

Challenge

The Parish Newsletter of Weston Colville and West Wrattling

The views expressed herein are those of the contributors.
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Candlemas – Bring Light into the World!

**Festival of Light and Dedication in St Mary's
Friday 2nd February from 4 pm**

Whatever your faith or none, join us for this symbolic event when we bring light into the world at Candlemas and prepare yourself for the year ahead. St Mary's will be open from 4 pm for you to light a candle and take it home. There will be a very short (20 minute) dedication with candles at 7 pm, followed by a glass of wine or soft drinks. All ages are welcome.



In the dark times of winter and in these difficult political, economic and environmental circumstances, we all need a bit of light in the darkness!

Candlemas was the time that the child Jesus was presented in the Temple and the old man Simeon (who had waited all his life for the Messiah) burst out saying famously; "A light to lighten the Gentiles".

Jane Pryor

Weston Colville Tea & Cakes

Thank you to everyone who came to our Christmas Tea & Cakes in aid of the local branch of Emmaus. With all your support we raised £120 and received this reply:



"Thank you for your £120 donation. Your generous gift means that more homeless people will have a home and meaningful work at Emmaus Cambridge. Many thanks. Emmaus"

Our next Tea & Cakes will be on Friday 16th February. We look forward to seeing you there.

Val and the Team

West Wrattling Café

The next café will be on Saturday 3rd February in the village hall from 10.30 to noon. Along with our usual delicious homemade cakes, fresh coffee and tea we are celebrating 'The Year of the Dragon' for Chinese New Year, with fun craft activities for the children including Dragon Mask making.



Everyone welcome – do join us!

Sherry and Jan

Soup Lunches in the Reading Room

We will run an IT clinic on 21st February alongside the soup lunch. Please bring your device along and ask questions of Simon and David. If they can't solve your problem immediately you will be pointed towards a solution, but so far the team remains undefeated!

Bob Coates (07785 361345, cheviotbob@me.com)

Weston Colville Village Consultation

This is a last request for villagers to complete the short survey sent in January's edition of *Challenge*.

Even if you do not visit the playground and don't have children in your family/friends, your opinion is important, and vital when applying for grants and funding. If you have misplaced the survey do not be concerned: contact Jess Ashbridge, who is happy to email you a copy or receive results via the phone. You can contact Jess on clerk@westoncolville.org.uk or 07779 277647.

Daniel Jackson (on behalf of the working group)



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Paths and Bird Scarers

As all walkers will have noticed, most of the footpaths have been churned into mud. The cross-field paths have hardly been touched – running a quad bike over them would have exacerbated the problem. Ollie Wright has promised to attend to these paths as soon as it is possible to do so.

Needless to say, ploughing and drilling has fallen behind, but as soon as it is drier this will be tackled with some urgency, so please be patient if some of the cross-field paths are not done immediately – they will be done.

As spring approaches we will begin to hear bird scarers. All the farm managers have assured me that they will operate them strictly within the NFU guidelines (basically within daylight hours).

If anyone has problems with the bird scarers or footpaths, please give me a call.

Cobby McCall (290046)



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Poppy Thanks

Thanks are due to everyone who once again, so willingly and efficiently, helped me organise the four villages' Poppy Appeal collections at Remembrancetide 2023. Special thanks for all the individual donations via the collecting tins, gift aid envelopes and QR code at The Chestnut Tree, The Bell Inn, The Black Bull Inn, Coffee Shop, Post Office and Holy Trinity Church.

To date the total amount raised for the Royal British Legion Poppy Appeal is £1,227.64 which includes donations from PCs and PCCs, the Hub and Coffee Morning at West Wickham, the Meadow School and West Wratting Sports Pavilion.

Margaret Johnson
(Voluntary Poppy Appeal Organiser ECF03)

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West Wrating Book Club

Due to various circumstances, we were unable to meet in December so discussed ‘A Tale of Two Cities’ by Charles Dickens in January over a meal at The Chestnut Tree.

This classic story opens with the well-known passage beginning “It was the best of times, it was the worst of times . . .”. Some of our number were struck by how relevant it seems to our own times. The story is set at the time of the French Revolution, contrasting Paris and London, and revolves around an elderly man imprisoned in the Bastille, his daughter, a French émigré and the way in which their lives become entwined. Dickens paints a vivid and heart-rending picture of the selfish and wicked treatment of the French peasantry by the aristocracy that explodes into the new horrors of the Revolution. Dickens’ knowledge of this period of history is impressive (although he himself admitted his debt to Thomas Carlyle’s ‘The French Revolution’). Despite the darkness there are some moments of humour. His language is as wonderful as ever, bringing to life his characters with all their uniqueness and human foibles. Near to the end, there is yet another famous quote. This book can seem daunting but is very



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rewarding for those who stay with it, with a satisfying ending. Scores ranged from 8.5 to 10 out of 10.

For our next book we are reading ‘Still Life’ by Sarah Winman, to be discussed on Thursday 15th February at The Chestnut Tree at 7.30 pm.

Linda Gorman (290653)

West Wrating Sports Pavilion

The pavilion can be hired for birthdays, weddings, baby showers, wakes or family functions.

Please enquire via Blanche on 07979 548962 or blanche.miller@hotmail.co.uk

Blanche Miller, WWSP Secretary

Weston Colville Spring Lunch

Save the date of 17th March for the popular Sunday roast lunch in the Reading Room. Book up early, it’s always a sell out!

More details in the March **Challenge**. To reserve tickets email janepryor6@gmail.com

Jane Pryor

Oil Co-operative Reminder

Ordering deadline: noon, Sunday 4th February.

Church End to the bottom of Mill Hill:

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

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

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

West Wrating

Peter Harris (07897 444126 or sowesticom@gmail.com)

Further details in January’s issue of **Challenge**, or contact your representative.

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.

The Chestnut Tree
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The Chestnut Tree

Restaurant Review – “Excellent food, outstanding value”.

Last year, when Pete and Rachel announced they were moving on, there was considerable anxiety about what the future held for our much loved village pub.

Well, Mark and Joanna are now installed and, in short, The Chestnut Tree is in good hands. Regular drinkers have been enjoying their friendly hospitality and excellent beer since the New Year. Indeed, with Harry managing the inter-regnum in December nobody has gone thirsty.

After some work to expand and upgrade the kitchen, food was served on Friday 12th January to a large group of regular diners. Delays and problems with builders meant it was touch and go as to whether things would be ready but Mark was able to deliver dinner to a full restaurant. I was on the other side of the pub that evening enjoying the beer but all reports about the food were good. There is a relatively short menu but with something for everyone – to my eye it is a clear step above basic pub food but does not attempt to be a ‘top end’ gastro-pub . . . and exactly what I was hoping for.

Firsthand experience of the food had to wait until Sunday. Joanna and I enjoyed a starter of smoked mackerel with beetroot followed by a roast Sunday lunch. The fish was warm and served on a slice of good quality, freshly toasted sourdough bread and well presented. The roast came with all one might expect – a huge Yorkshire pudding, roast potatoes, parsnips and carrot, kale, red cabbage and cauliflower cheese.

Two extra ‘touches’ that we liked. First, Joanna’s request for well-done beef was honoured; second, an extra jug of gravy was offered without us asking. After two substantial courses we had no room for dessert.

So, an excellent lunch but the final surprise was the bill. Starters are about £2 cheaper and mains £2 to £4 cheaper than local equivalents.

Finally, we were able to secure a table as a ‘walk in’ – but this will not last . . . so do book.

Clive & Joanna Parry



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Parish Matters

“Remember that you are dust and to dust you shall return.”



This chilling reminder of death is the first part of the sentence said as the clergy smear ashes on the foreheads of those attending church services on Ash Wednesday. And no less demanding, the sentence ends, “Turn away from sin and be faithful to Christ”. To non-believers and believers alike, this can be heard as a further sobering threat: “Get your act together, my dear, or you won't get to heaven!” But I don't think that's the case.

You may already have guessed, from the bizarre sight of Easter eggs on supermarket shelves at New Year that, indeed, Easter is particularly early this year, on 31st March. And so Ash Wednesday, the first day of Lent (some 40 days or so before Easter Sunday) is on 14th February.

Lent marks the six weeks of preparation for the events of Jesus’ crucifixion on Good Friday: the Friday before the celebration of the Resurrection of Christ on Easter Sunday. So, perhaps, that sentence about remembering that “you are but dust” seems a bit premature, and especially mean when we've all just seen our New Year's resolutions crumble!

No, the discomfort, or even shock, of being reminded of one's mortality is pressing us to ask the right question. The sort of ‘meaning-of-life’ question: a fundamental question mark in the life of any adult.

But equally, for all of us, the easier option is to swerve back from this thought to the multiple (and necessary) distractions in our lives, drawing us away – arguably in a psychologically healthy fashion – from those uncomfortable questions about our pettiness and failures, the abandoned hopes and, dare we wonder, ultimately the futility of life?

Sadly, however, many of the more serious distractions – again, war in Europe, the endless atrocities in the Middle East, and the perilous consequences of unchecked global warming – merely compound our sense of helplessness and fears for the future. “Here's something else the world’s unlikely to be able to fix!” So, in the end, what's the point? Isn't it just best to skim over the surface of life as best we can?

The demand to “Turn away from sin”, doesn't perhaps seem that helpful, especially if read primarily as



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something about being ‘good’ and, even, doing your bit to fix the world.

No, essentially for Christians, Lent is firstly an invitation into the much more difficult space of being clear-eyed about yourself, and about the world, and most particularly about the dark underbelly of the suffering and failures that can't be fixed . . . and the futility of it all if, anyway, death is its final full stop.

And then, staying there as best you can. Staying there and wrestling and trusting that the path we follow to Good Friday will this year yield up another piece of the puzzle and deliver the glimpse of a deeper answer. An answer that surprisingly, shockingly, gives the inspiration for New Life . . . the life, and selfless love, and hope and joy of Easter.

*Alistair Collen, Licensed Lay Minister
Granta Vale Ministry Team*

Lower Wood Update

The last Lower Wood work party for this season is on Saturday 24th February, starting at 10 am. Biscuits, tea and coffee will be provided. Children are always welcome if accompanied by an adult.

*Duncan Mackay
(Voluntary Warden for The Wildlife Trust)*



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Weston Colville Parish Council

A summary of items discussed at the meeting on Wednesday 3rd January is below. For the full minutes please visit <http://www.westoncolville.org>

Public Participation Session – a couple came to discuss the building plot at the bottom of Horseshoe Lane, which they were in the process of purchasing. The site has outline planning. The PC was advised that Footpath 16 ran through the site, and would need to be diverted closer to the fence behind the houses. There were no comments from the councillors about the footpath diversion. A reserve matters planning application would also need to be submitted. Parking concerns were raised during the outline planning application – it was confirmed that parking would be provided on the site. The planning application would be discussed when it was submitted.

District and County Council Reports and Items of Interest – Cllr Batchelor reported that the planning application for the proposed solar farm near Balsham would be decided by the Secretary of State, as it would be so large. The public plans would be released by the end of the month. Cllr Harvey would meet with Cllrs Garrod and Rayner on 4th January to discuss flooding along the Stour.

Flooding – the drains on Common Road had been cleared, and the drains on Mill Hill would be cleared within the financial year. Cllr Garrod would seek quotes to clear the ditch near the Reading Room car park, and the Clerk would write to the Reading Room, and West Wratting Estate about clearing the ditch next to the cricket field. Cllr Durham had reported the drainage grips on Chapel Road.

Footpaths – work had begun on Bridleway 14 and the permissive path, removing the hedge between them.

LHI Bid 2024 – it was determined not to apply through Local Highways Initiative for a Mobile Vehicle Activated Sign. Cllr Batchelor was asked chase up the price of a device from the County Council. Former Cllr Hubbard was thanked for putting the Speed Indicator Device up in the village.

Handyman – the clerk had sought quotes from handymen – only one came to visit the village. The clerk will approach them to remove the fence in the Reading Room carpark, and restore the bus shelters.

Playground – a report and an update from the working party was received including showing proposed plans for the fenced-in area and the outer area. Cllr Durham questioned why proposals had been put forwards before the responses from the survey had been received. Cllr Pagonis responded that the costs varied, and the working party wanted to seek quotes to find out what was possible, in terms of placement and costs. The two proposals that were put forwards could be fine-tuned following the results of the survey. It was suggested that multiple funding sources would be found, rather than carrying out fundraising in the village. An outline proposal was put forward that the PC would contribute up to a maximum of £5,000 for the project. The working party will complete funding applications.

Precept – the precept for 2024-25 was determined at £12,500, remaining the same as 2023-24.

Date of next Parish Council meeting – 4th March.

Jess Ashbridge, Parish Clerk

West Wrating Parish Council

The following is a shortened version of the draft minutes of the meeting held on 8th January. A full copy of the draft minutes can be found on both noticeboards in the village and at <https://westwrating.org.uk/parish-council-minutes/>.

Footpaths: Colin McCall reported that cross-field paths still not reinstated will be done as soon as it is possible to get on the fields, due to heavy rain.

Electoral matters: Simon Chandler would act as temporary chairman at this meeting and decisions will be made on the various positions at the March meeting. Four of the newer councillors are attending a CAPALC training course this month.

Co-option Policy: proposals for this policy had been distributed and it was agreed that it should be adopted and added to the Council Policies page on the website.

Confidentiality Status of Letters and Documents sent to the PC: all documentation is available to the public unless information is specifically requested to be confidential. The Freedom of Information Act also allows for this.

Planning: fuller details are shown in the draft minutes.

23/0349 & 0343 – 83 High St has been refused by SCDC.

23/04750 – Lamb Yard: supported with no comments but concern over the monitoring of said demolition. Cllr O'Donovan will make further enquiries with the Environment Dept about status and plans.

Streetly Farm Proposed Anaerobic Biodigester: Cllr S Chandler had attended the public meeting and put information in **Challenge** and on the village website about the plans and the objections by West Wickham PC. He thought it unlikely that it would get permission in its present form.

Finance: the list of payments is shown in the draft minutes. There was considerable discussion about how much should be contributed by the PC to WWFC towards the year's grass cutting. It was agreed that WWFC had not received the annual increases they should have had under the existing agreement. Cllr S Chandler presented his calculation of the backpay and cutting rate for 2023 under those existing conditions. The response from WWFC was that it wasn't enough, and a further increase was requested. In addition,

invoices were presented for hedge and tree cutting for the last three years. The PC emphasised that all such work needs prior authorisation and invoices must be presented promptly, in time for the annual audit. It was agreed that a working group will discuss these matters with recommendations to be presented at the March PC meeting.

Budget & Precept: the budget needs for 2024/25 were outlined which included LHI contribution, maintenance work on the village hall, pump, sign and bus shelter. A more detailed plan will be made. The precept was discussed and it was agreed and voted on that this should be increased by 4%, being the rate of inflation.

Maintenance:

Highways problems: Cllr S Chandler had carried out a survey of the potholes in Six Mile Bottom Road up to the Icknield way crossing and sent it to CCC Highways reporting webpage who have responded saying the work will be carried out within 21 days. We look forward to seeing when that happens!

The Kissing Gate: Colin McCall had spoken to the Footpaths Officer at CCC who told him that there was no money available for a gate between churchyard and horse fields that would give access for buggies or wheelchairs. Probable cost is £4,000 - £5,000. Possible funding could be applied for from the Windfarm Fund.

Village Hall: Martin Davey is now chairman of the VHMC.

Land Registration: Cllr S Chandler has undertaken to deal with this. Once the necessary forms have been completed by existing registered owners they will be submitted to the Land Registry so that the PC will be shown as the registered owner rather than the names of individuals.

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Boundaries between Village Hall & Boreham

development: Martin Davey is looking into this as he believes the present boundaries shown are incorrect. He will contact Dysons Developers.

Traffic Issues & Speed Restriction equipment:

LHI application: Martin Davey is submitting this application on behalf of the PC and reported that it was ready to go but he would like the PC to increase the contribution percentage to 20% of the bid (£2,000) as he felt there was a better chance of it going through. After a vote this was agreed.

Six Mile Bottom Road pavement: Cllr L Chandler, who had been in touch with the Dept of Education Transport regarding the safety of this road for children, reported that a survey had been done jointly by Education Transport and their Road Safety Officer, who have agreed the route is unsafe and a shuttle taxi service offered to the families affected. Highways say that the cost of a pavement is extremely high because of civil engineering difficulties. Further discussion at the next PC meeting.

The next PC meeting will be held on Monday 11th March at 7.30 pm and all are welcome to attend.

Jenny Richards (Parish Clerk)



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London Marathon for Little Havens Hospice

I am raising sponsorship funds for my London Marathon April 2024 challenge. My chosen charity is **Little Havens Hospice** who support terminally ill children in Essex. My target is £1,750, and I have currently raised £600. Thank you so much for your generous donations to date.



I would like to offer the following services in return for donations:

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I am available most Saturday afternoons for two hours between 2 and 4 pm but please feel free to contact me, as I may be able to be more flexible.

The link to my Just Giving page <https://rb.gy/q80ru>
Barley Woodcock, Spring Terrace, Weston Colville
(barleyw@hotmail.com, 07901 665490)

Please Keep Pavements Clear

I've been asked to request that the pavements in our villages be kept clear of bins, vehicles etc, so that pedestrians don't have to navigate past obstacles into the road. Specific problem areas are apparently West Wrating High Street and Honey Hill.

Anne

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Granta Medical Practices – Appointments

Here at Granta, we continue to offer a mixture of face to face, telephone and online appointments. I would like to take this opportunity to explain how our appointments system works and what is available to Granta patients.

Firstly, please be assured that no-one apart from clinicians make clinical decisions about your care when you first contact us. Our reception teams have clear criteria, set by GPs, as to what can be put straight onto a clinician's urgent list. However, if they or you are unsure, they will take your details and discuss your concerns with the clinical team and then get back to you.

When ringing for an appointment you will be asked if there is a particular clinician you would like to see, either for continuity of your presenting problem or continuity of overall care. It may be that you don't mind who you see – you just need to speak to someone about your current medical problem.

Please do help our reception team by providing as much information as possible. All information is treated as confidential and will only be used for triage purposes. They are simply trying to make sure you are seen by the right person, in the right place, at the right time.

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If you do feel that your problem is not urgent, you will be asked if a routine appointment may be more suitable, or perhaps a long term medical conditions appointment, a palliative care appointment, or whether we can help you in any other way.

If your appointment starts with a telephone call then, together with the clinician, it can be decided whether a face to face appointment will be the appropriate next step.

Routine appointments are available a few weeks in advance, all pre-bookable via our reception teams and online. New routine appointments are released daily at 8 am and at 2 pm to allow for regular availability. If you ring and there is nothing available, our reception team can send you a link that is valid for seven days (that you can check daily) to pre-book a face to face or telephone appointment, so that you do not need to ring back.

Alternatively, if you would prefer, you could use Accurx Patient Triage via our website to have an online consultation with a clinician. We do ask however that you only send routine queries as it can take up to 72 hours to respond.

There will always be sickness, annual leave and the perception that clinicians are not seeing patients. However, on average, Granta's doctors and nurses see around 4,000 patients face to face per week, and consult with another 3,500 via the telephone and online. We continue to try and accommodate all of our patients in a way that suits and please be assured that we are continuously reviewing and revising patient access.

Sandra East, Head of Patient Services

GRANTA Medical Practices

Balsham Picture House

The film on Saturday 3rd February is the award-winning Christopher Nolan film **OPPENHEIMER** (15) starring Cillian Murphy, Emily Blunt, Matt Damon and Robert Downey jnr.

The film thrusts you into the mind of the brilliant physicist J Robert Oppenheimer, as the Manhattan Project develops the first atomic bomb. The film masterfully intertwines the present-day hearings with poignant flashbacks that reveal pivotal moments in Oppenheimer's life.



As this film is three hours long BPH is taking the unusual step of having an

early start: doors open at 6.30 pm and showing the film at 7 pm. We also plan to have a small break in the middle to recharge glasses at the bar and do whatever else may be needed! And if you find our seats a little firm for three hours perhaps a small cushion might be advisable!

Dave's bar will be open before (and in the middle of) the film for refreshments – extra stocks laid in!

Dick Paden

Balsham Singers

Balsham Singers enjoyed a most successful concert on the afternoon of 16th December, the first time we've held an afternoon performance and it proved to be very popular. We were disappointed that we were not able to sell any tickets on the door this year due to successful advanced sales and church capacity. We will be reviewing our options before our next concert in May.

We were gifted two lovely hampers to raffle, and the £450 proceeds were donated to the Arthur Rank Hospice.

The choir welcomes new members – we rehearse on Thursday evenings, 7.30 - 9.30 in The Pavilion near the church in Balsham. No experience is necessary; the ability to read music is helpful but not needed as rehearsal CDs are available. For more information go to our website at www.choirsites/balshamsingers or contact us at balsham_singers@hotmail.co.uk

Jo Stinton

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Balsham WI

Our meeting on 9th January featured a talk on 'The History of Jewellery' by Jason Middleton – a very interesting illustrated talk on how jewellery has been used, from the earliest bone and shell necklaces, to extremely valuable pieces made of precious metals and gems worn by royalty among others. Main reasons for jewellery include religion, wealth and power, love and devotion, funereal and tokens for the afterlife. A lot of jewellery gets recycled by melting down the metal and resetting the stones, and the reason we have knowledge of old jewellery is from those found in tombs and burial places. Jason also had some samples for us to see, including how a diamond is cut to make it sparkle so much.



Our next talk on 13th February is by Jan Cassidy on 'Women's Health in Prison', which should give food for thought on one of the potential resolutions for the coming year.

Our meetings are held on the second Tuesday of each month at 7.30 pm in the Pavilion, Balsham. Please get in touch if you are interested in joining us – balshamwi@gmail.com or Facebook, @Balsham WI.

Debbie Mower

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Balsham Gardening Club

The club's Christmas meeting included drinks and nibbles, and good fun with a mainly gardening and Christmas themed quiz, organised by Jennie Tipler after a late change of plan.

Our next meeting is on Wednesday 7th February, starting at 7.30 in the pavilion. Nigel Start will speak about 'Coping with Climate Change'. Nigel has been gardening in the Cambridge area since the 1970s, producing much of his own fruit and vegetables, and is a well-known speaker on gardening topics. Guests are very welcome to join us for what promises to be an interesting evening.

Andy Mitchell

West Wickham & District Local History Club

The next meeting on Monday 12th February will explore 'A Curse upon the Land? 19th century Enclosure in West Wickham, and Changes to the Landscape'. 7.30 pm in West Wickham village hall; £2 for non-members; all welcome.

Margaret Creek

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1st Horseheath Brownies

We have an exciting term planned, with activities ranging from Chinese New Year, Mothering Sunday, and Easter crafts, as well as St David's Day and St Patrick's Day celebrations.

Our annual Brownie Holiday isn't happening until May this year, when we will be joining Balsham on their weekend. Plans are beginning to form and I know there will be a lot of cake involved.

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

Linton & District Historical Society

After a particularly cold day, those attending our January meeting were welcomed with a hot drink before settling down to hear Emily Matthews from the Dogs' Trust tell the story behind the trust, accompanied by some lovely videos of how 'life in the dog house' is not a bad place to be!

Dedicated staff help these dogs to recover from disturbed or unknown backgrounds, and also those dogs who were handed over as their owners were no longer able to care for them. Finally, it was good to see happy dogs handed over to their equally happy new owners. As always, questions and answers made for some interesting stories and observations.

For those with sporting interests why not join us for our next meeting, on Tuesday 20th February, starting at 7.30 pm in Linton Village Hall, Coles Lane. Nigel Fenner will be speaking on '**A Student-led Revolution out of Cambridge with Global Impact**' – thanks to a local tobaccoist, but no thanks to the University.

For further details of the LDHS please email ldhscams@gmail.com or call 01223 893915 or 678835.

Margaret Creek

The Meadow Primary School, Balsham

As we soar into the new term, our youngest learners in Key Stage 1 are gearing up for an exciting exploration into the skies with their captivating topic, 'What's Up There?' This will involve learning about the Wright Brothers, exploring a range of aircraft, and thinking about where flight can take you. They have kick-started their learning already by embarking on a thrilling adventure to Duxford Air Museum. The day unfolded with wide-eyed wonder as our young aviation enthusiasts marvelled at all the majestic aircraft that once soared through the skies. Their faces lit up with awe as they explored the historic hangars, discovering vintage planes that echoed stories of courage and innovation. The museum's interactive displays engaged their curious minds, allowing them to touch, feel, and even go inside some legendary planes.

In Years 3 and 4, the adventure unfolds with their topic, 'South American Adventure.' Students will delve into the interesting and varied cultures, geography, and history that make South America a captivating continent. From the lush rainforests to the Inca Empire, the children will acquire lots of new knowledge and interesting facts.

For our upper Key Stage 2 students, the theme is 'Where in the World', with a particular focus on the United States of America. The children will embark on a cross-country exploration, unravelling the diverse tapestry that makes the USA such a captivating and influential nation.

Faye Facer, Assistant Headteacher

Linton Village College Student Senate

At Linton Village College we are lucky to have a Student Senate that actively contributes to the running of the school.



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I am involved in the senate and, along with Will and Lilian, LVC's Head students, house captains and prefects, I meet regularly and work alongside the college's staff house leads and Ms Price, Inclusion Lead.

LVC has four houses: Voyager, Endeavour, Pioneer and Discovery.

We meet once every two weeks and discuss upcoming events and how we can contribute to the school and the wider Linton community. The Senate helps to organise and run regular competitive House Events with input from House Leads. It is a valuable opportunity for us to voice our opinions and suggestions. We also hold forums with the wider student body to gain student voice on topics such as catering, behaviour and the curriculum. We have also recently met with our local Member of Parliament, Lucy Frazer.

In terms of charitable endeavours, we have been involved in fundraising and meeting with the Friends of LVC to support our annual sponsored walk which raises valuable funds to enrich our educational experiences and learning environment at LVC. Last term, the Senate was also involved in organising charitable events such as our Christmas jumper day raising money for Tom's Trust, the reverse advent collection for Jimmy's in Cambridge, and the 'Bearpee Challenge' for Children in Need.

We are looking forward to 2024 and opportunities to raise further money for worthy causes over the coming year.

Rupert Warden-Hill, Deputy Head Student, LVC



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The Ellesmere Centre, Stetchworth

Join us on Saturday 10th February for our first **live music night** of 2024, with 'Back in Time' (60s). Tickets on sale now, £8. Doors open 7.30 pm. Licensed bar and raffle.

We now have three **Yoga Classes** – something to suit everyone's needs.

- * Friday mornings -- Chair Yoga, 10 - 10.45 am. Contact Nicole (07508 025941).
- * Friday morning – Yin Yoga, 9.30 - 11 am. Contact Lisa (07402 655556).
- * Thursday evenings – Hatha Yoga, 6.20 - 7.20 pm with Colin (colinfordham@btinternet.com).

Chair Based Exercise –

- * Mondays at 12.30 pm, (exercises specifically designed for those suffering from Parkinson's but all are welcome).
 - * Wednesday at 10.45 am – MS Society.
- The Ellesmere Centre, www.ellesmerecentre.org.uk**
(01638 508212, office@ellesmerecentre.org.uk)

Answers to Biblical Books Quiz

I once made a **remark** about the hidden books of the Bible (merely by a **fluke**.) It kept people **looking so** hard for the **facts** and for others it was a **revelation**. Some were in a **jam** especially since the names of the books were not capitalised. But now the **truth** finally struck home to the **numbers** of readers. To others it was a real **job**. We want it to be **a most** fascinating few moments for you. **Yes there** will be some really difficult ones to spot. Others may require **judges** to help them. I will quickly admit **it usually** takes a minister to find one of them. There will **be loud lamentations** when it is found. A lady says **she brews** a cup of tea so she can concentrate better. See how well you can **compete**. Relax now, for there are sixteen names of the Bible hidden in this paragraph. One preacher found fifteen books in twenty minutes - but it took him three weeks to find the sixteenth one!

(There are actually 17 books highlighted above, but Bel is a Greek apocryphal addition to the biblical Book of Daniel. It is a deuterocanonical work in that it is accepted in the Roman canon but not by Jews or Protestants, according to Britannica).

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FEB	9.30 am	11.00 am	4.00 / 6.00 pm
4 th		United Service with Holy Communion – Balsham, <i>Revd Iain McColl</i>	
11 th	Holy Communion – Weston Colville, <i>Revd Iain McColl/Rhona McEune</i> Holy Communion – West Wickham, <i>Revd Kathy Bishop</i>	Morning Worship – Balsham, <i>Hannah Threlfall</i> Holy Communion – Hildersham, <i>Revd Kathy Bishop</i> Holy Communion – Little Abington, <i>Revd Iain McColl/Rhona McEune</i>	Evening Prayer (6.00 pm) – West Wrating, <i>Alistair Collen</i>
18 th	Holy Communion – West Wrating, <i>Revd Iain McColl/Natalie Davies</i> Morning Worship – Weston Colville, <i>Steven Wheeler</i> Morning Worship – West Wickham, <i>Alistair Collen</i>	Holy Communion – Balsham, <i>Revd Iain McColl/Natalie Davies</i> Holy Communion – Great Abington, <i>Revd Ben Brady/Steven Wheeler</i>	Evening Prayer (6.00 pm) – Hildersham, <i>Alistair Collen</i>
25 th	Holy Communion – West Wickham, <i>Revd Kathy Bishop</i> Holy Communion (BCP) – Weston Colville, <i>Revd Ben Brady</i>	Holy Communion – Balsham, <i>Revd Ben Brady</i> Café Church – Hildersham, <i>Steven Wheeler</i>	Evening Prayer (4.00 pm) – Little Abington, <i>Rhona McEune/Steven Wheeler</i>

Wednesday 14th February - **Ash Wednesday Service**, 10.00 am at Hildersham, led by *Revd Ben Brady*.

There is an additional service at Great Abington on Sunday 25th February at 9.30 am, **All Age Praise**, led by *Rosemary Mead and Hannah Threlfall*.

DIARY

FEBRUARY 2024

Fri 2 Candlemas Festival, St Mary's
 Sat 3 West Wrating Café
 Balsham Picture House, 'Oppenheimer'
 Sun 4 Oil Co-operative Ordering Deadline
 Wed 7 Balsham Gardening Club
 Mon 12 West Wickham & District Historical Society
 Tues 13 Balsham WI
 Thur 15 West Wrating Book Club
 Fri 16 Tea & Cakes, Reading Room
 Tues 20 Linton & District Historical Society
 Wed 21 Tech Clinic, Reading Room
 Sat 24 Lower Wood Work Party

MARCH 2024

Mon 4 Weston Colville Parish Council
 Mon 11 West Wrating Parish Council
 Sun 17 Weston Colville Sunday Lunch, Reading Room

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

Mobile library: fourth Thursday: 22nd Feb, 28th Mar
 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

Revd Iain McColl
 01223 890693, mccoll.iain@gmail.com
Rev Ben Brady
 01223 344920, revdbenbrady@btinternet.com
Mr Steven Wheeler, Licensed Lay Minister
 01223 290396, steven@juicyfruitsuk.com
Hannah Threlfall, Community Minister
 07867 515914, hthrelfall82@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: Jenny Richards,
j.richards597@btinternet.com, 01223 665260
Community Warden: Lucy Cameron,
Lucy.Cameron@AgeUKCAP.org.uk, 07436 102865

Black bins: Wed 7th & 21st February,
 Wednesday 6th & 20th March
Blue bins: Wed 14th & 28th February,
 Wednesday 13th & 27th March
Green bins: Wednesday 14th February,
 Wednesday 13th March

Editor: Anne Bragg (editor@challengemag.co.uk)

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

Copy date for March issue:
Tuesday 20th February