

# VILLAGE VOICE

NEWS FROM WEST WICKHAM & STREETLY END

JANUARY 2025

ISSUE 260

## WHEELED BIN COLLECTIONS

Wednesday	8 January	Black
Wednesday	15 January	Blue & green
Wednesday	22 January	Black
Wednesday	29 January	Blue only

**It is no longer necessary to book to attend any of Cambridgeshire's Household Recycling Centres.**

For details of locations & opening hours visit:  
[www.cambridgeshire.gov.uk/residents/waste-and-recycling/household-recycling-centres](http://www.cambridgeshire.gov.uk/residents/waste-and-recycling/household-recycling-centres)

## CHURCH SERVICES

5 January	11.00. Joint service of Holy Communion at Balsham Church
12 January	9.30. Holy Communion at St Mary's Church
19 January	9.30. Morning worship at St Mary's Church
26 January	9.30. Holy Communion at St Mary's Church

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

## ★ HUB NIGHT! ★

WEST WICKHAM VILLAGE HALL

**Will be back in  
March**



**FOR UPDATES & USEFUL  
INFORMATION GO TO  
<https://westwickham.org>**

If you aren't online the Editors are more than happy to help.

## USEFUL CONTACT DETAILS

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 16 January

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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.**

## 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 held on Thursday 5 December at 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 Councils and the District Council, showing how we're working together. 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](http://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

## THANK YOU FROM THE EDITORS

We would like to thank everybody involved with the Village Voice, especially those stalwarts who deliver it throughout the year – Linda Adams, Laura Hawksley, Sue Thurston & Pete Grieve, Andrew Morris & stand in Caroline Mulley-Richards. Especial thanks to Janet Morris who proof reads it each month; to the Parish Council whose support allows it to be distributed free of charge to every household; to Oliver Plumridge for printing it, and of course to everybody who sends articles, news and reports.

Thank you all. Andrew and Anna

## A HUGE THANK YOU

Thank you to all the volunteers in our community, for all the time, energy, generosity, skills and kindness you have freely given over this past year. Most of the clubs, hubs, events and activities in West Wickham would not happen without your continued enthusiasm and commitment. The support you provide is invaluable and hugely appreciated.

There are just so many people to thank at all levels making it an almost

**Continued on page 2**

## A huge thank you continued.....

impossible task to name everyone individually, so here is a list of all the clubs, organisations and events: the Village Hall Management Committee; the Hub nights, Coffee Mornings and Warm Hubs; the Parish Council; the Village Voice and all those who help distribute it; the Local History, Gardening and Carpet Bowls Clubs; the Big Lunch and Big Garden Party; the gardeners who tend to the Village Hall's surroundings; the litter pickers & the pavement gritters ...

All these organisations and clubs would welcome more support, and this can be in all sorts of forms, from joining in club activities, delivering the Village Voice, writing an article for the Village Voice or pages for the website, through to helping run or organise events, helping set up or clear away after an event. It would be great to have more people involved in YOUR community. To find out more about the clubs, hubs events and organisation look at the Village website ([westwickham.org](http://westwickham.org)) or the Village Voice.

Alex Schuilenburg

## AND ANOTHER THANK YOU WEST WICKHAM CHRISTMAS FAYRE

Thank you to all participants and supporters. We raised £352.95 with a charity donation to East Anglian Children's Hospice.

Di and Sionagh.

**West Wickham Village Hall**

**COFFEE  
MORNING**


**From 10.30 on Thursday**

**9th January**

*Selection of teas & coffee  
Variety of homemade cakes*

**LIFTS AVAILABLE**

*Contact: Sue Thurston (897811)*



## BALSHAM WI

Our next meeting, on Tuesday 14 January at 19.30 in Balsham Pavilion, will be the first of our centenary year. It will be themed to the 1920's. Do join us if you can.

Bridget Durham

## MAKING A NEW YEAR'S RESOLUTION?

Why not resolve to meet some of your neighbours and make new friends, all with a little gentle exercise thrown in? The Carpet Bowls Club provides the perfect solution. We would love to see some new faces and gain some new members. Carpet bowls is easy to learn, is suitable for all abilities and all the equipment is provided. You can even come along and try it for free. It's fun, there's lots of laughter and you might even win a chocolate at the end of the evening. So, what's stopping you?

We meet every Wednesday evening at 7pm in the Village Hall. You can just turn up or if you want further details contact the Secretary

Janet Morris.

T: 290863. Email: [jmmorris@jmmorris.plus.com](mailto:jmmorris@jmmorris.plus.com)

## PETER AND RUTH LLOYD TRUST AWARD 2025

We are now inviting applications for pupils starting university in September 2025. 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, including West Wickham. 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 offers are confirmed.

For further information about the Trust and the Award please contact: Jonathan Drury – T: 290087.

For an application form please apply via email to: [peter.ruthlloydtrust@sky.com](mailto:peter.ruthlloydtrust@sky.com). The application form & supporting documents must be received at the latest by 5 April.

## UKRAINE'S CONTINUING CRISIS CREATES MORE DISPLACED FAMILIES IN NEED PLEASE HELP

A collection for the people of Ukraine will be held on Saturday 25 January at Abington Primary School from 9.00am until 12.30pm. 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 has 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 will be going 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 25 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.' If anyone has any queries please contact Tony on 01223 893447.

## PARISH COUNCIL NEWS

New Year greetings from the Parish Council and myself. The following has been taken from the draft minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on 25 November 2024. These and the County & District Councillors reports can be seen on the village website and on the noticeboards.

### Planning:

- 24/03336/HFUL – 95 High Street, demolition of outbuildings and erection of single story building. This was refused but it was noted that the application was supported by the Parish Council. South Cambridgeshire District Council Planning Dept claimed not to have received the official response from the Parish Council.
- 24/04074/FUL – Horseheath Lodge Estate. Conversion of agricultural buildings and development of leisure site. This had been discussed after some councillors attended the presentation made by ARB Estates about the proposed development earlier in the year, and the Council was supportive. However the planning application had not been seen by everyone and there were some concerns regarding traffic on Dean Road and its junction with the A1307. The Chairman will contact John Howard, Chairman of Horseheath P.C. to determine their position.
- Kingsway Solar Park: There was a lengthy discussion about the proposal and several meetings have been organised by those opposed to such a large project. The questions as to whether the proposal justifies the loss of arable land, the loss of amenity, impact on local landscape and the impact on the local communities needs to be asked.

**Finance:** This is shown in the draft minutes.

### Traffic & Parking issues:

- Potholes & flooding. The repairs to the road to Horseheath will now be done in February
- Local Highways Improvement/Mobile Vehicle Activation Signs Grant. This has been approved and Cllr McNeillie has checked that there will be no increase in cost.
- Local Highways Improvement application - signage for Webb's Road. The application for signage and the wording "SINGLE TRACK" has been approved.

- Dean Road junction onto A1307. Concerns have been expressed about trees which are impeding visibility to drivers at this junction. County Cllr Batchelor will raise this with GCP (Great Cambridge Partnership).

### Maintenance:

- Hedges. There have been complaints again about hedges growing over pavements and paths, impeding pedestrians. Please see separate note about this.
- Defibrillator at Streetly End - Cllr McNeillie reported that the grant application had been refused. The reasons being the proximity to an existing AED at the Village Hall and the increased costs of NOT fitting the AED against a wall. Cllr Sargeant suggested that it could be discussed further at the Budget meeting.

**Post Office van visit**—a request that the P.O. van visiting various villages stop in West Wickham, as it comes through the village, has been refused. The Chairman queried why, to find out the Post Office did not understand the request. Cllr Mulley-Richards will liaise and provide the Post Office with the necessary information.

**Meetings attended by councillors:** Cllr Mulley-Richards attended a meeting about the lack of bus services but learned that there are no plans to improve this situation and was advised that people should get together to provide private bus services.

**Any other business:** Home Close vacancy: The English Rural Housing Association have notified the P.C. of the process that will be undertaken to find a suitable qualifying tenant for the vacant house in Home Close, during which the P.C. may be asked to nominate suitable qualifying tenants or support the application of prospective tenants. The P.C. have already provided details of and support for a former resident.

**The next meeting will be held on  
Monday 27th January at 7.30pm.  
All are welcome to attend.**

Jenny Richards, Parish Clerk. T: 01223 665260; Email: parish.clerk@westwickham.org

## OVERHANGING HEDGES, TREES AND BRANCHES

Please will all residents who have hedges or trees on their property which lie alongside pavements and footpaths check to ensure they do not overhang or impede the use of the pavements and footpaths, **and where they do to please cut them back or remove them.**

There are places where residents are being forced off pavements and footpaths and onto roads or fields to avoid these obstructions.

Thank you. West Wickham Parish Council



## THINKING OF RESEARCHING YOUR FAMILY HISTORY OR ALREADY STARTED AND NEED SOME HELP?

Then do come along to the next meeting of West Wickham & District Local History Club:

**Monday 13 January**

7.30pm in the Village Hall

***How to climb your Family Tree***

A talk by Charmian Thompson of the Haverhill Group of the

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, T: 290863, Email: jmmorris@jmmorris.plus.com

## WEST WICKHAM IN THE PAST A MISCELLANY

A new year and this is the beginning of a new series of articles about West Wickham in the past. These will be based on items I have come across during my research which I hope you might find interesting (and perhaps prompt you to find out more).

There are no maps of the village before 1812 when an Act of Parliament allowed for the Enclosure of the parish and a re-ordering of landownership and the agricultural landscape into something still recognisable today. How then to discover what West Wickham looked like before this?

In 1777, the Earl of Hardwicke (of Wimpole Hall) purchased 6 lots out of 17 when the Horseheath estate was put up for sale to pay the debts of its owner, Thomas, 2<sup>nd</sup> Lord Montfort. These 6 lots, for which the Earl paid £35,000, comprised 6 farming units in West Wickham covering some 2000 acres or roughly two thirds of the parish. The sales particulars list each farm with its land and give details of size and agricultural use. Four of those farms are familiar today – Manor Farm (then called Parsonage Farm), Hill Farm, Yen Hall and Streetly Hall. One of the other farms was based at what are today Old Farm Cottage and Trinity House (then one) and the other was based at a farmhouse in Horseheath (as yet unidentified) but with all its land in West Wickham.

From other sources we know that these were mixed farms with both livestock (sheep, cattle, sometimes pigs and poultry) and arable crops. The sales particulars show that each farmhouse was immediately surrounded by small fields or closes of pasture or meadow but that the arable land was split up into small parcels (or strips) intermingled with those of other farms in large, unhedged, open fields spread across the parish. The majority of these huge open fields were to the west along the valley between the village and Balsham. To take Hill Farm as an example, it had arable strips (most an acre or less) in 13 different open fields and although some were not too far away, in fields between the church and crossroads, it had other strips in fields as far away as the Roman Road and the Balsham boundary. This was hardly very efficient, so it is not surprising that there was no opposition when the Earl eventually initiated the Parliamentary process to Enclose and re-distribute the land more effectively. At the end of the Enclosure process, farms had their arable land consolidated with their existing pasture and meadow land around their farmhouses. The Earl built a new farmhouse, Skippers Hall, to take advantage of common land now taken into cultivation. Skippers Hall also received some land that had previously been farmed by Hill Farm while it received land associated with the farmhouse in Horseheath which now became redundant. 'Old Farm', too, became redundant with its land divided between Yen Hall and Skippers Hall and the farmhouse itself turned into several agricultural workers cottages. The Earl now had 5 more efficient farms of approximately 500 acres each.

Janet Morris

## LINTON LIBRARY NEWS

Happy New Year! 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 or drop into one of our weekly clubs offering a variety of subjects encompassing all ages (see previous Village Voices)

Do you like reading stories and rhymes aloud? We have a **volunteer vacancy** for Story and Rhyme time for 0-4 years. Tuesdays 10-10.30am, weekly in term time. Pop in if you are interested.

Ann King, Community Library Assistant, Linton Library.

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

## WEST WICKHAM CHAIR YOGA

Every Wednesday from the 8 January  
9.30am in the Village Hall,

Chair yoga is open to everyone of all abilities and fitness levels. These classes will include gentle stretching and mobility exercises. Seated yoga postures help build strength and flexibility. Everyone can follow along at their own pace and will benefit from mindfulness and relaxation at the end. £7.50 per session or a discounted rate of £5 when you book a 6 week block.

Call Laura Nicholson on 07891017887

or email [restriseyoga@gmail.com](mailto:restriseyoga@gmail.com) for further details

## WEST WICKHAM & DISTRICT GARDENING CLUB New Shoots, New Beginnings

As we begin 2025 the 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 paper-folded angels and stars) there has been increasing interest in how we can continue the theme of planet-friendly gardening throughout the coming year.



With no topic being more important than encouraging pollinators, the first talk of the New Year entitled *Forgotten Bees* (on Monday 20 January, 7:30pm in the Village Hall) is already creating much interest. Hawk Honey from the Suffolk Wildlife Trust will explore how we can attract

bees into our gardens, including some of the less well-known species. A very proficient speaker, this promises to be one of the highlights of the season.

*Bees are nature's pollinators. Photograph Lucy Cameron*

Membership for 2024-2025 runs from October to October with new members 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 on 07716 401646 [wwdgc@westwickham.org](mailto:wwdgc@westwickham.org)

## NATURE NOTES

In stormy weather most living creatures, including ourselves, find places where they can shelter. Messages from the Met. Office warn us to undertake journeys, 'only if absolutely necessary'. Trees have no such option. They are out there, exposed to whatever the weather throws at them. The recent Storm Darragh raged for a couple of days, and although being far more destructive in Wales and South-West England than in our part of the world, must also have been felt as a threat by our trees here. Going for a walk the following day one couldn't help noticing the detritus of fallen twigs and branches.

Especially vulnerable would seem to be those trees that stand alone and exposed in the middle of fields. I think particularly in this respect of oak trees, but then reflect on their durability, longevity and the number of other weather events that they have had to endure over their long lives. Three in my lifetime – the winter of 1963, the drought of 1976 and the hurricane of 1987 – were all challenges to the living world, including trees, and there have undoubtedly been other weather events in past years which some of the older trees will have experienced. We should note that oak trees support an enormous number of species, including world-wide more than 950 species of caterpillar.



It is always rather sad when a tree is blown over, but many fallen trees and branches that are not blocking roads or footpaths can be left where they fall because they provide homes for all sorts of wildlife and if they are woodland trees, the space in the canopy they have vacated allows germination of plants that have been waiting for that moment to arise. Fungi too are all ready to explore new food sources and, in the process, offer new habitats for invertebrates and insects, creating opportunities for entire new ecosystems to evolve and develop. So the message is that many fallen trees can stay where they are.

It is great news for the festive season that the average number of robins seen per garden has increased by 60% since the start of November 2010, and the percentage of gardens occupied by a robin has increased from 88% to 96%. At a time of global warming, it seems unlikely that cold weather is the reason that more robins are being seen closer to our homes. In fact robin numbers do fall when there is a particularly cold spell (such as the 'Beast from the East' in 2018). Numbers quickly recovered after this and it appears that breeding pairs have increased markedly and the number of fledglings per breeding attempt have increased concurrently with the population increase, while survival rates remain unchanged. The conclusion is that if you do not have a robin creating a territory in your garden you are unlucky, and if the population continues to increase we may have to think of a collective noun for robins as there is none at present. My suggestion is 'a squabble of robins', reflecting the fact that when they are together, they often fight fiercely.

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

Drawing by Maureen Walker

## CAN WE TALK ABOUT CATS?

Please don't get me wrong, I love cats and we've had several ourselves but, and this is the big BUT, we've always provided them with a litter tray. You might think that because you don't find evidence in your own garden (cats don't usually defecate on home territory) that your cat goes off somewhere out of the way and out of sight. Wrong. What cats do is go along to the neighbouring gardens and soil the lawn, flower or vegetable beds (particularly unpleasant not to say a health hazard). Cats are also a nuisance on the allotments and in the flower beds around the Village Hall. We have to clear up after your cat virtually daily in our garden. Bear in mind that your neighbour might have small children who want to play outside or they might be elderly and have difficulty bending. 'Oh', I hear you say, 'my cat is too old/set in its ways to be trained now'. Wrong again. I know this is possible because we've done it. Cats are like humans, they prefer their conveniences nearby, clean, dry and hygienic so please, be a responsible cat owner and considerate neighbour and go out and buy that litter tray. It would make life so much nicer for us all.

Name and address supplied

## FROM THE VICARAGE 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 that the Church's message can appear fanciful, or obscure, and that 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, Licensed Lay Minister

## GRANTA MEDICAL PRACTICES UPDATE

For some of us it's the time for New Years' Resolutions, and we're here to help you achieve your goals.

**"In 2025 I 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.

**"In 2025 I would like to ..... 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](mailto:cpicb.wellbeingteam.gmp@nhs.net). When contacting the team please give your current weight and height.

**"In 2025 I would like to ..... 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 be found at <https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/nhs-health-check/>

Also, are you up to date with the vaccinations you are eligible for, e.g. flu, shingles, RSV, pneumonia? If you are unsure please do not hesitate to contact us and we can check for you.

**"In 2025 I would like to ..... go on holiday".** Are you planning a well-deserved holiday in 2025? 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.

From all of us here at Granta, we wish you a healthy and safe 2025.

Sandra East, Head of Patient Services

## CHRISTMAS AT LVC

The lead up to the Christmas holidays provided us with opportunities to celebrate together as a community.

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 heart-warming 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'. It was 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 both support and housing to people who are rough sleeping. Another Charity the school supports on our Christmas Jumper Day, is Tom's Trust. Tom's Trust is the UK's only charity dedicated to providing mental health support to children with brain tumours, and their families.

Helena Marsh, Principal

## MEADOW SCHOOL NEWS

What a term it has been at The Meadow! We had a busy lead up to Christmas, with a range of educational opportunities for the children to take part in and be a part of.

**Hey Ewe: A Ba-r-rilliant Nativity Adventure!** We are very proud of our Foundation Stage and KS1 pupils for their excellent performance in this year's nativity production, *Hey Ewe*. The children put in a lot of effort, it was clear in their singing, dancing, and their ability to remember their lines. A big thank you to our teachers for their hard work and support in making the show a success. It was a performance that brought lots of smiles to the audience. Well done to everyone involved – you did a great job!

**Hands-on History.** 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, who introduced them to genuine WW2 artefacts, including gas masks, personal diaries, and air-raid warden helmets. Next, with Miss Walsh, they practiced first aid skills and role-played using real WW2 stretchers. Finally, braving the cold, they joined Mr. Steadman outdoors to learn bomb-diffusing and fire-extinguishing techniques, using authentic WW2 stirrup pumps to put out imaginary fires. It was a memorable day for all!



**A huge thank you to our 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 very 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. Thank you, PTA, for everything you do!

As we step into the New Year, we look forward to more exciting learning, achievements and opportunities for our children. We'd like to wish all our pupils, families, and staff a happy, healthy, and successful 2025.

Faye Facer, Assistant Headteacher

**DON'T FORGET THE COFFEE MORNING**  
**Thursday 9 January,**  
**10.30 in the Village Hall**