

Challenge

The Parish Newsletter of Weston Colville and West Wrattling

The views expressed herein are those of the contributors.

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Remembrance Sunday – 12th November

The parishes of Weston Colville and West Wrattling are combining forces to hold the annual Remembrance Sunday service in St Mary's, Weston Colville, at 10.45. The Roll of Honour will be read for each parish and due reverence observed with the traditional silence at 11.00. Using our newly activated bells, there will be a muffled chime to show our respects and mark the silence period. Everyone is welcome, of course.

Bob Coates (07785 361345)

RAF Wrattling Common

There will be a short service at the memorial on **Remembrance Sunday**, 12th November, at 12 noon.



The memorial is situated at Weston Woods Farm, Weston Colville, CB21 5NR. We hope to be joined by some of the veterans who served with XC Squadron, 1651 Heavy Conversion Unit and 195 Squadron. Also, Cadets from 1451 (Haverhill) Squadron of the Air Training Corps will be on parade.

Wreaths will be laid in memory of all those who served here and throughout the world, especially those who gave their lives in the cause of freedom.

Attendees are invited to lay wreaths or crosses for those they wish to remember, and anyone is welcome to attend.

WE WILL REMEMBER THEM.

Dan Heath, for Friends of Wrattling Common
(rafwrattlingcommon@gmail.com)

We are always pleased to hear from anyone interested in getting involved with the airfield memorial. With just two services per year to arrange, as well as year-round general maintenance, this is not an onerous

project to assist with but is very rewarding. It is hoped that, with the continued support of people in the locality, this important memorial to our community's war effort will survive for many generations.

Dan (07736 737174, 01440 730192)

West Wrattling Café

An extended café will be open to everyone on Saturday 4th November, 10.30 am - 1.30 pm in the village hall. As well as our usual lovely cake, fresh coffee and tea, we will serve home-made soup and bread for lunch.

Kate, who makes lovely block print designs, will be there selling her wares and taking orders for Christmas cards in aid of Granta School.

Do join us for our new venture; a warm welcome is extended to everyone.

Save the date: Saturday 2nd December, 10.30 am - 1.30 pm, for our **Café Christmas Studio**.

After the success of our café studio in July, all those who had their wonderful stalls are joining us again plus new faces. There will be refreshments including coffee and cakes, and soup will be served at lunchtime. Look out for further details.

Sherry and Jan

Tea & Cakes

A wet Tea & Cakes in October; thank you to all who attended and those who supplied delicious tray bakes and cakes.

Our next event will be on Friday 17th November, 3.30 - 5.00 pm in the Reading Room, Weston Colville.



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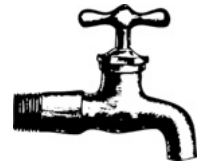
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Weston Colville Folk Evening

On Saturday 25th November, the Reading Room will be delighted to welcome back 'Camus' (pronounced 'car-mus') featuring our very own David Somerville for what we hope is becoming an annual gig. They say they have always been very well received here and, having played at Cambridge and Ely Folk Festivals among others, this is the one they enjoy most. So, if you've seen them before, you'll no doubt want tickets, and if you've missed them, the music starts at **8 pm** – come along!

- ★ David Somerville – Northumbrian small pipes, keyboard
- ★ Greg Smith – fiddle, viola, vocals
- ★ Andrew Burn – melodeon, Northumbrian small pipes, vocals
- ★ Brian Cleary – guitar, bouzouki, vocals



The four friends have been playing together in various folk bands for over forty years and their music is an eclectic mix of material from the folk traditions of countries including England, Scotland, Ireland, USA, and Spain, as well as self-penned tunes and songs. As David says: "If we like the tune we'll play it".

Tickets are selling well, so if you'd like to book, please get in touch.

- * £5 a ticket (proceeds to Jimmy's Night Shelter)
- * book your seat in advance, from jacquelinetheteacher@hotmail.com or 291475, then either pay on the door or request bank details
- * refreshments available.
- * all welcome

Jacqueline

Reading Room Community Hub and Free Soup Lunches



Following the success of the 'Warm Hub' initiative last winter, the Reading Room Trustees have decided to re-start the Soup Lunches, combined with some of the more popular activities like the IT Clinic.

Therefore, rebranded as a 'Community Hub', the Reading Room will be open from 11.00 until 15.00 on Wednesdays commencing 1st November and running through to 13th December 2023, and then again from 10th January to 30th March 2024. Soup lunches or similar will be served at 12.30; tea and coffee will be available at other times. There is no charge but donations will be welcome.

There was quite a convivial group who attended these last time around, so please join us.

Bob Coates (cheviotbob@me.com)



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West Wrating Village Hall AGM

The AGM of the Village Hall Management Committee is scheduled for Monday 11th 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), Diana Edwards (290616)

Churchyard Clear-up, West Wrating

The autumn clear-up at St Andrew's churchyard will take place on Saturday 11th November, 10.00 - 12.00. As usual, coffee, tea and doughnuts will be served.

Everyone is welcome, and if you just want to have a chat, it would be great to see you.

Cobby McCall

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James Warren (07848 451971)



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

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Weston Colville Oil Co-operative

Ordering deadline: **noon, Sunday 19th November.**

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

Chapel Road, Common Road, Horseshoe Lane:

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

Please note we can no longer order fill-ups, due to the pre-payment requirements.

Any orders left by email will always be acknowledged; if you do not get a reply, we haven't received your order. Please don't phone before 8 am or after 10 pm (leave a message during the day). We keep a note of any special requirements, such as needing a phone call the day before delivery to arrange access; please let us know if you wish to change these. The minimum delivery is 500 litres; this is a Trading Standards ruling because of the accuracy of lorry gauges.

Please ensure we have your correct address and post code. If you are close to running out, tell your contact. Orders will be collated and placed shortly after the order deadline. The price will not be known until the order is placed, and we will give you the number for you to ring the supplier to arrange prepayment for your order.

Anne Vidler

West Wratting Oil Syndicate

As reported in October's **Challenge**, I will no longer be co-ordinating future syndicate oil orders. No one has come forward to take over this role so far, but if someone would like to do so please contact me.

Phil Tempest (westwrattingoil@gmail.com)

Auction of Promises

The Auction of Promises in aid of the fabric of St Andrew's Church was held in the village hall on Friday 6th October.



It was a great success and a packed village hall enjoyed a sumptuous supper with excellent food and drink. There was one raffle prize – a well-filled hamper from Bury Lane Farm Shop – and 43 lots, which were auctioned by Nigel Job with enthusiastic good humour.

It was a real village effort and it is impossible to list all those to whom our thanks are due. But, in addition to Nigel, special mention must be made of Sherry, Jan and their team for organising the food, to Fanny, Maureen and their team for setting up the hall, and especially to Jeanette who oversaw everything to do with the auction lots.

Net result: we raised almost £7,500 on the night and, in addition we received £750 by way of donations from those who were unable to attend. A fantastic result which significantly exceeded our expectations

An enormous thank you to everyone.

Simon Thorley, on behalf of the PCC



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West Wrating Book Club

Our book for October was 'Flatlands' by Sue Hubbard. This was inspired by the well-known novella 'The Snow Goose' by Paul Gallico, which was aimed at children, and made into a BBC television film starring Jenny Agutter and Richard Harris, set against the background of WWII and Dunkirk.

In contrast, this book is aimed at adults and changes several details of the character's situation. It examines the relationship of two damaged people and how they helped each other to heal, in particular from the point of view of Freda as an old woman in a care home. All considered it an easy read but several thought it rather miserable, bleak and depressing. However, the descriptions of the Fen landscape were evocative and the language enjoyable. The author had obviously done a lot of research and some felt that she had tried to include too much, although some details did add period colour.

Scores ranged from 5 to 7.5 out of 10.

Our next book is 'My Name is Leon' by Kit de Waal, which we will discuss on Wednesday 15th November at the Chestnut Tree at 7.30 pm.

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Duke of Edinburgh Award

Congratulations to Zac Williams-Gray on completing his Community Service Section for the Silver Award.

Zac set about all the chores tasked with great cheerfulness, including leaf raking, work in the churchyard, litter picking and emptying an elderly couple's compost heap.



When caught out in the rain, Zac converted a bin liner to a raincoat to keep him dry. About three weeks later this fashion item was copied by a well-known fashion house, but with a Tesco bag, so we are unable to claim copyright.

Well done Zac.

CRM

Wildly Preserved Foods

I am hoping to start a small business centred around fermented and preserved food. As a starting point I have several people who regularly get fermented vegetables (live not pasteurised) from me. It works via a WhatsApp site: I let people know on a Sunday what is bubbling that week and they let me know what they would like and give me a donation towards the cost of the materials. For example, this week I had sauerkraut with fennel, kimchi, hot chilli sauce, fermented ketchup and Caribbean sauce amongst other things available. I suggest £1/100g donation. If anyone is interested in being added to the Fermenting group, please contact me on 07984 655116 or via the village WhatsApp group.

If anyone has surplus vegetables or fruit and wants a home for it, I am more than happy to process it on a 50:50 basis ie you get half the produce back in a preserved form.

On another note, my marmalades were awarded medals in the National Marmalade Awards and are still available along with varieties of jam and chutneys – again drop me a text if you want any.

On 21st November in Weston Colville I will be giving an evening talk on fermented food, with tastings. Please contact me if you want to come, and for details of the time and venue.

Jackie Brearley

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From the Rectory

In church, November always feels something of a ‘transitional’ month, waiting for the season of Advent, which in turn heralds Christmas. However, a significant fixture in November is Remembrance Day and so also, Remembrance Sunday.



I always have problems with Remembrance Sunday and its place in our national life, for as a younger man, it seemed obvious (and easy) as a Christian to hold a pacifist position. The appalling, mutual brutality of war was a gross affront to what God wanted for the world. Christians should take no part in it, nor collude with what could appear to be a celebration of military victory. In the end there were no victors, only deep and prolonged damage to both sides. And always seeds sown for further bitter enmity.

Yet the war in Ukraine, particularly, has pushed me further into a corner of doubt. Surely the stance of listening to the needs of both sides, compromise and appeasement, in the face of an authoritarian and duplicitous aggressor, isn't good enough. When we pray for Ukraine and the people of Russia we're not simply asking that they start being nice to each other.

Yes, we pray for peace, but also for justice. And we support Ukraine in their desperate fight to preserve the freedoms of a liberal democracy as we fought, rightly, in two World Wars, to preserve our values and freedoms.

Our democratic nation state, with its institutions and balances against tyranny, isn't perfect. But its relative stability and fairness alone foster future peace and prosperity. Moreover, in a world facing the rising threats of global warming and the rapidly evolving technologies of Artificial Intelligence and biological sciences, surely the only chance for their containment, and use for the benefit of all, are the regulatory frameworks that only stable, honest and cooperating nation states can provide?

Thus, remembering with gratitude the sacrifices of our forebears in facing down the evils of tyranny seems more important than ever.


So what, if anything, does the Christian gospel have to add to this? Perhaps we need to raise our sights above a too cosy and complacent proclamation of God's love for us, to embrace more faithfully our trust in the dreadful, but life-giving paradox of the Cross: God sharing in the profound conflicts in our lives, to bring us all home safely . . . together.

Alistair Collen

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Remembrance Day, West Wrattling Pavilion

On Sunday 12th November, from 1 pm, West Wrattling Football Club will be holding a music event at the Pavilion. Bands and other special guests including Dennis Stratton, original guitarist with Iron Maiden, and Dave Edwards, guitarist with Status Quo & Manfred Mann, will be performing.

Donations welcome to support West Wrattling Football Club and Remembrance Day veterans. Refreshments available. All friends and supporters of WWFC are very welcome.

Blanche Miller, WWSP Secretary

Poppies for Remembrancetide

Poppies will be available in Balsham at the Post Office, Coffee Shop, The Bell Inn, The Black Bull and at church services in Balsham, and at The Chestnut Tree in West Wrattling, from 27/28th



October until Remembrance Sunday, 12th November. My grateful thanks to all of them and to those who are helping me distribute poppies. With changing circumstances, there will not be a local house-to-house collection.

For those of us who no longer use cash there is now an easy way to make a donation for your poppy. There are QR codes specific to our area, ECF03, on collecting tins – just scan and donate, cashless and anonymous, and with Gift Aid applied if wished.

Cash is of course most acceptable in the collecting tins, or cheques in envelopes labelled POPPY APPEAL handed in at the Post Office, where there are also Gift Aid forms with envelopes, upon request (increases your donation by 25% at no cost to you). Wooden crosses will also be available in the Post Office, Coffee Shop and Chestnut Tree, plus reflective poppies etc, but 2023 enamel pins have not been possible owing to supply difficulties (supermarkets will have these). A few non-dated pins may be available locally.

Totally recyclable, plastic free poppies have been developed, but for use only when others have been used up, to avoid unnecessary waste.

Please give generously to help the Royal British Legion support our ex-service men and women. Thank you.

Margaret Johnson (Poppy Appeal Organiser)

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Austin’s Fundraiser for Addenbrooke’s

We moved to West Wrating from Linton six months ago.

In 2021 our youngest son, Austin, was born at Addenbrooke’s Hospital over three months early. The staff there saved his life. He then, at only two weeks old, had a major gut infection that required two life-saving surgeries, and left him without 75% of his gut.

The specialist doctors and staff at Addenbrooke’s help us to keep him growing and thriving.



Addenbrooke’s is the major hospital for neonates in the east of England. It now has been given the green light to build the best children's hospital in the region.

I am running the Cambridge Half Marathon in March 2024 in aid of Addenbrooke’s Charitable Trust to raise money for the above project and for other facilities and equipment.

My Just Giving page is:
<https://www.justgiving.com/page/austin-groenhart-cambridge-half?newPage=true>

Any donations would be gratefully received.

Ed Groenhart

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.



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

- ★I can do odd jobs like gardening, dog walking, hoovering/cleaning, window cleaning;
- ★I am a qualified insured Chartered Accountant, and am willing to undertake accounting and bookkeeping work, tax preparation, admin;
- ★also any other work such as painting and DIY, car washing etc.

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

Barley Woodcock, Spring Terrace, Weston Colville
(barleyw@hotmail.com, 07901 665490)

Jigsaw Puzzles Galore!

By the time you read this it will be dark around 5ish and you might want to be doing a jigsaw.

There is plenty of choice – puzzles of 1,000 and 500 pieces, and a few others of different numbers of pieces, all in the garage at Nine Chimney House, Balsham – do come and look, and take away those you want to do. As it is a library (of jigsaws) there is no charge.

Joanna Sanders



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Buttercups Pre school



Christmas Fair

Come and find the perfect Christmas gift from a variety of craft stalls or treat yourself to some delicious treats from the food stalls. All of which are local and small businesses.

Refreshments Sunday 3rd December 2023
Tombola 11-3pm
Children's craft activities Church Institute, Balsham
Raffle CB21 4DS

More to be announced!

In support of Buttercups Preschool
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Balsham Singers

Balsham Singers will present their Christmas Concert this year on Saturday 16th December at 4 pm.

For the very first time we are holding the concert in the afternoon. Held in Holy Trinity Church, Balsham, it will be a joyous occasion – the music a delightful mix of traditional carols and modern Yuletide music, with all the expected bells, pipes, shepherds and angels.

Tickets will be available from the post offices of Balsham and Abington, and online from www.ticketsource.co.uk/balshamsingers, and will cost £12 (16 and under free).

Do you love to sing? Why not come along and see what we do?

The choir sing music from many genres – classical, traditional, pop and musical theatre – and are often treated to an arrangement from our talented MD John Clenaghan. We are always open to new members in all voice parts but especially tenors and basses; there are no auditions, you don't have to read music but you must love to sing. Give us a go !

Jo Stinton

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Nature Notes

Our trees and hedges are colouring up now. Look out for the vivid banana yellow leaves of Field Maple (*Acer campestre*) – it's the easiest time of year to spot this species, even at a distance.

Last month, Margaretha Galt undertook a moth survey in her Weston Colville garden. Our expert Steve Thompson set up a light trap on a cold but still October night, a sparse time for moths, but in just three hours we found five moths, all of different species: Common Marbled Carpet, Green Brindled Crescent, Barred Sallow, Chestnut and The Brick (yes, it really is a moth – brick-coloured, of course. It is the only Brick seen by Steve this year.)



Margaretha is keen to promote a medieval hedging technique – Dead Hedging. Erect upright poles in a wide-spaced double line where you want your hedge and pile brush between them, interweaving branches where possible. (Often called lop and top, brush is defined as the parts of a tree normally left behind after felling: branches, foliage and the crown). It's quick, free and stock-proof if done properly. Dead hedges are the perfect biodegradable habitat to overwinter beneficial insects for arable farmers. Personally, I've seen dead hedges used to prevent visitors and poorly managed dogs from straying into vulnerable wildlife areas in a well-known nature reserve, and it seems to work.

Len and Ben Eeles have spotted one or more Marsh Tits in their garden at Church End, Weston Colville. We're keen to hear if anyone else has seen this

species, as we lose track of this year's brood somewhere between now and the spring. Any info to cambsmarti@gmail.com or 'Challenge, please!

Here is a picture taken in September by Joyce Oliver of Weston Colville while looking for Marsh Tits.



This young Great Tit – its feathers show it hatched this year – clearly fancies itself as a master of the martial arts, employing an expert but rather unnecessary Yoko Tobi Geri (jumping side kick) upon a hapless adult Blue Tit. All for a few extra sunflower hearts, when there's plenty to go round in any case.

Alex Inzani and the South Cambs Ringing Group



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West Wickham & District Local History Club

‘One place, one time, one life: Lord Fairhaven’s life at Anglesey Abbey’ was a most interesting talk given by Helen Ackroyd on 9th October. Surprisingly, some people attending the meeting had enjoyed the gardens but never been inside the house.

Founded as a priory around 1135, Anglesey has seen huge changes over the years. Helen explained the more recent history regarding the fascinating Fairhaven dynasty, and how the house was altered as we see it today, holding the vast collection of books and treasures bought by Lord Fairhaven.

Anglesey Abbey cannot really be described as a museum, as it retains its welcoming character and comfortable family atmosphere.

Our next talk has a very local connection, particularly for those living in Weston Colville. Sedley Taylor, a Cambridge academic, was one of the co-founders in 1885 of Weston Colville Reading Room along with his friend and local landowner, W H Hall. Come and find out more about this very interesting man:

Sedley Taylor: Education, Philanthropy and Friendship

Gabrielle Cliff Hodges

Monday 13th November, 7.30 pm,
West Wickham Village Hall.

All are welcome (there is a small charge for visitors). For further details contact the secretary, Janet Morris (290863, jmmorris@jmmorris.plus.com).

Margaret Creek

Balsham WI

At our October meeting, Jonathan Crisp from Cambridge County Council gave a talk on recycling in the county. We learnt how the recycling system works, and how much cash can be generated when

stuff is recycled rather than going to landfill which costs the council money. He emphasised that our refuse bins are for packaging materials and that larger objects and textiles, electricals and tools should be disposed of at the county recycling depots at Milton and Thriplow. We are apparently very lucky in South Cambs as the council can recycle many things that other councils cannot. Plenty to think about after this meeting, especially that food waste is a major contributor to CO₂ emissions, and that the average household wastes over £70 worth of food a month.

Our next meeting is on Tuesday 14th November, when our speaker will be Linda Cook from ‘Turn and Burn’ who will be showing us how to do pyrography, hopefully with a chance to have a go ourselves. We also plan to have a sales table for members to sell any handmade items.

We are a friendly bunch, and new members are always welcome. Our meetings are held on the second Tuesday of each month at 7.30 pm in the Pavilion. Please get in touch if you are interested in joining us – balshamwi@gmail.com – or send a message on Facebook, @Balsham WI.

Debbie Mower



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Balsham Horticultural Society

Our chairman Sue Lock began our October meeting, in our new venue in the sports pavilion, by paying a tribute to our long serving member and past chairman Hilary Potter. Hilary did so much and with such enthusiasm for our garden club, and sadly died in September. Hilary will be remembered fondly and will be a much-missed member.

Following a last minute change of speaker, we were able to welcome Robert Brett, the curator of the RHS gardens at Hyde Hall, whose talk was entitled ‘Yours & My Need For Plants’.

Robert was a very engaging and knowledgeable speaker, who joined Hyde Hall eight years ago. He spoke initially of the projects the RHS undertakes, for example creating gardens in hospitals for patients and relatives to enjoy and find solace. Britain in Bloom is an RHS initiative to bring communities together and enhance their villages/towns, just one of the areas that the RHS contributes to, to make such a positive effect.

The RHS has a sustainability strategy using plants that enjoy dry conditions, so watering is kept to a minimum. They have used peat-free compost for the past ten years.



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Hyde Hall has created a wildwood, planting 5,000 trees around its periphery. Preserving wild flower seeds and establishing a wild flower meadow – which now has seven species of orchid – and engaging in plant trials, are just some of the things they are passionate about. Visitors can enjoy a wonderful garden with the RHS shop, garden centre and restaurant.

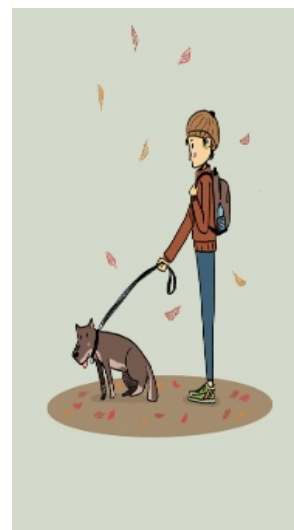
We meet again on Wednesday 1st November at 7.30 pm in the sports pavilion for our AGM. Brian Thurlow will give a talk, title TBC. Raffle and refreshments. All welcome.

Hazel Leeson

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The Meadow Primary School

The spirit of generosity and creativity was on full display as students from Meadow came together for an annual event, 'The Meadow Mile – a Whimsical Walk for Funds and Fun!', to raise funds for new books for the school's library and classrooms. Clad in imaginative and colourful fancy dress costumes, the children's imagination knew no bounds. The sight of tiny astronauts walking alongside fairy-tale princesses and swashbuckling pirates brought a sense of joy and unity to the event. This important event aims to enhance the reading and learning experience for all children, fostering a love for literature and knowledge, something which we are deeply passionate about as a school community.

As part of The Meadow's commitment to holistic education, Year 5 students also participated in the Bikeability program, which promotes safe and confident cycling. Under the guidance of certified instructors, students honed their cycling skills and learned essential road safety rules.



Bikeability not only encourages physical activity but also instils valuable life skills related to traffic awareness and sustainable transportation. The programme equips students with the confidence and knowledge needed to navigate roads safely, promoting a culture of active and eco-conscious commuting.

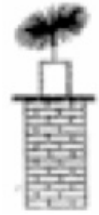
Something we are passionate about at The Meadow is ensuring children have opportunities to enhance their learning through exciting experiences that will capture

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their interest and foster curiosity. This half term the children in our older years have had the opportunity to explore history at West Stow and connect with the outdoors at Wandlebury. Years 4, 5 and 6 delved into the world of Anglo-Saxon history at West Stow's reconstructed village, which provided a captivating glimpse into the life and times of the early medieval period, allowing students to step back in time and experience history firsthand.

Our years 3 and 4 embarked on an unforgettable educational journey during their school trip to Wandlebury. These young adventurers delved into the past, learning to



winnow grain using a quern and crafting delicious bread over an open fire. They honed their skills with slingshots, mirroring the tools

used by ancient hunters. The tour of the Iron Age hill fort immersed them in history, while their hands-on experience in creating a mini fence/wall with wattle and daub showcased their creativity. This enriching day at Wandlebury was not just a field trip; it was a voyage through time, bringing history to life for these eager learners.

Faye Facer, Assistant Head Teacher

**Withersfield
Christmas Bazaar**

18th November 10am to 1pm

At Withersfield Village Hall, CB9 7RY

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



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

Buttercups Community Pre-School

We all had great fun when the farm came to visit Buttercups. The children loved the 'hands-on' experience of meeting the animals and the farm-themed activities and they especially loved (as I'm sure their grown ups did too) our café with all the yummy treats, manned by our lovely committee members.



The start of term has seen us getting to know some new friends called The Colour Monsters, who help the children get to know how they are feeling. These cuddly little characters have a book all about themselves too: the 'Worried Colour Monster' isn't sure how they feel about all the new things, but it seems that the 'Happy Colour Monster' is the overall favourite character, which is good!

The children have been making the most of the sunshine and exploring our mud kitchen with its new makeover, in particular our wonderful new sand pit. This wouldn't have been possible without some generous local donations – thank you so much.

Save the date: Sunday 3rd December, for our Christmas Fair. We'll be at the Balsham Institute from 11 am to 3 pm. We'd love to see you there and we look forward to sharing our latest news with you.

Charlotte Vallins

1st Balsham Cubs

Balsham Cubs is for children from the age of 8 to 10½ and takes place in the village on Wednesday evenings from 6.30 until 8 pm. We do many varied activities (according to the weather conditions).

This year we have been camping, been on a hike, lit fires and cooked on them, and played games too numerous to mention; particular favourites of the cubs are Wide Games which are played outside. We like to be outside whenever the weather allows.

Cubs also enjoy cooking activities and craftwork from time to time, and we also cover traditional scouting skills such as knots. Whilst doing all this the cubs are working towards achieving their silver challenge badge which is a major achievement and recognition of a high level of commitment. Several cubs have been awarded this recently before moving on to Scouts.

At the current time we have spaces available – an unusual occurrence! If you are interested in your child joining us, please let us have their name and contact details for our waiting list – contact Debbie.mower@balshamscouts.org.uk

Akela, 1st Balsham Cubs

Reports from SCDC and CCC Councillors

South Cambs District Council is offering a **free electric blanket** to those most in need, in the run up to the winter months. Those that qualify for these will need to be claiming Council Tax Support and also one of the following: attendance allowance, personal independence payment, or disability living allowance.

Full details of the scheme can be found here at: <https://www.scambs.gov.uk/free-electric-blankets-will-help-residents-most-in-need-this-winter/>

A **mobile food hub** visits Linton Village Hall on Coles Lane every Tuesday between 1 pm and 2 pm. There is no registration required – just turn up on the day. More information on the scheme, run by Hope CIC, can be found at <https://hopeagainst.org/hope-cic-mobile-food-hub> or on 07474 725477.

Some schools in the UK have been found to have **Reinforced Autoclaved Aerated Concrete (RAAC)** material used in them, which is dangerous. The good news locally is that no schools in Cambridgeshire have this materials used in their construction, so there is no need for any major works to be undertaken.

SCDC – Geoff Harvey (geoff.harvey@gmail.com)

CCC – Henry Batchelor (henrybatchelor89@gmail.com)

The Ellesmere Centre, Stetchworth

Tai Chi – Tuesdays 11 am - 12 noon. For More Information or to book a place please contact Dave (peacefulwarrioraichi@hotmail.com, 01638 781705)

Yin Yoga – Fridays 9.30 am. 90 minutes stimulating joints and fascia, enhancing suppleness, mindful relaxation. Call Lisa (07402 655556)

Christmas Market – Sunday 19th November, 11 am - 3 pm. £1 entry. Raffle and Refreshments

Christmas Party – December 9th: Live 60s music with 'Back in Time'.

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

Linton Library News

As the nights draw in and the weather cools, find a warm welcome at your Library. Stop by to find out what's new, browse the shelves, sit and read, help with the jigsaw or use our free Wifi. Did you know that you can download thousands of books, audiobooks, newspapers and magazines in digital form from the library, for free?

Visit Linton library this November for...

Storytime / Rhyme-time / Duplo-time: 10 – 11 am every Tuesday (in term time). Stories, songs and Duplo play for 0 - 4-year olds.

Games Afternoon for adults: Tuesday 7th and 21st, 2 - 4 pm – meet new people and try new games (you can even bring your favourite with you for us all to try).

Knit and Natter: bring along any craft project you're working on, 2 - 3 pm on Tuesday 14th and 28th.

Daylight Readers: our book groups meet on Friday 17th, one at 10.30 am and the other at 2.30 pm, and always welcome new members.

Justine from Reach Community Projects will be here to offer advice and help with debt/ budgeting or applications and more, 3 – 4.30 pm on Thursday 2nd and 16th. Drop in if you have any concerns or worries.

If you have any spare indoor pot plants, we'd be grateful for any to help make the library a greener space.

Opening hours:	Tuesday	10 am - 5 pm
	Wednesday	4 - 7 pm
	Thursday	2 - 5 pm
	Friday	10 am - 5 pm
	Saturday	10 am - 1 pm

***Ann King & Melanie Symonds (0345 045 5225,
www.cambridgeshire.gov.uk/library)***

Seasonal Advice from the Fire Service

Floods – make sure you are aware and prepared for floods by signing up for flood warnings in your area: <https://check-for-flooding.service.gov.uk/alerts-and-warnings> Be sure to check road conditions for where you're driving to, and keep your distance from the vehicle in front. Remember, drive to the conditions of the road, and slow down.

If a road is closed because of flooding, take note of the signs. It's closed for a reason. It's not worth the risk to drive through flood water. If you do get stuck, you'll need to call your vehicle recovery company. The fire service will only respond if there is a risk to life – they won't be rescuing your vehicle.

Chimneys – with the days getting shorter and the nights drawing in, make sure your chimneys are ready and safe for use this winter. Get your chimney swept before lighting your first fire of the winter.



Granta Medical Practices

Flu vaccines: if you are eligible for a free NHS flu vaccine but have not yet had it please call us today on 0300 234 5555 to book your appointment – it's not too late! If you are eligible for shingles and pneumo vaccines you can get these as the same time.

Covid vaccines: we are vaccinating our housebound patients and care home residents. For anyone else eligible, vaccines are available at various walk-in centres and vaccination sites. For further information please go to <https://www.nhs.uk/nhs-services/covid-19-services/covid-19-vaccination-services/>

Accurx Patient Triage: our online consultation tool is now live. Accurx replaces our email service, is easy to use and is a secure way of liaising with us. Accurx is PC-based – you do not need to download an app and you don't need to create an account. Accurx can also be used for administrative queries, such as insurance forms, etc. Simply go to our website and click on the link to start. If you don't use online services you can still ring or pop in to see us.

Repeat prescriptions: now is the time to start thinking about your repeat medication stocks over the Christmas period. When is your repeat due? Does it work around your Christmas plans? Avoid the last minute rush and plan ahead now!

Sandra East, Granta Patient Services
www.grantamedicalpractices.co.uk

GRANTA Medical Practices

NOV	9.30 am	11.00 am	4.00/6.00 pm
5 th		United Service with Holy Communion – Balsham, <i>Revd Iain McColl/Steve Jordan</i>	
12 th	Holy Communion – West Wickham, <i>Revd Iain McColl/Alastair Collen</i>	Remembrance Day Services, 10.45 am Balsham, <i>Revd Ben Brady</i> Weston Colville, <i>Steven Wheeler</i> Little Abington, <i>Revd Iain McColl/Alistair Collen</i>	
19 th	Holy Communion – West Wrating, <i>Revd Iain McColl</i> Holy Communion – West Wickham, <i>Revd Kathy Bishop</i>	Morning Worship – Balsham, <i>Hannah Threlfall</i> Holy Communion – Great Abington, <i>Revd Iain McColl</i> Holy Communion – Hildersham, <i>Revd Kathy Bishop</i>	
26 th	Holy Communion – West Wrating, <i>Revd Ben Brady</i> Holy Communion – Weston Colville, <i>Revd Iain McColl</i> Morning Worship – West Wickham, <i>Steven Wheeler</i>	Holy Communion – Balsham, <i>Revd Ben Brady</i> Café Church – Hildersham, <i>Revd Iain McColl</i>	Evening Prayer, 4.00 pm – Little Abington, <i>Steven Wheeler</i>

All Souls Services, Thursday 2nd November:
Little Abington (**5.00 pm**), *Revd Ben Brady*
Balsham (**6.00 pm**), *Alistair Collen*

DIARY

NOVEMBER 2023

- Wed 1 Reading Room Community Hub
Balsham Horticultural Society
- Sat 4 West Wrating Café
- Wed 6 Weston Colville Parish Council
- Sat 11 Churchyard Clear-up, West Wrating
- Sun 12 Remembrance Day – see box above for services
Music Event, West Wrating Pavilion
- Mon 13 West Wrating Parish Council
Talk on Sedley Taylor, West Wickham
- Tues 14 Balsham WI
- Wed 15 West Wrating Book Club, the Chestnut Tree
- Thur 16 Lunch Club, the Chestnut Tree
- Fri 17 Tea & Cakes, Reading Room
- Sat 18 Withersfield Christmas Bazaar
- Sun 19 Weston Colville Oil Co-operative Order Deadline
Christmas Market, Ellesmere Centre, Stetchworth
- Mon 21 Talk on Fermented Food, Weston Colville
- Fri 24 Friday Night Inn, Reading Room
- Sat 25 Folk Music from Camus, Reading Room

DECEMBER 2023

- Sat 2 West Wrating Café
Christmas Wreath Workshop, Weston Colville
- Sun 3 Buttercups Pre-School Christmas Fair, Balsham
- Mon 11 West Wrating Village Hall AGM
- Sat 16 Balsham Singers Christmas Concert

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 (291344)
St Andrew's – Sebastian Bain (07736 198101)
Church Administrator: Caroline (Cazy) 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: Wednesday 1st, 15th & 29th November,
Wed 13th & **Thurs 28th December**
Blue & green bins: Wednesday 8th & 22nd November,
Wednesday 6th & 20th December

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

Mobile library: fourth Thursday: 23rd Nov
High Street, West Wrating 11.10 - 11.50 am
Reading Room, Weston Green 12.00 - 12.35 am
Mill Hill, Weston Colville 12.40 - 1.05 pm

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

Copy date for December issue:

Monday 20th November