

**Issue 51
Nov — Dec 2024**



**See the centre page pull out for the West Row
Christmas Programme including Father Christmas's
Route through the Village**

Useful Information

Contacts for The Parish Echo

- **Editor: Peter Rolfe** 01638 714073
Email: peter.rolfe3@btopenworld.com
 - **Compositor: Helen Webber** 07545 597740
Email: helen.webber60@gmail.com
 - **Advertising: Sharon Vale** 07860 358493
Email: westrowpc@gmail.com
 - **Parish Clerk: Sharon Vale** 07860 358493
Email: westrowpc@gmail.com
 - **Printed By: riverside-print.com**
- NEXT ISSUE: Published January 2025

Dates for your Diary

November

Friday 1st to 15th	Poppy Waterfall Display
Saturday 2nd	Big Breakfast WR Chapel 10 a.m.
Sunday 3rd	Family Service WR Chapel 10.45
Sunday 3rd	Sunday Celebration WR Church 11 a.m.
Saturday 9th	Laying of the Wreaths at Memorial
Sunday 10th	10.45 meet at War Memorial Followed by Service St Peter's Church
Sunday 10th	Remembrance Service WR Chapel 10.45
Monday 11th	Commemoration 10.45 War Memorial
Sunday 17th	Sunday Celebration WR Church 11 a.m.
Tuesday 19th	Community Lunch WR Chapel 12.30 (Contact Richard 07796616679 to book)
Friday 22nd	St Peter's Quiz 7.30 Church Hall
Sunday 24th	Holy Communion WR Church 11 a.m.
Friday 29th	Community Lunch Village Hall.
Saturday 30th	Bingo West Row Bowls Club

December

Sunday 1st	Holy Communion WR Church 11 a.m.
Sunday 8th	Sunday Celebration WR Church 11 a.m.
Friday 6th	Annual Tree Lighting 6.30 p.m.
Saturday 7th	1st Santa Sleigh Run
Sunday 8th	2nd Santa Sleigh Run
Sunday 15th	Holy Communion WR Church 11 a.m.
Tuesday 17th	Community Lunch Christmas Chapel 12.30 (Contact Richard 07796616679)
Sunday 22nd	Christmas Family Service 10.45 Chapel
Sunday 22nd	Carol Service WR Chapel 6.00 p.m.
Sunday 22nd	Carol Service WR Church 6.00 p.m.
Tuesday 24th	Christmas Communion Church 11.30 pm.
Wednesday 25th	Christmas Day Service Chapel 10.45
Wednesday 31st	Galaxy Big Band WR Bowls Club



**St. Peter's Church West Row
In the Church Hall
Friday 22nd. November
At 7.30 P.M
£5 Per Person**



Bring your own nibbles
and drink

Teams 6 or less

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WEST ROW BOWLS CLUB
PRESENTS

2024
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A note from the EDITOR

Dear Reader,

Welcome to this edition of the West Row Echo, which has many interesting articles and also highlights Village activities planned for November and December.

Look out for details of what is planned for Remembrance Weekend, The Poppy Waterfall and when Santa is touring the Village.

It was pleasing to hear the vast amount of support for the Family Fun Day which raised £3.900 towards the upkeep of the Children's Play Park and Playing Fields.

Pages 10 & 11 contain a detailed report of the West Row Boys World War 1 tour with some very moving pictures.

As usual, Down the Shed is an interesting report. Details of which can be found on page 25.

On page 23 is a letter of thanks and appreciation, from a village resident, to the West Row Parish Council. I totally endorse the sentiments and am sure anyone willing to help in future ventures; the Parish Council would like to hear from you.

Again, don't forget that you can support the Hundred Club which generates an income to support the printing costs of the West Row Echo and you do have a chance of winning a cash prize.

Wishing all readers an early Merry Christmas & Best Wishes for the New Year.

Peter Rolfe
Editor

Late Autumn Quiz answers,

(All answers were identified)

1. Yew
2. Redwood
3. Horse Chestnut
4. Magnolia
5. Spruce
6. Bamboo
7. Elder
8. Firethorn
9. Douglas Fir
10. Sweetsop
11. Maple
12. Balsa
13. Virginia Creeper
14. Japonica
15. Laurel
16. Willow
17. Nutmeg
18. Aspen
19. Yucca
20. The Faraway Tree

There were seventeen entries with two people having 19 correct answers.

The winner, drawn independently by lot, was Robert Norman, Rolfe Close, West Row.



Our deadline for

January/February 2025 is: 15th December 2024

Please email Helen Webber at helen.webber60@gmail.com
Anything received after this date may be included in the next issue

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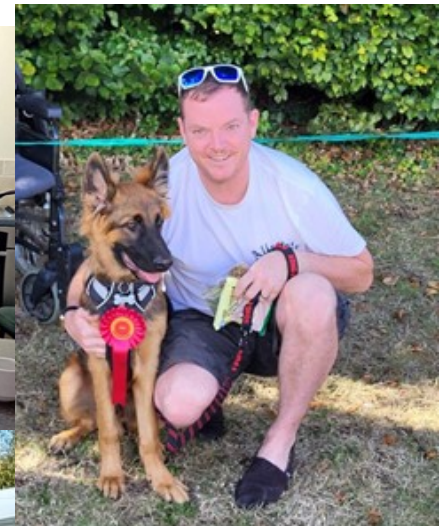
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Hall Fees: £15 per hour (residents of parish) / £18 per hour - non residents

Extra Charge for Bar & Sun Lounge Hire

West Row Village Hall Foundation would like to send a heartfelt thank you to all who participated & attended the Family Fun Day on 14th September. It was a huge success raising £3900 towards the Children's Play Park & Playing Fields. The weather was superb and everyone seemed to have such a fun time! Please book 13th September 2025 in your diary when we will do it again! We welcome anyone who would like to help out with the continual maintenance of the Playing Fields & Play Park area, whether on the committee or as a volunteer.



WEST ROW GUNNERS FC

Everyone involved with the club have been overwhelmed with the support for the team including attending home and away games, as well as the purchases of hot/cold drinks and snacks from the clubhouse. Here are our upcoming home fixtures

HOME FIXTURES

OCTOBER 26, 2024 - 15:00 K.O

WEST ROW GUNNERS



VS



EXNING UTD RES

NOVEMBER 02, 2024 - 14:00 K.O

WEST ROW GUNNERS



VS



CAMBRIDGE
AMBASSADORS FC

NOVEMBER 16, 2024 - 14:00 K.O

WEST ROW GUNNERS



VS



HARDWICK 'A'

NOVEMBER 23, 2024 - 14:00 K.O

WEST ROW GUNNERS



VS



SANDY FC



6



2

COMTEK

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FULLTIME

The lads have had an optimistic start to the new season, especially at Home - Scoring 6 in our last game down the playing fields! The club are so thankful for the support from our community and will need to call on on you all to help us challenge for the league title!

We are still actively looking for local businesses and community members to become matchday sponsors for Home fixtures, if interested get in touch by the contacts down below. Up The Gunners!!!



Secretary@westrowfc.co.uk



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Parish Update – November — December 2024

General updates .

Apart from the Parish Council's usual responsibilities, we have been busy around the village in many ways

Our contractors and others have been busy keeping the verges and paths clear and safe to walk.

100 Club.

The 100 Club is a way for you to **win a cash prize** and help with the printing costs of the West Row Echo magazine.



Parish Office



Parish Council Surgery Days .

We held our first Councillor Surgery on Saturday September 21st at 10:00

It was very lonely for Cllr. Alan Goodenough and Myself, but we will continue to hold these surgeries.

Office .

We were pleased to support the Village Hall with their Fete in September, and enjoyed running the Hook a Duck for all our little ones.



Future Events.

November Remembrance services.

From the 1st of November, The Poppy Waterfall which is constructed of thousands of hand knitted poppies (lovingly created by our fabulous knitting volunteers), will be displayed on the Church Green (next to the War Memorial).

Saturday 9th. Official Remembrance service at War Memorial 10:45 for 11:00 wreath laying.

Monday 11th Our Parish Remembrance service with the School Children. 10:45 for 11:00 wreath laying.

Our Christmas tree lighting event will be on Friday the 6th of December. 18:30 -- tree lighting 19:00

Santa will be touring the Village on his Sleigh on the evenings of the 7th and 8th of December.

Alan Fisher
Chair West Row Parish Council

WEST ROW BOYS WW1 TOUR

West Row Historical Society took thirty five members of the community over to the battlefields of the Western Front, following in the footsteps of the West Row Boys who served in the Great War, some returning to the village, others dying for their country in the conflict.

On the first day we were over there, Friday the 27th of September, we visited the Loos Battlefields, seeing where the Suffolk battalions were in action in the September of 1915 before making a stop in Poperinge behind the lines' for some rest and relaxation at Talbot House. It was then off to Estaires Communal Cemetery to lay a posy for our first West Row Boy of the trip, Augustus Isaac Ford, who died in a Casualty Clearing Station that was situated in the town. Our last stop of the day was to lay a posy for Jack Crick, the first West Row Boy to be killed in the Great War

Day two we were off to the Somme, seeing relics and learning more about the history of the Battle of the Somme at Musee Somme in Albert, it was then off to Thiepval Memorial, laying posies for Moore Webb and Ernest Rix, who were killed in action during the Battle of the Somme in 1916, the first West Row Boys of our visit to have no known grave. After lunch at Avril Williams' Guest House, a First Aid Post during the battle, it was on to Pozieres Memorial where we laid posies for George Ingle and Charles King who were killed in action during the German Spring Offensive of 1918. We then made a stop at Delville Wood to see where the 2nd Suffolks had been fighting in the August of 1916 before we made our way to High Wood. Here we laid James Stone's posy, as although he is commemorated on the Thiepval Memorial, he was actually killed in the area of the wood. The next stop was Guillemont Road Cemetery where we visited Walter Ford and Arthur Brown, Arthur having been killed during the attack on Delville Wood. And our last stop of the day was to Serre Road Cemetery No. 2, to visit the grave of Frederick Prentice, who was killed in action along side Ernest Rix, who we had visited earlier in the day, the two of them having been killed during the Battle of Flers Courcellette, in which the very first tanks were used.

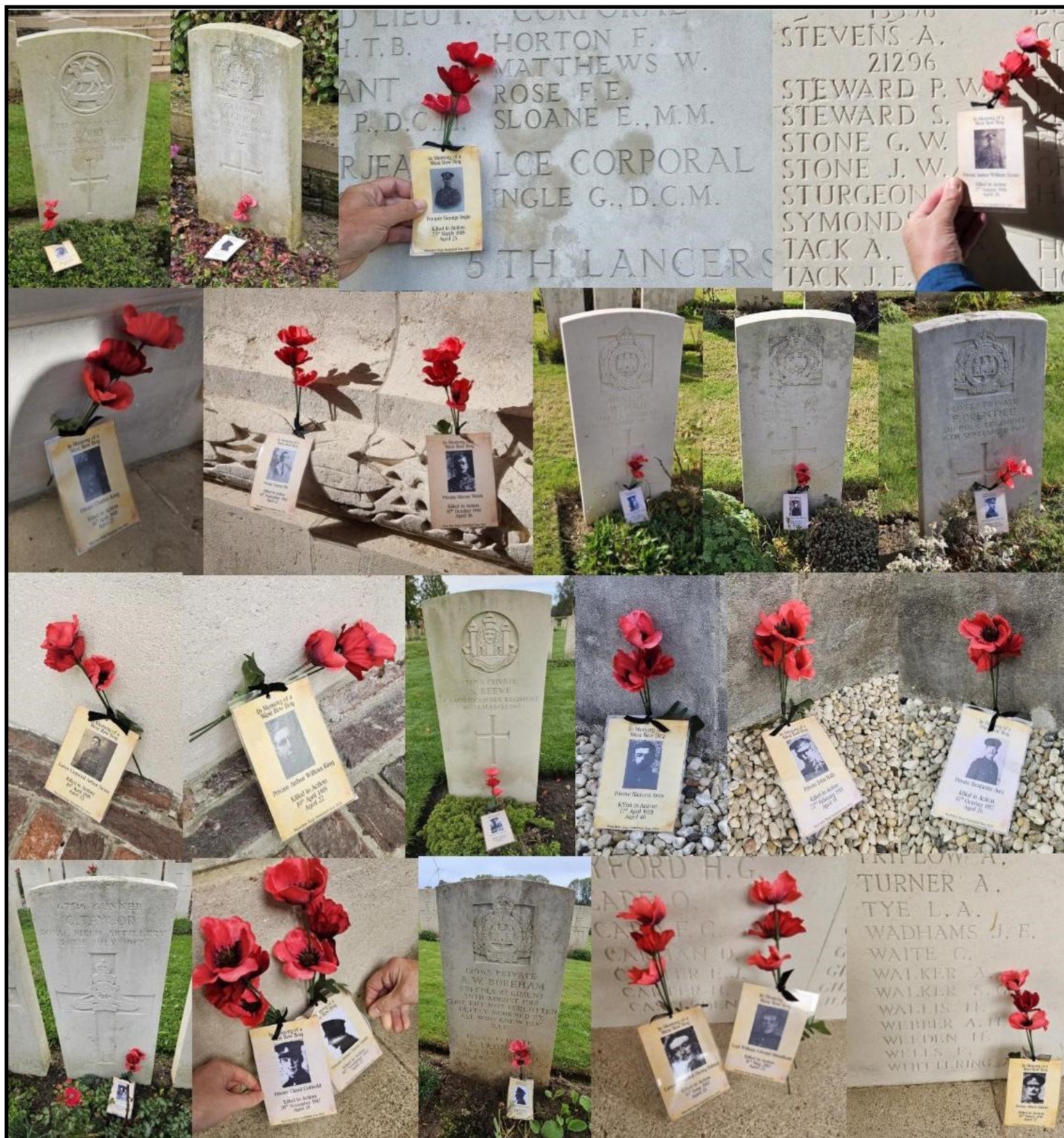
Day three saw us on the Ypres Salient, our first stop being to Ploegsteert Memorial, laying a posy each for Arthur Stone and Arthur King, who were both killed in the earlier months of 1918. Stop two was a visit to the grave of Sims Reeve at Railway Dugouts, Reeve having been killed during a working party in the early months of 1917. We then visited Tyne Cott, the largest Commonwealth War Grave Cemetery in the World, laying a posy each for Benjamin Aves and Richard Aves, who were killed in action during the Third Battle of Ypres and John Balls, one of our youngest West Row Boys at just 19, who was killed in the day to day trench life, having spent just 34 days in France. After Tyne Cott we took a visit to the Memorial Museum Passchendaele, learning more about life on the Salient and what happened during the famous battle of Passchendaele before heading to Hooze Crater Museum for lunch. After lunch it was then on to Brandhoek New Military Cemetery to lay a posy for Charles Taylor, a member of the Royal Field Artillery who was killed in the lead up to the Third Battle of Ypres, dying at a Casualty Clearing Station in late July 1917. Our last stop of the day saw us in Ypres, in which we visited In Flanders Field Museum located in the Cloth Hall before having some free time around the city, finishing the day with seeing the Last Post Ceremony beneath the Menin Gate at eight o'clock.

Our final day on the Western Front saw us on the battlefields of Cambrai and Arras, our first stop being Cambrai Memorial, where we laid posies for Claud Cobbold and James Smith, both of whom were killed during the Battle of Cambrai in 1917.

Continued on Page 11

Our next stop saw us visit the tiny cemetery of Ecoust-St- Mein British Cemetery, laying a posy for George Leonard who was killed in the August of 1918 during the Advance to Victory. The final stop of our trip was to Arras Memorial, where we laid posies for three West Row Boys, William Mendham and Henry Palmer who were killed in action during the Battle of Arras, and to Albert Turner, who was killed in action during the German Spring Offensive.

In all, West Row sent 163 men to fight in the Great War, from all different ages and backgrounds, thirty six of them failing to return to the village after the Armistice. The purpose of the tour was to remember the West Row Boys, killed or survived, and I hope, with our small gesture of thanks, we were able to remember them in a way that would make them proud.





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Please join our
**CHRISTMAS
CELEBRATIONS**

In West Row

Friday 6th December, Church Green

Lighting the Christmas Tree

Meet 6.30 p.m. - Refreshments

Saturday 7th December AND

Sunday 8th December

Santa's Sleigh Ride through the village

**For more information
contact Sharon, Parish Clerk**

westrowpc@gmail.com

Tel. 07860 358 493

*West Row Parish Council warmly invites you to the
West Row Christmas Festivities 2024*



*We start the goodwill season on
Friday 6th December, 6.30pm at Church Green
(Next to War Memorial)*

*Welcome
followed by
mince pies, sausage rolls and warm drinks.*

Then:

*Festive carol singing led by the West Row Community Choir
(if you would like to join the choir, please contact Gaynor
on 07752 970461 or email: churchmaiden@btinternet.com*

At 7pm the Lighting Up Ceremony

Following the Tree Lighting, more seasonal music and refreshments

*We have it on good authority that Santa will be doing a patrol of his routes starting
Saturday 7th and Sunday 8th December.*

Make sure you keep his routes safe!

*Let the party begin and
Merry Christmas Everyone*

The routes are listed here, but please be mindful times can only be approximate.

In past years residents have asked to donate, therefore the Elves will be bringing festive cheer for anyone who wishes to contribute to a worthy cause within the Parish. **Absolutely No Obligation**



SANTA'S SLEIGH ROUTE

Saturday 7th December

PLEASE BE AWARE—TIMES ARE APPROXIMATE

Picture Opportunity before Santa departs

5 pm	Leaving V/Hall Car Park Right into Chapel Road	
5.05 pm	Right into Friday Street Continue onto St. Peter's Green	(10 min)
5.20 pm	Continue along Church Road	
5.25 pm	Left into Cricks Road	
5.30 pm	Right into Wellington Close	(10 min)
5.40 pm	Continue right into Cricks Road Turning Right onto Pott Hall Road	
5.50 pm	Bagsham Lane corner Bargate Road stopping at Neve Gardens	(5 min)
6.00 pm	Left into Ferry Lane Turn around at Judes Ferry	(5 min)
6.05pm	Depart Judes Ferry, back along Ferry Lane	
6.10pm	Left onto Eldo Road	
6.15 pm	Stopping at Eldo Gardens junction	(5 min)
6.20 pm	Continue along Eldo Road then. Around corner into Church Road	
6.30 pm	Pause at Church Gardens	
6.40 pm	Christmas Tree St Peter's Green	(15 min)
6.55 pm	Continue along Friday Street	
7.00 pm	Into Chapel Road	
7.05 pm	Back to V/Hall Car Park	
7.10 pm	Santa has left to wrap all the Christmas gifts.	



SANTA'S SLEIGH ROUTE

Sunday 8th December

5 pm	Leaving V/Hall Car park Right into Chapel Road	
5.10 pm	Stop at entrance to Mason Gardens	
5.15 pm	Return along Chapel Road Around corner into Beeches Road	
5.25 pm	Left into Manor Farm Road Turn around at Morley Drive	
5.35 pm	Left into Beeches Road Stop at The Triangle	(5 mins stop)
5.45 pm	Carry on along Beeches Road	
5.50 pm	Stop at Blenheim Close	
5.55 pm	Stop at Beeches Close Carry on along Beeches Road Right into Jarman's Lane	
6.10 pm	Pause at Bungalows	
6.15 pm	Right at junction with Mildenhall Road	
6.20 pm	Stop at Victoria Close Left at Junction into Beeches Road	(5 min stop)
6.30 pm	Stop at The Triangle Continue along The Green Pausing at various locations enroute	(10 min stop)
6.45 pm	Carry on along Cook's Drove	

Santa arrives at Chair Fen Drove where he will feed his reindeers before heading off to Lapland for a well-earned rest.

If you would like Santa to pause at any other location on either of the two days. please contact the Parish Clerk

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WEST ROW BOWLS CLUB NEWS

The Indoor season started in mid September and it is pleasing to report that eighteen new people have attended the coaching sessions offered on a Wednesday. Many of these people have already joined as Beginner / Social members and are using the indoor rinks to practise at other times. The Bowls Drive that follows each coaching session is well supported with attendances being 18-20 people. Any one interested in taking up the sport of bowls is offered their first five coaching sessions free of charge. Following this, new members can join as a Social / Beginner at a cost of £18. Youngsters in full time education are entitled to a first year of free membership.

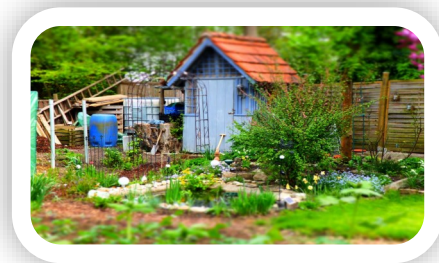
All bowling equipment is provided at the Club. Flat soled shoes that have only been worn indoors are required but the club does have a selection of shoes that can be borrowed. If Wednesday Evenings are not suitable, still make contact as sometimes alternative arrangements can be made. Please contact Club Coach, Peter Rolfe for further details.

With such enthusiasm shown by 'new' members who have joined during the past three years, there are already a record number of entries for the Club's internal knockout competitions. Also many members are keen to represent the Club in the Men's County League and Mixed County League matches throughout the season.

The Club is open most evenings so why not drop in to see what the Club has on offer and perhaps just join as a social member.

For information regarding any aspect of the club please contact Club Coach, Peter Rolfe, tel: 07501 640328 or email: peter.rolfe3@btopenworld.com

AROUND THE ALLOTMENTS IN NOVEMBER & DECEMBER



We hope everyone made the most of the lovely warm start to September but it didn't last long before the wet weather returned. The rain has again made for difficult conditions on the allotments and wellies have been an essential accessory for keeping feet dry. Hopefully by the time this is printed we've had enough dry weather to be able to tidy up the allotments and to turn over the soil ready for the new growing year. The nights are drawing in fast with the shortest day on 21st December which means that although allotment working time is reduced, it is still a good idea to have a general clear up, clean tools and equipment and carry out maintenance work for the coming year.

November is a good time to plant crops such as garlic, onion sets, raspberries, gooseberries and rhubarb crowns whilst at the same time harvesting winter veg such as cabbages, cauliflowers and turnips. Bare-root fruit trees such as apple, pear and cherry can also be set in November which gives them the chance to have a full growing season when temperatures start to rise in the springtime. It's also a good time to lift mint roots and divide them, these can be placed and grown in pots which can help stop the mint plant spreading too far. Smaller pots can be placed on a sunny window-cill for use over winter.



Mint

Broad beans can be sown in November which will give an earlier crop for the end of next spring. Beetroot can be left in the ground to be harvested in the winter and carrots can also be left in the ground until you are ready to use them. Alternatively, they can be stored in boxes layered in sand or compost and kept frost free and dark. Hardy spring onions and salad leaves can be set for cropping in both winter and spring but these need to be protected in a greenhouse or polytunnel.



Preserved Pears in Sugar Syrup

If you've stored apples and pears in boxes remember to check regularly to make sure none have rotted or they will contaminate the rest of the crop. Chairman Alan has tried an alternative method to preserve pears by storing in sugar syrup and instructions can be found at www.deliciousmagazine.co.uk/recipes/syrup-preserved-pears/. Cooking apples such as Bramley's, which have been cored and filled with brown sugar and sultanas or raisins make for a lovely baked apple dessert in the winter.

Come December there are still several crops to be harvested including the essential Christmas dinner sprouts along with leeks, swedes and parsnips. All of which can be frozen for use later in the year. Don't forget to protect less hardy crops such as beans, lettuces and radishes from the frosts with a fleece or something similar. A tasty recipe for using onions and leeks for Christmas dinner stuffing balls can be found at www.bbcgoodfood.com/recipes/sage-leek-onion-balls.

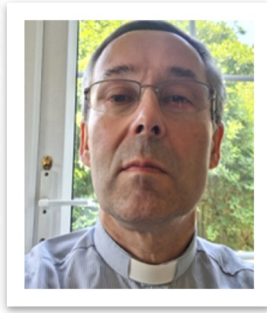


*Sage, leek and
onion stuffing
balls*

It's also a great time to peruse the seed catalogues and plan for the coming year.

From all of us down on the allotments we wish everyone a very merry Christmas and a Happy and Prosperous New Year for 2025.

St Peter's Church West Row



CONTACT:

Vicar: Rev'd Mark McCaghrey

Tel.: 01638 495001

Email:

mark.larkandlee@outlook.com

Churchwardens:

Beryl Austin 01638 712708 - Debbie Eaglen

Elders:

Tricia Leverington - David Sennitt

"Learn from yesterday, live for today, hope for tomorrow." Albert Einstein

As we commemorate Remembrance Day 2024, we look back eighty years. The allied forces were deep into occupied Europe – knocking on the doors of Germany itself from both West and East and the tide in the Pacific well and truly turned.

How different things looked three and four years earlier, when the UK battled on its own, and although the German planes had been defeated and the danger of invasion less imminent, things seemed very dark indeed.

What keeps us going when times are tough, and problems seem overwhelming? Hope. Hope helps us carry on – that things will be different. Hope energises and encourages – that our actions will make a difference. Hope motivates us - that evil and darkness can be overcome. Hope is not a feeling, but a spur to action, an inspiration to build a better world. Hope is lighting the candle despite the dark storm swirling.

As I write, our world seems to have many dark storms swirling – the ongoing carnage in the Ukraine and the conflict in Israel/Palestine/Lebanon, let alone the ever increasing impact of global warming.

We have inherited the fruit of the hope of those who fought in WW2, that the evil of Nazism and the Japanese Empire could be defeated. Where do we find hope in the face of the dark storms of today, that will bear fruit for future generations?

For Christians, hope is not found in an emotion, but a person – Jesus. That when we come to know his good news he can bring hope to our lives, and by transforming us, bring hope and healing to our world. (That's why almost all food banks in the UK were set up by Christians – to bring hope and healing to those suffering from poverty.)

I believe that despite the dark storms that face our world now, we can still have hope, and that God intends each one of us to know that hope for ourselves.

So that's why I'd like to invite you to join us:

At the Remembrance Commemorations on the 9th and 10th November at 10.45 at the War Memorial.

At the Christmas services at St. Peter's: Our Carol service on Sunday 22nd December at 6pm and our Christmas Communion service on Christmas Eve at 11:30pm.

To find hope for yourself by joining our three week Hope Explored Course starting at St. Peter's on Tuesdays 7th, 14th and 21st at 9.15am.

May you learn from yesterday, live for today, hope for tomorrow.



West Row Baptist Church



From the Pastor's Desk

evan@westrowbaptistchurch.org.uk

The story is told of Shah Abbis, a Persian monarch who loved his people very much. To know and understand them better, he would mingle with his subjects in various disguises. One day he went as a poor man to the public baths and in a tiny cellar sat beside the fireman who attended the furnace. When it was mealtime, the monarch shared his coarse food and talked to his lonely subject as a friend.

Again and again, he visited and the man grew to love him. One day the Shah told him he was the monarch, expecting the man to ask for some gift from him. But the fireman said gazing at his ruler with love and wonder and at last spoke, "You left your palace in your glory to sit with me in this dark place, to eat of my coarse food, to care whether my heart is glad or sorry. On others you may bestow rich presents, but to me you have given yourself, and it only remains for me to pray that you never withdraw the gift of your friendship."

This is a very touching story that reminds us that Jesus, whose birth we celebrate at Christmas, left the glories of heaven in order to share himself with us. That gift of his love and friendship will never be withdrawn from those who acknowledge who He is, why He came and trust that He is the only one who can make them right with God.

The Bible tells us so clearly in Matthew 1:21 why Jesus had to come into the world. It says, "**She will bear a son, and you shall call his name Jesus, for he will save his people from their sins.**" Our world and our hearts are shrouded by the darkness of sin. Sin is our failure to conform perfectly to the moral law of God in act, attitude, or nature. Yes, our nature, the internal character of who we as people are, is also sinful – we are born with an inclination to sin. This is so evident in humans from an early age. Children do not need to be taught to be naughty and disobedient, it just comes naturally. Children need to be taught to be good and as they grow up and mature into adults it becomes only too clear that nobody is perfect, we are all sinners. God tells us this in the Bible too. In Romans 3:23 we read, "**For all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God.**"

God is holy, just, righteous and loving yet because of who He is He also exhibits a pure wrath against all that is sinful and unholy! Due to the inability of man to conform perfectly to His moral law, God graciously redeems sinners (makes sinners right with Him) through the atoning sacrifice of His Son. All sin has to be punished, it cannot be swept under the carpet, God's wrath has to be appeased, each and every sin of His people who have ever lived and who are still to live has to be punished.

We are incapable of satisfying God's demands for justice except by spending eternity in hell and the only sacrifice that could be made to restore the relationship between God and man had to be made by God Himself. It was for that reason that God, in human flesh, Jesus, bore God's wrath upon the cross to the end—until the very last sin of all those who would ever turn to Him as Saviour was accounted for and punished—then he cried out— "**it is finished.**" His work of redeeming "**his people**" was finished! That sacrifice made by Jesus was paid for in His own blood. His blood was shed so that you and I, if we trust in Him as our saviour and Lord, enter into a right relationship with God. Again, we read in the Bible in Romans 5:8, "**God shows his love for us in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us.**"

Jesus came to dispel the darkness of sin and bring sinners into the glorious light of God's love. I trust this Christmas that the light of Christ may fill your heart and your home and bring peace, joy and hope to you and your loved ones. Jesus is indeed the Light of the World!

Evan

Jesus said, "I am the way, the truth and the life." John 14 v 6

31st August 2024

The Clerk
West Row Parish Council
Willows End
Weston Ditch
West Row
IP28 8RD

Dear Members of West Row Parish Council

I am writing to express my sincere gratitude and appreciation for the outstanding work you have done in cutting the verges and trimming the hedges around our beautiful village.

The attention to detail and care that has gone into maintaining the greenery has not gone unnoticed. The village looks absolutely wonderful, and I am sure many of my fellow residents share the same sentiment. The tidy appearance of the verges and the neatly trimmed hedges add so much to the charm of West Row, making it a truly delightful place to live.

Living in a village that is so well-kept brings a great deal of pride and joy. It is heartening to know that the Parish Council is so dedicated to preserving and enhancing the beauty of our community. Your efforts make a significant difference to our everyday lives, and I wanted to take a moment to personally thank you for your hard work.

Please extend my thanks to all those involved in these efforts. The results speak for themselves, and they truly make West Row a lovely place to call home.

With warm regards and sincere appreciation

West Row Village Resident

West Row Remembers

All events will be at
West Row War Memorial
Church Green,
commencing **10:45am**

Saturday 9th Nov. All welcome

Sunday 10th Nov. St. Peter's Church
Act of Remembrance

Monday 11th November
Parish Act of Remembrance

NOTE: Saturday and Monday commemorations will be followed by refreshment in the Church Hall

If you intend to lay a wreath, please contact the Parish Clerk in advance

100 Club Winner

Congratulations to this time's winner

Number 146 - H L Pearson—£65.00

For Further information or to join, contact
Sharon The Parish clerk at westrowpc@gmail.com

Ancient Parish of Mildenhall Charities Payout 2024

Registered Charity No. 208196

The Charities payout will be held on the following days.

West Row Village Hall – Tuesday 3rd Dec 3:30pm – 4:30pm

Beck Row – Wednesday 4th December 2:15pm – 3:30pm

St Johns Catholic Church Thurs 5th Dec 10:30am – 12 Noon

Jubilee Centre Mildenhall Thurs 5th December 2:00pm – 3:30pm

WEST ROW PHONE BOX (Near the Play Park)



This is used to house the Defibrillator, so an important part of the Village.

This is desperate need of a coat paint, is anybody able to help with this?

If so please contact the Parish Clerk with your quote —Sharon Vale westrowpc@gmail.com

West Row Academy is on the up



It's so true that one's reputation can be ruined in an instant whilst it takes years to build and maintain a good one. What is true for people is also true for organisations and that includes schools. Over the last decade or so, the reputation of West Row Academy has suffered, and it has been seen in a negative light by parents and many others in the community. The challenge the Academy faces is to drive through the required improvements necessary to turn that perception around so that the whole village speaks well of the school. Whilst many improvements can be implemented quickly, perceptions take much longer to change and everyone at West Row Academy is determined to see that happen.

The last two Ofsted inspection grades were "Requires Improvement" which meant that the school had to join a new Trust, the body that has overall responsibility for the school and its performance. Unity Schools Partnership (USP) were chosen due to their excellent reputation of guiding struggling schools through the initial improvement cycle and then ensuring they remain good performing schools. West Row Academy has been part of USP for just over a year now and the improvements that have taken place so far are astonishing. There is some way to go still but the Head Teacher, Mrs Close, the Senior Leadership Team and all the staff together with their colleagues at USP have worked tirelessly this past year to turn things round.

As Chair of Governors, I have seen first-hand the improvements that have been made and I would just like to highlight a few of the successes.

Last year's Year Six pupils have to be congratulated on their excellent results. They performed admirably in their end of year SATs tests and for the first time for quite a while the overall results were above the national average. They were also a vast improvement on the previous two years results. Last academic year, the results indicated that 63% of Year 6 pupils were moving to secondary school at or above the required standard. The national average was 61%. Mrs Close, all the staff and pupils are to be congratulated as the previous two year's results were 22% and 9% respectively. The improvement has been phenomenal! The results for disadvantaged pupils have also improved above expectation. Last year it was 66.7% whilst the previous two year's were 13% and 11% respectively.

Secondly, because of the pace of improvement and the dedication of all staff, West Row Academy has been entrusted with managing a Specific Learning Disabilities Unit (SLD). It officially opened its doors on the 16th of September and has been named Panda Class. It demonstrates the Academy's and the Trust's dedication to provide inclusive and supportive education for all children



This unit has been fully funded by the local authority and no funds will be moved to support it from other parts of the school.

The final success is the amazing partnership and teamwork that has developed between the Academy and the Trust. Unity Schools Partnership have invested heavily in the school. Information Technology provision has improved and, in almost all Key Stage 2 classes, each pupil has their own iPad on which to work. Information Technology is now an important enabler of learning. The Trust's renowned and highly respected curriculum, CUSP, has also been implemented across the school



and experienced Unity staff are on site virtually every week to mentor, guide and provide training where necessary.

West Row Academy is on the way up but nobody is resting on their laurels. The school values of Curiosity, Kindness, Resilience, Inclusion, Integrity and Passion have certainly been demonstrated by staff and pupils alike in the amazing turnaround to date. This said, there remains much to do, and we sincerely hope that the

improvements will soon be recognised in our community. For those of you who are still sceptical and who are perhaps using social media to share your opinion I would really like to invite you to consider getting involved in the amazing transformation that is happening before our very eyes. We still have some vacancies for Community Governors on the Governing Board and would be thrilled if you volunteered to help drive up standards and change the perception that so many have of the school. If you are interested, please make contact with me through the school office.

Evan King Evan King – Chair of Governors West Row Academy

DOWN THE SHED November — December 2024

theshedcharity@gmail.com



HARVEST FESTIVAL

Once again our Annual Harvest celebration was a huge success. Viv made this lovely display out of all produce grown at The Shed. We hosted many old and new friends, who were interested in what we are striving to



achieve. A facility where people can come with NO expectations, to share our resources and enjoy our different spaces. A huge amount of interest was shown and we were proud to show it off. From the flower beds, to fruit trees and shrub gardens, our vegetable patches (suitably labelled), our fruit bushes and so much more. We also have our Memory Copse with some trees waiting to be adopted. More volunteers are always welcome, although the hard graft of gardening is almost behind us for this year, BUT Jackie and Paul are already in the throes of winter planting (apparently, we will have winter lettuces).



We gave thanks for all our blessings and showed appreciation for all who keep us ticking along

Our AGM: held on Saturday 28th September was very well attended. The format is always the same with a review of what we have achieved over the past year which runs from 1st Oct through 31st September.

An amazing recollection of the jobs and outreach we have achieved: **Oct 2023:** we secured an extension to our Lease which now runs for a further 25 years. The Tea Room was officially opened for Tuesday mornings for a cuppa and cake. **Nov '23:** storing the harvest gathered in.

Dec '23: Christmas Tree in St. Mary's church, Mildenhall. We decided not to attend the Merry Mildenhall Christmas Fayre owing to lack of volunteers And the fact it is usually very cold and raining (we are not getting any younger !!). But we will focus on our publicity work in the warmer weather.

Jan/Feb '24: a bit lax on my part owing to health issues. But the die-hard volunteers continued their important work, maintenance, painting, cleaning and preparing the soil when the unpredictable weather permitted.

March'24: At last warmer weather and the spring growth in abundance. Michael built our Bore Hole House, We welcomed Molly enabling her to complete her Duke Of Edinburgh award



Apr '24:

We purchased a container to house our more precious equipment.

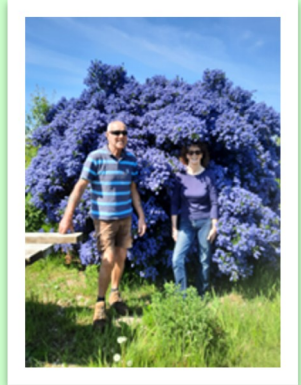
May '24: We lost Jackie in our beautiful Ceanothus.

The trees within the Memory Copse were a picture with Cherry Blossom, Silver Birch and Rowan.

Our Comfrey edging once again proved its worth by producing umpteen bottles of valuable feed for our plants

Jun '24:

Michael made us two lovely new signs at for our main entrance.



Jul '24: The garden continues to provide all volunteers with their dinners and surplus is placed on the stall beside Little Shed

Aug '24: We held an Open Day and again, very well supported with new friends made welcome. We also adopted St. Mary's Academy supporting their Wrap Around scheme for the early Breakfast and after

School meals. Food is donated by Lidl, Thetford.

Sept '24: As already mentioned, our Harvest Festival was an immense success. And that brings us full circle.

Throughout the year, we welcomed several new volunteers whose numbers continue to grow. We welcomed Jody and Chris, Jan and Molly. Such is life, Jody and Chris have moved on to pastures new, so who will step up to the plate, visit and hopefully like what you see.

Plans for Next Year: To erect our large greenhouse, bring back the Spring Fling, Early May Bank Holiday weekend, fun and games for all the family. Purchase a shredder and other useful gardening tools

Christmas Boxes are always popular, so we would like you to nominate a family or single person who would appreciate a few festive treats

Check our FB Page "The Shed", Media, Albums to track our journey)

FMI:email:theshedcharity@gmail.com Tel: 01638 715329.

EARLY WINTER QUIZ 2024

All answers are towns or cities in the UK

- e.g. Sounds as if this place has noisy dogs ANS - BARKING
- 1. Cyclops might have got his from here? (3) ANS.....
 - 2. Cake and tangerines are associated with this city? (6) ANS.....
 - 3. Spanish long!?! (5) ANS.....
 - 4. Triumph and tin plus a heavy weight? (9) ANS.....
 - 5. Cockney head of hair? (6) ANS.....
 - 6. Could be a small shelter for boats? (10) ANS.....
 - 7. This place could house otters? (4) ANS.....
 - 8. This captain's Victory Vs came from here? (6) ANS.....
 - 9. A public school shares its name with a farming implement? (6) ANS.
 - 10. A milker with a couple of compass points? (5) ANS.....
 - 11. Sounds like stupid chips? (8) ANS.....
 - 12. 'Old' small kid Jimmy had this name? (9) ANS.....
 - 13. Train stop with a guards signalling device? (11) ANS.....
 - 14. Left and hurry near the Giant's Causeway? (8) ANS.....
 - 15. Sounds like UK Currency? (8) ANS.....
 - 16. An accessory that can be attached? (6) ANS.....
 - 17. Terence Rattigan's boy? (7) ANS.
 - 18. Contained in a trip on Ryanair? (5) ANS.....
 - 19. Learner missing from a neighbourhood in Los Angeles? (8) ANS.....
 - 20. Opposite black where you'd often be on your knees? (11) ANS.....

NAME OF ENTRANT.....

ADDRESS.....

Contact tel. no

**N.B. PLEASE POST YOUR ENTRY IN THE BOWLS CLUB SILVER LETTER BOX
SITUATED ON THE FENCE BY THE 17th November 2024**

The Parish Echo editorial team takes no responsibility for endorsements of, or statements made in published adverts which are accepted in good faith. However, we reserve the right to refuse any advertisement, article, or item that we feel is considered inappropriate for publication.

NEWS FROM YOUR COUNCILLORS AND COMMUNITY OFFICERS



From Jordan Millward

Mildenhall College Academy is looking for new Community Governors to join their governing body.

Would you like to shape the future for the next generation? Are you interested in contributing to your local community?

Being a governor is a very rewarding experience. You will be part of a team who work to improve the life chances of children, some of whom come from very challenging backgrounds. No experience is needed, and you will learn new skills whilst giving something back to the community you live and work in.

We welcome a conversation with anyone who is interested in finding out more about school governance and what a difference you could make to young lives. Governance is enhanced by a team made up from a diverse range of professional, social and cultural backgrounds and full training is given.

If you think you might be interested in becoming a community governor, please get in touch with us via email: governance@attrust.org.uk for more information about the role.

Mildenhall College Academy, The Hub, Sheldrick way, Mildenhall, Suffolk. IP28 7JX



CUTS R US

Barbershop

37 Beeches Road, West Row, IP28 8NP

Call Stephen to set up an appointment on

07985 426561

I look forward to seeing New and Existing Customers

At our premises in West Row Loyalty Card for all customers



WEST ROW'S POPPY TRIBUTE

Friday 1st November: The Poppy Waterfall will be displayed on Church Green (next to the War Memorial)

This consists of 1,000s of poppies lovingly created by our fabulous knitting volunteers who have diligently been knitting away since April.

Well done everyone. The display will continue to be on show through the week following Remembrance Day (Nov. 11th).

Work below is underway to construct the Waterfall and the stream to the Memorial, lots of tying on still to complete before the 1st!

