

Challenge

The Parish Newsletter of Weston Colville and West Wratting

The views expressed herein are those of the contributors.

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

Tea & Cakes

We look forward to catching up with everyone at our first 2025 session on 17th January in the Reading Room, 3.30 pm - 5.00 pm.



Thank you for your support over the past year; we couldn't do it without you.

We are a friendly group, so do come along for a chat a cuppa and some delicious cake.

Val and the Team

West Wratting Café

All the Christmas festivities are behind us and we're looking forward to our New Year Café on Saturday 4th January, 10.30 - noon, in the village hall.

Everyone is welcome – do join us for fresh coffee, teas and homemade cakes and the chance to catch up on everyone's Christmas news.

Also, a big thank you to everyone involved in making Café Christmas such a success once again. It was lovely to see so many of you enjoying the craft stalls; it felt very 'Christmassy'.

Sherry & Jan

West Wratting Progressive Supper 2025

This will take place on Saturday 15th February, and is open to anyone living in West Wratting – couples, singles, threesomes. I will be in touch in mid-January to let you know which course to serve. If you are living on The Common I will allocate you a dessert course; this supper will see all desserts served in the village hall, which is where we will conclude our evening.

For more information, please contact me.

Sherry (sherry.odonovan@gmail.com)

Soup Lunches in the Reading Room

After a Christmas break, Soup Lunches will recommence on Wednesday 8th January. As usual it will be a 12.30 prompt start; most people arrive earlier and have a chat beforehand.

For those new to these events, it's a simple lunch with a volunteer making the soup each time. There is no charge because the activity is supported by a small grant from ACRE (acting for South Cambs District Council) and the Reading Room Trust. However we do welcome donations from those who feel able to contribute, just to help offset expenses. We will meet every Wednesday until 26th March; please join us if you can.

We will be launching a personal recollection in print and film about village life by Maureen Garrod on 15th January (see page 2) and later in February Simon will be along to host another IT clinic.

If you can think of someone in either village (or elsewhere) who would benefit from a bit of company during these winter months, please bring them along. You're guaranteed a warm welcome!

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

Wildly Preserved
Home produced fermented foods,
jams and marmalades

If you want to purchase or know more, contact:

Phone or text: 07984 655116

Email: wildlypreserved@yahoo.com

Facebook Wildly Preserved

Instagram : [wildlypreserve](https://www.instagram.com/wildlypreserve)

Food Safety 5*

West Wratting Village Hall

Licensed for entertainment and sale of alcohol

Ideal for weddings, family functions, children's parties, exercise classes, fundraising events & performances

From £17 per hour.

We have a spacious stage, modern kitchen & separate bar area, disabled facilities, excellent sound system, & nearby parking

Furniture, crockery, etc also available for hire

01223 290270, wwwvhbookings@gmail.com
www.westwratting.org.uk/village-hall/

Maureen's Memories

Earlier this year, Maureen Garrod, whom many of you will know, agreed to chat about her memories of living in Weston Colville since the 1940s. And what memories they are! The conversation was recorded in a short video by Bob Coates and James Huggins and expanded a bit further by me into a 24-page illustrated booklet. I learnt such a lot in the process about the history of the village: it was a real pleasure.

The video, which lasts about four minutes, is being given its premiere following the weekly soup lunch in the Weston Colville Reading Room on Wednesday 15th January. The booklets will also be available afterwards (with suggested donations of £4 each in aid of charity). Everyone is welcome. Please do join us.

Soup lunches begin promptly at 12.30 pm and involve a bowl or two of delicious homemade soup (made by whichever volunteer is cooking that week) plus bread, tea or coffee and biscuity 'afters': a real treat. If you don't usually come but would like to on this occasion, please send me a quick message by the end of Monday 13th January so whoever is cooking knows roughly how many to cater for! We look forward to seeing you there.

*Gabrielle Cliff Hodges (07979 554758,
gabrielle.cliffhodges@cantab.net)*

West Wratting Book Club

We will be meeting at The Chestnut Tree at 7.30 pm on Wednesday 15th January to read the Booker Prize-winning 'Orbital' by Samantha Harvey.

Linda Gorman (290653)

Sponsored Winter Ultra Race

I am on a mission to raise sponsorship funds by running a 25-mile Winter Ultra Race on the Cornish Coastal Path in January. Funds will be split 50:50 between helping to support an amazing friend who is undergoing treatment for a rare cancer, and funds to improve my daughter's school.

In return for donations I can do odd jobs like gardening, dog walking, hoovering/cleaning, and window cleaning; I am a qualified insured Chartered Accountant, and am willing to undertake accounting and bookkeeping work, tax preparation, and admin; also any other work such as painting and DIY, car washing etc. I am available most Saturday afternoons between 2 and 4 pm. Please feel free to contact me, I may be able to be more flexible.

Please contact me: barleyw@hotmail.com, 07901 665490. My donation page is: www.justgiving.com/crowdfunding/barley-woodcock-1?utm_term=eGW4vNNaw
Barley Woodcock, Spring Terrace, Weston Colville

West Wratting Village Hall

We held our AGM on Monday 9th December as planned. With one exception the current officers were re-elected; Maggie Attewell, our Booking Secretary, stood down deciding to take a much earned rest. Maggie has been an outstanding member of our committee through the previous ten years of public service given to village residents and those in the surrounding area. One of our committee members, Nigel Heath, also stepped down. Like Maggie, Nigel gave great support to the committee over the years; thank you Nigel. Maggie and Nigel, you will be missed.

On a different note, we have completed our project to improve the acoustic properties of the hall though the installation of acoustic damping panels. These should reduce echoes making it easier to communicate in the hall especially at busy times. We look forward to hearing your views on this when you attend the next Saturday Café. Thanks to the Cambridge Community Fund and the Windfarm Trust for their financial support.

*Martin Davey,
Chair, West Wratting Village Hall Committee*

***Kingsway Solar Community Action:
The Work Goes On***

It's been a busy month for the Kingsway Solar Community Action (KSCA) group. We hope you've spotted some of us at the public consultations or come across our leaflets. Most importantly, we hope you've submitted your responses to Kingsway. Your opinion matters!

But our work doesn't end here. At the Extraordinary Parish Meeting on Thursday 5th December, at the Balsham Institute, local parish councils came together to discuss working collaboratively on the solar farm development. The meeting was well attended and included a presentation via weblink from Dr Catherine Judkins from Say No to Sunnica group, the Town and Parish Council Alliance, and UK Solar Alliance.

In sharing her experiences with the room, she described the five-year process for the Sunnica solar farm. She emphasised the importance of persistence, saying "You do need to stick with it and work through it, because it is a process that you do need to engage with" and added, "Think of it as working in waves – some periods will need more engagement than others."

At the meeting, KSCA emphasised the need for strong representation, saying, "We need voices who can negotiate on behalf of the communities to achieve the best outcome."

We met with Pippa Heylings MP, who is pushing for a Land Use Framework to improve decision-making on large-scale solar projects. The meeting included a good mix of people from KSCA, the parish council, and the district council, showing how we're working together.



MGP
CARPENTRY

ALL CARPENTRY WORK UNDERTAKEN

FREE QUOTES: MATT GRIGG-PETTITT 07807 968 661

FRIENDLY RELIABLE SERVICE | www.mgpcarpentry.co.uk

KSCA also met with David Vernon from Kingsway to discuss our concerns and objections to the solar farm (more details to follow). As we move forward, we'll need to involve experts, from ecologists to lawyers, to ensure we have strong evidence and representation.

To keep up to date with the work of the KSCA and to get involved, please visit our website kingswayaction.org, or find us on Facebook or Instagram.

A big thank you to everyone who has supported us through our GoFundMe campaign! Your help is greatly appreciated and has been vital in raising awareness.

Ellen Collier, KSCA

Jigsaws

I still have many jigsaws, mostly 500 and 1,000 pieces, freely available from my garage at Nine Chimney House, Balsham. Ideal for the long winter evenings!

Joanna Sanders (sanderschimneys@uwclub.net)



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.



Rothwell's
Carpet Cleaning

01638 428 060
www.Rothwells.biz

Carpet Cleaning & Stone Floors, Upholstery, Rugs

Rothwell's has been in business since 1993. Our large truck mounted machines mean more cleaning & drying power for the best results possible. Members of both the NCCA and TACCA. We will move the furniture for a thorough clean. 100% satisfaction or it's FREE.

Call Oliver and Max Campbell for expert help today.

Kbroffee

Artisan Sourdough fresh Breads delivered to your door
 Breads change on a weekly basis, just contact me for the bake list at
hellokbroffee@gmail.com
 or phone **07894 498364**
 or see my website
www.kbroffee.co.uk
#kbroffee
 Micro bakery in West Wickham using organic flour

PEST CONTROL SERVICES

AGRICULTURAL AND DOMESTIC

CLUSTER FLIES, LOFT AREA,
 RABBITS, RATS,
 MICE, WASPS & INSECTS

CONTACT R DANIELS
 01223 290570 / 07773 682676

Weather, Wars and Wishful Thinking?

Is it just me, or do others feel that the world's becoming increasingly unpredictable; and not in a good way? Writing in early December, it's a challenge to guess what will be most relevant in the New Year: the weather (aka 'climate change'), wars and peace . . . and wishful thinking? Yes, surely these still seem like good bets: dark clouds variously threatening and shaping our hopes for the coming year.



In our villages – hardly at the centre of world events – we can pretend it's otherwise. We can carry on just as usual. But tell that to the residents of Weston Colville and West Wrating, wondering how best to respond to the prospect of being embedded in a vast solar farm. Tell that to our farmers. Show indifference to our Ukrainian refugees, to our friends with families in the Middle East, or fearful of the rise of anti-semitism? Oh don't worry, everything will be sorted out by diplomacy, Donald Trump and Artificial Intelligence: humanity is endlessly innovative and resilient. For most people, Christianity probably also falls into that same category of 'wishful thinking'.

Granted, the Church's message can appear fanciful, or obscure, and most Christians (myself included) aren't the best examples of what we preach! Still, the teaching, death and resurrection of Jesus Christ is always relevant. We're alerted to immature fantasies about ourselves and the world, like "But we're innocent. The fault lies entirely with the greedy and selfish; there's a limited supply and you need to fight to get your share and protect yourself at all costs".

But if we can learn to see through our anxious and panic-driven defences, and have a 'change-of-heart', we begin to see the light of what we truly need most: the maturity of a human love and a community that always gives freely, as well as receives, with thanks. Yes, that's only possible if everyone 'changes heart'. But you've got to start somewhere.

Christians believe that God's love gives the power – of weakness and vulnerability – to change heart. Indeed, that's the only worthwhile path to take. The rest is empty futility.

Hmm – perhaps I should rethink my New Year's resolutions!

Alistair Collen

Eastern Counties Oil Services

- ✓ Oil boiler servicing
- ✓ Boiler repair and installation
- ✓ Central heating and plumbing
- ✓ Central heating system flushing
- ✓ Air source heat pumps
- ✓ OFTEC registered, all work guaranteed

Weston Colville: 01223 291374 or 07827 810344
info@easterncountiesoilservices.co.uk

READING ROOM
 WESTON COLVILLE

Available to hire for parties, fitness and meetings.
 Fully equipped kitchen.
 Licence for alcohol.

www.thereadingroom.org.uk

FANTASTIC SPACIOUS SETTING

OPENING TIMES
8:45 TO 3:15
MONDAY TO FRIDAY
TERM TIMES

BURROUGH GREEN PLAYGROUP

PLEASE ENQUIRE FOR SPACES

Email - burroughgreenplaygroup@gmail.com
Web - burroughgreenplaygroup.weebly.com

15 & 30 HOURS FUNDING AVAILABLE FOR 2 - 5 YEAR OLDS

01638 506003







Paul Nicholson Painting & Decorating
All Interior & Exterior Work Undertaken

Paul Nicholson



01638 508227
07890 118021
paulnicholson418@gmail.com

18 Sheriffs Court
Burrough Green
Newmarket

Candlemas

Sunday 2nd February, 6 pm at St Mary's

Candlemas is celebrated on 2nd February, and is a celebration of light and dedication. We don't usually make too much fuss about the festival in this country, but in some countries you can leave your Christmas decorations up until that time. Traditionally it commemorates 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".

Last year we held a Candlemas service and celebration in St Mary's Church and a surprising number of people turned up, so we're going to make the event a fixture.

These days we celebrate the coming of light into the world with the symbolism of candles. In the dark times of winter and with the threat of solar panels dominating our landscape, we all need a bit of light in the darkness, so come and help us do just that!

Whatever your faith or none, please join us in bringing a bit more light into the world at Candlemas and rededicate yourself for the year ahead. Light a candle in St Mary's and take it home. There will be a

very short (20 minutes) dedication ceremony with traditional beeswax candles at 6 pm followed by a glass of wine/soft drinks and a social time. Everyone is welcome. It will be a fun event for children and anyone who likes sharing the light!

Bob Coates (07785 361345)

Friday Prayers - St Mary's Church

Recently we have been meeting at 8.45 am for half an hour every Friday morning for a short, uncomplicated service of prayer and readings. Everyone is very welcome to join in – it's an informal, friendly event.

There may well be people you know, or issues in the village, for whom or which you would like prayer. It could be someone who is ill, or feeling low, or struggling with the pressures of life. Indeed, perhaps for yourself. There is now a small box in the church where requests for prayer can be left. There is no need to provide details unless you wish to. Or you can contact me before Thursday night and I'll forward those prayers to whoever is leading.

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



[cocoon]
wellbeing + beauty

Waxing
OPI manicures + pedicures
Comfort Zone Facials
Massage + aromatherapy
Gifts + vouchers
inner lather Soaps

07527 879135
High Street, West Wickham





COUNTRY GARDENS & LANDSCAPES

FULLY QUALIFIED AND INSURED
REFERENCES AVAILABLE
AS FEATURED IN GARDENERS WORLD MAGAZINE



HARD AND SOFT LANDSCAPING, PATIOS, BLOCK PAVING, DRIVEWAYS, FENCING, TREE SURGERY, HEDGE CUTTING, TURFING, GARDEN MAINTENANCE, PLANTING



MOB:
07795
364135
TEL:



Charter House
Burrough Green
Newmarket
Suffolk CB8 9NG

JAGGARD & SON

FIREWOOD
quality logs cut and split to requirement

COAL
solid fuel to suit all fires

MULCH
graded woodchip for gardens etc

01638 507330 07766 566226
rdjaggardandson@btinternet.com

FIELD COMPOST LTD

We'll help your garden grow

Peat Free Compost		Lawn Dressing &
Soil Improver		Grass Seed
Soil		Mulch
Bark		Sharp Sand &
Woodchip		Horticultural Grit

www.fieldcompost.co.uk
sales@fieldcompost.co.uk
01440 966966

Collection for the People of Ukraine



A collection for the people of Ukraine will be held on Saturday 25th January at Abington Primary School from

9.00 am until 12.30 pm. Supported by Abington School and the Granta Vale churches, this will be the fifth collection organised by Rotarian Tony Collett and Saffron Walden Rotary.

According to the United Nations office in Ukraine there have been (up to end of October) over 39,000 civilian casualties in Ukraine, consisting of 27,000 injured and 12,000 killed. This has led to thousands being displaced and in need of warm clothing and footwear in good condition, stable food and household items including pasta, rice, canned goods and gluten free items, toiletries and cleaning materials, cooking utensils, torches, batteries and crockery. In addition cash donations are needed towards the purchase of pallets of food, and these can also be made at the Rotary collection point in cash or by credit card on 25th January.

Tony says, "The response to the previous four collections from residents of Abington and other local villages has been truly heart-warming so I am hopeful it will be the same this time."

Tony Collett (01223 893447)

Balsham WI

Balsham WI members enjoyed a lively December meeting, which included wine tasting, party food to complement the wines, a table quiz, and festive singing. Many wines were tried, with opportunity to sample alcohol-free variants. Members were invited to describe what they were tasting and to identify the

flavour and feel of the wines, which all came from local supermarkets, and were very reasonably priced.

The evening finished with a rendition of 'The Twelve Days of a WI Christmas', which deviated from the standard wording of the well-known carol to reflect the activities of the WI.

The venue was suitably decorated, including the tree recently liberated from the church festival, complete with decorations still in place – no mean feat, as the tree had been transferred on the passenger seat of a member's car! We had a secret Santa to add to the merriment, and a raffle raised funds for our 2025 refreshment kitty.

Our next meeting, on Tuesday 14th January in the pavilion, will be the first of our centenary year, and will be themed to the 1920s. Do join us if you can.

Debbie Mower

West Wickham & District Local History Club

Are you thinking of researching your family history, or have you already started and need some help?

Then do come along to the next meeting of the club on Monday 13th January at 7.30pm in West Wickham Village Hall, for 'How to climb your Family Tree', a talk by Charmian Thompson of the Haverhill Group of Suffolk Family History Society. (Suitable both for beginners or those more advanced.)

All welcome; (non-members £2).

For further details contact the Secretary: Janet Morris, on 290863 or jmmorris@jmmorris.plus.com

Janet Morris

PLUMBLINE & SON

PLUMBING AND HEATING ENGINEERS

PROFESSIONAL DOMESTIC PLUMBING SERVICE

OIL BOILER SERVICING & REPAIRS

Call John & Zach

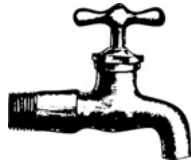
01223 893903

Supcik@talktalk.net

Fully Qualified and Insured

City & Guilds / OFTEC Registered

Friendly and Reliable Service



City
Guilds



Linton & District Historical Society

The next meeting, at 7.30 pm on Tuesday 21st January in Linton Village Hall, will be an illustrated talk by Neil Dickinson on 'Mercury, the Mobile Metal'.

(Neil's previous, excellent, talk was on 'Arsenic's Toxic Legacy'.) Refreshments and raffle; visitors and new members always welcome.

Margaret Creek

(ldhscams@gmail.com, 893915 or 678835)

Balsham Picture House

We will show THE GREATEST SHOWMAN (PG), on Saturday 4th January.

Normal start time of doors open at 7 pm and film at 7.30 in the Balsham Church Institute. Dave's bar will be open as usual before the film for refreshments.



Dick Paden



**Professional
Carpentry
Services**

**1st and 2nd Fix • Doors • Windows • Floors
Skirting/Architrave • Storage Solutions
Cupboards • Kitchens • Bathrooms
Renovation and Restoration**

T: 07742 032859

E: jamesuk85@icloud.com

Find me on Instagram use my QR code



The Chestnut Tree

Mill Road, West Wrating

CAMRA Rural Pub of the Year 2023

Constantly changing selection of four real ales, plus real cider, to enjoy in our comfortable bar, dining room or in our garden

www.thechestnuttree.co.uk

01223 290384

Balsham Gardening Club

Balsham Gardening Club held its very last meeting on 4th December, after 47 years of shows, visits and talks. Although a poignant occasion, we enjoyed a talk by John Gibson, who told us the story of the Royal Papworth Hospital from its origin as the Cambridgeshire Tuberculosis Colony in 1918 with just 17 patients and 4 staff, through to the renowned heart and lung hospital. He gave us a vivid picture of Dr Pendrill Varrier-Jones' pioneering approach to the treatment of TB, based on fresh air, good food and light work. Recovering patients lived in small wooden huts with cloth windows and no heating in the grounds of Papworth Hall, regardless of the weather.

The TB Colony grew to treat, house and employ patients and their families, becoming the Papworth Village Settlement in 1929, with its own school and church. The light work started as helping with each other's care and developed into keeping animals and growing vegetables, and then to workshops making travel luggage, furniture and many other things.

John told us how antibiotic treatments for TB were developed, made difficult because of the TB bacterium's protective lipid coat and slow growth. As antibiotics became effective, the hospital used its expertise in chest surgery to specialise in ground-breaking heart surgery, eventually moving to its new building in Cambridge.

After the talk we enjoyed Christmas food and drinks and a gardening quiz, led by Jennie Tipler. The outgoing committee were given garden vouchers in thanks for their work over the years.

Andy Mitchell

TIM PHILLIPS & Co. Accountants

Independent, specialist service for:
**Small Business • Self Assessment
Personal Taxation**

Free initial consultation – no obligation
EASY, FREE PARKING

Copley Hill Business Park, Cambridge Rd., Babraham
Off A1307 between Wandlebury and Babraham

Tel: 01223 830044. www.tpaccounts.co.uk

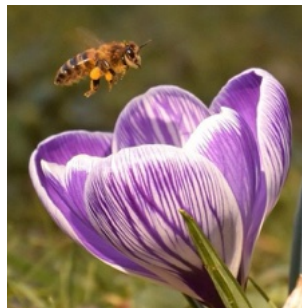
New Shoots, New Beginnings

The West Wickham & District Gardening Club is making the most of the winter months to enjoy getting to know new members and introduce some very special speakers.

The Christmas Social event was well attended, with old and new members enjoying refreshments and a particularly entertaining quiz this year.

Following the sustainable display at the West Wickham Christmas Fayre (with a myriad of sustainable decorations from chilli, popcorn, cranberry and orange-adorned trees to impressive folded paper angels and stars) there has been increasing interest in how we can continue the theme of planet-friendly gardening throughout the year.

With no topic being more important than encouraging pollinators, the first talk of the new year, entitled 'Forgotten Bees' on Monday 20th January (7.30 pm in West Wickham Village Hall) is already creating much



interest. Hawk Honey, a very proficient speaker from the Suffolk Wildlife Trust, explores how we can attract bees into our gardens, including some of the less well-known species. This promises to be one of the highlights of the season.

New members are welcome to join throughout the year. With talks, social events and garden visits, there is always something for everyone – experienced or novice. Annual membership is £8 per person with discounts at local suppliers and half-price entry to RHS gardens. Please contact Sue Boase.

Sue Boase (07716 401646, wwdgc@westwickham.org)

THE TOP HAT CHIMNEY SWEEP



Contact Stephan on:
07805 335824
E: Stephanrp.47@gmail.com

*A 1st class service for every
type of domestic chimney*

McGrath *Home Cleaning & Home Care*

Services Offered:

- Household cleaning
- End of tenancy cleans
- Deep cleaning including oven cleans
- Carpet and rug cleaning
- Commercial and office cleaning also available

*Very experienced • Excellent references on request
DBS checked • Competitive rates*

Please call 07980 105 032

R BRISTLEY

9 COLLINGS PLACE, NEWMARKET

SANICLEAN

DRAIN & PLUMBING SERVICES

- Drains Unblocked Fast
- Toilets, Baths & Sinks
- Guttering & Downpipes
- Drain Repairs & CCTV Surveys
- High Pressure Water Jetting
- Domestic & Industrial
- All Work Guaranteed



Newmarket (01638) 662439

Est. 1974

Jo Taylor

Established
since 1994

Jo's Cleaning Services

Call me on
07900 601835

Email me at
joanne10664@gmail.com

The Meadow Primary School, Balsham

We are very proud of our Foundation Stage and KS1 pupils for their fantastic performance in this year's nativity production, Hey Ewe. The children put in a lot of effort, clear in their singing, dancing, and their ability to

remember their lines. It was a wonderful performance that brought lots of smiles to the audience. Well done to everyone involved – you did a great job!



To mark the end of their Upper KS2 learning on World War II, Kingfisher and Kestrel classes had an engaging day with Gareth from Historic Workshops.



The children explored history through a carousel of hands-on activities, starting with Gareth, who introduced them to genuine WW2 artefacts, including gas masks, personal diaries, and air-raid warden helmets. Next, with Miss Walsh, they practised first aid skills and role-played using real WW2 stretchers.



Local, Professional Computer Help and Support

www.squeakymouse.com

01223 852 872

support@squeakymouse.com

Finally, braving the cold, they joined Mr Steadman outdoors to learn bomb-defusing and fire-extinguishing techniques, using authentic WW2 stirrup pumps to put out imaginary fires. It was a memorable and educational day for all!

A huge thank you to our amazing PTA for their continued support this term. Thanks to their hard work, our children have had some fantastic opportunities, including attending a free disco, enjoying refreshments at the carol concert, and even going on a free trip to the panto! The whole school was able to visit the South Mills Arts Theatre in Bishop's Stortford to watch Robin Hood, an incredible experience for many of our children. We are incredibly grateful for the time and effort the PTA puts into organising and fundraising for these events. Additionally, they've secured a generous grant from The Wadlow Wind Farm, through the Cambridgeshire Community Foundation, to help fund new ICT equipment, supporting all our learners. Thank you, PTA, for everything you do!

Faye Facer, Assistant Headteacher



**ladies
that mulch**

Garden Design

www.ladiesthatmulch.co.uk

info@ladiesthatmulch.co.uk

07872 026 470 / 07875 059 002



CUTTING & COLOURING
HAIR BY JO DENNY
 WOMEN | MEN | CHILDREN

41 LINTON HIGH STREET | T: 01223 893 285
 (BEHIND BOSWELL'S BAKERY)

MOPS HAIR SALON

GARDEN MAINTENANCE

We offer a professional and reliable service from lawn mowing to new planting projects. Other services include tree surgery and hedge cutting.

Please telephone Zara or Francis at

Napier Garden Planning
 Tel : 07946 382614

Westley Waterless, Newmarket
 e-mail: napierfz@aol.com

Marsh Mail

We were excited to revive our Carol Concert at the Holy Trinity Church in Balsham. Thanks to Reverend McColl's support, students had the privilege of performing in beautiful surroundings befitting the heartwarming programmes of classical and contemporary music. Over a hundred LVC students took part in the event.



The concert started with traditional carols accompanied by the Symphonic Wind Orchestra and an ethereal solo performance of 'Once In Royal David's City' by Katie in Year 9. The concert went



on to showcase our choir, The Linton Voices, the Tuesday lunchtime Jam Club, and a range of musical ensemble groups led by our team of peripatetic teachers. The evening ended with a blessing and the

Year 7 Massed Choir whose beautiful sea of voices sang 'The Greatest Gift', a poignant festive moment.

During the month of December, LVC students also showed their community spirit by engaging in events to raise money and share donations for charity. 'Reverse Advent' has become a long-standing LVC initiative where tutor groups collect toiletries and groceries to present as Christmas hampers for Jimmy's in Cambridge. Jimmy's is a community-based charity providing support and housing to people who are sleeping rough.

Another charity the school supports on our Christmas Jumper Day is Tom's Trust, the UK's only charity dedicated to providing mental health support to children with brain tumours, and their families.

Laura Heard

Linton Library

If your New Year Resolutions involve trying a new hobby, getting crafty, or reading more, then see what books we can find for you. If you'd like to learn a new language or improve your IT skills, we have free online resources to help you.

NEW Games Afternoon: weekly from Thursday 2nd January, 2 - 4 pm. Come and meet new people, learn to play Five Crowns (for example), board/card games provided, or bring your favourite to share.

Author Talk: we have Jo Browning Wroe coming to give a talk on Wednesday 12th February, 2 pm at the library. The event is free but please book your place by contacting the library or

email: cambourne.referral@cambridgeshire.gov.uk

Ann King (0345 045 5225,
www.cambridgeshire.gov.uk/library)

Linton Complementary Health Centre
 2B Bartlow Road, Linton, CB21 4LY

- Acupuncture
- Shiatsu
- Massage

Telephone: 01223 891145
 Email: enquiries@lintonhealth.co.uk

HOME ANIMAL CARE

- Registered Pet Sitter
- Fully Licensed and Insured
- Boarding in my Home
- Day Care
- Visits for Cats, Dogs and all Small Animals

www.homeanimalcare.co.uk
 catherineneale9@icloud.com
 07778 921334

The Ellesmere Devils Pantomime
 The Ellesmere Devils Pantomime Society presents 'Wendy – A Peter Panto'! Adapted by Matthew Attwood, this magical, fun-filled twist on J M Barrie's classic tale will have you laughing, cheering, and maybe helping Wendy save the day! Tickets are available at www.ticketsource.co.uk/edps
Amy Metcalfe

Granta Medical Practices
 If in 2025 you would like to:

... **stop smoking** – we can offer you smoking cessation and our trained nurses will be happy to help you. Please ring us on 0300 234 5555 for further information and to arrange an appointment.

... **lose weight** – if you are over 16 and your BMI is greater than 25 you can access a free adult weight management service via our Wellbeing team. Please ring 01223 627745 or email the Wellbeing team on cpicb.wellbeingteam.gmp@nhs.net When contacting the team please give your current weight and height.

... **stay healthy** – if you are aged between 40 and 74 and do not have any pre-existing long term medical conditions, you may be eligible for a free NHS Health Check. Please ring us on 0300 234 5555 for further information and to book an appointment. Further information can also be found at <https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/nhs-health-check/> Are you up to date with the vaccinations you are eligible for, eg flu, shingles, RSV, pneumonia? If you are unsure please contact us and we can check for you.

... **go on holiday** – the Granta Travel Clinic team can give you advice on what vaccines and medications you may need for your trip away. Simply fill out a travel form via our website or speak to a member of our reception team.
Sandra East, Head of Patient Services


Ellesmere Devils Pantomime Society Presents

WENDY! A PETER PANTO

Based on the original play 'Peter Pan' by J. M. Barrie
 Adapted by Matthew Attwood

Tickets on sale now
www.ticketsource.co.uk/edps

Scan the QR code to buy



Performances

Wednesday 29th January 6.30pm	£8
Thursday 30th January 7pm	£9
Friday 31st January 7.30pm	£12
Saturday 1st February 2pm matinee	£12
Saturday 1st February 7.30pm	£12

The Ellesmere Leisure Centre, Ley Road, Stetchworth, Newmarket CB8 9TS

noda
This amateur production of "Peter Pan" is presented by arrangement with Great Ormond Street Hospital Children's Charity and Concord Theatricals Ltd. on behalf of Samuel French Ltd. www.concordtheatricals.co.uk

R BRISTLEY
 9 COLLINGS PLACE, NEWMARKET

BRUSH ELECTRIC SWEEP

- All Chimneys Swept
- Solid Fuel, Oil & Gas
- Cows, Nets & Pots Fitted
- Stoves Repaired & Inspected
- Carpets Cleaned
- Competitive Prices
- Very Clean
- Family Business
- Public Liability Insurance


 ☎ Newmarket (01638) 662439

JAN	9.30 am	11.00 am	Afternoon & Evening
5 th		United Service with Holy Communion – Balsham, <i>Revd Iain McColl/ Revd Kathy Bishop</i>	
12 th	Holy Communion – West Wickham, <i>Revd Iain McColl</i> Morning Worship – West Wrating, <i>Steven Wheeler</i>	Plough Sunday Service – Balsham, <i>Bishop Dagmar/ Revd Hannah Threlfall</i> Morning Worship – Great Abington, <i>Steven Wheeler</i> Café Church – Hildersham, <i>Revd Iain McColl</i>	Taizé service (6.00 pm) – Weston Colville, <i>Revd Hannah Threlfall</i>
19 th	Holy Communion – West Wrating, <i>Revd Iain McColl/Alistair France</i> Morning Worship – West Wickham, <i>Alistair Collen</i>	Morning Worship – Balsham, <i>Revd Hannah Threlfall</i> Holy Communion – Little Abington, <i>Revd Iain McColl/Alistair France</i>	Evening Prayer (6.00 pm) – Hildersham, <i>Alistair Collen</i>
26 th	Holy Communion – Weston Colville, <i>Revd Iain McColl</i> Holy Communion – West Wickham, <i>Revd Kathy Bishop</i> Creative Church – Abington Hub, <i>Rosemary Mead/ Revd Hannah Threlfall</i>	Holy Communion (BCP) – Hildersham, <i>Revd Iain McColl</i> Holy Communion – Balsham, <i>Revd Kathy Bishop</i>	Evening Prayer (4.00 pm) – Little Abington, <i>Revd Hannah Threlfall</i>

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

JANUARY 2025

Sat 4 West Wrating Saturday Café
 Mon 6 Weston Colville Parish Council
 Mon 13 West Wrating Parish Council
 Wed 15 Maureen's Memories film & booklet launch
 West Wrating Book Club, The Chestnut Tree
 Thur 16 Lunch Club, The Chestnut Tree
 Fri 17 Weston Colville Tea & Cakes, Reading Room
 Mon 20 West Wickham & District Gardening Club
 Tues 21 Linton & District Historical Society
 Wed 29 'Wendy' pantomime opens, Ellesmere Centre

FEBRUARY 2025

Sun 2 Candlemas, St Mary's, Weston Colville
 Sat 15 West Wrating Progressive Supper

Churchwardens:

St Mary's – Ian Ashbridge (01223 291344)
 Bob Coates (07785 361345)
 St Andrew's – Sebastian Bain (07736 198101)
Church Administrator: Caroline (Cazzy) Walshe,
7churches.seven@gmail.com, 01223 891443
Weston Colville Parish Clerk: Jess Ashbridge,
clerk@westoncolville.org.uk, 07779 277647
West Wrating Parish Clerk: Cameron Biggs,
clerk.westwratingparishcouncil@gmail.com
Community Warden: Lucy Cameron,
Lucy.Cameron@AgeUKCAP.org.uk, 07436 102865

Black bins: Wednesday 8th & 22nd January,
 Wednesday 5th & 19th February
Blue bins: **MONDAY 30th** Dec, Wed 15th & 29th Jan,
 Wednesday 12th & 26th February
Green bins: Wednesday 15th January,
 Wednesday 12th February

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

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

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

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

**Copy Date for February issue:
 Monday 20th January**