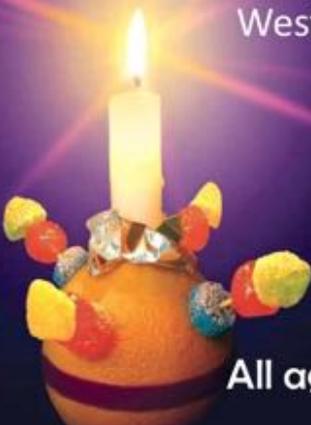




Challenge



The Parish Newsletter of Weston Colville and West Wrattling
The views expressed herein are those of the contributors.
Printed by E & E Plumridge Ltd, Linton (Cambridge 891407)



West Wrattling Church

All ages very welcome

Christingle

Sunday 12th December 3-4 pm

Children come 2.45 to make own Christingles

Bonfire

Mulled Wine Biscuits

Christingle in West Wrattling Church

A special way to celebrate Christmas with songs, oranges, candles and lanterns to lighten up the church on a dark winter's afternoon. An all-age service on Sunday 12th December at 3 pm (2.45 for the children to prepare their Christingles), followed by a bonfire and mulled wine. Everyone very welcome.



John & Scilla (290199), Darren & Bev

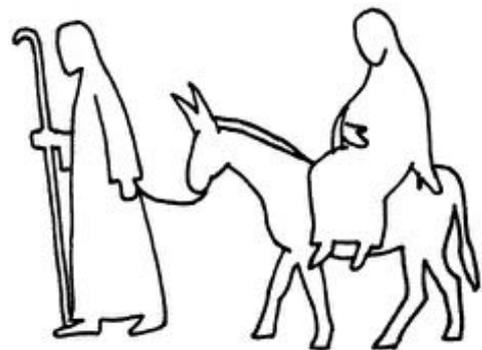
St Mary's, Weston Colville

CRIB SERVICE

with

CAROLS by candlelight

Join us for a retelling of the Christmas story with carols



Christmas Eve, 4.30 pm

Mulled wine and mince pies

Children under 10, come ready dressed as shepherds, angels, kings, sheep, etc . . .

Contact Jane on janepryor6@gmail.co if you'd like to do a reading.

West Wrattling Café

Our next West Wrattling café will be Christmas-themed, with arts and crafts for children (and adults!). Please do come and join us at the village hall on Saturday 4th December from 10.30 am to 12 noon. The café works by different volunteers kindly offering to serve and donate cakes every month. The money raised will continue to be donated to local community projects.

We are looking forward to catching up again over coffee and cake. Please do come and join us!

Sherry (290070) and Catherine (291307)



CHRISTMAS BAZAAR
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Tea and Cakes at Christmas

Come and join us for a mulled wine, coffee or tea accompanied by a festive bake or two on Friday 17th December, 3.30 - 5.00 pm, in the Reading Room, Weston Colville. We are looking forward to seeing you there.

Val and the team

Friday Night Inn@The Reading Room

Come and join us on Friday 3rd December, 5 - 10 pm, for an early festive drink and maybe a traditional meal from 'Pimp my Fish'. Local ales, mulled wine, non-alcoholic beverages plus others will be available. Profits go to enhancing the village.

The Jacksons



FRIDAY NIGHT INN

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FRIDAY 3RD DECEMBER
= 5PM - 10PM =
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Book Exchange at Church End

First of all, thank you if you've donated wonderful books and have enjoyed reading what you've found. The phone box is worth a festive visit as we're having a 'special' in December of three C's – Christmas, Cookery & Crafts.



If you have books to donate, please put them vertically on shelves if there's space or in the handy box we've put below them. We'd particularly like children's and teens'. If there are more than just a few, just drop them off on one of our doorsteps, or call Joyce on 07980 404764. We ask this for the benefit of those who use the Book Exchange. When bags of books (and recently, lampshades!) are left in the phone box we might not realise for a few days to be able to tidy them, making it harder to see what's on the shelves. Thanks, and happy reading!

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



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News from The Chestnut Tree

Firstly, we would like to wish everyone a very Merry Christmas and a Happy and healthy 2022! It was so strange to be closed last year, so we are excited to be part of your Christmas celebrations this year.

Although some dates are now fully booked, we still have some availability for our Festive Menu. If you would like a copy please just pop in or you will find it on our Facebook page.

We are delighted to report that we have been selected again as a featured pub in the Good Beer Guide. We recently also won their Beer Scores for the area and were given a Local Heroes Award in recognition of the contribution pubs across the country made to help support their communities through Covid.

As we will be celebrating ten years at the pub in 2022 we have decided to hold a beer festival to celebrate. This will be on the weekend of the first Bank Holiday in May; more information to follow nearer the time.

One other thing to report is that sadly we are going to have to remove the chestnut tree at the front of the pub. This was planted by Les some 20 years ago, but is far too close to the building. It is most definitely within influencing distance, and the roots are causing

damage to the path. We have been having it pollarded every other year in an attempt to limit the damage, whilst another on the other side of the entrance matures. The new tree was kindly supplied and planted by Colin Evans three years ago in anticipation. It is now growing well, so will grow at speed now it's established.

Finally, please note the following changes to our opening hours over Christmas:

Christmas Day – open for drinks only, 12 - 2.30 pm

Boxing Day – open for drinks only, 12 - 4.30 pm

Monday 27th – open for drinks only. 12 - 9 pm

Tuesday 28th – closed all day

New Years' Day – Brunch Menu from 12 - 2. Bar closes at 4.30 pm.

Other than the above we will be open as usual but on some days the menu may be limited, so please ring to check and book a table if you wish to eat.

Last but by no means least, we will be celebrating saying goodbye to a very challenging year! Come and see in the New Year with us with a party atmosphere, great music, complimentary buffet and fireworks at midnight.

We all have some festive catching up to do! Best wishes,

Peter, Rachel & Rebecca



Personal Thanks

I would like to thank the kind individual(s) who found my wallet in Weston Colville and passed it to Mike Roland in West Wrating. It is hugely appreciated.

Chris Hodson



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West Wratting Village Hall AGM

The AGM of the Village Hall Management Committee is scheduled for Monday 13th December at 7.30 pm, when the report and accounts for the last financial year will be presented. All interested residents of our village are welcome to attend. New committee members must be elected at the AGM. If you might like to join the VHMC we would like to hear from you in advance of the meeting.

Mike Rowland (290788)

West Wratting Book Club

Our November book was 'Reader, I Married Him', a series of short stories edited by Tracy Chevalier, inspired by this last sentence from 'Jane Eyre'.

Twenty-one writers, including Susan Hill, Audrey Niffenegger, Lionel Shriver, and the editor herself, were keen to contribute. Some were long-time enthusiasts for 'Jane Eyre' while one writer had never read it. The interpretations were varied in viewpoint, period and geographical setting. All were linked with marriage in various forms or with the original book, with favourites being those that told the story from one of the other character's viewpoints or that

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imagined the aftermath of Jane and Mr Rochester's marriage. One person felt some of the story lines were very bizarre or unrealistic, so was glad they were not full length novels. The pictures of marriage are somewhat dark and unhappy although this perhaps reflected the position of women in past eras, and that is still the case in some places. Another of our number would have preferred "more meat" in the stories, which is why she is not a fan of the short form. For anyone who is involved in creative writing in any way it would be well worth a read. Scores were mostly 7, with one 6 out of 10.

We will not read a book for December, but are gathering for our Christmas meal at The Chestnut Tree, when participants are invited to bring seasonal readings or poems.

We have been inspired by reading this book to choose the original 'Jane Eyre' for our January book, meeting at 7.30 pm at The Chestnut Tree on Wednesday 12th January.

Linda Gorman (290653)



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Weston Colville Cinema Club

Join us on Wednesday 8th December to discover Christmas Town! We're showing 'The Nightmare Before Christmas' – universally acclaimed,



stunningly original and visually delightful – a strange and wonderful festive tale awaits you. Then for the New Year, one of our regulars has chosen the epic 'Dr Zhivago'.

Donations, refreshments (including mulled wine for the December film) available, all welcome. On both evenings, the programme starts at 7.30 pm with an introduction to the film. Since we will not have windows open, to help you feel safe, seats can be arranged allowing your party to sit together, and when not in your seat, masks are recommended.



jacquelinetheteacher@hotmail.com 291475

Weston Colville Circular Walk

November saw us celebrating five years of our Circular Walks with a stroll to Carlton (please imagine the colours of the leaves by the chapel, if you are reading the printed Challenge) and pumpkin soup afterwards.



Our next walk will be our now customary New Year one. We'll meet at the Reading Room on Saturday 1st January at the later time of 11 am. BYO lunch and maybe something to share back in the Reading Room. All welcome, refreshments available.

291475, jacquelinetheteacher@hotmail.com

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From the Rectory

As we turn our gaze towards the Christmas season, hopefully we can look forward to far more opportunities to gather together than last year! It's part of the joy of Christmas time that we may see friends and family, sing carols together and share food and laughter. Knowing how we missed out on time with loved ones throughout the Covid crisis, the poignant sense of joy in being together may be even greater than usual this year.



Christmas services also allow us to come together in a special way: to hear the story of the birth of Jesus and to celebrate this good news with carols, praise and thanksgiving. Christmas services this year will be a mix of Communion services, Christingles and carols. Some carol services will be inside our churches and some outside as they were last year, when we wrapped up warm and used torches and candlelight! There will be details of all of our services on our website: www.grantavale.org.uk, on our church notice boards, and on the Christmas card you will find with this magazine.

After all we've been through over the last year, I hope the strange beauty of the Christmas story may speak afresh into our lives this Christmas. A story which is a mix of uncertainty, hope, joy 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'". A testimony to the past, a witness to the present and hope for the future.

A traditional Christmas carol we will no doubt be singing in or outside our churches, and one of my favourites, is 'O little town of Bethlehem', written in the mid-19th 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'. As we come together this Christmas, may we ponder anew this joyful and life-changing good news.

Revd Iain McColl



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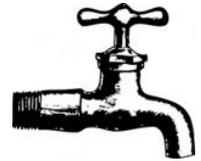
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West Wratting Football

The 1st Team have had a tough start to the season playing some strong sides in the league, however they still sit fourth after 14 games.

The most recent result was an impressive 5 - 1 home victory against Isleham United, with Callum Harrison (three) and Milo Holmes (two) the goal scorers.

Lee Miller, 1st Team Manager

After starting slowly, the Reserves have now started to put results together, and are in the third round of the cup against local rivals Gt Shelford Reserves, then they are playing Milton again after winning previously against the same side.

On a sad note, I am stepping down as West Wratting Reserve's manager after 4th December, so if anyone fancies the job, get in touch with West Wratting FC.

Kev Farlie, Reserve Manager

All are welcome to come along to watch and support the football teams. Refreshments are available, or just socialise if wished.

Blanche Miller, WW Sports Pavilion Secretary

West Wratting Youth Football

All teams are having a great season so far. The u14s are currently 7th in the top league for their age group, u14 Villa Division. The u13s are currently second in their league, u13 United. The u12s are 6th in the u12 Rangers league, with last season's players awards going to Charlie Hodson (Most Improved Player), Owen McColl (Supporters' Player of the Season), and Sam Collard (Manager's Player of the Season). The u9s team are winning the majority of their games.

We would like to thank West Wratting village for the continuing support of youth football.

Chris Hodson

Planning Application, West Wratting

There is an active prior approval planning application to place a 16 m 5G mobile phone monopole plus associated base cabinets on the land on the corner of Bull Lane and High Street, West Wratting, at the location of the village sign. Further information is available via the planning portal (below), village website, or the village notice boards.

Greater Cambridge Shared Planning had been requesting comments on the application by 25th November 2021, but an extension has now been granted and responses will be accepted until 10th December 2021.

If you would like to comment, please do so via the online portal or by writing to the case planner, stating the reference 21/04829/PRIOR:

Mr Nick Yager, Greater Cambridge Shared Planning, South Cambridgeshire Hall, Cambourne Business Park, Cambridge CB23 6EA

or via www.applications.greatercambridgeplanning.org and entering 21/04829/PRIOR.

West Wratting Parish Council

www.westwratting.org.uk

for information on:

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

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

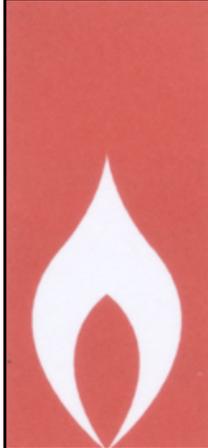


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West Wrating Parish Council

A parish council meeting was held on Monday 8th November and these are some of the matters discussed. Some of the items on the agenda were not discussed because of time, but will be on January’s agenda. The full draft minutes will be posted on the two noticeboards. Ten parishioners attended.

Pre-plan CAM1846 – Telecommunications

Installation: it was agreed that there was a need for a 5G installation to improve mobile reception but the proposed siting of a 16m monopole plus base cabinets was totally inappropriate. There were many anomalies in the submission, with misinformation and ignorance of the site. It was agreed to put out a flier to all residents explaining the situation and asking them to write direct or email their comments to N Yager at SCDC Planning, as time to make a response was short. A request for the Conservation Officer to visit the site will also be made.

WWFC: Chris Hodson, chair of the WWSP committee, was present at the Halloween party and as soon as he was aware of the fireworks and it was safe to do so, he stopped them. He has apologised and assured the parish council that it would not occur again on Bonfire Night.

Finance: full details are in the draft minutes. Item c will be discussed at the next meeting in January which is the budget meeting, as will item 7.

Grass Verges & Pocket Park Maintenance:

Cllr Davey is putting together a plan of all the areas needing to be cut, including the Pocket Park, and will then seek quotes for the work.

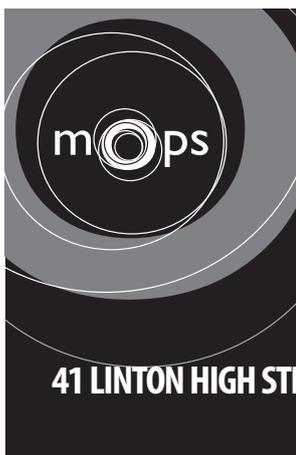
Six Free Trees: Cllr Lock has ordered a mix of six trees (whips) to be sited between Concordia House and Chapel Road. Permission has been requested from Highways at a cost of £107.

The Queen’s Platinum Jubilee: two suggestions have been received but please keep your ideas coming.

Asbestos Removal: the parish council has asked for planning details showing the boundaries of properties adjoining the recreation ground from Planning at SCDC, as they were originally built as council houses. The chairman asked Cllrs Harvey and Batchelor to verify the status as the parish council owns the land on behalf of the residents and the public have access.

The next parish council meeting will be held on 10th January 2022 and all are welcome to attend.

Jenny Richards, Parish Clerk



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Weston Colville Parish Council

The following items were discussed at a meeting on Monday 1st November. The full minutes can be found at www.westoncolville.org.uk

Hedge at Reading Room Car Park – Cllr Ashbridge will trim the hedge. The owner of the car that has been abandoned in the car park will be asked to remove it by the end of the year.

Challenge – £125 will be contributed.

The Queen's Green Canopy – a presentation was received, which is available on the parish council website. A note will be put in **Challenge**

Defibrillator – this is rescue-ready. It was determined to sign up to the Webnos system which will take responsibility for checking the defibrillator, and reporting it on the system. It was also determined to look into servicing, and downloading the manual.

Poppy Appeal – the parish council will contribute to the RBL Poppy Appeal, via Just Giving.

Flooding – the drains had been done at Church End, and a new kerbed island created to divert the water, and the road widened. New grips need to be dug on Common Road. Cllr Garrod requested that another grit bin was purchased for storage, to be placed behind the bus shelter. New drains were being put in on Mill Hill, and Highways will be asked about the road resurfacing, and if work on the drains would be carried out at the same time.

SID and LHI – the grant application has been made. Once the result of the application was received, a survey could be generated, prior to a public meeting.

Footpaths – the bridge at College Farm has been taken down by the owners. At the time of the meeting, the debris had been placed on the footpath, obstructing it. The owners had 14 days to clear it.

ZCC 6 Free Trees from SCDC – the trees will be delivered w/c 6th December. The Clerk will liaise with Cllr Hubbard as to where each tree was going.

Platinum Jubilee Event – only one person has come forward with any ideas. It was determined to wait until after Christmas. There was no cricket scheduled for the Jubilee weekend.

Ford on Horseshoe Lane – no update from Highways.

Matters for Next Agenda – precept, budget, elections.

Date of Next Meeting: Wednesday 5th January.

Jess Ashbridge, Parish Clerk

The Queen's Green Canopy

This is a unique, UK-wide tree planting initiative created to mark Her Majesty's Platinum Jubilee in 2022. Everyone is invited to 'Plant a Tree for the Jubilee' to thank the Queen for her exceptional service, promote the importance of healthy trees to the environment, and focus on planting sustainably, to create a legacy in honour of the Queen's leadership of the nation, which will benefit future generations

The tree planting season runs from October to April so it's time to start planning for your planting project. There's lots of advice on the QGC website, including what types of trees to plant and how to look after them.

Please do get advice on 'The Right tree in the Right Place' as Cambridgeshire has some special environments. Information on this is available on the County Council website. An official plaque can be ordered to mark the occasion for generations to come.

For more information contact:
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Wadlow Wind Farm Community Fund

The 26MW wind farm at Wadlow Farm supplies the annual equivalent of 15,000 homes, or 29% of the houses in the South Cambridgeshire District. An annual payment is made by the owner of the wind farm for the lifetime of the wind farm into The Wadlow Wind Farm Community Fund.

Grants are available for projects benefiting local communities that are run by not-for-profit organisations. Grants will normally be in the range of £100 to £10,000, and organisations must comply with CCF's due diligence process as detailed on their website: <https://www.cambscf.org.uk/wadlow-wind-farm-community-fund.html>

If you would like to apply for Wadlow Wind Farm grant money for a local community project, the next deadline is 1st February 2022.

Catherine (07872 026470) & Alex (07973 226159)

Advice from Neighbourhood Alert

We're urging residents to be vigilant, review their home security and look out for any suspicious activity following a string of burglaries across the south of Cambridgeshire.

Please take simple measures to keep your home safe. Lock doors, keep keys and valuables out of reach and ensure outbuildings and rear entrances to properties are also secure. Consider installing good interior and exterior lighting, used together with time switches or motion sensors.

Keep an eye on your neighbours' property and report anything that doesn't feel right to police.

If a crime is in progress, call police on 999.

Otherwise, please call 101 or report it online.

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Nature Notes

You've probably noticed the arrival of lots of continental birds to our island. Bramblings and thrushes such as Redwings and Fieldfares are all here. Fieldfares have arrived two weeks later than usual. This year, their summer homes didn't get cold and inhospitable enough to drive them out until the middle of October, instead of the beginning of that month. European Chaffinches also migrate here for the winter, but it's mostly only females. They form flocks in our fields, which our resident Chaffinches don't. These flocks may include the very similar Bramblings, the 'Nordic Chaffinch' with unique bold black wing markings. The males have a very short, cropped waistcoat of rosy pink which only comes halfway down the breast, unlike a true Chaffinch.

If you're very lucky, you'll see a Blackbird which is jet-black all over with black bill and legs, like they've been dipped in soot. They're slightly larger and often pretty jumpy. This is a European migrant and they're used to being shot at. It's speculated that the extra black colouration absorbs more heat from the sun.

We had a pleasant surprise in November: after a long absence, one of Joyce Oliver's colour-ringed Marsh Tits returned to her famous birdfeeder bistro. His lightning visit gave us two colours – white over black – enough to tell us that it was likely to be White over Black 'Vinnie', Black over White over Black 'Rasputin' or Green over White over Black 'Czar Nicholas', all of which show up for Christmas lunch. Sadly, Czar Nicholas hasn't been seen since Christmas 2019 and Vinnie since January 2018. Rasputin was last seen in February 2021 so it's probably him, with his piggy little snout briefly in the sunflower hearts. We think this species is getting rarer locally. If you get any sightings of Marsh Tits, please let us know at cambsmarti@gmail.com or via *Challenge*.



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In November, I asked why Blackberries were reputed to remain edible until 10th October in Hertfordshire, Sussex, Worcestershire and Norfolk, when the devil pees (or spits) on the poor fruit on 29th September in the rest of the country? The answer is simple: the date of Michaelmas has changed from 10th October to 29th September, but these four counties still follow the old ways and use Old Michaelmas Day for Blackberry ruination. It's all just a myth-take of course, if you'll excuse my sudden lisp.

And now, the Christmas quiz: Santa has arrived in Len and Ben Eeles' garden to chobble on the sunflower hearts, because he likes them better than mince pies. But if you were to lift the hat and yank the beard, could you identify Santa? Here's your clue: if you've read the blurb above, you'll have no trouble!



Have a great Christmas, one and all.

Alex Inzani and the South Cambs Ringing Group

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Balsham WI

For our November meeting we had a very entertaining talk by Lindsey Barrell, aka Cherry Bombe, called 'Burlesque, Me and the WI'. Cherry gave her talk in her Burlesque costume, which was very glamorous – a wonderful red corset and accessories of red cherries. Lindsey saw an advert for a forward-thinking WI in Chelmsford, and was one of 250 ladies who attended. The president of the WI decided to form sub groups for different interests and Lindsey volunteered to run a Burlesque group, 'The Burlesque Bombshells', who put on performances and have made a staggering amount of money for the local Women's Refuge; they have been so successful that there are now three Burlesque groups running. Lindsey now has many friends and these ladies have a wonderful time together adapting costumes to suit their various routines. This year alone Lindsay has done over 90 talks and performances. Lindsey was such a good and funny speaker; it was definitely a very different talk for our WI which we all really enjoyed!

Our December meeting is for members and we'll be meeting face to face for our Christmas Party. We'll enjoy refreshments and have a Murder Mystery play.
Alison Clarke (894031)

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1st Horseheath Brownies

During the second half of the term we have been taking advantage of the dark nights by going on torchlit tours of the village as well as stargazing to see if we can spot Cassiopeia or Ursa Minor. We also made poppies for Remembrance, and talked about what Remembrance Sunday means to us.

With Christmas just around the corner we will be making some Christmas craft and also making clay elves with the help of Jumping Clay, the company we made the mini-me figures with in May.

Next term we will be making plans for our Brownie holiday to the Jarman Centre. We haven't been away for two years so it will be good to get away, and it will be a new experience for all the Brownies as none of them have stayed at the Jarman Centre before. I hope we all remember what we are supposed to do!

Pauline, Katie, & Laurené
(horseheathbrownies@gmail.com)

2523 Linton Air Cadets



We took part fully in the annual remembrance day parades and services at both Castle Camps and Linton. After sending just two representatives last year we were very much looking forward to a full parade with the Union flag and Squadron standard on display.

Cpl Vellacott was at RAF Leeming for a week long camp and had a great time: "Going on camp to RAF Leeming was a valuable insight into life in the Royal Air Force. I met friends for life and we were an excellent team. Activities included visiting the Hawk T1s at 100 Sqn, fieldcraft with 609 Auxiliary, and a drill competition with the station Warrant Officer. Perhaps the highlight was talking with Air Vice-Marshal Richard Maddison, who commands training in the RAF."

Cpl Newell was on the recent adventure training camp: "2021 Windermere Adventure Training Camp was the best camp I've ever been on with the RAF Air Cadets. The camp showed me parts of the country that I never thought I'd see. The activities ranged from mountain biking to Ghyll Scrambling and was perfectly planned and executed. The camp pushed everyone to do their best at all the activities."

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

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Please find below details of when our surgeries will be open over the Christmas and New Year break, and when you will be able to collect your prescriptions, depending on the date you place your order.

Make sure that you order your repeat prescriptions in plenty of time to ensure that you do not run out of your medication over the holidays.

Be prepared for common health problems by keeping a well-stocked medicine cabinet at home. You can treat many minor illnesses such as colds and coughs, sore throats, and upset stomachs by having a supply of 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. Pharmacists are available on every high street and in supermarkets with many open at evenings and weekends.

Whilst we are closed, if you need urgent medical assistance 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 available healthcare services, please go to www.nhs.uk or our website www.grantamedicalpractices.co.uk

Sandra East, Head of Patient Services
(01223 627743, sandra.east@nhs.net)

Day and date	Opening hours	Pick up repeat prescription:
Thursday 23 rd December 2021	Open as usual	30 th December
Friday 24 th December (Christmas Eve)	Open as usual	31 st December
Saturday 25 th December (Christmas Day)	Closed	4 th January
Sunday 26 th December (Boxing Day)	Closed	4 th January
Monday 27 th December (Bank Holiday)	Closed	4 th January
Tuesday 28 th December (Bank Holiday)	Closed	4 th January
Wednesday 29 th December	Open as usual	4 th January
Thursday 30 th December	Open as usual	5 th January
Friday 31 st December (New Years' Eve)	Open as usual	6 th January
Saturday 1 st January 2022 (New Years' Day)	Closed	7 th January
Sunday 2 nd January	Closed	7 th January
Monday 3 rd January (Bank Holiday)	Closed	7 th January
Tuesday 4 th January	Open as usual	7 th January



Meadow School

As of November, we have found ourselves back in higher restrictions in school, with Cambridgeshire now being in the Emergency Measures Response Area. We are still doing assemblies outside (although recent weather is thwarting these) or online, we really cannot wait to get back into the hall as a whole school. Visitors to school are incredibly limited and most meetings, including our recent parent consultations and staff meetings, are now back online. We continue to miss the face to face meetings we used to have but are definitely becoming super whizzes with remote technology!

Despite all of the restrictions, we are still finding ways to bring learning to life. Trips and visits are definitely more challenging but they are so worth while. Our Y5/6 children have been to West Stow in Suffolk to experience a day in the life of an Anglo-Saxon. This has supported their understanding and knowledge of this period in history, and is currently supporting the children to write their own battle speeches in English. The language and vocabulary they are using is absolutely amazing – the teachers were scared just marking them! Our Infant team have had ‘Little City’ visit them in school for the day setting up a variety of job experiences for the children to explore and try out as part of their ‘Not all Superheroes Wear Capes’ learning. When Luna our school dog came in to visit, even she had fun being examined by our 4 year old resident vets who had learnt from their ‘Little City’ day. Year 3/4 are not to be forgotten and have visited Flag Fen to learn about life in the Stone Age. They created some superb cave paintings using natural materials from our school environment recently. Not only did they look great, due to the flowers and berries, they smelt amazing too!

Our Parent Teacher Association continue to work hard to support school with fundraising, and again have had to find new ways to do this with face to face events all cancelled. They have recently donated money to school for some computer upgrades to our IT Suite, replacing books in the school library, furnishing reading corners in school, the Purple Mash online learning platform and the cost of the coach to take our Year 5 and 6 children to Young Voices in January. If you have any fundraising ideas, or work with a company looking to sponsor or match fund,

then please do get in touch with our PTA via pta@meadowprimary.org .

Breaking news . . . as I send this to print, we are celebrating our Y6 Team who took part in one of the Cambridgeshire English Challenge heats. We were up against 14 other teams and we won! We now have a place in the finals in December. We are incredibly proud of our team.

Nichola Pickford, Headteacher

Marsh Mail

LVC students have been involved in a range of enriching extra-curricular opportunities in the Arts this term.



We've had a Year 11 trip to Cambridge to watch 'Dr Jekyll and Mr Hyde', and a group of students visited Ipswich in December to watch the Jasmin Vardimon Company production of 'Pinocchio'. The unique and quirky choreography and physical theatre which examines the idea of what it means to be human will no doubt inspire our students.

DanceEast, the theatre venue, has also been involved in delivering professional dance opportunities for LVC students. A team of their associate artists visited the college earlier this term to lead workshops for our GCSE students. The Hofesh Shechter Dance Company spent a day with us on their educational tour of the East of England, and our students benefited from learning about Shechter's unique movement style and choreography.

Students from all year groups have also been involved in musical theatre workshops delivered by LVC alumnus Richard Woodford, who has performed in West End Shows including 'Starlight Express'. Seeing him roller skating through the school common rooms as he treated classes to performances from this musical and others was a treat.



Rehearsals for our annual school production have begun. Carol Ann Duffy's collection of 'Grimm Tales' are the inspiration for the sketches that key stage 3 and 4 will be performing in the spring. These adaptations of traditional fairy tales give a dark and humorous twist to familiar stories.

Helena Marsh



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The Ellesmere Centre, Stetchworth



Our **squash court** has now been refurbished and we are welcoming new players. Throughout December it will be just £2 for an hour's squash, so book a slot quickly and come and give it a try. There will be a board outside the court for users to leave a card if they would like to meet new players.

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

RNLI Merchandise

Calendars, Christmas cards, and other RNLI gifts are now available; please contact me.



Geoff Heathcock (geoff.heathcock88@gmx.com)

Great Glasshouses and Fabulous Follies

This is the title of the next course offered by Linton Area Learning Alliance, otherwise known as LALA. The tutor is Andrew Sankey, who has presented several courses for us previously and proved to be a popular speaker. Andrew describes the content as 'a course to take your breath away, as you step into either a great glass cathedral or a fantastic folly. For both structures, we will look at design, function and visual appeal. These buildings played a vital role in many gardens and created a kind of one-up-manship in building.'

The course starts on Tuesday 11th January and runs for 10 weeks, 10 am - 11.45 in Linton Village Hall, Coles Lane. The fee will be £50.

Please contact me to book your place or request further information.

Sue Mudge ([892737, mudges.linton@btinternet.com](mailto:mudges.linton@btinternet.com))

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DIARY

December 2021

- Fri 3 Friday Night Inn, Pimp My Fish
- Sat 4 West Wrating Café
Weston Colville Christmas Bazaar
- Wed 8 Weston Colville Cinema Club
- Sat 11 Balsham Christmas Market
- Sun 12 Christingle, St Andrew's
- Mon 13 Deadline for entries for January's Challenge
West Wrating Village Hall AGM
- Thur 16 Lunch Club, The Chestnut Tree
- Fri 17 Tea & Cakes, Weston Colville Reading Room
- Fri 24 Christmas Eve Crib Service & Carols, St Mary's
- Sat 25 Christmas Day
- Tues 28 Lower Wood Work Party

January 2022

- Sat 1 Circular Walk from Reading Room
Deadline for Wadlow Wind Farm Applications
- Wed 5 Weston Colville Parish Council Meeting
- Mon 10 West Wrating Parish Council Meeting
- Tues 11 LALA course begins, Linton
- Wed 12 West Wrating Book Club
- Sun 29 Lower Wood Work Party

Lower Wood Work Parties

Meet at 10 am by the pond in the wood, on Tuesday 28th December, Sunday 29th January, or Sunday 26th February.

Duncan

DEC	9.00 am	10.30 am	4.00 pm
5 th		United Service of Holy Communion – Balsham, <i>Revd Iain McColl/Hannah Threlfall</i>	Evening Prayer – Little Abington, <i>Alistair Collen</i>
12 th	Holy Communion – Weston Colville, <i>Revd Iain McColl</i> Morning Worship – West Wickham, <i>Steven Wheeler</i>	United Service of Holy Communion (with Christingle for children) – Little Abington, <i>Revd Iain McColl</i>	Christingle Services – West Wrating (3 pm), <i>John & Scilla Harvey/Revd Iain McColl</i> Balsham, <i>Steven Wheeler</i>
19 th	Holy Communion – West Wickham, <i>Revd Iain McColl</i>	Carol Service – West Wrating, <i>Revd Iain McColl</i>	Christmas Carol Services – Weston Colville, <i>Steven Wheeler</i> Balsham (outdoors), <i>Revd Iain McColl</i> Great Abington (6.30 pm), <i>Revd Kathy Bishop</i>
24 th			Christmas Eve Crib Services – Weston Colville, <i>Steven Wheeler</i> West Wrating, <i>Revd Iain McColl</i> Christmas Eve Carol Service – West Wickham (6 pm), <i>Revd Kathy Bishop</i> Midnight Mass (11.30 pm) – Balsham, <i>Revd Iain McColl</i> Little Abington, <i>Revd Kathy Bishop</i>
25 th	Christmas Day Communion, (9.30 am) – West Wickham, <i>Revd Iain McColl</i>	Christmas Day Communion – Hildersham, <i>Revd Iain McColl</i> Weston Colville, <i>Revd Kathy Bishop</i> Christmas Day Morning Worship – Balsham, <i>Steven Wheeler</i> Great Abington, <i>Alistair Collen</i>	
26 th		United Service of Holy Communion – Balsham, <i>Revd Kathy Bishop</i>	

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 printing it, and of course to everybody who sends articles, news, and reports. Thank you all.

Anne

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Mobile library: first Tuesdays – 7th Dec, 4th Jan
 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 13th & **Wed 29th** December, **Wed 12th** & Monday 24th January

Blue bins: Mon 6th & 20th December, **Thur 6th, Tues 18th** & Mon 31st Jan

Green bins: Mon 6th & 20th December, **Tues 18th** January



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.

Please note January issue's copy date
MONDAY 13th DECEMBER