

# VILLAGE VOICES

NEWS FROM WEST WICKHAM & STREETLY END

DECEMBER 2024

ISSUE 269

## WHEELED BIN COLLECTIONS

Wednesday 4 December Blue & green  
Wednesday 11 December Black  
Wednesday 18 December Blue & green  
Monday 23 December Black  
Monday 30 December Blue only

2025

Wednesday 8 January Black

## CHURCH SERVICES

1 December 11.00. United service of Holy Communion. Balsham Church  
8 December 9.30. Holy Communion at St. Mary's Church  
15 December 9.30. Morning worship at St. Mary's Church  
4pm. Christingle service at Balsham Church  
22 December 9.30. Holy Communion at St Mary's Church  
24 December 6pm. Christmas Eve carol service at St. Mary's Church  
24 December 11.30pm. Midnight Mass at Balsham Church  
25 December 9.30. Christmas Day Communion at St. Mary's Church  
29 December 11.00. United service of Holy Communion. Balsham Church

For more details visit [www.grantavale.org.uk](http://www.grantavale.org.uk)

## USEFUL CONTACT DETAILS

West Wickham website: for news, what's on, directory of information & useful contacts.  
<https://westwickham.org>

AgeUK Community Warden: Vacancy

Granta Medical Practice / Linton Health Centre:

T: 0300 234 5555 option 3, followed by option 1 for appointments, option 2 for the Pharmacy.

## DEADLINE FOR NEXT ISSUE THURSDAY 12 DECEMBER

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The Village Voice is sponsored by West Wickham Parish Council and delivered free to all households in West Wickham and Streetly End. The views expressed herein are those of the contributors.



**CHRISTMAS FAYRE**

AT  
WEST WICKHAM VILLAGE HALL

**SATURDAY 7TH DECEMBER**  
**2PM - 4PM**

CRAFTS  
CHRISTMAS GIFTS  
REFRESHMENTS

SEASONAL TREATS  
CHILDREN'S TOMBOLA  
CHRISTMAS BOOKS

SUPERVISED ACTIVITIES  
(AGE 3-12)  
MESS & MAYHEM

COME ALONG AND JOIN US FOR SOME  
FESTIVE FAMILY FUN

## SOLAR FARM FEEDBACK

(Ed. Many of you will know but some may not, that there is a proposal to build a massive solar farm on several sites in Balsham, West Wrating and Weston Colville. The proposed land use would be 1500 hectares making this possibly the largest solar farm in Europe!. Whilst currently it is not proposed to build on any land in West Wickham, the West Wrating sites would come right up to the parish boundary at Yen Hall. This proposal would have a huge impact on this whole area and the communities living here. We have received the following from the Chair of West Wrating Parish Council. If you want to know more please look at <https://kingswaysolarcommunityaction.co.uk/> and <https://westwrating.org.uk/update-on-kingsway-solar-farm/> We urge you to make your views known to Kingsway Solar).

Please send your comments to Kingsway before the end of their consultation period on 12 December. This is the best opportunity to influence the design of the solar farm so that if it does go ahead its impact on our lives will be minimised. You can complete their online questionnaire at <https://kingswaysolar.participatr.io> or if you prefer send email to [enquiries@kingswaysolar.co.uk](mailto:enquiries@kingswaysolar.co.uk) or write to them at FREEPOST DOWNING KINGSWAY.

Do tell Kingsway your overall feelings about the solar farm, *but for this consultation focus on giving constructive suggestions that could influence the design for the better.* It will be most effective if you say "it should be like this because ..." rather than "if it's like that it'll be terrible". If describing a particular location, e.g. "the view from my house", give enough detail so it can be identified.

Continued on page 2

## Solar farm feedback continued

If you want to protest about the solar farm the best time to do that is after the 12 December consultation deadline, when you, the Parish Councils and Kingsway Solar Community Action can collaborate to do that most effectively.

Simon Chandler, West Wrattling Parish Council

## CHRISTMAS FAYRE CAKE APPEAL

Vivienne & Julie are hoping you will support the cake stall on 7 December.

Cakes – buns – biscuits – whatever you can bake will be gratefully accepted, even bought ones.

Please contact

Vivienne - Email: [viviennehenderson17@gmail.com](mailto:viviennehenderson17@gmail.com)  
T: 290243 or 07563 204364

Julie – Email: [juliecopas@icloud.com](mailto:juliecopas@icloud.com), T: 07545 561707

## FROM THE VICARAGE

Here we are, in the festive season, looking ahead to Christmas but also with the invitation to savour Advent. I love Advent time. I know it may seem anachronistic in our modern world, where Christmas trees go up at the beginning of December and shops get in the Christmas swing of things long before that. But I think it still has much to offer. Both to those who follow the ‘church year’ and for those who may feel they are on edge of the Christian faith, looking in to see what they can see.

Advent indeed may offer us a pause, an opportunity to step back from the hustle and bustle of the lead up to Christmas. To recover some of the mystery and deeper excitement which Christmas ought to have, and to ponder the life-changing message conveyed by these simple words: that Jesus is “Emmanuel, which means, ‘God is with us’”. Who is greeted at his birth, as Luke’s gospel says, as “Saviour, who is the Messiah, the Lord”.

We may enjoy different ways of marking the special time of Advent; perhaps through the doors on an Advent calendar or through lighting an Advent candle. I like to do this on each day of Advent and enjoy some time just quietly looking at the flickering flame. The symbolism of lighting a candle may also be seen through our Advent wreaths. Traditionally, each Sunday in December a candle on the wreath is lit as important Biblical figures are commemorated, because they helped to prepare the world and us for the birth of the Christ child.

These kind of Advent customs take for granted that we should walk slowly and intentionally towards Christmas, really noticing our surroundings, and not just rush into it headlong. They also remind us of the art of waiting. A waiting that rests not in frustration or frenzied anticipation but in stillness; we may savour the future whilst still embracing the present.

So, as we hopefully enjoy the build up to Christmas, Advent may offer meaning in the waiting as we prepare to hear anew the good news about Jesus being proclaimed in the stillness and joy of our Advent and Christmas celebrations. Good news which may speak to each one of us, whatever our circumstances. Good news worth responding to, celebrating and sharing at this time of year and in all the times and seasons of our lives.

Revd Iain McColl

★ HUB NIGHT! ★  
WEST WICKHAM VILLAGE HALL



NEXT DATE: **21.12.2024** 7PM-11PM

## COFFEE MORNINGS IN THE VILLAGE HALL

Would you believe that our coffee mornings have been going for 3 years now? The first one was held as an experiment in December 2021 and I am delighted to say that it has become more popular as time has gone on. New faces, of course, are always welcome though. A large part of its success is of course due to the delicious variety of cakes, cookies, buns, biscuits, scones and other treats that our wonderful volunteers bring along each month. We never know what will turn up but we are very grateful for everything donated. Thank you Cynthia, Derek, Di, Jan, Julie, Linda, Loraine, Ronnie, Sally & anyone I may have forgotten for your generosity. Massive thanks too to those who help set up the tables and chairs beforehand and clear away afterwards, and my particular thanks to Loraine who is always behind the counter serving and to Jan and others who have helped her when I’ve been away.

Donations for the refreshments have gone to a number of different charities and so far that amount exceeds £650. A list of which charities we have supported is always on show in the Hall. In future we hope to be able to donate more as the hire of the Village Hall, which we have had to fund from the donations up until now, will in future be funded by Cambridgeshire ACRE.

December’s Coffee Morning is on 12 December & I am sure there will be some festive treats to get you in the mood for Christmas. Donations this month will be going to Crisis at Christmas. Lifts can be arranged if needed. Please contact me for any further information.

Sue Thurston, Tel: 01223 897811

## HELP REPLACE OUR LOST ELM TREES

As you know we have lost all our elm trees in this area to Dutch Elm disease. The last one, which was a Huntington Elm, a venerable 200 year old growing on the verge opposite the Mill House, Streetly End, is now just a monolith. We are planning to plant two disease resistant elms in our meadow which abuts Webb’s Road in Streetly End. Peter Shallcross, a Wiltshire farmer who became obsessed with finding disease resistant elms is selling us two small trees. If anybody would like to order any of his trees he can deliver them with ours in the winter. His email is [peterjshallcross@gmail.com](mailto:peterjshallcross@gmail.com) He can supply a list of available varieties if you are interested.

Jean Martin

## BALSHAM SINGERS CHRISTMAS CONCERT

This will take place in Holy Trinity Church, Balsham, at 4pm on Saturday 14 December. Tickets have been selling fast. Online ticket sales have been very brisk at <http://ticketsource.co.uk/balshamsingers>. They are also available Balsham and Abington Post offices. It looks like tickets may not be available on the door so we advise you to buy your ticket now.

Jo Stinton

## CUSTOMS AND FOLKLORE FROM THE PAST

It may at first seem surprising that neither Catherine Parsons nor Enid Porter recorded much about December and Christmas customs but most of the ones we are familiar with today were actually 'inventions' of the 19<sup>th</sup> century, so for both of them – born in 1870 and 1908 respectively – these were very much part of Christmas 'today' not lost tradition and so probably not noted.

They both do mention St Thomas's Day, the 21<sup>st</sup> December and the shortest day of the year, when it was the custom for those less fortunate to go house to house asking for money, food or other provisions for Christmas. This was an ancient tradition with the earliest known reference apparently being in the 16<sup>th</sup> century and was known as 'a-Thomasing', 'a-gooding' or 'a-mumping'. The precise details seem to have varied, not only in different parts of the country but even from village to village. Enid Porter noted that those soliciting help could be elderly men and women, widowers and widows or even in some places, young women, while Catherine Parsons recorded in 1910 that in Shudy Camps it was children who went round asking for apples and money. The custom seems to have peaked in the 19<sup>th</sup> century and then declined from the early 20<sup>th</sup> century.

In his unpublished memoir, *Streetly By A Native*, Jonas Marshall Webb recalled that on Christmas morning when he was a boy at Streetly Hall (he was born in 1859), singers and musicians (called waits) from Horseheath 'stood in a semi-circle under the front windows and played by ear the old song of the Shepherds' – particularly apt perhaps given that both Jonas's father and grandfather were notable breeders of Southdown sheep. However, by the time Catherine Parsons was writing in the early 20<sup>th</sup> century, the custom seems to have ceased. As those of you who have been reading Graham Hopwood's reminiscences in the *Village Voice* will recall, this tradition seems to have eventually been taken over by the West Wickham Salvation Army Band.

If you would like to know more about Christmas in West Wickham and the neighbourhood why not come along to the next meeting of West Wickham & District Local History Club:

Monday 9 December  
**Christmas Past**  
Readings plus mulled wine and nibbles  
7.30pm Village Hall  
All are welcome

For further details contact: Janet Morris  
Tel: 290863 Email: [jmmorris@jmmorris.plus.com](mailto:jmmorris@jmmorris.plus.com)

## VILLAGE HALL GARDEN MAKEOVER

Visitors to West Wickham Village Hall may have noticed that the gardens are currently undergoing a make-over. This is thanks to a small team of volunteers from West Wickham & District Gardening Club, organised by Jan Lupton. Plants have been donated by the team and planting is underway with more areas being revitalised and developed, including a raised bed.

If you would like to donate any plants or help with the garden development, please contact us on: [wwdgc@westwickham.org](mailto:wwdgc@westwickham.org). We would be very happy to hear from you!

Sally Collins

## WEST WICKHAM & DISTRICT GARDEN CLUB

### Everything's coming up roses

Roses excite a range of emotions from love through to frustration when confronted with a particularly thorny specimen in the garden. Consequently, learning how to tame the most recalcitrant specimens was always going to be a popular talk. Simon White from Peter Beales' Roses didn't disappoint when he visited in October and shared a myriad of creative ways to use, prune and tend climbing roses.

November saw us travelling further afield with a 'grand tour' of the botanical gardens of the world and now, with Christmas fast approaching, our thoughts are turning closer to home.

The events team are currently foraging in their gardens and local hedgerows to create a 'Sustainable Christmas' display at the *West Wickham Christmas Fayre*. The stall is designed to give visitors creative ideas for festive decorations at the same time as being kind to the environment. We'd love to hear about your own inventive ideas, so please do visit us on 7 December for a chat to compare notes and share gardening tales.

This year's final event of the year is our Christmas social evening on **Monday 16 December** at 7.30 pm at West Wickham Village Hall. With a light-hearted gardening quiz, raffle and prizes as well as the traditional wine and nibbles for our end-of-year celebration, we are hoping members old and new will come and join in the fun.

Membership for 2024-2025 runs from October to October. With talks through the winter and spring months, social events and garden visits, there is always something for everybody, 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 on 07716 401646 or email [wwdgc@westwickham.org](mailto:wwdgc@westwickham.org).

## SCURRY AROUND: THE SCURRYBUS TO THE CHESTNUT TREE PH

I am pleased to confirm that we now have over 40 pledges of membership. This is fantastic news and it is hoped that more residents will sign up. We are therefore rapidly approaching the critical number of 50 pledges and I have therefore decided to register Scurrybus CIC as a community interest company. It will be a non-profit making organisation providing a transportation service to the local community around The Chestnut Tree in West Wrattling. The next stage will be to apply for a permit which will allow Scurrybus CIC to operate a minibus picking up villagers and then dropping them off.

The intention will be to initially operate this service on set days, following set routes, at set times. It is envisaged that over time the service can be expanded to allow for the pre booking of the minibus at other times and to transport groups to other locations and back. Currently, there are two routes proposed, one which will ferry passengers to and from West Wickham and a second, to and from Weston Colville, picking up villagers from the other end of West Wrattling as well.

I am extremely encouraged by the overwhelming response that we have had from all of you and I would urge you to encourage others to subscribe as the greater the number, the more money there is to ensure a successful outcome.

It is anticipated that the minibus service will go live in 2025 and I anticipate a further update to you all in the New Year. Thank you once again for the tremendous support that you have shown. Finally if there are any questions or points that you wish to raise then do not hesitate to contact me.

Paul Mower, Email: [mowerhouse@gmail.com](mailto:mowerhouse@gmail.com)

## NATURE NOTES

After the long period of 'anticyclonic gloom' Di and I each found a few lines of poetry which capture the mood of the time.

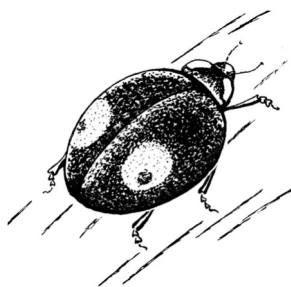
Thomas Hood's '**No!**' sums it up in his opening lines: *No sun, no moon, no morn, no noon / No proper time of day. It concludes No fruits, no flowers, no leaves, no birds/ November!* Well it has been a bit like that but there is still some fruit in the hedgerows and the birds we love to see in winter have been taking advantage of that.

John Clare's '**November**' opens in similar vein: *The landscape sleeps in mist from morn till noon/ and if the sun looks through, 'tis with a face/beamless and pale and round, as if the moon/when done the journey of his nightly race/ had found him sleeping and supplied his place.* Like Hood, Clare has given November a rather bad image but we did eventually emerge from the grey, stagnant period and had a few brief hours of sun before the cold set in.

To lift the mood from this rather downbeat poetry, perhaps the first thing that comes to mind would not be **slime mould**. But while walking on the playing field, Di noticed what appeared to be patches of vomit on the grass. These were probably a form of slime mould, which is a life form distinct from plants or fungi. Slime mould can create cells of up to eight different gene types. Released cells can then independently seek another cell for fusion. It feeds on micro-organisms and decaying vegetation. An experiment with slime mould proved that it was capable of finding its way around a map of the Tokyo underground system in search of food. It all sounds a bit unsettling, but please don't have nightmares.

Autumn is a time when many fungi produce their fruiting bodies. As a nation we are generally fairly ignorant about the many varieties and I count myself as ignorant as the next man. We have had a **shaggy ink cap** in our lawn and some impressively large unknown specimens. There is a

'fairy ring' in the playground and I was sent some lovely pictures of **giant funnel** fungi, which were standing under a dying ash tree. These latter are apparently a delicacy when picked young, but our ignorance makes us cautious.



Another worrying phenomenon in recent years has been the incursion of **harlequin ladybirds** which threaten to outperform our native 7-spot ladybirds. Earlier in October many people reported that a huge number of ladybirds had come into their houses. We also experienced this. They chose to come into our bedroom, rather

than other parts of the house. Removing them took a little while but after a few days they all seem to have gone to find alternative hibernation sites.

A more reassuring arrival at this time of year are the **fieldfares and redwings** which come to Britain from more northern climes each year. Quite a few people have already reported seeing them, and in fact a group of redwings flew over as we were leaving the Village Hall after the coffee morning. Last year, a few people were concerned that these members of the thrush family were not arriving in their usual numbers so perhaps this winter will be more fruitful. Along with these birds, many **blackbirds** also come south to supplement or temporarily replace the native population. Finally, we have been pleased to hear the piping calls of **golden plover**, who seem to use West Wickham as a staging post in their journeys in autumn and spring.

Please send your nature sightings to:  
Peter Grieve. T: 01223 897811, E: [mail@petergrieve.co.uk](mailto:mail@petergrieve.co.uk)  
Di Licence. T: 290434, E: [dianarubylicence@gmail.com](mailto:dianarubylicence@gmail.com)

Drawing by Maureen Walker

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## HAPPY CHRISTMAS FROM LINTON LIBRARY!

You'll always find a warm and friendly welcome in your library. Relax with a jigsaw puzzle, use our free WiFi or a library computer; curl up with a good book.

**Duplo Clubs:** weekly in term time, Tuesday 10-11am and Friday 11-12pm. Come along and entertain your 0-4 year old while chatting to others at this free session in the children's section of the library.

**Knit and Natter:** every Tuesday, 2pm – 3pm. Bring along any craft project you're working on. All welcome. Who's bringing the mince pies?!

**Daylight Readers:** our Book Groups meet on Friday 20th, one at 10.30am and the other at 2.30pm. New members always welcome.

**IT Club:** every Wednesday 5-7pm, knowledgeable volunteers are here to help you with all things digital.

Over the holidays we will be closed from 1pm on Tuesday 24 December and re-open on Thursday 2 January.

Do you know someone who uses a walking aid? As the paths become slippery, please spread the word that the library can supply **free ferrules** (rubber feet) for walking aids to keep them in safe condition. Just ask library staff.

Ann King, Community Library Assistant, Linton Library.

Opening hours: Tuesday 10am-5pm; Wednesday 4-7pm; Thursday 2-5pm; Friday 10am-5pm; Saturday 10am-1pm.  
Customer Services: 0345 045 5225  
[www.cambridgeshire.gov.uk/library](http://www.cambridgeshire.gov.uk/library)

## LINTON VILLAGE COLLEGE NEWS Community Connections

We pride ourselves on being part of our local community. Our annual sponsored walk took place in October and is always a highlight in the LVC calendar. The event is run by the Friends of LVC, an incredible group of volunteer parents and carers and involves the whole school dressing up and embarking upon a 7-mile walk around Linton and the surrounding villages. All funds raised contribute directly towards enriching student lives at LVC such as the Year 7 and Year 8 school discos, the Year 11 Leavers' Prom, new furniture in our common rooms and brand-new sound and lighting equipment for performances and for students to utilise for GCSE exams.

November saw the 'Platform 24' Art Exhibition taking place at the Michaelhouse Café in central Cambridge. The exhibition involved all of the secondary schools and sixth forms within Anglian Learning Trust and gave students an opportunity to exhibit their work in a local exhibition space that is open to the public.

The Primary Singing Festival was also held this month, involving Year 2 students from some of our catchment primary schools, who came together at LVC to celebrate their love of singing. Each school performed their own song on the theme of 'Autumn' and then sang as a group alongside the Linton Heights Junior School Choir and the LVC Lower School vocal group.

Helena Marsh, Principal

## MEADOW SCHOOL NEWS

November has been a time for our school to focus on important causes.

**School Community Raised Funds.** This Remembrance Day, children and staff at The Meadow gathered around a giant poppy, holding their pennies as a symbol of respect for those who sacrificed their lives in service. After the two-minute silence, each child placed their donation on the poppy, understanding that these coins were a powerful gesture of remembrance and honour. In addition to this act of remembrance, the school also took the opportunity to raise money for Children in Need. Pupils were invited to come to school dressed in patterns—spots, stripes, leopard print, and more—and bring a donation. We were delighted to raise over £170 for this important cause.



**Building our faith.** As part of our ongoing commitment to celebrating the diverse cultures and faiths within our school community, we would like to invite parents, guardians, and members of the village communities to join us. If you come from a different religious or cultural background, we'd love for you to share a child-friendly story or talk about a special celebration that's meaningful to you. Whether it's a beloved tale passed down through generations or a special festival that holds deep meaning for your family, we believe that sharing these stories and experiences can greatly enrich our children's understanding of the world around them. Not only do we aim to honour our diverse community, but we also want to foster a spirit of inclusivity and respect for each other's beliefs. If you would like to be included, please get in touch by contacting Mrs Anderson, RE subject lead, at [kestrel@meadowprimary.org](mailto:kestrel@meadowprimary.org). Additionally, if you have any skills or knowledge you think would be valuable to share with the children at our school, we'd love to hear from you! We're always looking to grow our network of enthusiastic and supportive volunteers to enrich the learning experiences of our students.

Faye Facer, Assistant Headteacher

## BALSHAM WI

Our November speaker was Susan Widlake from Millhouse Millinery. She told us about some of the basics of hat making, demonstrated by the large display of her hats she had bought along. She also explained her inspiration for some of the hat designs which included the Sydney Opera House and Barcelona.

Our next meeting, on 10 December, will be a Christmas celebration and include wine tasting and a quiz. We meet at 7.30 at the Pavilion, Balsham.

Debbie Mower

★ HUB NIGHT! ★  
WEST WICKHAM VILLAGE HALL



NEXT DATE: **21.12.2024** 7PM-11PM

## 1ST HORSEHEATH BROWNIES

So far this term we have completed the first aid skills builder, levels 1 and 2. We were surprised to find that if you show a Brownie how to put on either a plaster, a bandage or a sling they will merrily work away for over half an hour putting plasters and bandages on each other. They did look like they had been in a war zone but they had fun which is what Brownies is all about. After half term we started on our Christmas activities. We have already made gingerbread shapes and reindeers out of clothes pegs and have angels made out of dolly pegs, Christmas trees out of old reading books, and decorations for the church Christmas tree festival still to make. We will also be joining 1st Linton Guides in a night walk around Linton followed by hotdogs. By the end of term Rosie and Isobel will have completed their Bronze awards and Emilia will have completed her Gold award. Emilia will then move up to 2nd Linton Guides in January.

If you have been intrigued by what you have read about the Brownies and you have a 7-year old girl, or older and think she might like to join us please email me on [horseheathbrownies@gmail.com](mailto:horseheathbrownies@gmail.com) or register her on [www.girlguiding.org.uk/information-for-parents/register-your-daughter/](http://www.girlguiding.org.uk/information-for-parents/register-your-daughter/) and I'll get in touch. Also, if you have a daughter who is 5 years old, she could be a Rainbow or if she is over 10 years old then she could be a Guide, we have units in Linton that have spaces that they could join. Please email me for more details.

Pauline and Katie

## THERMAL IMAGING FOR A COSIER HOME

Cambridge Carbon Footprint are once again delighted to offer to residents, and organisations, across South Cambridgeshire the opportunity to borrow and learn how to use a thermal imaging camera for free, to help create cosier and more efficient homes. Learn how to interpret thermal images, to identify draughts, gaps in insulation, heating problems, etc. Knowing where your home is losing heat is great for deciding on home improvements, and making fixes, both for homeowners and renters. In the last borrowing period, between November 2023 and April 2024, over 600 individuals were successfully trained and thermal cameras were loaned to over 400 residents across our region. Individuals & organizations are also encouraged to undertake training in order to survey multiple homes and in 2024 volunteers from communities across Cambridgeshire undertook surveys of 113 neighbouring homes and community buildings.

### Training Sessions:

Free training sessions will take place online from 7:30-9:00 pm on: Wed 11 December, Tue 14 January 2025 & Wednesday 12 February 2025.

### Camera Borrowing:

We only lend cameras to people who have attended the training. Bookings for cameras will open after the training session and free loans of cameras will continue through to April: Each loan will span Friday pm to Monday am, or Monday pm to Friday am, from 14 volunteer camera hosts around South Cambridgeshire and Cambridge City.

# GRANTA Medical Practices

Please find below details of when our surgeries will be open over the Christmas and New Year break.

**Please remember to order your repeat prescriptions in plenty of time** so that you do not run out of your medication over the holidays. The table below shows you when you will be able to collect your prescriptions, depending on the date you place your order.

Date	Opening hours	Repeat prescription schedule
Friday 20 December	Open as usual	Place order today, pick up 27.12.2024
Saturday 21 December	Open for pre-booked appointments only (Sawston/Royston HC)	Place order today, pick up 30.12.2024
Monday 23 December	Open as usual	Place order today, pick up 30.12.2024
Tuesday 24 December	Open as usual	Place order today, pick up 31.12.2024
Christmas Day	Closed	Place order today, pick up 02.01.2025
Boxing Day	Closed	Place order today, pick up 02.01.2025
Friday 27 December	Open as usual	Place order today, pick up 02.01.2025
Saturday 28 December	Open for pre-booked appointments only (Sawston/Royston HC)	Place order today, pick up 03.01.2025
Monday 30 December	Open as usual	Place order today, pick up 03.01.2025
Tuesday 31 December	Open as usual	Place order today, pick up 06.01.2025
Wednesday 1 January 2025	Closed	Place order today, pick up 07.01.2025
Thursday 2 January	Open as usual	Place order today, pick up 07.01.2025

**Don't forget, there are Prescription Collection Points at Sawston, Linton and Shelford.** Sign up today via [cpicb.grantadisensing@nhs.net](mailto:cpicb.grantadisensing@nhs.net) to pick up your medication at your convenience over the holidays, 24 hours a day, 7 days a week – including Christmas Day, Boxing Day and New Years' Day.

**Be prepared for common health problems by keeping a well-stocked medicine cabinet at home.** Your local pharmacist can offer you advice and guidance on the best treatment for you. Pharmacists can now also prescribe some medications under the "Pharmacy First" service. Please go to <https://www.england.nhs.uk/primary-care/pharmacy/pharmacy-services/pharmacy-first/> for further information and eligibility criteria.

**Whilst we are closed, if you need urgent medical assistance please use the NHS 111 service.** If you have an emergency that poses an immediate threat to life, please ring 999.

**For further information on available healthcare services,** please go to [www.nhs.uk](http://www.nhs.uk) or our website [www.grantamedicalpractices.co.uk](http://www.grantamedicalpractices.co.uk)

We wish you all a healthy and peaceful holiday season

Sandra East, Head of Patient Services

Come along to our festive monthly

# COFFEE MORNING

in West Wickham Village Hall

**THURSDAY 12TH DECEMBER**

**FROM 10.30**

TEAS, COFFEE & A VARIETY OF FESTIVE TREATS

MORE INFORMATION FROM SUE THURSTON (897811)

Donations for refreshments going to CRISIS AT CHRISTMAS

Call me if you need a lift



## COUNTY & DISTRICT COUNCIL NEWS

**Household Support Fund.** Every year the County Council manages a fund called the Household Support Fund which is aimed to support individuals who are in receipt of benefits. Direct applications will be opening soon so please do keep an eye on this, as it is a very popular and helpful pot of money that we can tap into.

<https://www.cambridgeshire.gov.uk/council/communities/support-with-the-cost-of-living/household-support-fund>

**Winter Gritting Scheme.** The County Council is always looking for people to volunteer to help with community gritting in the winter months. If you're interested in this, please do register via the website or your local Parish Council - <https://www.cambridgeshire.gov.uk/residents/travel-roads-and-parking/roads-and-pathways/gritting-roads-cycleways-and-paths/help-with-gritting-and-clearing-snow>

**Cambridge South East Transport (CSET) update.** The proposal for a new Transport Hub (park & ride site) just outside Babraham and a new off-road bus route linking the new Hub to the hospital site are now moving forward. A business case will be presented to a government inspector, who will decide whether this proposal is sound or not.

C.Cllr Henry Batchelor & D.Cllr Geoff Harvey