughters were murdered by those involved in the ongoing conflict. In working through their grief, they came together through an NGO, 'Combatants for Peace', an

organisation of former Israeli and Palestinian combatants leading a non-violent struggle against the occupation, co-founded by Bassam in 2005 (two years before his daughter was killed). McCann examines their personal journeys to come to terms with their tragedies and to find some way of bringing good from this by interweaving various threads of historical, contemporary, and later events as well as the migration of birds and their interactions with humans. It builds through many chapters, some very short, others longer, to the full account of the central events. The number of chapters references 'One Thousand and One Nights' which Rami read to his daughter, Smadar, at night. One could think of the structure as the warp and weft of a traditional carpet with the intricate border surrounding the central main design.

One of our readers referred to the story as a "hymn to humanity" and very moving. Other comments were: astonishing, brilliant, extremely honest and fascinating.

One person didn't finish it and, although she thought it beautifully written, couldn't get on with the style of writing. Some thought that the author had tried to get too many ideas and themes into it, while another found it difficult to separate fact from fiction.

Most agreed it was well worth reading, well researched and very informative.

Scores were mostly 8 and 9 out of 10, with one 4.

Our next book is 'Miss Benson's Beetle' by Rachel Joyce, at 7.30 pm on Wednesday 16<sup>th</sup> December, via Zoom unless otherwise informed. We hope to bring a Christmassy flavour with a glass of something and some nibbles.

**Linda Gorman**



**Jo Taylor**

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### From the Rectory

As we turn our gaze towards the Christmas season, we know this will be a Christmas like no other. At the time of writing there is no certainty about what we will be able to do. We'd like to have family and friends over, to sing carols together, to share joy and laughter, but we are unsure what the pandemic guidelines will be. So many things we have always taken for granted seem up in the air!

It's a similar story with our Christmas church services. We will certainly have Zoom services each Sunday in December and on Christmas Day, but we don't know yet whether we will be able to hold services inside our church buildings or even outside them. We hope, however, to gather outside on the Sunday before Christmas or on Christmas Eve, to listen to carols and hear the story of the birth of Jesus. Please do keep an eye on our church website and noticeboards, or perhaps find out by word of mouth, to see if this and any Christmas services inside our churches may happen.



So much uncertainty, at a time of year which usually feels traditional and familiar! Yet the Christmas story is actually a mix of uncertainty, fear, hope and new life. A child, brought into a world under the rule of Rome and born in difficult circumstances, is the Christ child who is greeted, as Luke's gospel says, as "Saviour, who is the Messiah, the Lord". Good news conveyed by these simple words, which invite a lifetime's reflection: Jesus is "Emmanuel, which means, 'God is with us'". Words which speak of Jesus' identity and the work of the Spirit; which provide a testimony to the past, a witness to the present and hope for the future.

A traditional Christmas carol we often sing is 'O little town of Bethlehem', written in the mid-19<sup>th</sup> century but still very popular today. The last words of this carol also declare that, in Jesus and through his Spirit, 'God is with us': "O come to us, abide with us, our Lord Emmanuel". I hope we get the chance to sing this and other carols this Christmas and, in this time of uncertainty, hear the good news they proclaim.

*Revd Iain McColl*

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We are looking to employ a Registered Nurse to work with our ministry team in partnership both with the local NHS medical practice covering the area and with voluntary community groups. You will be providing a nursing service that integrates spiritual, physical, psychological, emotional and social health to the local community, regardless of their faith. 15 hours per week (job share considered) based on NHS Band 5 pay scale. Applicants from any nursing background are welcomed but must be willing to undertake the Parish Nursing Ministries UK training, and there is a Genuine Occupational Requirement for the applicant to be a practicing Christian.

For an application pack and full job description please contact Mrs Caroline Walshe on 01223 891443, [7churches.seven@gmail.com](mailto:7churches.seven@gmail.com), [www.grantavale.org.uk](http://www.grantavale.org.uk)

Closing date for applications: 31<sup>st</sup> January 2021

Interviews: mid February

Parish Nurse Training: 26<sup>th</sup> - 29<sup>th</sup> April 2021

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## Claire Gillett – Parish Nurse

Many of us have cause to be personally grateful to Claire for her loving care at a difficult time and therefore it is with real sadness that I have to tell you that Claire will be retiring from her post at the end of December. Some of you will know that Claire's husband, Andy, has not been well recently and therefore, since she cannot give him and her career the attention they both need and deserve, she must put family first.

Claire has been our Parish Nurse since 2016 and I want to pay tribute to all that she has done during her time with us. As well as being a trusted 'professional friend' to her patients, Claire has shown a commitment to Parish Nursing way beyond her contracted obligations and has developed the service to be a recognised and respected professional activity greatly appreciated by her patients and their families and much respected by all her colleagues – we shall miss her so much.

We have seen over the past five years a clear need for the services of a professional Parish Nurse and therefore I am pleased to tell you that we are now actively seeking to recruit a replacement nurse and hope to be able to make an appointment in the New Year. If you know a registered nurse who may be interested in this role do please encourage them to get in touch with Cazzy Walshe or with me.

Claire has advised all her existing patients how they can access help after her retirement, and with the aid of Granta Medical we will give details in the January magazines of how new patients can obtain advice until a replacement nurse is in post.

If you would like to contribute to a retirement gift for Claire please send a cheque made payable to Hildersham PCC to me at: Fourwinds, Linton Road, Hildersham, Cambridge CB21 6BS. If you would prefer to make a BACS payment, these are the bank details for Hildersham PCC: Sort Code: 20 - 17 - 19 Account No: 80085901. Please use 'Claire' as your reference.

**Keith Day**



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## Weston Colville Parish Council

A meeting held at 7.30 pm on Monday 2<sup>nd</sup> November via Zoom. Full minutes are available on [www.westoncolville.org.uk](http://www.westoncolville.org.uk) The following items were discussed and where necessary agreed.

**Resignation** – it was noted that Cllr Jackson had tendered his resignation with immediate effect. The councillors all extended their gratitude for the works that Cllr Jackson had carried out during his time on the parish council, and determined that a formal letter of thanks would be sent, plus a note in Challenge.

**Road Safety** – this was discussed following the SID/LHI update. Road safety actions in the village were discussed, as there was concern that accidents would occur due to speeding traffic. It was noted that it was no coincidence that neighbouring villages were going to greater lengths to reduce speeding. The measures that had been applied for were passive measures (roundels), as active measures required the installation of more street lighting (speed humps etc); the village roads do not lend themselves to chicanes. It was determined that Cllr Hubbard would contact Josh Rutherford to discuss further with him, as applications require his agreement, and for the clerk to carry out fact-finding into funding sources.

**Cambridge Eastern Access Consultation** – it was determined not to complete the consultation, but to place the link in Challenge for interested parties.

**Poppy Appeal** – it was determined to donate £10 for the RBLI Poppy Appeal (S137).

**Grass Cutting Tenders** – it was determined that the duration of the tender would be for three years, that the areas involved would remain the same, with no additional changes to the instructions. The clerk was instructed to seek tenders for determination in January.

**Meeting Dates 2021** – the council will meet on the first Monday of the month, except in May for the AGM/APM, when the council will meet on Wednesday 5<sup>th</sup> May 2021.

**SID and LHI** – there was no update on the LHI, the deadline for the application had been the end of September. The SID was providing similar data, and it would next be used on the exits of the village.

**Footpaths** – it was noted that the bridge at the junction of Footpath 18 (Weston Colville Parish) and Footpath 15 (Carlton Parish) had still not been repaired, a new bridge had been placed on a path that was not a footpath. Cllr Batchelor requested that he be copied in on all correspondence relating to footpath issues. The signage that had been placed on the permissive paths, and on private paths had been making it easier for walkers to know where was permissible to go. The footpath 19 diversion should be formalised soon.

**Flooding and Road Drainage** – work on relocating the bridge at the bottom of Horseshoe Lane should be completed within 4 - 6 weeks, and the gullies at the Common Road end of the village done before Christmas. The work at Church End should take place this financial year. Cllr Durham will clear the gaps into the ditches. The sunken gully on Mill Hill still has a dip, and it is not acting as a drain, although the work has apparently been completed.

**Street Lighting** – two of the nine street lights have been changed to LEDs, Cllr Vidler has chased to find out when the others are to be converted.

**Playground** – Brett Jones is able to install the new fence at the recreation ground in January, and has been instructed to do so. Cllr Hubbard carried out maintenance works at the recreation ground, and received help from a parishioner. The clerk had written to thank them. Cllr Hubbard requested that the clerk complete the grant offer form.

**Date of Next Meeting** – 4<sup>th</sup> January 2021, to be held via Zoom. There will be a planning meeting on 7<sup>th</sup> December.

*Jess Ashbridge, Parish Clerk*





## West Wratting Parish Council

Before giving you a précis of the draft minutes from the Zoom meeting held on 9<sup>th</sup> November, there are some particular points for your attention.

### Dog fouling & Dog Handling and Control:

considerate dog owners are always welcome in West Wratting but please clear up after your dog to keep it a pleasant place for everybody.

You can use any plastic bag to pick up your dog's waste and put it in one of the dog waste bins or litter bins. Dog waste from your garden can be double-bagged and placed in your domestic waste bin.

It is important for all dog owners to take responsibility for cleaning up after their animal, as not only is it unpleasant to look at and even more unpleasant to step in, it can pose a health risk. For example, *toxocariasis* is a rare infection caused by roundworms in the digestive tracts of dogs. It can cause headaches, eye problems and fever in humans if they come into contact with it.

If you spot a dog fouling problem, you can report it to Environmental Services ([env.health@scambs.gov.uk](mailto:env.health@scambs.gov.uk)) or use the online form.

Those who fail to pick up after their dog can be fined £50, so please ensure you have bags or poop scoops with you every time you walk your dog.

It is also your responsibility to keep your dog under control, either on a leash or by command. It is frightening to children when a large dog is running amongst them. A lack of control could become a police matter so please be careful when on the recreation ground with your dog(s).

**Vacancy for a Parish Councillor:** due to the resignation of Richard Holness there is still one vacancy on the parish council. Please contact the parish clerk ([j.richards597@btinternet.com](mailto:j.richards597@btinternet.com)) if you would like further information.

**Childrens Play Area Grass Cutting:** please, if anybody has a spare hour once a week in the summer, less often in the winter, to keep the grass cut in the play area contact Jenny Richards (parish clerk) or one of the parish councillors (see noticeboard).

Following on, here are details of some of the items discussed at the parish council meeting. The draft minutes will be posted on the noticeboards.

## Planning:

20/02813/ PRI03Q	Camgrain	Valley Farm, Valley Farm Road	Prior app for change of use of agric.bldg to dwelling hse.	support	Refused
20/2706/ FUL	D Dugdale	23 High St.	Single storey ground floor & 1 <sup>st</sup> floor ext.	object	Approve
20/2607/ HUL	Mr & Mrs R Dimond	33 The Common	Two new windows, one to rear & one to side elevation	support	
20/03161 S73	Wadlow Farm	Six Mile Bottom Rd	Varintion of condition 4	Object with comments	
20/03450/FUL	Mr M Shaw	35 The Common	Change of use re S/1493/19	support	
20/0387/ PRIO13Q	Camgrain	Valley Farm House	Change of use of ag.bldg. to 1 dwelling house	Support	

b) All but one of the affordable houses built in Six Mile Bottom Road are now occupied.

**Finance:** the authorised payments and receipts are shown in the draft minutes.

**Budget:** this will be discussed at the January meeting and the council was asked to consider what projects or equipment might be needed for the future.

### Maintenance:

*Pocket Park* – it was agreed that more time needs spending on the upkeep of the Pocket Park.

*Play Area* – see the item above.

*Dug Outs on Sports Ground* – it was provisionally agreed that the dug outs could be possibly used from November to March but must be removed once the season was over. This will be discussed at the next Sports Pavilion Committee meeting.

### Traffic issues & Speed Restriction Equipment:

a £1,500 award has just been granted by the Wadlow Wind Farm Trust for the purchase of another SID for the village. The council will also have to put money into this project.

**Reports by District & County Councillors:** These are published on the website but Cllr Batchelor had two further points to make:

- Brexit* – if there is no deal, it may affect businesses in West Wratting. There is a link to the Chamber of Commerce: [www.cambridgeshirechamber.co.uk/brexit/](http://www.cambridgeshirechamber.co.uk/brexit/)
- The Highways Officer, Nicola Burdon, has moved to a new post. Contact Cllr Batchelor if there are problems.

**Next Parish Council Meeting:** this will be held on Monday 11<sup>th</sup> January 2021 at 8 pm. All welcome.

*Jenny Richards, Parish Clerk*

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### Weston Colville Parish Council

Following Matt Jackson's decision to leave the parish council we would like to thank him for the work and support he has given the council over several years. He was a valued member of the council and we are sorry to lose him. I would like to personally thank Matt for all his help and support on council business and wish him well for the future.

*Ray Vidler, Chairman*

### Lucy Frazer, MP

I continue to hold regular surgeries and am here to help with any issues you may have. Constituents who would like help with a problem or want to arrange a telephone call or a virtual meeting should contact me by emailing [lucy.frazer.mp@parliament.uk](mailto:lucy.frazer.mp@parliament.uk).

To keep up with my work follow me on Facebook and Twitter or visit my website – [www.lucyfrazer.org.uk](http://www.lucyfrazer.org.uk).

*Lucy Frazer MP, South East Cambridgeshire*

### Poppy Appeal 2020

With no house-to-house collections allowed this year, the usual fundraising for the annual appeal was badly affected. This did actually mean that many of the collectors also missed their annual catch-ups with old friends! However, there were many ways to make the usual donations: my very grateful thanks to The Chestnut Tree at West Wrattling and The Bell Inn and The Black Bull in Balsham, as well as The Coffee Shop and the Post Office in Balsham. New for this year was the Just Giving page set up under the title Margaret's The Poppy Appeal 2020.

Many thanks to everyone for their generosity. A total will not be available just yet, as the present lockdown means that counting will be significantly delayed.

*Margaret Johnson, Hon Poppy Appeal Organiser*



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### Stamps and Postcards



Once again I am asking if you could save the stamps, whether Christmas or ordinary ones, from the Christmas post you receive. I have an outlet for them through a church in Cambridge.

Any postcards you have (leaving the stamps on) would be welcome as well – these are collected and then sorted and will most probably end up at Post Card Fairs, but some of the profit is given to charity.

I can collect the stamps or postcards, or alternatively drop them into Nine Chimney House, Balsham. Thank you.

*Joanna Sanders*

*(893063, [sanderschimneys@uwclub.net](mailto:sanderschimneys@uwclub.net))*

PS I have around 80 jigsaw puzzles, mainly 1,000 or 500 pieces, in stock at Nine Chimney House Garage. Do come and select one or more to do on these dark evenings.



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### Weston Colville Marsh Tit Study

A forgettable year will soon be history . . . it's amazing how a walk in your garden or in the woods helps put things in perspective. Now's a great time to see Marsh Tits, as there are few leaves on the trees and they readily come to gardens. Listen for their call, which sounds like a high-pitched sneeze (you can hear it at <https://www.xeno-canto.org/574632>).

If you see them, please let us know at [cambsmarti@gmail.com](mailto:cambsmarti@gmail.com), [m\\_stammers@btinternet.com](mailto:m_stammers@btinternet.com) or Challenge.

It's cold out at night now, so please keep the sunflower hearts topped up in your feeders. It's a matter of life and death for a bird which weighs the same as a coin in your pocket, and can lose 10% of its mass keeping warm overnight. To show feeding works, here's a pic of Black over Red 'Moaty' taken by Len and Ben Eeles in their well-fed garden late this year. Moaty is of course a Moat House bird, ringed with Emma and Johnny Kaye back in July 2017. It was at least two years old then, so it's five or more years old now,



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well over twice the usual lifespan for a wild Marsh Tit. Maybe Len and Ben have gone a bit over the top with a Heston Blumenthal Christmas pudding for a bird – even an old and rare one – but it's the thought that counts.

And now time for the Christmas Quiz. What is this? It was encountered in Joyce Oliver's garden this autumn (that's your first clue). Extra Brownie points for sex and age, but nil points for anyone who says 'Bird in a Santa hat'. The Santa hat is a second clue: it hints where this bird might – or might not – have come from. (I'm giving nothing away . . .) A third clue is given below. First correct answer gets a bar of Waitrose single-origin Ecuadorian chocolate!



*Alex Inzani and the festive  
South Cambridgeshire Ringing Group*

Final clue: you'll have to work for it!  
[https://www.bto.org/develop-your-skills/bird-identification/videos/bto-bird-id-chaffinch-brambling?dm\\_i=IG4%2C5BLWV%2CNFZS0Z%2CKJO5U%2C1](https://www.bto.org/develop-your-skills/bird-identification/videos/bto-bird-id-chaffinch-brambling?dm_i=IG4%2C5BLWV%2CNFZS0Z%2CKJO5U%2C1)

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### 2523 Linton Air Cadets

Training and parade nights have remained virtual through October and November. Ground school flight training for the award of blue wings has been on offer, along with a host of activities surrounding Remembrance Day. On Remembrance Sunday, cadets across the country took part in a doorstep salute instead of the usual large scale parades we normally attend. Only a handful of representatives were able to attend Linton and Castle Camps memorial services, and special mention must go to Cadet Joseph Morris for a flawless performance of 'The Last Post' at the Linton service.



Face to face planning continues and we have taken a positive step towards reopening the squadron with Pilot Officers Keenan and myself completing officer training with the Adult Training Facility at RAF College Cranwell.

**Bradley Wright, Acting Pilot Officer**  
(07943 873272, training.2523@rafac.mod.gov.uk)

### Meadow School

Our usual October sponsored walk around the village, our Meadow Mile, became the Meadow March! The whole school took turns to march around the grounds in their bubbles, dressed in amazing rainbow colours. Through the day, we updated the children on how much money was being donated, with our reception classes deciding to complete an extra lap due to the amount raised! We raised over £2,000 with the money being used to update the non-fiction books in the school library which sits at the heart of our school. We also had to be inventive in the way we marked Remembrance Day. Instead of standing on the school playground, laying pennies on our giant poppy and

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using the church bells to mark the time, we held a virtual Zoom assembly, followed by a two minute silence in the classrooms, and had to rely upon the school bell. The children did really well at respecting the silence and we were especially proud of our youngest children who were quiet as mice.

As we move towards December, the month which usually brings so much sparkle and cheer, we again are having to think in different ways. We are determined to put on a Christmas show of some sort and the Infants' teachers are working hard to plan how to do this. Sadly there will be no real life donkey this year, but there will be sparkle, costumes, singing and dancing – it will just be a little bit different!

The things we used to do without even thinking about are perhaps the things we all miss the most now. I for one can't wait to give my wider family a hug again and to go and sit in a class and read with the children or play a game with children in different classes. Sometimes in the life the little things that cost nothing are the things that are most precious.



**Nichola Connor, Headteacher**



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## Balsham WI

Persevering with Zoom, for our October meeting I demonstrated how to make an autumnal wreath for the front door. Members who were interested to take part received an oasis ring and gathered foliage from gardens or hedgerows as well as dried seed heads, Chinese lanterns, hips and haws, teasels etc. With the help of an upturned casserole dish and a large cookery book to rest my wreath on, I began the demonstration hoping everyone could see what I was doing. It was rather odd demonstrating to an iPad with the occasional lost link, but we soldiered on. Everyone who took part then showed their wreaths which were all different and beautiful in their own ways.

In November we held a lively and very interesting meeting reviewing the classic book 'Pride and Prejudice', the 1813 romantic novel of manners written by Jane Austen. The novel follows the character development of Elizabeth Bennet, the dynamic protagonist of the book, who learns about the repercussions of hasty judgments and eventually comes to appreciate the difference between superficial goodness and actual goodness. A classic piece filled with comedy, its humour lies in its honest depiction of manners, education, marriage and money during the Regency era in Great Britain.

Rosemary Eason read anecdotes and views about the book and then invited members for their views. Most of us loved the book while others weren't that impressed, being reminded of their school days and having to read the book for GCE. We also discussed the film versions and the TV series and all had to agree that the memory of Colin Firth striding out from the lake dripping wet was a very happy memory indeed!

Debbie Mower then used paper folding to demonstrate how to make a hedgehog. We were asked to use an old paperback book which wasn't very long and when folding the pages was transformed into a hedgehog with the addition of buttons for the eyes and nose. That was a fun way to end our meeting.

For our December meeting we will hold our virtual Christmas party. Party hats and sparkly jumpers must be worn! We will join in the spirit of the evening with a few glasses of wine and we won't have to drive home! We can treat ourselves to festive fayre and open our Christmas present which we hope a member of our family will provide for us. It won't be like the real thing but we'll have a very good try at being jolly!

*Alison Clarke (894031)*

  
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### West Wickham and District Gardening Club

At last the club has something to write about for the village newsletters. On Monday one of our members, Clive Boase, gave us an on-line presentation 'Wildlife in the Garden' which was watched by 24 of our members on Zoom. So successful was this on-line meeting that we now intend to schedule more for after Christmas.

Clive and Sue live at Hazel Stub and have planned their garden with wildlife in mind. They have a large pond with no fish so that pond life can thrive; a lawn that changes from a mass of cowslips to ox-eye daises back to lawn; areas of uncut vegetation especially beneath hedges; and have installed a night-time camera to check out the visitors. They were surprised and delighted to find that badgers, foxes and deer frequent the garden during the night. They hope that by making their garden so wildlife friendly they can help make a wildlife corridor across the wider area, something we all could do very easily.

We hope to have a Christmas on-line quiz and some more talks in the New Year. Please support us and perhaps by Easter we can all meet up again at the village hall.

*Rosemary*



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### 1st Horseheath Brownies

We managed just one face-to-face meeting before the second lockdown, but it was an interesting and busy one. We completed our Explore and First Aid skills builders, and decorated stones for Remembrance, and ended the meeting with a postponed Promise celebration. All the girls went home with envelopes full of badges they had earned during our Zoom meetings and the summer holidays.

We are back to our online Zoom meetings on Wednesdays from 6 - 7 pm. Brownies is where the girls have fun learning new skills and enjoy just being themselves.

*Pauline, Katie and Laurené*  
(horseheathbrownies@gmail.com)

### Girlguiding Linton District

We have had many virtual meetings, and as usual our website is full of exciting activities, challenges and awards to do for every age from 5 - 18 and beyond! Take a look at our website, [www.girlguiding.org.uk/what-we-do/adventures-at-home](http://www.girlguiding.org.uk/what-we-do/adventures-at-home) which is packed full of new ideas and activities.

*Louisa, Linton DC* (lintondistrict@gmail.com)



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## GRANTA Medical Practices

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Essential care, such as NHS immunisations, blood tests, smear tests, and mother and baby checks, continues to go ahead at selected sites. We carry out temperature checks on both staff and patients to minimise risk. Patients must wear a mask if entering any of our buildings.

Coronavirus information changes rapidly. For the very latest news and guidance, please go to [www.nhs.uk/conditions/coronavirus-covid-19/](http://www.nhs.uk/conditions/coronavirus-covid-19/) and [www.gov.uk/coronavirus](http://www.gov.uk/coronavirus)

### Opening Times & Repeat Prescription Schedule

Day and date	Opening hours	Repeat prescription schedule
Wed 23 <sup>rd</sup> December	Open as usual	Place order today, pick up 30 <sup>th</sup> Dec
Thur 24 <sup>th</sup> December (Christmas Eve)	Open as usual	Place order today, pick up 31 <sup>st</sup> Dec
Fri 25 <sup>th</sup> December (Christmas Day)	Closed	Place order today, pick up 4 <sup>th</sup> Jan
Sat 26 <sup>th</sup> December (Boxing Day)	Closed	Place order today, pick up 4 <sup>th</sup> Jan
Sun 27 <sup>th</sup> December	Closed	Place order today, pick up 4 <sup>th</sup> Jan
Mon 28 <sup>th</sup> December (Bank Holiday)	Closed	Place order today, pick up 4 <sup>th</sup> Jan
Tues 29 <sup>th</sup> December	Open as usual	Place order today, pick up 4 <sup>th</sup> Jan
Wed 30 <sup>th</sup> December	Open as usual	Place order today, pick up 5 <sup>th</sup> Jan
Thur 31 <sup>st</sup> December	Open as usual	Place order today, pick up 6 <sup>th</sup> Jan
Fri 1 <sup>st</sup> January 2021 (Bank Holiday)	Closed	Place order today, pick up 6 <sup>th</sup> Jan
Sat 2 <sup>nd</sup> January	Closed	Place order today, pick up 6 <sup>th</sup> Jan
Sun 3 <sup>rd</sup> January	Closed	Place order today, pick up 6 <sup>th</sup> Jan
Mon 4 <sup>th</sup> January	Open as usual	Place order today, pick up 7 <sup>th</sup> Jan

Please make sure that you order your repeat prescriptions in a timely manner to ensure you are not without medication over the Christmas and New Year break.

You can treat many minor illnesses such as colds and coughs, sore throats, and upset stomachs easily at home. Make sure you keep stocked up with health care essentials such as pain relief (paracetamol), cough and sore throat remedies, a first aid kit, upset stomach treatment, rehydration treatment and heartburn / indigestion treatment. Having these essentials at home will not only save you time, and help you feel better quicker, but will also help save the NHS much needed resources.

Your local pharmacist can also offer you advice and guidance on the best treatment for you.

If you need urgent medical assistance when we are closed please use the NHS 111 service.

If you have an emergency that poses an immediate threat to life, please ring 999.

For further information on alternative services, please go to our website [www.grantamedicalpractices.co.uk](http://www.grantamedicalpractices.co.uk)

**Sandra East** ([sandra.east@nhs.net](mailto:sandra.east@nhs.net))

### Wildlife Friendly Gardening

Try not to cut back and tidy too much now. It's better to leave decaying plants as they are, creating homes for mammals and insects to hibernate in.

Hollow stemmed plants and seed heads are also great in providing a safe environment for our insects. Pile up dead wood and leaves in corners to help insects and small mammals to make warm homes.

Ivy really is the jewel of the winter months. Being an evergreen, it is the most important plant during the autumn. Its flowers provide a vital source of food for bees, butterflies and all other pollinators, its leaves provide shelter for birds and insects throughout the colder months, when other natural cover is thinning, and the birds enjoy its berries which are full of crucial calories just when they need it most!

If you are stuck for ideas for Christmas presents, why not buy something for wildlife, such as an insect hotel or a hedgehog house?

**Liz Dams, Trustee of Shepreth Wildlife Conservation and Education Officer**

## Church Services in December

We have enjoyed many services back in our churches since the summer but sadly until the end of this second lockdown our Sunday services will need to be online via Zoom. For those who prefer not to use Zoom or don't have ready access to it, I hope you can continue to benefit from our orders of service and reflections. Please do contact myself on [mccoll.iain@gmail.com](mailto:mccoll.iain@gmail.com) or our parish administrator, Cazzy Walshe, on [7churches.seven@gmail.com](mailto:7churches.seven@gmail.com), if you would like to receive a weekly newsletter by email or by hand.

We will have an online service each Sunday in December and on Christmas Day, in each case at 10 am. There will also be an online Christingle service on 13<sup>th</sup> December from 4 - 5 pm. Log in details will be available in our church newsletter. At the time of writing we don't yet know whether we will be able to hold services inside or outside our church buildings. We hope, however, to gather outside West Wrating church and Weston Colville church either on the Sunday before Christmas or on Christmas Eve, to listen to carols and hear the story of the birth of Jesus. On Christmas Eve we will be encouraging people to light a candle in their window in the evening and to say a prayer by it. If we can, we will also hold a service inside our churches on Christmas morning, although if so, we will need to ask people who wish to attend to book in advance.

Please do keep an eye on our church website, [www.grantavale.org.uk](http://www.grantavale.org.uk), and our church noticeboards, or perhaps find out by word of mouth, to see if these Christmas services outside or inside may happen. Whether or not we are able to gather in this way, I hope we may continue to support and love one another this Christmas time and know the peace of God in our lives.

*Revd Iain McColl*

## Thanks and Seasonal Greetings

I'd like to give my usual thanks to everybody involved with *Challenge*, especially those hardy souls who distribute and deliver it throughout the year, and to the advertisers and parish councils whose support allows it to be distributed free of charge to every household in both villages, to Plumridges for continuing to print it, and of course to everybody who sends articles, news, and reports. Thank you all.

*Anne*

### Churchwardens:

St Mary's – Ian Ashbridge (291344)  
St Andrew's – Sebastian Bain (403415)

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

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

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

**Parish Nurse:** Claire Gillett,  
[7churches.parishnurse@gmail.com](mailto:7churches.parishnurse@gmail.com), 07498 994205

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

Revd Iain McColl

tel: 890693 email: [mccoll.iain@gmail.com](mailto:mccoll.iain@gmail.com)

Revd Kathy Bishop, Associate Priest

tel: 892288 email: [revkathy@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:revkathy@hotmail.co.uk)

Mr Steven Wheeler, Licensed Lay Minister

tel: 290396 email: [steven@juicyfruitsuk.com](mailto:steven@juicyfruitsuk.com)

Jeanine Kennedy, Lay Pioneer Minister

email: [jeaninekenedygv@gmail.com](mailto:jeaninekenedygv@gmail.com)

## DIARY

### December 2020

Mon 7 West Wrating Oil Syndicate orders deadline

Mon 14 West Wrating Village Hall AGM

Wed 16 West Wrating Book Club

Fri 18 A Christmas Carol, St Mary's Church

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

**Mobile library:** 1<sup>st</sup> December, 5<sup>th</sup> January

High Street, West Wrating 12.15 - 12.45 pm

Weston Green 1.50 - 2.15 pm

Mill Hill, Weston Colville 2.20 - 2.50 pm

**Black bins:** Monday 14<sup>th</sup> & 28<sup>th</sup> December,  
**Tuesday 12<sup>th</sup> & Monday 25<sup>th</sup> January**

**Blue bins:** Monday 7<sup>th</sup> & 21<sup>st</sup> December,  
**Wednesday 6<sup>th</sup> & Monday 18<sup>th</sup> January**

**Green bins:** Monday 7<sup>th</sup> December,  
**Wednesday 6<sup>th</sup> January**

**Editor:** Anne Bragg (290550) or email:  
[editor@challengemag.co.uk](mailto:editor@challengemag.co.uk)

Thank you for all your articles, news, etc. If these are sent by email, they are always acknowledged; if you don't get a reply, your items haven't been received, so please resend. Some contributions may have to be edited, to fit the space available, and are published at the discretion of the editor.

**January issue's copy date**

**Friday 11<sup>th</sup> December**