

VILLAGE VOICE

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

FEBRUARY 2016

SCRABBLE and MAHJONG

We meet in February on **Mondays 8th & 22nd** at 7.30pm in the Community Room at Sheriff's Court, Burrough Green. Do come and join us in a game. £2 includes refreshments.

Trish 01638 507495

??? BRINKLEY MEMORIAL HALL ???

QUIZ NIGHT FRIDAY 26th FEBRUARY

Doors open at 7.00pm for a quiz start at 7.30pm
Tickets available for a minimum donation of £10.00
and include a hearty cottage pie supper.

A sold out event last year, so please get your
bookings in early to ensure availability.

Tickets from Mike Lawford on 01638 507896 or at
mike@cricketfieldcottage.co.uk

BURROUGH GREEN CHURCH FETE

Sunday 12th June 2016

Please put the date in your Diaries, and help us make
this a bumper year! Come to our next planning meeting.

At The Hall, home of Lucy and Peter Talbot, on
Tuesday 9th February at 8pm

BURROUGH GREEN OIL SYNDICATE

We will shortly be placing an order to the lowest
bidder to refill our tanks.

If you would like to be included in the syndicate,
please contact Pauline King on 01638 507796 or Dawn
Hay via email to dawnahay@fsmail.net by Monday 15th
February with details of your order.

Please be as accurate as possible and ensure all orders
are accompanied by house name/number, postcode,
telephone number and quantity of oil required (500
litres minimum).

THE BULL BURROUGH GREEN



A warm welcome awaits you at the newly
refurbished Bull in Burrough Green.

Delicious homemade food served Tuesday
to Saturday & our yummy roast dinners on Sundays are
sure to tantalize your taste buds.

Fresh fish and chips served every Thursday Evening.

thebullburroughgreen@gmail.com.

01638 508333

BURROUGH GREEN WALKING GROUP

Meeting 7th February (1st Sunday each month)
outside The Bull at 1.30pm. (Weather permitting)

ALL WELCOME

ALLOTMENT - BRINKLEY

Brinkley Parish Council has an allotment available to
rent. Can be taken as a half plot (£6.25 per year) or a
whole plot (£12.50 per year)

Please contact the clerk at brinkleyclerk@gmail.com

WHAT'S ON AT THE RED LION BRINKLEY

We'll continue to be closed on a Monday and
Tuesday through February but we learned
a few things in January,



**Quiz night in February will be Tuesday
16th at 7:30** and we'll open the doors at
7:00 just for Quiz night. We know some of you enjoy
it and we do too. If you're bringing a team along,
please give us a call and let us know, and if you'd like
to eat during the break or before it starts, we'll have
everything available as we usually do.

**Coffee morning in February is Wednesday 10th at
10:30** and we hope to see some of you then.

It is almost Valentine's Day again and since it is a
Sunday this year we'll have a special menu on both
Saturday and Sunday evening from 6:00-9:00pm.

Special doesn't mean the prices are bumped up
through the roof as is often the case in this industry,
but please do make a reservation soon if you would like
to join us. The menu is on our website. You'll also be
able to make a reservation directly from the website
very shortly.

We did a little redesign on the website while we were
closed in early January - www.redlionbrinkley.co.uk -
and you can now find all our menus there. They'll
always be up to date. You can also find information
about special events too, which you'll still always find
here in Village Voice, but we're currently working on
making that part of the website as complete as we can
for the next several months if you like to plan farther
ahead!

We now have our first Sunday brunches behind us and
have had a very enjoyable time doing them. The menu
is a good size and is going to get larger. Our coffee
offering has been improved and we think we do a
pretty good Bloody Mary, so if you enjoy one with your
eggs benedict, do come and give us a try.

**The February Sunday evening family meals will be
on the 7th and 21st at 5:30.** A reservation at least
24-hours in advance is essential - more information is
on our website

We'll have everything for Mother's Day and the Easter
weekend on the website by the time Village Voice gets
to you. Yes, it'll soon be March! As always, thanks for
your support.

The Red Lion 01638 508707

NEWS FROM THE ELLESMERE CENTRE

Unbearable Pleasures of Being a Woman

This play, which is headed for the Edinburgh Festival, will be at the Ellesmere Centre for **one night only on Friday 12th February.**



Great fun - bring along a party of friends (recommended 18yrs+). Brilliant girl's night out or dare to bring your partner!

Tickets £12.50. Licensed bar.

Half Term Activities- February 2016

Mon 15th 1ST STEP SPORTS FUN DAY

All day; 4-11yrs : alex@1ststep sports.co.uk

Tues 16th GYMNASTICS DAY

9.00am-4.00pm : 4-11yrs:

abc_gymnastics@yahoo.co.uk.

Wed 17th OPPORTUNITY GROUP special needs.

1-3pm : Preschool : Free

Thurs 19th JOLLY TOTS play session

9.30-12.30pm: Preschool :£2 per adult £1 per child

ROLLER SKATING

2-4pm : All ages: £2 to skate £1 skate hire

Fri 21st CRAFT DAY

For details contact Ellen Merry 01638 731348



Date for your Diary

Open Mic - Saturday March 12th

The Ellesmere Centre. Stetchworth, CB8 9TS.

www.ellesmerecentre.org.uk Tel 01638 508212.

Email office@ellesmerecentre.org.uk.

CATHOLIC SERVICES

NEWMARKET & KIRTLING.

Mass Times

Saturday 6.30pm Newmarket

Sunday 9.00am Kirtling

10.30am Newmarket

Holy Days 9.00am Newmarket

12noon Kirtling

7.30pm Newmarket

Our Lady with St. Etheldreda, Exeter Road, Newmarket

Our Lady & St Philip Neri, Kirtling

Main Address: 14 Exeter Road, Newmarket, CB88LT

Telephone: 01638 662492

Email: office@olise.co.uk

Brinkley contact, John Conti 01638 508304

FOR SALE

HOTPOINT DOUBLE OVEN - 1 year old

Also CERAMIC HOB 4 rings - 1 year old.

VGC Both £100

Tel: 01638 508307 (Westley Waterless)

ELLESMERE GARDEN CLUB

The meeting on **Wednesday 17th February** begins with the Club's AGM, as is usual at this time of the year - 8pm in the Ellesmere Centre. The business includes a short report from both the Chairman and Treasurer, plus the voting on the membership of the committee. Please do come and take the opportunity to voice your opinions. Remember that the Club is not a closed shop; and offers of help in any sphere are very welcome. If you would like to join the committee you can let our secretary Judith (508336) know in advance, or simply volunteer at the meeting. Annual subscriptions will also be due and you can pay Kath on the night. Then when the business is concluded Ann will show some photos taken at the botanic gardens of Cape Town and San Diego. You will also be able to have a preview of the exciting programme we have for you for the coming year.

Our speaker on **Wednesday 16 March** will be Darren Lerigo from Modern Mint, who will give his intriguingly-titled talk, "What do I do with this space?" Some of you may remember Darren from his stall at the Show last summer, and we hope you will come and give this new speaker your support. Meet at the Ellesmere Centre at 8pm for a sociable and informative evening in good company. Guests always welcome.

VILLAGE WEBSITES

www.burroughgreen.com

<http://www.parish-council.com/Brinkley/>

www.carlton-cambridgeshire.org.uk

Do have a look at the websites which contain lots of information about the villages and the school and have links to archive material. The Village Voice newsletter is available on Burrough Green & Brinkley sites for the current month and several previous issues.

New to Burrough Green? Burrough Green website now has a Welcome Pack for new residents.

VISIT ELY

Oliver Cromwell's House

2 for 1 ADMISSION ON PRESENTATION OF THIS ADVERT IS VALID TO 31/03/16

Visit the former Lord Protector's family home. Experience what domestic life would have been like in the 17th Century in a variety of re-created period rooms as well an exhibition detailing the Civil War. Visit Mrs Cromwell's kitchen, try dressing-up or playing with the toys of the time or venture into the Haunted Bedroom if you dare!

Audio handsets bring the story of this impressive House to life. Guided tours and group visits welcome. Also Gift Shop and Tourist Information Centre.

For further enquiries check out our website at www.olivercromwellshouse.co.uk or call 01353 662062

ENVIRONMENTAL WASTE



Creating a safer
Cambridgeshire

There is a growing problem of illegal waste dumping within Cambridgeshire. 'Don't get dumped on'.

Teams of criminals are approaching land / property owners, offering cash to store waste. They promise to return and remove the waste, but they do not - leaving the land / property owner with large quantities of potential unsafe waste. The message encapsulates concerns about the large scale illegal dumping of waste and linked serious fire and environmental risks. Those at risk would be farmers or landlords of warehouses and land, and it occurs in both rural and urban settings.

Anyone can report suspicious activity to the Environment Agency via their 24-hr incident line 0800 807060, Crimestoppers 0800 555111 or via the 101 service.

VEHICLE SECURITY

Due to a slight increase in vehicle crime in your area we wanted to raise your awareness and offer some advice. Ideally locking your vehicle in a garage would be the favourable option but we realise this is not always possible, therefore, other security measures need to be adopted to make your vehicle and contents less appealing to thieves.

- Park in a well-lit area where the natural surveillance is optimum.
- If you must store expensive equipment, ensure it is out of view.
- Fit window blanks - they block the view from the exterior.
- Vehicle storage boxes - these bolt to the floor in the cargo area.
- Older vehicles would benefit from an ignition immobiliser.
- Many factory fitted locks may not offer you the level of security needed to ensure high value items are protected. Look at the possibility of having a further locking device installed.
- Install a vehicle alarm.
- GPS Tracker - If your vehicle is stolen this device will help to locate it.
- It is a proven deterrent to mark/register your property, this can be done in a number of ways, the use of a bright coloured paint, engraving or anything that identifies the property as being yours, and this makes it less attractive for thieves. Look at www.immobilise.com to register your property.
- Remove all bags and clothing, Satnavs and personal belongings.
- Look at www.securedbydesign.com for catalytic converter anti-theft ideas.

Most thieves operate on a time basis, the longer it would take a thief to gain entry the better the chance they will not bother attempting and move on to a less secure vehicle.

Securing your vehicle with several deterrents will make you less likely to be deemed a soft target.

We do not want you to be a victim of crime, therefore, officers will be checking the security of vehicles while they are on patrol.

Please report suspicious behaviour on our non-emergency number 101.

In event of an emergency call 999.

Or report anonymously to Crimestoppers 0800 555 111

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

BRINKLEY CHURCH NEEDS YOUR SUPPORT!

Spring Fair - Saturday 30th April

Auction - Saturday 21st May

It has been 2 years since Brinkley's popular Auction of useful household goods and interesting 'collectibles' was held. A sale is now therefore planned for Saturday 21st May. Collection of items and timings will be announced in later editions of Village Voice, but it is never too early to earmark that special item you would be prepared to sell on a 50/50 basis or to donate to the Auction.

Both events will be held in Brinkley Memorial Hall and are to raise much needed funds to maintain Brinkley Church.

If you can help with either of these events, we will be very grateful. Please contact John on 01638 507484, Trish 01638 507495 or Ros 01638 507240 or e-mail villagevoiceneeds@tiscali.co.uk.

BURROUGH GREEN READING ROOM.

We are licensed to cater for 100 people and are available on various days of the week.

The charges are £8.00 per hour for village and £10.00 for outside.

To hire the Reading Room,

Please contact Marilyn Field 01638 508177

BURROUGH GREEN READING ROOM

A Big Thank You to all who supported the 2 events that have taken place for the Reading Room.

The Winter Fair raised £250. The Christmas Draw held in The Bull raised £175. Katrina Wallace was the lucky winner of 1st prize of £50.

Many thanks to Ellie and James for hosting this.

Watch this space for more events in the coming months.

RECYCLING

Carlton - Tuesdays : Black bin - 9th & 23rd.
Blue - 2nd & 16th. Green - 2nd.

Brinkley, Burrough Green, Westley Waterless - Thursdays : Black sacks weekly.

Blue Lid - 11th & 25th. Green Lid - 4th & 18th.

Ink Cartridges *The Opportunity Group* which meets at the Ellesmere Centre would be very grateful for your old ink cartridges to help with fund raising. Please drop them in the box on the gate at White Hart Cottage, High Street Brinkley or in the box at the Ellesmere Centre. Thank you.

(The Opportunity Group provides one to one care for children with special needs and their siblings, also provides respite for their parents/guardians.)

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**FOOD FAIR**

The Love Food Fair, will be held at Cambridge Central Library, 3<sup>rd</sup> floor on 20<sup>th</sup> February 2016 from 10.30am to 3.00pm.

There will be a variety of different groups and organisations providing top tips on food, eating healthily, grow your own, and some tasty samples. The Fair is free to attend.

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EACH (East Anglia's Children's Hospices)

'South Cambridgeshire Volunteers Needed - We Are Looking For Someone Like YOU!



We are launching a new Fundraising Volunteer Network in South Cambridgeshire for 2016 and we need your help with a range of fundraising activities in your local area. Volunteers are an important part of our fundraising and by giving as little as a few hours you will be making a huge contribution to EACH and the families we support.

There are a variety of ways that you can get involved ranging from helping at collections, raising awareness locally to organising an event with others. There are opportunities that only require only few hours of your time and for those wanting to get fully involved we can offer regular roles.

There are many benefits to volunteering with EACH. You will be taking on a new challenge, meeting new and like-minded people, contributing to your local community, and to EACH. As a fundraising team, we keep in touch with all our volunteers and support you in any way possible. There are a variety of roles available, depending on how much time you can give and what you are interested in. We will provide you with marketing and fundraising materials and you will be invited to our annual Volunteers Day and receive the quarterly volunteers newsletter.

To find out more information or to get involved contact Lucy Glover by email lucy.glover@each.org.uk or telephone 01223 205198'.
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**FEBRUARY BULLETIN FROM CAMBRIDGESHIRE FIRE AND RESCUE SERVICE**

Think the fire service is all about putting out fires and rescuing people from road crashes? Think again.

At Cambridgeshire Fire and Rescue Service, the men and women on our frontline deliver important fire safety advice to dozens of different communities. From visiting schools to care homes, mother and toddler groups to community fetes, our firefighters play an integral role in keeping YOUR community safe. And we'd like you to think about joining us.

The role of a firefighter is varied and exciting but most importantly, it can make a real difference to people's lives.

The next recruitment process for wholetime firefighters opens on February 6<sup>th</sup>. To find out more, log on to [www.cambsfire.gov.uk](http://www.cambsfire.gov.uk).

Find us on Twitter, Facebook and Instagram.

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HAD A RECENT EXPERIENCE OF USING HEALTH OR SOCIAL CARE?



Tell us what it was like for you.

Listen:

At Healthwatch, we listen. Tell us what is working well within our local health and care services and what you think needs to be better.

We log what you say and share this anonymously with the people who make decisions about our care. This helps them improve care where it is needed.

Involve:

We can make sure you know about local opportunities to have your say on health and care decisions. You can sign up for regular updates, or get in touch whenever you want some information.

We can help you find out what health and care services are available locally, or how to raise a concern. This is a free, independent and confidential service.

Challenge:

Healthwatch can challenge health and care decision makers, if care isn't working in the way it should. We can also challenge, if we think a decision has been made where people have not been able to contribute. They have to listen to us, and they have to reply.

Get in touch

Please do tell us how care is working right now for you and the people who are important to you. Your experiences are important to us.

We are happy to talk to local groups and attend events, so please do invite us.

Contact us www.healthwatchcambridgeshire.co.uk or call 01480 420628.
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### **BRINKLEY MEMORIAL HALL AGM**

To be held on Wednesday, 27<sup>th</sup> April 2016 at 8.00 pm in the Memorial Hall.

Anyone interested in the running, organising and preservation of this important building/village amenity, please come along and join our friendly committee.

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CAMBRIDGE COUNTY COUNCIL NEWSLETTER

COMMUNITY REACH FUND

You can apply for up to £1000 from the Community Reach Fund to create positive activities for 0-19's and their families (up to 25 for young people with special educational needs or disabilities). There is no deadline as the fund is open all year round, so please contact your Youth and Community Coordinators (below) for an application form.

South Cambs:

Amanda.Silvester@cambridgeshire.gov.uk

East Cambs :

Darryl.Mcmurray@Cambridgeshire.gov.uk

COULD YOU MAKE A DIFFERENCE IN 2016?

Cambridgeshire County Council has launched a campaign to urge anyone hoping to make a difference to the lives of others in 2016 to consider becoming a foster carer. Across the county there is currently particular need for more people to care for older children and teenagers and more carers who are able to offer a home to two or more children from the same family are also needed to help prevent brothers and sisters being separated while they are in care. We welcome enquiries from people aged 21 and over who have a spare room in their home and feel they have the time, commitment and skills needed to foster. To find out more, you can book a space at one of our forthcoming events, or request an information pack. Please call 0800 052 0078 or visit www.cambridgeshire.gov.uk/fostering.

NEW RECYCLING VIDEO LAUNCHED

Over the festive period, the Household Recycling Centres have been busy as residents have been bringing along old items - which have then either been recycled or are available in the centres' resale areas. For example, in the last couple of weeks the following have been left: a Clay pigeon trap, a marble clock, an aluminium drinks bar, two pairs of skis and a dining room table.

To help residents know what can be taken to the centres, how they work and the help which is available, a new film has been launched and can be seen at www.recap.co.uk.

The film - which sees the return of animated characters first seen in local waste education videos last year - explains how to make the best use of the centres in Cambridgeshire and help to reduce the amount of waste which goes to landfill.

Currently the centres recycle 79 per cent of the materials which are taken there, reuse over 475

tonnes of good quality items, and have 22,400 visitors during an average week.

BE PREPARED FOR WINTER AND BEAT THE COLD

Winter conditions can be seriously bad for our health, especially for those aged 65 or more, under 5 years old, and for people who have an ongoing health problem.

The cold weather can increase the risk of raising blood pressure, heart attacks and strokes.

People with chest conditions are at particular at risk of becoming ill during periods of cold and damp weather, ice, snow and high winds.

But there are lots of things you can do to stay well this winter. Read below our simple tips about keeping warm and well.

Heat the home well: Heat the home to a minimum of 18°C (65°F), and make sure you are dressed appropriately for the weather. Above this and people may be wasting money; below this and there is a risk health. This will keep the home warm and may lower the bills.

Get financial support: there are grants, benefits and sources of advice available to make the home more energy efficient, improve the heating, or help with bills. Find out about Warm Homes Grants for vulnerable individuals and families.

Eat well and have plenty of fluids: food and water are vital sources of energy; they help keep a person's body warm. People should make sure they and their family have hot meals and drinks regularly throughout the day.

Get a flu jab: certain groups can get free flu jabs to protect against seasonal flu, including the over 65s, pregnant women, people with a long term illness or if someone is the main carer of an elderly or disabled person. Free flu jabs are available from your GPs and some pharmacies.

Look after yourself and others: on cold days try to avoid going outside. If a person does need to venture out, they need to wrap up warm and take care on slippery surfaces. Look out for an older or vulnerable neighbour or relative during this winter to make sure they are safe and well.

For further local information on staying warm and well this winter, including grants call 0345 6500 280.

CLEAN FOR THE QUEEN

In the run up to The Queen's 90th birthday on 21st April 2016, the Clean for the Queen aims to inspire a million people to take action and enjoy a few hours together litter-picking to make the places where we live more beautiful.

All of the litter charities across the country have come together in support of this campaign together with a growing range of companies, land managers and associations.

There will be 'Clean for The Queen' litter blitzes throughout the UK in January, February and March,

and the most monumental of all litter clear-ups from Friday 4th to Sunday 6th March 2016.

They really want local community groups on board who can sign up to organise a clean-up through the 'Clean for The Queen' website. Lots more will be announced over the coming weeks, as the national campaign builds up a head of steam.

Let's Clean for The Queen. For more information and to sign up go to www.cleanforthequeen.co.uk

Email: adrian@cleanforthequeen.co.uk

www.cambridgeshire.gov.uk

DAN THE FRAUDSTER

Please heed a warning about fraudsters calling residents trying to get personal information and claiming they are from the County Council.

They have been ringing residents across the County and say they are calling about an accident and may claim they have had the information from the NHS.

They have gone by several names, including Daniel, but usually hang up when challenged.

Please help us stop anybody being tricked by Dan and his friends by sharing this alert.

Our advice to residents is always this: If someone says they are from the County Council, get their name and tell them you will call them back. Phone our General Enquiries line on 0345 045 5200 and ask to be put through to the named officer.

• Be wary of all unsolicited calls. They might start by asking about 'your recent accident' or 'your recent fall' or 'your claim for PPI' or 'your computer problems'. They say it to everyone. They don't know you. • Don't ever give out any personal or financial information over the phone

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**WESTON COLVILLE CINEMA CLUB**

**ONCE UPON A TIME IN THE WEST**

**Wednesday, 3<sup>rd</sup> February**

Weston Colville Reading Room 7.00pm

Donations : Refreshments : Pre-screening talk

Enquiries: [laurence.staig@onetel.net](mailto:laurence.staig@onetel.net)  
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WINE TASTING AND TALK

Wednesday, 24th February

Weston Colville Reading Room, 7.30pm

Wines from Chilford Hall and light supper including locally-supplied cheeses.

Tickets £12 (£10 earlybird by 12th February) from

Weston Colville PO or via Paypal (quote

'Cinema' westonreadingroom@btinternet.com)
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**CIRCULAR WALK AND LUNCH**

**Saturday, 5<sup>th</sup> March**

Meet Weston Colville Reading Room 10.00am for a c.5 mile walk. Two people from Brinkley came on our New Year walk, and said they thoroughly enjoyed it. Bring lunch and maybe something to share. to have in the Reading Room after the walk. All welcome.  
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LINTON HEALTH CENTRE NEWS

Just a couple of months now until Linton and Sawston merge to form one large partnership to be known as Granta Medical Practices.

It has been an incredibly busy year and there has certainly been no winding down in to retirement for me. I set my retirement date as March 2016 such a long time ago, back in January last year, and this last year has simply flown by. The merger work has certainly ensured that I have been kept busy right to the end.

Granta Medical Practices will move forward with a new management structure. Gerard Newnham, the current Business Practice Manager at Sawston, will be the senior manager across both sites providing strategic direction and overview for the newly formed partnership.

Another senior role in the management structure is that of IT Manager and Haley Suttle is already in post, working across both sites. Haley has years of experience in general practice IT systems and her knowledge and skills will be invaluable as we merge our computer systems in mid April.

Instead of a Practice Manager at Linton we would like to welcome Tracy Ho, who has been appointed as Practice Operations Manager with responsibility for HR and Finance across both sites. Tracy will join us on the 1st March and will be based primarily at Linton. She will be ably supported by Carol Thexton, our Office Manager, and the rest of the practice team.

This is an exciting new chapter in the history of both Sawston and Linton Practices. As a merged practice, we feel that we will be well prepared to take on the challenges and the opportunities that the NHS environment will present us with over the next few years.

More detail next month on how we will manage the booking of appointments in April when we have to prepare for merging the two computer systems.

Sheila Griffiths

Practice Manager and Partner

Linton Health Centre
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**DULLINGHAM FLOWER CLUB**

**Thursday 11<sup>th</sup> February 2016**

**8.00pm**

The Taylor Hall, Dullingham

Church Close

**Come & enjoy a demonstration by**

**Gill Tarry**

**Entitled 'Especially for you'**

Admission £5 to include refreshments

Raffle - Accessories

Please contact Lesley Bird for further information

Tel: 01638 507658 or 07786817154  
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MARSH MAIL - News From Linton Village College

Thursday 9th February marks Safer Internet Day 2016 - a date specifically calendared to promote safe, responsible and positive use of digital technology by children and young people.

Highlighting and teaching e-safety practice is an important part of safeguarding at Linton Village College. We make use of the PSHE (Personal, Social and Health Education) curriculum, assemblies and tutor time to discuss the opportunities and risks posed by greater access to digital technology. E-safety also features prominently in our Year 6 parent induction evening, our school behaviour code and parent handbook.

The key principles of our e-safety user protocol are set out below:



On the whole, our students are internet savvy. They know about age restrictions and understand what steps they should take to maintain their privacy and safety online. Nevertheless, we continue to promote these behaviours with students and parents to raise awareness and to tackle unsafe practices.

Another two 'Cs' that I have been discussing with students at the start of this year is Connection and Consumption. I also want to address the impact that access to digital technologies may have on students' lifestyle and wellbeing.

The Connected Kids report claimed that children aged 5-16 in the UK are spending on average 6½ hours a day using a screen; this increases to 7-8 hours for teenagers, including multi-screening. While the increase in the accessibility and functionality of digital technologies creates a greater number of opportunities for education and personal development, it also presents a number of challenges.

The NSPCC have recently warned of the creation of a nation of deeply unhappy children due to the pressure to keep up with friends and have the perfect life online. Studies have also made links between excessive screen time and gaming and underachievement in GCSE examinations. Meanwhile the charity Action for Children has claimed that one in four parents struggle to control their children's screen time and the Department for Education has commissioned an advisory group to create recommendations to prevent

phone and mobile devices disrupting learning in schools.

From speaking to teenagers, it is clear that their consumption of digital technology can have an adverse effect on their lifestyle. Time spent exercising, reading books, being with family, completing homework, socialising and playing face-to-face and sleeping can be compromised by their digital habits.

At Linton Village College, we are one of only 30% of secondary schools nationally that permits students to bring their devices into school. We recognise the potential that they have to support learning and personal safety, but we are also wary of the possible risks and are keen to minimise these with students. We have clear expectations about the use of devices in school and a confiscation policy for those that do not follow our code. We want technology to enhance, not detract from, students' learning and wellbeing.

While the school plays a crucial role in educating students about safe and responsible use of digital technologies, it is parents, friends and the wider community that will shape their attitudes and habits. How long children spend plugged into devices, staring at screens, engaging in virtual conversations and investing in their online presence is only partly influenced by the rules and usage that we permit and promote at school.

As adults, our role is not to shun, ban or demonise digital technologies for the negative impact that they can facilitate; we need to help the next generations to be responsible and safe users to create moderate and healthy consumption and to help them to connect, virtually and physically, with the world around them.

Helena Marsh

BRINKLEY MEMORIAL HALL

If you wish to hire the hall, please contact
Susie Shuter on 01638 508729

The charges to hire the Memorial Hall are £8.00 per hour for VV cluster and £11.00/ hour for outside. We cater for one off parties and Groups looking for a venue. The Hall can cater for 80 people.

MOBILE LIBRARY

The Mobile Library will be at Brinkley Memorial Hall on the 4th Wednesday of each month between 3.15-4.30pm; **24th February**.

Westley Waterless by the telephone kiosk on 2nd Thursday of each month - **11th February** at 4.10-4.25pm The Westley Waterless library bus is a different one from the Brinkley bus so you can get a really good choice of books.

