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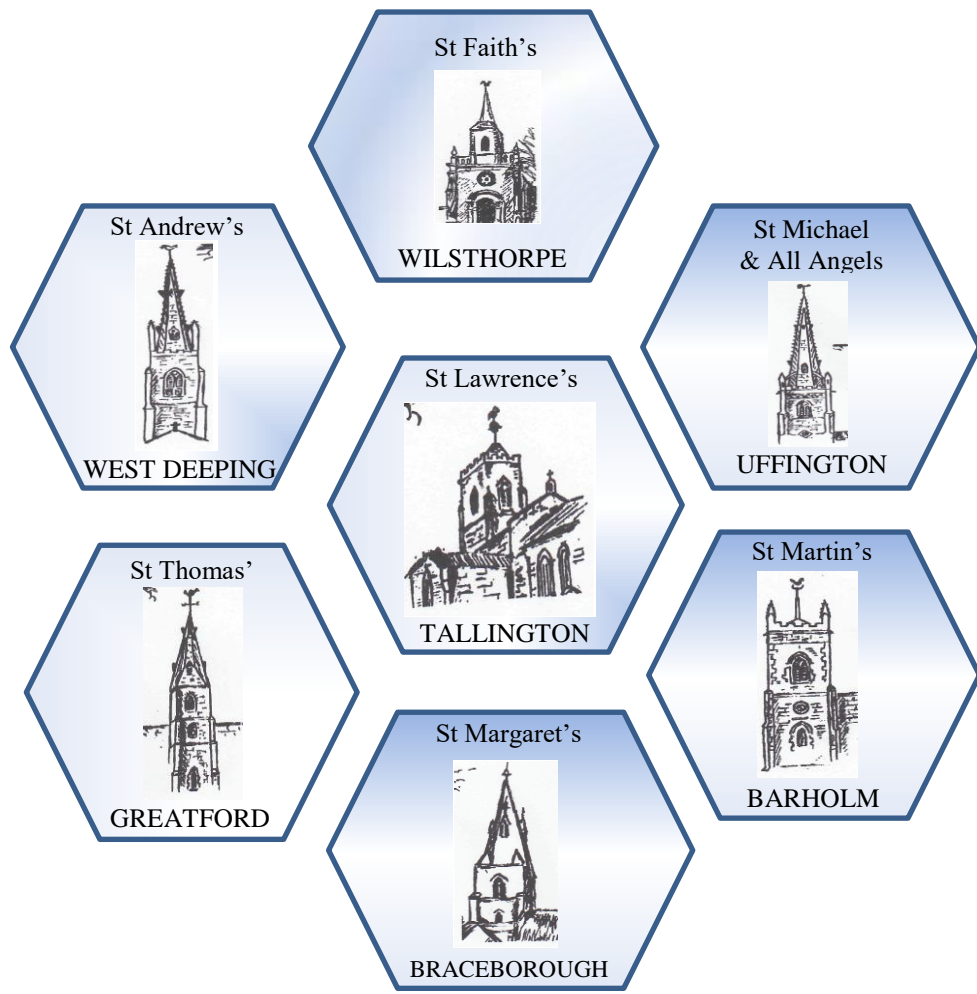
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GARDENING & WILDLIFE IN JANUARY

January is a good time to think about the year ahead, and what gardening you might like to do. Vegetables are always worth considering, and however big or small a space you have you can grow your own tasty vegetables or things to eat. The Royal Horticultural Society suggests “trying a different growing technique, new varieties or discover the wonder of growing from plot to plate”. Here are some top tips from the RHS garden at Wisley.

Beans and peas are kitchen staples and are easy to grow. Or try planting a few herbs which are also a great way to attract many of the pollinating insects which are essential to the productivity of a kitchen garden.

Most vegetables grow well in full sun, at least 8 hours of direct light a day. Site your vegetable plot where you can get to it easily. Picking fresh vegetables, herbs and fruit is simple if you can quickly cut what you need. Raised beds are edged with boards and surrounded by paths. Crops in these beds are reachable from the path so the soil is not compacted by walking on it.

The traditional measurement for an allotment is called a rod and dates back to Anglo-Saxon times. Ten rods is typically the accepted size of an allotment, the equivalent of 250 square metres. More recently, the common size of an allotment plot is five rods.

Potager gardens were invented in France as ornamental kitchen gardens. They combine fruit and vegetable crops with flowers and herbs.

Patios – even the smallest patio garden - are a great place for herbs and vegetables grown in a range of containers.

Are you tempted?

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Happy New Year!

I hope you've all enjoyed your Christmas, and that you're all set for the fresh start of a New Year.

I sat down to write this letter, and racked my brains for a subject so that I didn't write about New Year's resolutions yet again. Then I looked at past January letters, and discovered to my surprise that I've not often written about resolutions, or given them more than a passing mention - I've just assumed I have.

I suppose it's partly because New Year as a starting point isn't quite such a big thing in the church, because we have so many chances to start again. Every major festival has a theme of new life and fresh start, every service celebrates a beginning of some sort - at the very least, there's a chance in each service for confession and forgiveness, an opportunity to put things behind you and try again. But New Year also seems an appropriate time to think about life and lifestyle, and work out what changes we need to make - and not only because of the over-indulgence of Christmas.

The traditional resolutions, of course, are often about getting fit and healthy, and driven by guilt - hence the gym memberships that are taken out every January, the diets started, the decisions made to cut down - or cut out - cigarettes and alcohol. But it's also worth thinking about what sort of person we'd like to be, and working out what changes we need to make for that to happen. Maybe we do need to think about physical fitness - or maybe we need to relax a bit, review our priorities in life, find more time for families or relationships, get more involved with village life - and yes, quite possibly make time to get to know God better, too.

None of us would ever eavesdrop, of course - but if you did overhear someone describing you to a stranger, how would you like to be described? And what do you need to do to make that description be true? Now you know what your New Year's resolutions need to be - God be with you as you try to put them into operation.

Yours in Christ

Carolyn Kennedy.

BRACEBOROUGH

Holy Communion service on Sunday 1 January at 9am St Margaret's Church. Please come along and enjoy this service with us at St. Margaret's. You will be made very welcome. What a great way to start the New Year!

Sunday 29 January Group Service at 10.30am at St Margaret's Church. Braceborough will be hosting this next group service, which will be led by Martin Brebner. It will be Candlemas, so there could be loads of lighted candles! Please come along, enjoy a service with an even larger congregation than usual, & support our group of parishes as we move into 2017.

Quiz Night with Fish & Chip Supper. A great evening, enjoyed by the 50 + who attended, raising more than £220 for village hall funds. Special thanks to Keith for setting a terrific quiz & James for running the bar.

Saturday 21 January – 'Festival of Puddings Supper' at the Village Hall. A variation on the pot luck supper theme with a simple 'main course' followed by a festival of traditional home-made puddings – with plenty of custard! Licensed bar & raffle. In aid of village hall funds. Adults £8, Children £4, Family ticket (2+2) £20. Tickets from the usual suspects. This will be popular, so reserve your tickets early to avoid disappointment!

Saturday 4 March 2017 – Smorgasballad Concert – with Vicki Swan & Jonny Dyer. Promoted through the Lincolnshire Rural Touring Scheme, this concert will be a mix of beautiful songs and storytelling from the land of the midnight sun. Jonny and Vicki are great musicians with sparkling humour and great voices accompanied on traditional Swedish instruments. Very highly recommended. Licensed bar. Doors open 7:30pm for an 8pm start. Adults £10, Children £7.50, Family ticket (2+2) £30. Reserve your tickets now, with James on 01778 560417 or Keith on 560258.

Fly The Flag. It costs just £5 to fly the flag to celebrate a birthday, anniversary or any other memorable or special event. Please contact James or Hazel (560417).

Booking the Village Hall. We have a very well equipped village hall – available for hire from just £8 per hour. Please call James or Hazel (560417) to find out if the date you are interested in is free.

READINGS FOR JANUARY

	Psalm	OT	NT	Gospel
1st January Naming and Circumcision of Jesus	8	Numbers 6:22-27	Galatians 4:4-7	Luke 2:15-21
8th January The Epiphany	72	Isaiah 60:1-6	Ephesians 3:1-12	Matthew 2:1-12
15th January Epiphany 2	40:1-12	Isaiah 49:1-7	1 Corinth. 1:1-9	John 1:29-42
22nd January Epiphany 3	27	Isaiah 9:1-4	1 Corinth. 1:10-18	Matthew 4:12-23
29th January Candlemas			Hebrews 2:14-18	Luke 2:22-40
5th February 4 before Lent Proper 1	112:1-9	Isaiah 58:1-12	1 Corinth 2:1-16	Matthew 5:13-20

Usually, the readings for communion services are the NT and Gospel, and for Morning or Evening Prayer the Psalm, OT and NT. The colour in church is white, up to and including Candlemas, then green for the Sundays before Lent.

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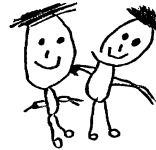
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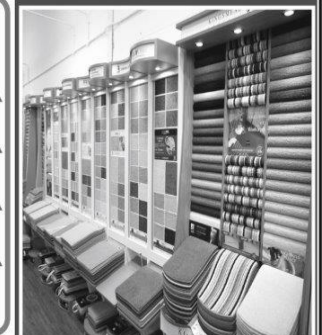
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Bible Studies. Tuesdays 3rd, and 31st Jan. 2.45 for 3pm at Cromwell House. 17th Jan. venue tbc Contact: Susanna Aldred on 01778 380014.

West Deeping Heritage Group. Tuesday 10th Jan: Mike Clatworthy of the Langdyke Trust talks about *Digging up old Pottery*. Bring your own finds to be identified. 7 for 7.30 p.m. at Village Hall. All welcome £2.50.

WD Walkers. Sundays 1st, 15th and 29th Jan. Meet outside the Village Hall, 1.45pm. Contact: Annie: 01778 346805, snewbigging@talktalk.net

Coffee Morning. Saturday 14th Jan. 10.30am-12noon WDVH for St Andrew's Church. Raffle, cake/produce stall. All are welcome.

Carpet Bowls Club will meet in the VH on Thursday evenings in Jan, Feb and March (Wednesday afternoon sessions cancelled.) See centre pages. Chairperson: June Thomas 01778 343434.

Rambling Readers. Friday 27th Jan. 7.45pm in the Village Hall. A new book each month is supplied by Lincolnshire Libraries. Info from Liz. 01778 344674.

Live and Local Theatre. Saturday 4th Feb. 7:30pm Village Hall. *'Learned Friends'*. The trial of a high profile football manager, which threatens careers and the course of justice. Ginny Davis, a former barrister, draws a fascinating representation of criminal proceedings. Tickets £10, (£6 for 16 year olds and under) Tel: 01778 380197 or email tickets@westdeeping.co.uk

Parish Council. Julia Mason has replaced David James as Parish Council Clerk. 29 Stamford Rd. PE6 8JA. 01778 344213, wdparishclerk@gmail.com

Classes in West Deeping Village Hall

Step Clog. Fortnightly on Mondays 8.00-9.30pm, Call Laura 01733 267129, leaving a contact number or email lozwharton122@sky.com

Dates for the diary

Midsummer Magic. 17 - 25 June West Deeping will celebrate open gardens, magical evening events, a gala, a produce show and a party in the field. Info. from Graham Magee: 07775900251, graham.magee@me.com

Vintage Afternoon Beetle Drive and Tea. Sunday 19th Feb. West Deeping Village Hall. Annie see Walkers as above for details.

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WILSTHORPE

The next Service at St Faith's is Holy Communion at 10.30am on Sunday 1st January 2017. Please do come along and join us, where you will be made most welcome.

The Carol Service was on Saturday 24th December [Christmas Eve!] at 3pm, followed by mulled wine and mince pies. As this write up had to be submitted before the service we hope that it was enjoyed by all who attended and that everybody had a Joyful, Happy Christmas.

At the time of writing, no events have yet been arranged for 2017 so any ideas for fund raising, social get togethers, offers to arrange events etc. etc., would be most appreciated. When the steeple repairs are complete and paid for, we are hoping to carry out repairs/replacement of the several broken leaded light window panes. Also any offers of help cleaning the church, arranging flowers and churchyard maintenance would also be greatly appreciated. Please contact Peter, Church Warden at Wilsthorpe Cottage or Susan, Treasurer at Corner Cottage.

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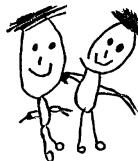
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UFFINGTON

Flying the Flag. Either the Union Jack or St George's Flag was flown as follows:

Date	Event	Sponsor(s)
1 st Dec	AVM Johnson Memorial Lunch at Wittering	John Edwards
25 th Dec	CHRISTMAS DAY	PCC

Mark your special date by sponsoring either the Union Jack or St George's flag, and make a £5 donation to Church funds. Contact David & Gail Genever or Graham Creedy (481084)

Uffington WI celebrated An Old-Fashioned Christmas when they held their December meeting in the village hall. Along with mince pies and nibbles, crackers and mulled wine, members enjoyed party games, including Kim's Game, passing the parcel, celebrity picture and chocolate quizzes, and the paper plate game. There was also the traditional Christmas present bran tub, and the hall had been beautifully decorated for Christmas by Vanessa Kimberley. At a short business meeting beforehand, the members were welcomed by the President, Gillian Johns, and the venue for the annual branch birthday celebration in March was confirmed. Treasurer Carol Chapman reminded members that annual subs would be due at the next meeting in February. As usual, there is no meeting in January, but an informal outing for a fish and chip supper has been arranged. Secretary Pauline Earley urged members to send in their choices for next year's WI resolutions (detailed in the current issue of the WI magazine). The winners of a competition for a favourite Christmas tree ornament were Pauline Earley, 2 equal Anita Hassall and Vanessa Kimberley, and 3 Sally Baker.

FROM THE REGISTERS

Wedding

3rd December West Deeping Cathal Jerome O'Sullivan
And Karly Marie Koops Fairman

Funeral

24th November Tallington Joan Boalch (96)

Uffington Village Hall Talk on Lincoln Castle

Saturday 28 January 2017

Nigel Burn

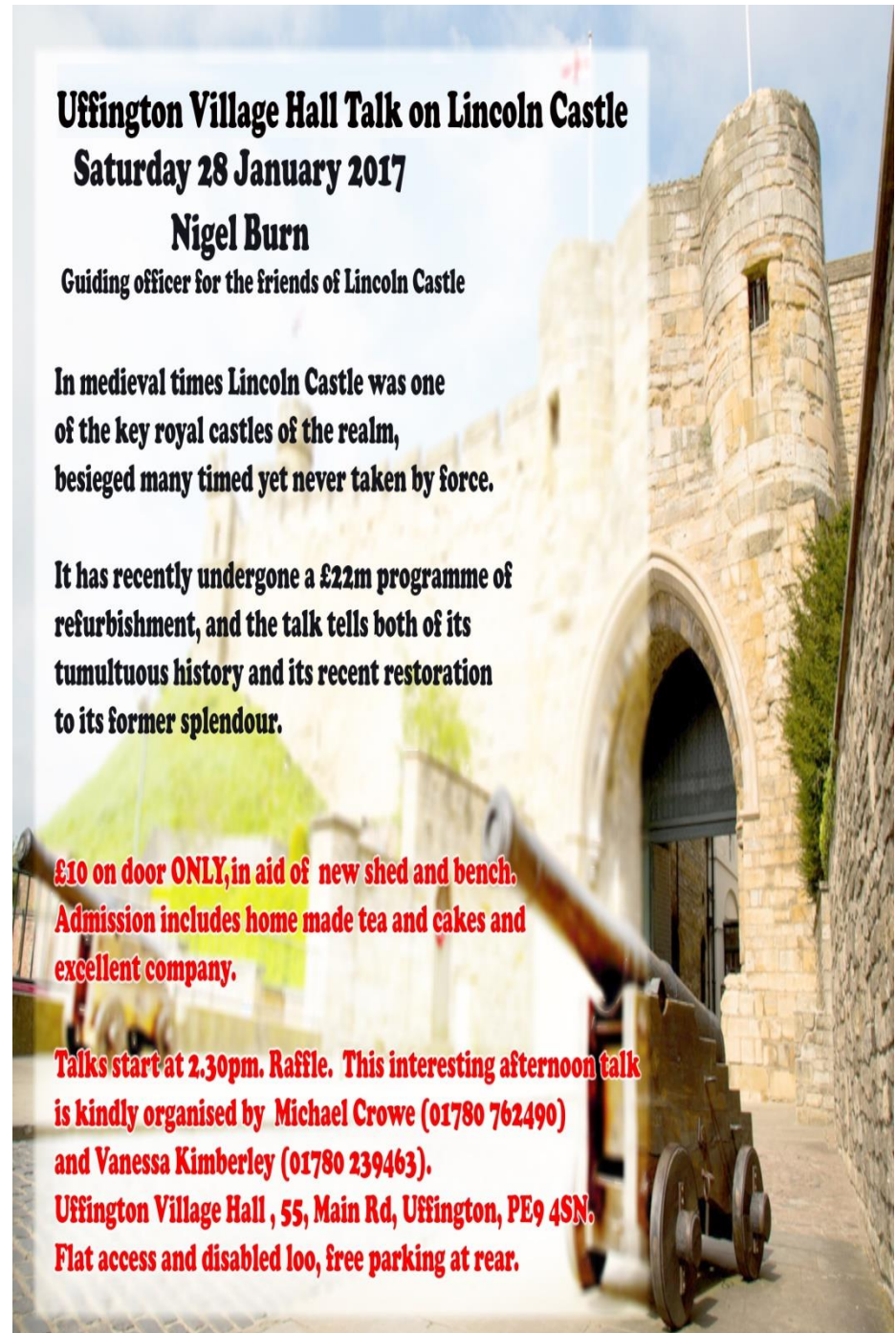
Guiding officer for the friends of Lincoln Castle

In medieval times Lincoln Castle was one of the key royal castles of the realm, besieged many times yet never taken by force.

It has recently undergone a £22m programme of refurbishment, and the talk tells both of its tumultuous history and its recent restoration to its former splendour.

£10 on door ONLY, in aid of new shed and bench. Admission includes home made tea and cakes and excellent company.

Talks start at 2.30pm. Raffle. This interesting afternoon talk is kindly organised by Michael Crowe (01780 762490) and Vanessa Kimberley (01780 239463). Uffington Village Hall, 55, Main Rd, Uffington, PE9 4SN. Flat access and disabled loo, free parking at rear.



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GREATFORD

Church Flowers: Bridget Everitt

Church Cleaning: Heidi Hooper (*part of DoE Award Scheme*)

Church Services: The services – which everyone is most welcome to attend – are:

8th January: Holy Communion at 9:00am; and **22nd January:** Morning Prayer at 9:00am.

The Christingle Service on Sunday 11th December was well attended and we were delighted to welcome young Joseph Haynes to play the organ for the first time. We have lost several volunteers from the Flower and Cleaning rotas. If you are able to help (for however short a time) please contact Bridget (on 560473) regarding flowers, and Cazz (on 561032) regarding cleaning.

Christmas Coffee Morning: We are very grateful to Rod and Scilla Campbell for holding a coffee morning in their home at The Old Forge on December 7th. A total of £250 was raised for church funds and thanks are due to everyone who attended and contributed.

Bellringing: Greatford Practice night – Wednesday January 25th from 7:30 to 9pm. If you are thinking about learning to ring, please come along and see what it's all about. Any enquiries to Lois Webb (01778 560437 or lois.m.webb1@gmail.com).

Grateful thanks to Steve Rigby and staff at The Hare and Hounds for their kindness and generosity in providing a delicious and enjoyable Christmas meal for many of the elderly residents of the village. And thanks also to Caz, Elizabeth Becket and Zac for serving etc.

Carlby & District WI: The members' Christmas party held on 13th December was a great success and enjoyed by all who attended. There is no meeting in January. New Members and visitors are always welcome. For further information please phone 01778 392838.

Mobile Library: The van will next call at Greatford opposite the phone box on Monday 23rd January and 20th February from 12:00noon to 12:30pm. This service is under threat from Council cuts, so please support this if you can.

Parish Council: The next meeting will be in the Village Hall at 7.30pm on Tuesday 24th January - all welcome.

South Lincolnshire Fenland Partnership are holding a meeting in the morning of Saturday 11th February at Waterside Garden Centre about the possible impact on the environment of any gravel extraction at the Manor Farm site (along King Street). Attendance is free, but places must be booked (through Greatford Parish Clerk at lois.m.webb1@gmail.com, or Amanda Jenkins at slincsfens@lincstrust.co.uk. Leaflets about the meeting are available from Lois Webb, Nigel Ashby or George Aylett, and in the telephone kiosk.

We have been saddened to hear of the recent deaths of Mark Garratt (of Greatford) and Neville Ward (who spent over 40 years in the village – and who acted as our “paperboy” until ill health intervened). We offer our condolences to their families and friends.

TALLINGTON

Church Flowers

8th/15th January – Mrs S Taylor

22nd/29th January – Mrs A Knox

St Lawrence's Church: The Church Coffee Morning held in November raised £335.40 and the PCC would like to thank everyone who supported this event in any way.

200 Club Winners in November: No 63 Alex Bell £20; No 197 George Waterhouse £10.

Social Evening: The next social evening will take place on Friday 27 January 2017 from 7 pm. A Fish and Chip Supper with Quiz will be the February event on the 24th so please put it in your diaries now and remember that all orders must be placed by 7.30 pm.

URGENTLY REQUIRED: An active person is needed to undertake some cleaning duties in the Village Hall – just 2 hours – preferably on the first Friday of each month. For more details please contact Liz Allen on 740076.

The Post Office seems to be working very well on just the one afternoon each week – Tuesday 2.00 to 4.00 pm. Please continue to make good use of this facility so that we do not lose this important service.

Mobile Library Service: The Mobile Library will be back on Monday 23rd January 2017 in Church Lane between 11.15 and 11.45 am.

Parish Council: The next Parish Council meeting will be held at 7.30 pm in the Village Hall on Tuesday 10th January 2017. All residents are welcome at these meetings.

**CHURCH SERVICES AND DIARY DATES
FOR JANUARY 2017 VOLUME 31 NUMBER 10**

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday
Jan 1st 2017	2nd	3rd
Naming & Circumcision of Christ 9am Braceborough HC 10.30am Uffington HC 10.30am WDeeping MP 10.30am Wilsthorpe HC 1.45pm WDVH Walkers 6pm Barholm ES		2.45pm WD Bible Study
8th	9th	10th
The Epiphany 9am Greatford HC 10.30am Uffington MP 10.30am WDeeping HC 6pm Tallington EP	9.15am UffVH Yoga	
15th	16th	17th
Epiphany 2 9am Barholm HC 10.30am Uffington HC & Sunday Club 10.30am WDeeping MP 1.45pm WDVH Walkers	9.15am UffVH Yoga	2.45pm WD Bible Study
22nd	23rd	24th
Epiphany 3 9am Greatford HC 10.30am Tallington HC 10.30am Uffington AAW 10.30am WDeeping HC	9.15am UffVH Yoga	
29th	30th	31st
Candlemas 10.30am Braceborough Group Service The Presentation of Christ in the Temple 1.45pm WDVH Walkers	9.15am UffVH Yoga	2.45pm WD Bible Study

Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
4th	5th	6th	7th
UffVH NO WI	8pm WDVH Bowls		
11th	12th	13th	14th
2pm UffVH Wednesday Club	8pm WDVH Bowls		WDVH Coffee Morning for St Andre's Church
18th	19th	20th	21st
	8pm WDVH Bowls		
25th	26th	27th	28th
2pm UffVH Wednesday Club	8pm WDVH Bowls	7pm TallVH Social Evening 7.45pm WDVH Rambling Readers	

N.B. West Deeping has changed from AAW to MP on the third Sunday for this month only