



# VILLAGE VOICE

BRINKLEY.....BURROUGH GREEN.....CARLTON  
WESTLEY WATERLESS



DECEMBER 2023

## BRINKLEY CHRISTMAS CARD 2023

IT'S NOT TOO LATE - DEADLINE 6<sup>th</sup> DECEMBER.  
One aim of the Christmas card is as a fundraiser, partly for the church, and partly for the chosen charity. This year, that charity is Marie Curie You can choose to donate to one charity, or to both. Once you have 'signed up,' your name is printed inside the card. The card is delivered to everyone in our village.

COME AND SEE THE CARD AT THE WINTER FAIR.

Don't get left out!

For further details, please contact Ros on  
01638 507240 or 07860 128270

## WINTER FAIR

SATURDAY 2<sup>nd</sup> DECEMBER

12noon to 2pm

BRINKLEY MEMORIAL HALL



Come along and have  
lunch of homemade  
soups, sausage in a bun,  
and delicious puddings.



Cake stall..... Gift stall

Tombola..... Raffle.....& more

If you have items, cakes, gifts, bottles, that you could donate to the fair, or can help run a stall, it would be much appreciated.



Please contact Trish on 01638 507495,  
or Ros on 01638 507240

Please support this fund-raising  
event for your village church, St Mary's, Brinkley.

## BRINKLEY COFFEE AND CAKES

MONDAY 11<sup>th</sup> DECEMBER

10.30 am to 12.00 noon

at

Brinkley Memorial Hall



Please join us for Tea, Coffee and  
Cake and an opportunity to  
catch up with old friends and meet  
new ones.

From January we are planning to hold these get-togethers for Brinkley residents twice a month, on the 2<sup>nd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> Monday

ANY QUERIES: CAROLINE EGAR - 01638 507418  
/ 07976 250961

## CANDLELIT SERVICE

of

Carols & Readings



St Augustine's, Burrough Green  
Sunday, 10<sup>th</sup> December, 6 pm

All welcome to stay for  
mulled wine and mince pies  
following the service



## BURROUGH GREEN READING ROOM

SATURDAY 16<sup>th</sup> DECEMBER

### FESTIVE VILLAGE BREAKFAST

Join us for a delicious breakfast and a glass of  
Prosecco

from 9.00 - 11am



£7.00 Adults £3.00 Children under 11.

There will be a magnificent Christmas  
raffle. With top prize of £100.

Booking recommended. Call Joanne on  
01638 508888 or message us on the  
Burrough Green Facebook page.



Wishing you all a very Merry Christmas  
and a Happy and Healthy New Year.

## COMMUNITY DEFIBRILLATOR SEMINAR

Burrough Green Reading Room

Monday 11<sup>th</sup> December at 6.30pm.

This FREE 2 hour seminar run by the Community  
Heartbeat Trust is available for anyone who would  
like to learn more about Sudden Cardiac Arrest and  
how it can be treated including CPR training.

Refreshments available.

Enquiries: [mark.batting@btinternet.com](mailto:mark.batting@btinternet.com)

## R. D. JAGGARD

This year we are not selling from  
the yard in Burrough Green.  
Instead we are taking orders for  
delivery. Please book early to avoid disappointment.



07766 566226

[rdjaggardandson@btinternet.com](mailto:rdjaggardandson@btinternet.com)

01638 507330

## NEWS FROM THE ELLESMERE CENTRE

Join us on 9<sup>th</sup> of December for  
our Christmas Party



with  
**BACK IN TIME (60's)**



Tickets £8  
on Sale Now  
Licensed Bar and Raffle



### YOGA

Thursdays  
6.15pm with Colin  
Fordham



Fridays 9.30am with Lisa Lovell  
Contact [colinfordham@btinternet.com](mailto:colinfordham@btinternet.com)  
or call the office

### JUDO

Thursdays 4pm-5pm : 5-8 years  
Thursdays 5-6pm : 8 years +  
With Colin Fordham

Contact [colinfordham@btinternet.com](mailto:colinfordham@btinternet.com)  
or call the office

*The Staff and the Trustees would like to thank  
you for your support and wish you a very Happy  
Christmas and a Prosperous New Year*



*Please see our Facebook for more details  
Follow us on Facebook or Twitter @CentreEllesmere  
Email: [office@ellesmerecentre.org.uk](mailto:office@ellesmerecentre.org.uk) -alternatively  
call us on 01638 508212*

### DULLINGHAM FLOWER CLUB

Thursday 14<sup>th</sup> December 2023

8pm

The Taylor Hall, Dullingham. CB8 9XE

**Come & enjoy a festive evening  
with a Buffet and Demonstration**

by Gill Tarry  
entitled  
**'It's Christmas Time'**

PLEASE PREBOOK YOUR XMAS BUFFET BEFORE  
THE EVENING

Admission £12 Raffle

The raffle will include all the arrangements that Gill  
makes on the evening.

Please contact Lesley Bird

Tel: 01638 507658 or 07786 817154

## BURROUGH GREEN C of E PRIMARY SCHOOL NEWS

Hello everyone.

So much has happened at  
Burrough Green over the last  
month and it has such a great feel  
to it. Everyone has so much  
positivity about the school. It truly is a great place to  
be headteacher.



Without doubt, the main thing that has happened this  
month is the appointment of Alice Leadbeter (our  
EYFS/Year 1 teacher) to the position of Assistant  
Headteacher. She has been an integral member of our  
school for a few years now and her work, vision for the  
future and priceless links to the local community made  
her the ideal candidate for the position. I wish her, as  
I'm sure you all do, much success in the role and in  
achieving the shared aim of making Burrough Green  
the very best place to learn, preparing our children for  
their next steps in their educational journey.

I do not know if you were all aware in the community,  
but since February 2023 Burrough Green has been  
subjected to frequent RIG (Rapid Improvement  
Group) meetings due to our current Ofsted grading of  
Requires Improvement. The great news is that these  
meetings have now stopped as the committee (made up  
of prominent educationalists from Cambridgeshire  
County Council) are very happy with the progress we  
are making as a school as well as the current direction  
the school is going in. I quote:

**"The school continues to move forward at pace on  
the improvement journey and appears to be well  
placed for the future, and, therefore, this will be  
final LA RIG meeting."**

This verdict verifies the rapid journey of improvement  
we have all been on and the effort that children,  
parents and staff have put in on a daily basis and I  
want every single one of you to feel that you have  
contributed to this. I feel (I hope we all do) that this  
is an exciting place to learn and the future looks  
bright. We are heading in the right direction, rapidly!  
Thank you everyone.

On the 6<sup>th</sup> of November our school governors met.  
Please find below key points from our last governor's  
meeting (6-11-23)

- Governors are delighted to see the increasing  
interest in the wraparound care provision the  
school now provides
- Governors are pleased to see the hard work  
that has gone into developing the new  
curriculum and are looking forward to seeing  
the impact of the changes
- Governors are thrilled to hear that the Rapid  
Improvement Group (RIG) is impressed with

the steep improvement trajectory of the school and that they will no longer meet.

- Governors are happy with the new catering offering that pupils have the opportunity to enjoy every day
- Governors feel reassured by the results of the recent staff wellbeing survey
- Governors are delighted to welcome Rachel McDonnell to the governing body as our new Parent Governor

Again, such positive messages.

Earlier in the article, governors mentioned our catering. Bryan Brasnett, our chef, cooks and prepares all menu items fresh on site (except the sausages - which have a much higher meat content than ones used before). We source our own 'shopping' and he creates the most wonderful, healthy and nutritious meals. For example, Bryan uses fresh beef mince and makes his own burgers and meatballs. Pizzas are all fresh (including the base) and even the bread the children get is warm and freshly baked. All sauces for pasta etc. are made fresh with nothing coming from a jar or packet - some of the ingredients even come from our own school garden! School dinners are becoming a huge hit here and we are proud to be giving our young people the very best meals that we can.

More and more parents are using the wrap-around-care service we provide. There are places available on all days and we do take late bookings as we appreciate that life throws us a curveball now and again. Earlier this month, for example, we had a parent ring in because they were decorating and had about an hour or so of painting to go and asked if could we put their child into Owls - of course we could! This is exactly what I want the service to be used for as well as those regular bookings. One Thursday in early November, we had 16 children using the after-school service - a significant percentage of our whole school community. It is becoming so popular. To remind you all, morning sessions (Larks) run from 7.30am - 8.45am and evening sessions (Owls) run from 3.30pm to 6pm (even on a Friday!) - this is so much later than most schools offer and has been a real game-changer for working parents.

I had the pleasure of taking 8 year 3 and 4 students to Linton Village College to experience 5 Outdoor Adventurous Activities (OAA to the education world). All 8 of them were an absolute credit to the school - they displayed tenacity, resilience and teamwork in abundance. I was so proud of them all.

Mrs Moxom took our Year 2 singers to Linton to perform and not only did they give their absolute best, but they were so well behaved - so much so that other teachers commented on their behaviour. This is always lovely to hear. Our Year 6 children are off on their

residential adventure next week and they are all so excited about the prospect of it. I'll share a few snippets next month.

On 13<sup>th</sup> November, Burrough Green were inspired by Jordan Catchpole MBE. He is a British Paralympic swimmer from Beccles in Suffolk. He won gold in the S14 mixed 4 x 100m freestyle relay at the delayed 2021 Summer Paralympics in Tokyo. He spoke to the whole school, answering questions about his sport, lifestyle and his autism. In my 28 years of teaching, this was one of the most inspiring schools visits I have ever seen - his quest for excellence over adversity is just the message the children of Burrough Green need and all of them realise that there is literally nothing that can stand in the way of their individual dreams and aspirations.

Mrs Moxom did an excellent job organising this event which raised over £500 towards Jordan's training fees and living expenses. To see the children actually training with an Olympic athlete was tremendous. I am sure you would like to join me in wishing Jordan good luck in his quest for multiple gold medals at the 2024 Paralympics in Paris. We will be keeping a close eye on his progress. The 'awe and wonder' of our curriculum is here for all to see. Such an inspiring visit.

As ever we have space in all classes. If you are interested in securing a place for your child in any year group, please contact the school and an appointment will be made for you to visit the school, have 'the tour' to see the school at work and see our wonderful facilities (including a swimming pool!).

Finally, as we begin to prepare for the busy festive period, please remember to be kind and stay safe. See you all in December

*David Sandford*  
*Headteacher*

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**KNIT & NATTER**

**Every Monday from 1:30 to 3.30pm**

In the Community Room at Sheriff's Court Burrough Green. All knitters or potential knitters are welcome,



Bring your own knitting or we can teach you to make squares for the local neonatal unit or knit for other charities. We have odd bits of wool, patterns and needles etc. There will be a small charge for refreshments.

Any donations of wool would be greatly appreciated.

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## RECYCLING

**Carlton & Willingham Green - Wednesdays :**

Black bin - 13<sup>th</sup> & THURSDAY 28<sup>th</sup> December.

Blue & Green - 6<sup>th</sup> & 20<sup>th</sup> December.

**Brinkley, Burrough Green, Westley Waterless - Mondays**

Black sacks weekly. 4<sup>th</sup>, 11<sup>th</sup>, 18<sup>th</sup> & SAT 23<sup>rd</sup> December

Blue Lid - 4<sup>th</sup> & 18<sup>th</sup> December.

Green Lid - 11<sup>th</sup> & SATURDAY 23<sup>rd</sup> December



In January, the crews will collect real Christmas trees for recycling - please remove all decorations and cut them so that they are no higher or wider than your Green bin and put them out beside your green bin before 4 February. There's useful information about how to recycle other Christmas waste on the website at <https://www.eastcambs.gov.uk/east-cambs-street-scene/christmas-recycling>.

## THE BULL BURROUGH GREEN



As winter is coming... everyone is welcome to come and join some cosy nights. We've now got our lovely fire going.

### **SPEED QUIZZING**

We had a great success on our first speed quizzing night in November, the next game will be even bigger on Wednesday 20<sup>th</sup> December, don't forget we also have a rollover with *Play Your Cards Right*, money is mounting.

**THE LITTLE PIZZA OVEN** is still coming to our pub every other Thursday. The next visit is Thursday 7<sup>th</sup> December, then again 21<sup>st</sup> December.

### **CHRISTMAS**

Christmas is coming. The tree will be erected outside the pub to light up the fantastic green, that everyone uses, hope everyone will enjoy the switch on. Christmas opening times are as follows

Christmas Eve normal hours.

Christmas Day 11am till 4pm.

Boxing Day 11am till 4pm.

No food is being served over these few days.

**NEW YEAR** - open til late. Times will be confirmed with posters in the pub.

*We would just like to take this opportunity to say a big thank you to all our customers who have supported us over the last 7 months and hopefully, moving into 2024, we will continue to thrive and make The Bull pub a great success.*

*Thank you everyone*

*Tina and Danny*

**Food is served all day from 08.30am til 8.00pm**

**Sundays is 11 am til 8.00pm.**

Check out Facebook for the latest news.

**01638 476424**

## NEW BOOK EXCHANGE BRINKLEY

Now that the nights are drawing in and the mobile library only stops once a month, I thought that it would be a good time to set up a book exchange in the church porch. Feel free to pop in and borrow a book.

Donations of clean, readable modern or classic novels and auto/biographies would be kindly appreciated.



Any questions please email

[denisehrebniak@yahoo.com](mailto:denisehrebniak@yahoo.com)

## MOBILE LIBRARY



The Mobile Library will be at BURROUGH GREEN by the BUS STOP on 3<sup>rd</sup> THURSDAY of each month at 3.50 - 4.10pm **21<sup>st</sup> December**.

BRINKLEY Memorial Hall on the 4<sup>th</sup> THURSDAY of each month between 1.10pm - 1.50pm. **28<sup>th</sup> December**.

They stock a great selection of books for all ages, plus NHS hearing aid batteries. They can even check and replace the ferrules on walking sticks.



Make use of this wonderful resource.

## KITCHEN CHOIR

Big thanks for all the support at our Coffee Morning. A fantastic £487.81 raised so far for East Anglian Air Ambulance.

Thursday 21st December 2023  
Concert at The Granary Barns  
Woodditton  
Proceeds to East Anglian Air Ambulance  
7.00 for 7:30pm  
'Pudding on the Glitz!'  
Kitchen Choir  
and the Kitchenettes  
Seasonal entertainment  
Festive nibbles  
Bar from 7pm  
Tickets:  
£12.50 Adults, £3 children aged 16 and under (includes nibbles) from:  
Sarah Mardon: sarahmemardon@hotmail.com, 07535 001291  
or The Ellesmere Centre, Stetchworth, tel: 01638 508212  
Facebook: kitchenchoir Website: kitchenchoir.weebly.com

**Tickets Now On Sale for our concert also raising funds for EAAA.**

**WHAT'S ON AT THE RED LION  
BRINKLEY**



**Christmas Opening Hours and Special Offers at Red Lion Brinkley**

We hope you are already having a wonderful festive season and are looking forward to celebrating with your loved ones.

If you are a Senior, we have a special offer for you during December. You can enjoy our new Senior's Lighter Lunch menu for only £9.50 for 2 courses or £12.00 for 3 courses. You can see the current full menu on our website. It will change weekly. Slots for this are available on Thursday, Friday, and Saturday from 12:00 until 1:45. Please note that a reservation is necessary, so please contact us as in advance to secure your spot.

**Takeaway**

We have made changes to our takeaway menu, including adding some lower priced options. It is on our website. Order two takeaways during December and we will take 25% off your second order.

**CHRISTMAS EVE** in addition to our usual menu we will have Tacos available.

**CHRISTMAS DAY** we are currently fully booked for food but if your plans change and you might want to join us, do please call and see if we have an opening since one booking is still provisional as we write this. We are not open just for drinks on Christmas Day.

We are **CLOSED** on Tues. 26<sup>th</sup>, Wed 27<sup>th</sup> and New Year's Day. Lunch on a Wednesday - if we have no reservations for Wednesday lunch by the Tuesday evening then we will not be open until dinner time on that Wednesday.

Other changes to our normal hours for food are these two Sundays:

**Christmas Eve:** 9:00 - 2:30 and 17:00 - 19:30

**New Year's Eve:** 9:00 - 15:00

If you would like to join us outside of any of the hours above, do please call and ask whether we can accommodate you.

As so many other small country pubs are planning to do this winter, when our last guests leave for the day, we will close.

We especially recommend booking your table in advance during December to avoid disappointment. You can call us on 01638 508707 or email us at [reservations@redlionbrinkley.co.uk](mailto:reservations@redlionbrinkley.co.uk).

Currently we are fully booked for some days in December but of course that can change up or down for various reasons. Information will be constantly up to date on our website, and we will also post on Facebook anything that might be helpful.

[www.redlionbrinkley.co.uk](http://www.redlionbrinkley.co.uk)

<https://www.facebook.com/RedLionBrinkley>

*We invite you to join us for some delicious food and drinks in December and wish you a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!*

*Gwyn & Morris*

**01638 508707**

**PETER AND RUTH LLOYD TRUST AWARD 2024**

We are pleased to report that the Trust presented the 2023 award to Emily Jackson, from Weston Colville. Emily is now at Birmingham University undertaking a Masters Degree in Nursing. Very well done!

As always it was a pleasure for the trustees to meet such enthusiastic and interesting young people from our locality during the selection process.



We are now inviting applications for pupils starting university in September 2023. Normally one scholarship is awarded each year to the amount of £1000.

Broadly speaking the degree course should be from one of the following:- Architecture, Engineering, Geography, History, Law, Mathematics, Sciences, Education, Medicine, Nursing and Veterinary Medicine. The applicant should be living in one of the parishes bordering the old RAF Wrattling Common airfield - Great & Little Thurlow, West Wickham, Carlton cum Willingham, West Wrattling, Weston Colville and Withersfield. The award is intended to be of assistance in the purchase of books, materials, equipment etc. The final decision and award will be made immediately after 'A' Level results & University offer are confirmed.

For further information about the trust and award please contact: Jonathan Drury 01223 290087

For an application form please apply via email to: [peter.ruthlloydtrust@sky.com](mailto:peter.ruthlloydtrust@sky.com)

The application form and supporting documents must be received at the latest by 2<sup>nd</sup> April 2024.

**St Peter's Church Stetchworth  
CHRISTMAS TREE FESTIVAL**



**Saturday 9<sup>th</sup> December 2023**

**2.00 - 5.00 pm**

Come and see the Christmas Trees that have been decorated by Community Groups.

Mulled Wine and Mince Pies

**Raffle and Christmas Goodies**

**Entertainment from the Kettlefields School choir**

## **GIRLGUIDING LINTON DISTRICT**

Christmas is coming and we are getting busy. Pantomime season is upon us and it will soon be time to say "oh yes you can." It is also time for Christmas fairs and decorating a Christmas tree at the village Christmas tree festivals. Our District went away to Blackland farm for a few days in October. Once there they took part in a host of different activities. This included things such as Crate climbing, Bungy Trampolining, making pasta and doing all sorts of other activities and crafts. Our Trefoil Guild is looking forward to their Christmas meal. They have also planned lots of exciting activities for next year too. We have had two leaders who have gained their *Going away with* licence and a third took their licence at the Blackland Farm trip. All our amazing leaders are volunteers and give their time and energy freely. Giving the girls the opportunity of trying new challenges and having lots of adventures too. Helping girls know they can do anything.

We are always on the lookout for help and are in need of someone to help lead our district. We are in very exciting times, so if you would like to find out what we do please take a look at our website. [www.girlguiding.org.uk/interested](http://www.girlguiding.org.uk/interested)

Also, if you have a girl that would like to join in the fun, please go to [www.girlguiding.org.uk/joinus](http://www.girlguiding.org.uk/joinus) Come and see us and see what we do, there is something for everyone and at every age too. We even have a trefoil Guild so if you are 18+ you can join in the fun. <https://www.trefoilguild.co.uk/>. Linton is the most incredible district, full of friendship with the most amazing, wonderful, dedicated leaders, Young Leaders and dozens of awesome girls.

Louisa 07711 614 328

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## **BALSHAM CINEMA**

**Saturday December 9<sup>th</sup> 2023**

**JUDY (12A)**

Doors open 7pm and film at 7.30pm  
in Balsham Church Institute

Thirty years after starring in *The Wizard of Oz* (1939), beloved actress and singer Judy Garland (Renée Zellweger) arrives in London, England to perform sold-out shows at the Talk of the Town nightclub. While there, she reminisces with friends and fans and begins a whirlwind romance with musician Mickey Deans (Finn Wittrock), her soon-to-be fifth husband. Renee Zellweger won an Oscar for her performance.

Mulled Wine, Mince Pies and Sausage Rolls are on the House to celebrate our Christmas Evening so come along and Enjoy!

Join the Picture House with annual membership of just £12 or come as a guest member at £3/film show

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## **MARSH MAIL - News from Linton Village College**

Sixty-nine Year 9 and 10 students from Linton Village College spent the Remembrance weekend on the Battlefields trip in France and Belgium.

The trip gave students the opportunity to explore trench lines on the Western Front that had been preserved since the end of the First World War whilst guides talked them through how disease, infestation, and poor sanitation was rife.



At 11 o'clock on Armistice Day, students had an incredibly special opportunity to mark the 105<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the end of the First World War at a graveyard in the Somme Valley that was dedicated to men in the 36<sup>th</sup> Ulster Division, many who died in the very first hours of the Battle of the Somme on the 1<sup>st</sup> of July 1916. Pupils visited a number of other memorials, including the memorial for unknown soldiers at Thiepval and the Newfoundland Memorial Park.

Some students were fortunate to be able to visit the sites of some their ancestors who gave their lives during the fighting on the Western Front in the First World War and whose graves we visited on the trip on personal pilgrimages. Lucy, in Year 9, visited the grave of one of her great great grandfather's brother who died in Ypres at the age of twenty seven.

Meanwhile, Thomas in Year 10 discovered that one of the tour guides is an expert on his ancestor who was awarded the Victoria Cross, the highest military honour in the British Army, for his gallantry and bravery in the First World War.

It was a very special and poignant extra-curricular event that staff and students gained a great deal from.



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## **DISTRICT COUNCILLORS' REPORT**

John Trapp & Charlotte Cane - East Cambs Bottisham Ward

**Refuse Collections and Real Christmas trees - see details on previous page**

<https://www.eastcambs.gov.uk/east-cambs-street-scene/christmas-recycling>.

Full Council updated the Local Plan by adopting a single-issue review on housing growth. This sounds rather dry, but it has significant impact on planning matters across the District. Because the Plan dates back to 2015 Planning Inspectors were increasingly questioning its validity in planning appeals. Now that Council have updated the housing growth, the Plan is more robust and should last until the new Plan is in place. The review found that the Council needed to increase house building by about 50% over the growth in recent years but will still miss its targets for affordable housing. We will need to address the challenge of building houses which people can afford in the new Local Plan. Many Parishes are already trying to address this challenge in their Neighbourhood Plans.

We have been pressing Sanctuary about various issues locally, not least houses which have been empty for a very long time. At the October meeting of Full Council, a colleague from Ely noted the growing number of properties let by Sanctuary housing that are empty and have been so for over a year. Although the Council's leadership rejected a request to ask Sanctuary Housing to attend a meeting of the Council's Operational Services Committee to answer questions from members about its empty properties. They have organised members' seminar instead. There is a high level of public interest in the shortage of social housing in the district, so we would have preferred a meeting open to the public, but at least we will be able to raise concerns with senior management at Sanctuary.

Prices are rising at a slower rate now, with inflation coming down. But they are still rising and food and fuel remain expensive. A survey by Cambridgeshire County Council shows that 86% of us are concerned about cost of living increases and almost half of us - 48% - have cut back on heating use. If you are struggling, or know anyone who is struggling, there is help from advice through to grants and food vouchers. You can find out more at <https://www.eastcambs.gov.uk/cost-living/cost-living>, call the Housing and Community Advice team on 01353 665555, or you can ask John or Charlotte who will put you in touch with the Council's team.

We have no meet your Councillors in December, but you are welcome to contact us any time [john.trapp@eastcambs.gov.uk](mailto:john.trapp@eastcambs.gov.uk), [charlotte.cane@eastcambs.gov.uk](mailto:charlotte.cane@eastcambs.gov.uk)



*We hope you all have a good break with your friends and families across the Christmas period and thank those of you who work over the holidays to keep services available.*

## **EAST CAMBRIDGESHIRE DISTRICT COUNCIL/ CAMBRIDGESHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL REPORT -**

Alan Sharp - Woodditton ward

### **Congestion Charge**

Further to my report last month, when I advised residents that the Congestion Charge had not gone away, I attended, as the representative of East Cambridgeshire District Council the Combined Authority (CPCA) Transport & Infrastructure Committee on 15<sup>th</sup> November, where the Mayor, Nik Johnson, the County Council representative and those parties who have been pushing the imposition of the Congestion Charge voted through the Local Transport Plan, which includes plans to impose Congestion Charging. I voted against and will continue to press against the Congestion Charge tax.

### **Weeds**

The ruling administration stopped the weedkilling across the County, which has left our roads looking very untidy and causing issues with drains in some areas. The ruling administration has acknowledged that the cut in service was a false economy. I am pushing to get this reinstated in next year's budget.

### **Potholes**

The recent wet weather has exposed the weakness of some of the previous pothole repairs. I am chasing the maintenance team to get these fixed, but if you have any issues in your area, please report them online or contact me.

### **County Council Budget**

The ruling Lib Dem/ Labour Administration has advised that there is a £28m budget gap for 2024/2025 and the Leader of the Council on Radio Cambridgeshire stated that it is likely that the increase for the County Council's portion of the Council Tax will be 5%. I and the Conservative Group are conscious of the impact that this may have on residents and will challenge all increases in unnecessary spending, whilst raising spend on the real issues that affect residents and trying to keep Council Tax as low as possible.

### **Waste Services**

East Cambridgeshire District Council recently took delivery of 16 new refuse vehicles. This means that the service will be provided by new efficient vehicles, which will have SMART technology that maximise the efficiency of the crews.

We are trialling one of these vehicles being powered by Hydrogenated Vegetable Oil and look to power the remainder if that trial is successful, which will drastically reduce the carbon footprint of the Council. Government are looking at implementing new

procedures around waste collection, probably in 2026, and I will update residents once the full details are known.

May I wish everyone a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

I am here to represent you, so if there are any issues that concern you, please contact me.

If I am not aware of an issue, I am not able to solve it.

Alan Sharp Cambridgeshire County Councillor - Woodditton Division

Alan Sharp East Cambridgeshire District Council - Woodditton Ward

Tel: 01638 507485/ 07794292941

E-Mail: [Alan.sharp@cambridgeshire.gov.uk](mailto:Alan.sharp@cambridgeshire.gov.uk)

**VILLAGE HALLS**

Brinkley, Burrough Green and Westley Waterless have excellent village halls, all beautifully refurbished over the last few years; and all available for hire at reasonable rates.

Information on their facilities and availability can be found by contacting them on:

**Brinkley Memorial Hall** - Contact: Susie Shuter on 01638 508729 : 07836 656643

**Burrough Green Reading Room** - Please contact Joanne Harrison on 01638 508888  
E mailing [bgreadingroom@yahoo.com](mailto:bgreadingroom@yahoo.com)  
[www.burroughgreenparishcouncil.org.uk](http://www.burroughgreenparishcouncil.org.uk)

**Westley Waterless Village Hall** - For more information please go to [www.westleywaterless.com/hall](http://www.westleywaterless.com/hall)

**VILLAGE WEBSITES**

[www.westleywaterless.com](http://www.westleywaterless.com)  
[www.burroughgreenparishcouncil.org.uk](http://www.burroughgreenparishcouncil.org.uk)  
[www.brinkleyparishcouncil.org.uk](http://www.brinkleyparishcouncil.org.uk)

Information on the facilities of each village and also back issues of Village Voice newsletter and the adverts.

**RADDESLEY BENEFICE WEBSITE**

On the website you can find out more about our churches, services, what's on and useful information about baptisms, funerals and weddings; [www.raddesley.com](http://www.raddesley.com)

**ARTICLES FOR JANUARY 2024  
VILLAGE VOICE**

To [villagevoicenewsletter@btinternet.com](mailto:villagevoicenewsletter@btinternet.com)

01638 507495  
by 18<sup>th</sup> DECEMBER 2023 please

**ELLESMERE GARDEN CLUB**

To round off this year we will enjoy our Christmas party/meal out on **Wednesday 13<sup>th</sup> December**, at the Black Bull in Balsham.

The committee has recently met to plan next year's activities, but in the meantime, we have another talk to look forward to in January, when we welcome back Tom Cole. Tom will be talking to us on **Wednesday 10<sup>th</sup> January 2024** about "Interior plants - right plant, right place in the home".

Meet in the Ellesmere Centre at 7.30 pm as usual.

Our AGM takes place on **Wednesday 14<sup>th</sup> February** after which there will be a quiz, so please mark your calendars ready for a new year of gardening activities!

As always, for any queries about the club you can contact Sandie on 07903 584676.

**A VERY BIG THANK YOU TO ALL THE DISTRIBUTORS OF VILLAGE VOICE FOR THEIR DISTRIBUTION OF YOUR FREE NEWSLETTER.**



**THANK YOU TO ALL OUR ADVERTISERS FOR THEIR CONTINUED SUPPORT**

*I THANK YOU ALL. - Trish*

*Happy Christmas*

**CHRISTMAS DAY SERVICE**

**Burrough Green  
Family Worship 10.30 am  
Led by Peter Talbot**



This is a short service suitable for all ages with refreshments to follow.



We look forward to welcoming you, your family and friends.



**SERVICES FOR DECEMBER 2023**

**Sunday 3<sup>rd</sup> December Advent Sunday**  
9.00 am Holy Communion Brinkley  
10.30 am Family Worship Burrough Green  
*Isaiah 64: 1-9 1 Corinthians 1: 3-9 Mark 13: 24-end*

**Saturday 9<sup>th</sup> December**  
**2.00 - 5.00 pm Christmas Tree Festival**  
**Stetchworth**

**Sunday 10<sup>th</sup> December Second Sunday of Advent**  
9.00 am Holy Communion Stetchworth  
10.30 am Morning Prayer Dullingham  
6.00 pm Carol Service Burrough Green  
*Isaiah 40: 1-11 2 Peter 3: 8-15a Mark 1: 1-8*

**Sunday 17<sup>th</sup> December Third Sunday of Advent**  
9.00 am Holy Communion Burrough Green  
10.30 am Morning Prayer Brinkley  
*Isaiah 61: 1-4, 8-end 1 Thessalonians 5: 16-24  
John 1: 6-8, 19-28*

**SUNDAY 24<sup>TH</sup> DECEMBER CHRISTMAS EVE**  
**FOURTH OF ADVENT**  
10.30 am Communion service Dullingham  
4.00 pm Carol Service Westley Waterless  
6.00 pm Carol Service Dullingham  
6.00 pm Carol Service Stetchworth  
**11.30 pm Midnight Mass Brinkley**  
*2 Samuel 7: 1-11, 16 Romans 16: 25-end  
Luke 1: 26-38*



**MONDAY 25<sup>TH</sup> DECEMBER**  
**CHRISTMAS DAY**  
10.00 am Benefice Communion Stetchworth  
10.30 am Lay led Christmas service Carlton  
10.30 am Lay led Christmas service Burrough Green  
*Peter Talbot  
Isaiah 52: 7-10 Hebrews 1: 1-4, (5-12)  
John 1: 1-14*

**Sunday 31<sup>st</sup> December 1st Sunday of Christmas**  
10.30 am Benefice Communion Westley Waterless  
  
*Isaiah 61: 10 - 62: 3 Galatians 4: 4-7 Luke 2: 15-21*  
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This month, instead of a letter, I have sent in the following paragraph which is more of a brainteaser. Hidden within the paragraph are sixteen books from the bible - how many can you spot? Answers in the February newsletters.

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 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 16 names of the Bible hidden in this paragraph. One preacher found 15 books in twenty minutes - but it took him 3 weeks to find the 16th one!

*Rev'd Patrick*  
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**Revnd Patrick McEune**  
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**Telephone number: 07411 761883**

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**Westley Waterless:** Ms. Deborah O'Riordan, Tel: 01638 507741, email [d.a.oriordan@btinternet.com](mailto:d.a.oriordan@btinternet.com) and Mrs Liz Gibson, Tel: 01638 508600, [lizgibson@me.com](mailto:lizgibson@me.com)  
**Brinkley:** Ros Pates 01638 507240 [rospates@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:rospates@yahoo.co.uk)  
**Carlton:** Stephen Roberts 01223 290372 or [Stephen.roberts28@btopenworld.com](mailto:Stephen.roberts28@btopenworld.com).

**RURAL DEAN**  
Rev'd Canon Dr. Eleanor Williams  
Vicar of Burwell with Reach  
Rural Dean of Fordham and Quy Deanery  
The Vicarage, 22 Isaacson Road  
Burwell, CB25 0AF  
Telephone 01638 741262

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**CATHOLIC PARISH SERVICES:**  
Newmarket: Saturdays 6pm & Sundays 11am  
Kirtling: Sunday 9am.  
For a full list of weekday services, the newsletter & other information please visit the website. <http://www.olise.co.uk/wordpress/>  
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