West Row Parish Echo

Issue 63 Dec 2026 – Jan 2027



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NEXT ISSUE

Published: February

Deadline for

February 2027/March 2027

Is

15th January 2027

100 Club Winner

Congratulations to this time's winner

Ivor Rolfe

£76.00

For Further information or to join, contact Sharon The Parish clerk at **clerk@westrow-pc.gov.uk**

The 100 Club helps support the printing of the Parish Echo

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.

Page No.	Contents
1	Front Cover
2	Information Page/Contents
3	Editorial/Quiz Answers/Emergency Contacts
4	Diary Dates
5	Upcoming Events
6/7	RPSB Lakenheath
7	Adverts
8	Parish Council
9	Adverts
10	Village Hall Poster
11/12	Adverts
13	West Row Academy
14	The Shed
15	West Row Baptist Chapel
16	Christmas Bazaar Poster
17	Events/Adverts
18/19	Adverts
20	West Row Bowls Club
21	Adverts
22	St Peter's Church
23	Adverts
24	Down the Allotments
25	Quiz
26	Adverts
27	Children's Corner
28	Book Swap

A note from the EDITOR

Dear Reader,

Welcome to the Christmas themed edition of the West Row hopefully you will be able to support some of the festive activities planned for West Row, especially the Christmas tree lighting on 4th. December plus the Christmas Bazaar the day after.

Looking a little further afield are you able to help St. Mary's Church, Mildenhall in its attempt to break a Guinness World record? Seek out details on page 15.

Have you thought of growing your own fruit and vegetables but don't have the space in your garden? There are allotment plots available in the village. See page 18 for further details.

The pro-active Parish Council still have a vacancy on the committee to fill. Contact details are on page 8 if you wish to find out more information from the Clerk of the Parish Council.

Also the Village Hall Committee is seeking additional members.

Will you enter the Quiz on page 25 as it appears to be a lot easier than the last one!!

With very best wishes for Christmas and hoping 2027 will be a happy and prosperous one for you all.

Peter Rolfe

Editor

WEST ROW | EMERGENCY CONTACTS

DEFIBRILLATOR LOCATIONS

Beeches Road: Old telephone box
Chapel Road: Baptist Church | Bargate Road: Pamment Garage

EMERGENCY & HEALTH

Police / Fire / Ambulance	999
NHS urgent medical advice	111
Police non-emergency	101
Electricity power cuts	105
Gas emergency	0800 111 999
West Suffolk Hospital	01284 713000

UTILITIES & USEFUL CONTACTS

Electricity (additional)	0800 783 8838
Anglian Water / sewers	03457 145 145
Suffolk Fire enquiries	01473 260588
Suffolk County Council	0345 606 6067
West Suffolk Council	01284 763233
Crimestoppers	0800 555 111
Samaritans (24 hours)	116 123

Keep this guide handy | In immediate danger, call 999

Autumn Quiz of 2026 answers

1. Bury St. Edmunds 2. Hurst 3. Nuneaton 4. Wick 5. Blackpool 6. Hornchurch 7. Wells 8. Burnham 9. Runcorn 10. Pontefract 11. Holt 12. Tongue 13. Lincoln 14. Cardigan 15. Stanwell 16. Maidstone 17. Sevenoaks 18. Bacup 19. Barnet 20. Evesham

There were 14 entries, 6 with all 20 correct answers, and the winners, drawn by lot, was Bill Flynn & Julie Wiseman, Esther Read Way, West Row

DIARY DATES

	Details	Time
December		
Sat 5th	Christmas Bazaar Village Hall	10 am - Noon
Sun 6th	Holy Communion St Peter's Church	11 am
Sun 13th	Sunday Celebration St Peter's Church	11 am
Tues 15th	Baptist Chapel Community Christmas Lunch For more information call Richard on 07796616679	12.30 pm.
Sun 20th	Village Carol Service. St Peter's Church	4.00 pm
Sun 20th	Christmas Family Service Baptist Chapel	10.45 am.
Sun 20th	Carol Service Baptist Chapel	6 pm.
Thu 24th	Christmas Communion All Saints Worlington	9.30 pm
Thu 24th	Christmas Communion St Peter's Church	11.30 pm
Fri 25th	Christmas Communion St Andrews Freckenham	9.30 am.
Fri 25th	Family Communion St Mary's Barton Mills	10 am
Fri 25th	Christmas Day Service Baptist Chapel	10 am.
Fri 31st	NYE Disco West Row Bowls Club (Tickets Required)	8 pm
January		
Sun 3rd	Sunday Celebration St Peter's Church	11 am.
Sun 10th	Holy Communion St Peter's Church	11 am
Sun 17th	Sunday Celebration St Peter's Church	11 am.
Tues 19th	Baptist Chapel Community Christmas Lunch For more information call Richard on 07796616679	12.30 pm.
Sun 24th	Holy Communion	11 am
Sat 30th	Bingo West Row Bowls Club	7 pm.
Sun 31st	Holy Communion St Peter's Church	9.30 am

UPCOMING EVENTS

Mildenhall Museum Society Talks 2027

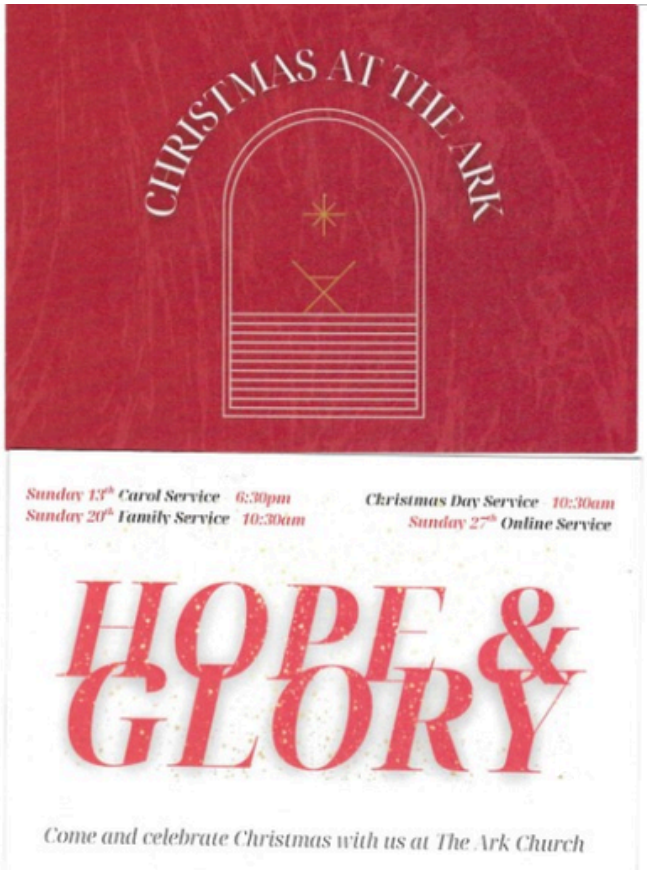
Please note afternoon start 2:00 pm
7th January AGM followed by
Horry Parsons - More stories from the Tower.

4th February 2027 7:30 start
Kevin Boardman - The Stuarts.

The Museum will be closed for the winter from Saturday 19th December 2026 - Tuesday 7th March 2027







LAKENHEATH FEN RSPB NEWS

The past month on the reserve has seen frequent sightings of Kingfishers on our Visitor Centre pool, where they have been enjoying new perches and a rising water level after some much-needed rain. Visitors have often been able to enjoy watching them from the large windows we have at the Centre or using the telescope we have positioned on the perches!

On the Washland, we've seen rising numbers of ducks such as Shoveler, Teal, Gadwall and Shelduck as more arrive each week in preparation for spending the colder months here. They are joined by hundreds of Whooper Swans at dusk on some days, who like to roost on the open water where they are quite safe from land predators such as foxes. Our high count for these so far this season has been 779 on 28 October, counted at dawn by our warden Haydn. On three dates in the next few months, there will be a co-ordinated count of Whooper and (the rarer) Bewick's Swans at sites across the fens, organised by the staff at WWT Welney, and we will be taking part- surveying the Hockwold Washes and also any on arable land between the reserve and Beck Row. These co-ordinated counts allow us to come up with a rough total across the fens, at a fixed time where the birds can't move around and be counted twice!

As well as the swans, we have also been tracking the number of Marsh Harriers roosting in our reedbeds, where they gather at dusk outside of the breeding season. Our high count has been 33, and we are pleased to report sightings of single Barn Owls, Peregrines and Sparrowhawks, plus two rarer raptors which visit us for the winter- Hen Harriers and Merlins. These last two birds of prey nest in upland areas of heath and moorland in the north of the UK and come down to lowlands in the winter to find prey and roosting sites in more sheltered areas. Merlins are tiny- not much bigger than a dove, with similar markings to a Peregrine, and male Hen Harriers are really striking with very pale grey plumage and black wingtips.

On 1 November, in line with the RSPB's guidance, we started to feed the birds again, so we have one suet ball, peanut and sunflower heart feeder at each of two locations- at the Visitor Centre and at the Photography Station, which is a five-minute walk from the Centre. The feeders at the centre are a lovely focal point for arriving visitors to watch, but shyer species like Water Rail, Great Spotted Woodpecker and Greenfinch can often be seen at the quieter Photo Station feeders. So far, the feeders have been very popular and as it gets colder the birds will come to rely on them even more, especially if the ground is frozen.

Over the next few weeks we will continue with our winter programme of general repairs where needed, and of cutting areas of reedbed on rotation, to help provide different habitats for our wetland birds. We are also planning our events programme for the next year so do keep an eye on our website if you'd like to get involved!

With best wishes from the reserve for a peaceful December,

Heidi Jones (Visitor Experience Officer).



Photo by Nigel Goodenough

LAKENHEATH FEN RSPB DIARY DATES

Places for all events need to be booked online- https://bit.ly/LakenheathFenEvents or in person at the Visitor Centre ahead of the event (not on the day, unless previously arranged with us).

Moth Mornings (Under 18's £2.50 - £3 / Adults £5 - £6)
Learn more about the amazing world of moths- join us to admire what we catch in our harmless trap.
26 February (10am to 11am)

Wetland Winter Guided Walk (Under 18's £6 - £7.50 / Adults £12 - £15)
Wrap up and experience this beautiful reserve and all that winter has to offer with our volunteer guides. We'll be looking for Whooper Swans, winter thrushes, Bearded Tits, a variety of ducks and more.
Saturday 9 January, Sunday 7 February (9:30am – 12:30pm)

Winter Walking Safari (Under 18's £10 - £12.50 / Adults £20 - £25)
Twice per year, our volunteer guides take their guests on a tour of the reserve, covering our full range of habitats and offering you the best chance of seeing a wide range of wildlife in this beautiful Fenland oasis. Our Cranes should be back, too!
Sunday 14 February (9:30am – 3:30pm)



Clerk: Sharon Vale
Email : clerk@westrow-pc.gov.uk
Website : https://westrow-pc.gov.uk

Parish Update - December 2026 - January 2027

Parish Council update

As usual the Councillors have been working on many issues in the background as part of our business as usual. For example:-

Planning for Christmas 2026 Christmas tree lighting event, which will be at 7 pm on Friday the 4th of December as usual on the green outside St. Peters Church.

Planning for, and acting to achieve the upkeep of village infrastructure such as streetlights, street furniture, footpaths to help to keep the village clean and tidy and many more topics.

Co-ordinating the various contractors working on the building of the new West Row Cemetery.

Working closely with County and the builder of the new County Council housing development.

Parish Councillor Vacancy

As I reported in the last Echo, we now have a vacancy on the council.

Anyone wishing to be considered for the post should contact the Clerk, who will give you more information and the forms to apply for consideration.

Book Exchange

We are trying something new for 2027.

We currently open our office on the 3rd Saturday of each month between 10:00 and 11:00 for a Councillor Surgery, Starting January, we will also be offering a Book & Jigsaw exchange at the same time.

Our intention is that if this proves to be popular, we will open up the office on a more regular basis.

Remembrance Day

Both our annual Remembrance Day events were well attended.

This was a time to remember all those men from the village who gave their lives for us all. We Will Remember Them.

Thank you to all who attended, including the children of the West Row Academy.

A brass plaque has been added to record the name of Private Arthur Arnold 1900 - 1918 of Suffolk Regiment and Sherwood Foresters, whose name was not included when the Memorial was unveiled in May 1919

Cemetery

Update on our Non-Denomination Cemetery.

Work is well under way and is progressing well, I expect to give a more detailed account of the progress in the next issue of the Echo.

Speed Sign Pott Hall Road

I am happy to report that Highways have installed a new post in the location we had asked for and the SID has been put on the post and we are working on getting it back up and running reliably again.

Parish Keeper

Our Parish Keeper is making a difference to the general look of the village, his list of tasks gets bigger by the day. If you have any areas in the village that require some TLC please contact The Parish Clerk or any Councillor.

Remember: Parish Councillors meet 3rd Wednesday 7pm in the Parish Office (the old Outdoor Bowls Club). Members of the public are most welcome.

Parish Surgeries are usually held in the Parish Office, 3rd Saturday of each month, 10am-11am. All are welcome to attend and to bring your concerns to the Parish Councillors' attention. If you'd like clarification on anything the PC is involved in, just come along and ask.

Alan Fisher, Chair

Steve Bebee trading as

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Find us on Facebook

West Row Village Hall



needs YOU on our committee

to help with looking after



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Village Hall



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- THURSDAYS 2PM- ST MARYS HOUSE, MILDENHALL.
- FRIDAY 11AM- PARKWAY HOUSE, BURY ST EDMUNDS.
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Christmas Greetings from West Row Academy

As another year draws towards its close and Christmas approaches, it is a good opportunity to pause, look back with gratitude, and recognise all that has taken place within our school community.

As Chair of Governors at West Row Academy, I continue to be immensely grateful for the dedication, care and commitment shown by everyone who contributes to the life of the school. A school is far more than its buildings, classrooms and curriculum. At its heart are people: children eager to learn and discover, staff who give so much of themselves each day, and families who encourage and support their children along the way.

Christmas is a particularly special time in the life of a primary school. Amid the excitement, decorations, Christmas activities and familiar songs, there is something wonderful about seeing Christmas through the eyes of children. Their enthusiasm and sense of anticipation remind us that, despite the difficulties and uncertainties we sometimes face, there is still much for which we can be thankful.

As governors, our responsibility is sometimes exercised quietly in the background, but our purpose remains very clear: to support and challenge the school so that every child has the opportunity to flourish. Academic achievement matters greatly, but education is about more than results. We want our children to grow in confidence and curiosity, to learn kindness and respect, to develop resilience, and to discover their own gifts and abilities. We want them to know with out a doubt that they belong to a school that really cares.

None of this happens without committed people. On behalf of the Governing Body, I would particularly like to thank our staff for everything they do for the children entrusted to their care. I also want to thank our parents and carers for their continued support, my fellow governors who freely give of their time and experience, and all those from the wider community who take an interest in and encourage our school.

West Row is fortunate to have a village school at the heart of its community, and that relationship between school and village is something worth valuing and strengthening. The children being educated today will help shape the community of tomorrow, and we all have a part to play in encouraging them.

At Christmas, Christians remember the birth of Jesus Christ and the message announced by the angels: “Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace.” Whatever our circumstances this Christmas, those themes of hope, peace, generosity and goodwill have something important to say to us all. In a world that can so easily feel divided and anxious, Christmas encourages us to look beyond ourselves, to notice those around us and to show kindness in practical ways.

So, as the school term draws to a close, may I thank everyone who has played a part in the life of West Row Academy during the past year.

On behalf of the Governing Body, I wish all our children, families, staff and everyone across the wider West Row community a very peaceful and happy Christmas, and every good wish for the year ahead.

Evan King

Chair of Governors - West Row Academy

DOWN THE SHED Dec 2026 – Jan 2027
theshedcharity@gmail.com



Thank you Shed Volunteers for attending either the Remembrance Sunday service or the Parish gathering on Armistice Day. A wreath was laid on The Shed behalf. "We Will Remember Them"

We might be on the cusp of Winter, but the work rate at The Shed shows no signs of easing up.



We have a busy, busy month of December. First on 5th Dec. we will be supporting the **West Row Christmas Bazaar**. Come along to browse The Shed table in the Sun Lounge. Lots of affordable kiddies toys and lots more.

ST. MARY'S CHURCH, MILDENHALL are once again attempting a Guinness World Record. This year it is the number of ANGELS. ~ The Shed is collecting frantically – any resemblance of an Angel.
It can be a Christmas decoration, a picture, a sculpture or model. As long as it has a face and wings. Collections can be made locally. Please help The Shed support this Christmas appeal.



OAPs CHRISTMAS LUNCH: Once again The Shed will treat over 20 OAPs to a Christmas Lunch. We are grateful for all the help we are given so want to do our bit to make a cold, bleak winter month a little bit cosier and warmer.

And January will see the completion of our 5th (and final) greenhouse, plus the painting of the Stable Block, thank you Michael for all your work. The veg plots prepared for Spring sowing, and a general clearance of old tat!

Speaking of helping at Christmas, The Shed 2026 Christmas Project is:



"Caring is Sharing".

We are looking for families who might like to have a little extra towards their Christmas treats. We appreciate that everything essential is now more expensive. Adverts bombard our children on what they MUST have in order for Christmas to be special. Supermarkets have attractive selling techniques, leading you to believe you are getting a good deal.
But the budget can only stretch so far.

Our ethos at The Shed has always been to share what we have, whether it is our own organic surplus of fruit and vegetables. Or, redistributing the charitable collections from local shops. We don't set prices. We only ask for a donation you can afford to cover our growing expenses.
And so it is that the small excess we accumulate over the year, we can give to those in need when times are hard. Please provide details so we can help. The size of the family. Approx. ages of any children (under 18), and an address. The gift from The Shed will be in the form of a supermarket voucher. The amount will depend on the number of families received.
Nomination to: theshedcharity@gmail.com OR rosalind_hamill@yahoo.co.uk.
OR tel: mob. 07887 668 145

If you can help us in any way – you will be made most welcome.
Email: **theshedcharity@gmail.com**

Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year

WEST ROW BAPTIST CHURCH

Jesus said to him, "I am the way, and the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me.
John 14:6



From the Pastor's Desk
evan@westrowbaptist.org.uk

The heart of Christmas

As Christmas approaches, may I wish everyone in West Row and the surrounding area a very happy and peaceful Christmas, on behalf of all of us at West Row Baptist Church. For many of us, Christmas means time with family and friends, presents, favourite food, lights and familiar traditions. It can be a welcome chance to rest after a busy year. But it is not an easy season for everyone. An empty chair may remind us of someone we miss. Illness, loneliness, money worries and family difficulties do not disappear just because Christmas has arrived.

The Christian message does not ask us to pretend that everything is perfect. It tells us that God has come near to us in our troubled world. At the heart of Christmas is not a tree, a meal or a present, but a person: Jesus Christ. Before Jesus was born, Joseph was told: "You shall call his name Jesus, for he will save his people from their sins" (Matthew 1:21). That little word "save" explains why He came. Christmas is not simply the story of a good teacher who encouraged people to be kinder. It is the news that God came to rescue us.

The Bible tells us that Jesus is the Son of God, who took on our humanity and lived among us. The baby in the manger was truly human and truly God. John describes it simply: "The Word became flesh and dwelt among us" (John 1:14). The God who made us came into our world because He loves us. But why do we need rescuing? The Bible says that the trouble in our world is not only around us; it is within us too. We all know what it is to be selfish, to hurt someone or to say something we later regret. We fail to love God and one another as we should. The Bible calls this sin: living on our own terms rather than God's.

This includes all of us, including the pastor writing this article. None of us can put ourselves right with God simply by trying harder, being respectable or going to church. That may be humbling, but it is also why Christmas is such good news. God did not wait for us to become good enough. He sent His Son to do for us what we could never do for ourselves.

The story that begins in Bethlehem leads to the cross. Jesus lived the life we have failed to live and willingly took the judgement our sins deserved. Three days later He rose from the grave. Through Him, God offers forgiveness and everlasting life to everyone who turns from sin and trusts in Jesus. This is what Christians mean by grace: God's kindness, freely given rather than earned. As the Bible says, "By grace you have been saved through faith … it is the gift of God" (Ephesians 2:8). A Christmas present may help us understand. We do not pay the giver for a genuine gift; we receive it. God's gift of salvation is received by trusting in Christ.

When the angel told the shepherds that Jesus had been born, he called it "good news of great joy" (Luke 2:10). They were not being given another list of rules. They were being told that a Saviour had come. This was good news for ordinary people, and it still is. Whatever our background, mistakes or regrets, Jesus came for people like us. That gives us a hope which does not depend on everything going well. Of course we can enjoy Christmas dinner, a family gathering or a thoughtful present. But plans can go wrong, and life can change in ways we never expected. The Christian's deepest joy rests on Jesus, whose love and promises do not change.

We often hear the word "peace" at Christmas. We long for peace in our homes, our communities and a world full of suffering. The Bible also speaks of peace with God. Through Jesus, we can be forgiven and brought back into a relationship with the God who made us. We do not have to hide our failures or prove that we are worthy. We can admit our need and trust in His mercy.

Perhaps you have believed this for many years. Christmas is a chance to pause amid the busyness and remember the love of God. Or perhaps Christianity has never meant much to you, and church is not part of your life. May I encourage you simply to look again at Jesus? You do not have to sort out every part of your life before coming to Him. He welcomes those who turn to Him in repentance and faith: who are sorry for their sin and trust Him to forgive and save them. Jesus said, "Whoever comes to me I will never cast out" (John 6:37). There is room in that word "whoever" for people with all sorts of backgrounds and burdens. There is room for you.

Here at West Row Baptist Church, we are glad to be part of our village community. You are our neighbours, and we want to wish you well. Whatever this year has brought, whether joys to celebrate or sorrows to carry, we hope you will know something of the peace and hope of Christmas.

If this is a difficult season, remember that the first Christmas did not happen in a perfect world either. Jesus came into a world of darkness and suffering, bringing hope. The Christmas message is not "Try to be happier" or "Try to be better". It is "A Saviour has come".

So, among the presents, meals and decorations, may we take a moment to remember the heart of Christmas: Jesus Christ came into the world to save sinners and bring us back to God. From all of us at West Row Baptist Church, may you have a happy and peaceful Christmas.

With warmest Christmas greetings,

Evan

Pastor - West Row Baptist Church


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December 5th
10am – 12 noon
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Free Entry!
West Row Village Hall
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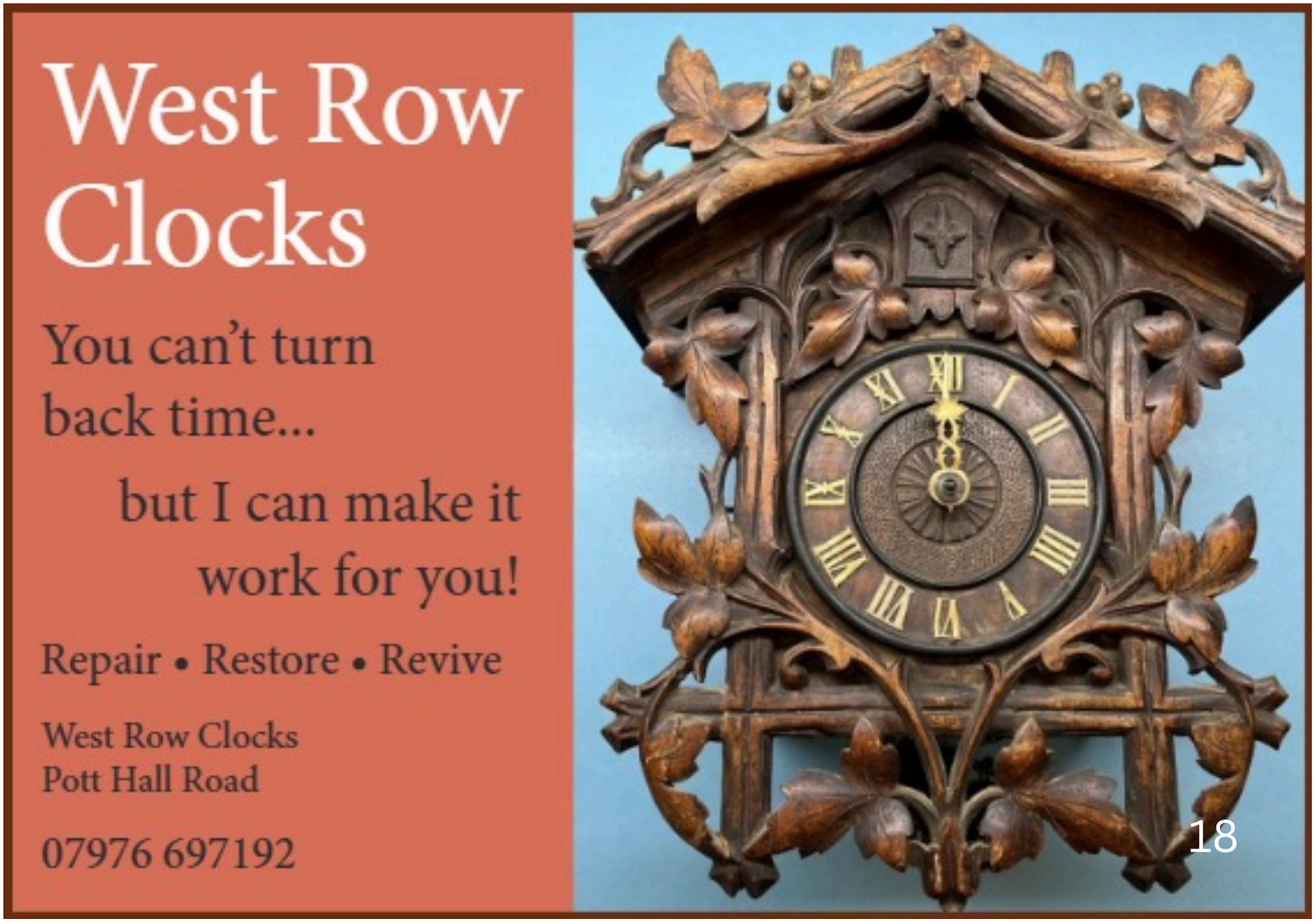
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WEST ROW
BOWLS CLUB NEWS

The new indoor season started in September and to date eleven new people have been attending the Beginners coaching sessions on Wednesday Evenings. Also the Wednesday evening bowls drive has been well supported with most weeks seeing all rinks completely full.

As a reminder anyone who wishes to try out the sport should come along to the Club on a Wednesday evening, from 6.00 p.m. - 700p.m. The first five coaching sessions are offered free of charge and then anyone wishing to join is asked to pay a Beginner membership fee of £25.

This entitles a Beginner member to practise at any time the Club is open and a rink is free and enter club competitions. A rink fee of £2.00 per hour is charged. All bowling equipment is provided at the Club. Flat soled shoes that have only been worn indoors are required but the club also has a selection of shoes that can be borrowed.

The Club is open most evenings so why not drop in to see what the Club has on offer and maybe give bowls a try!

With the indoor season now well underway, West Row Bowls Club is competing on all fronts.

Our Men's team entered the Denny Cup, one of the most prestigious national competitions in indoor bowls, often regarded as the equivalent of football's FA Cup. We reached the second round before bowing out, marking our best run in the competition for approximately 20 years – a fantastic achievement for the club.

We also competed in the Egham Trophy, fielding a team of eight men and eight ladies. Unfortunately, despite our best efforts, we were unable to progress beyond the first round.

Meanwhile, our County League campaigns are in full swing, with West Row going head-to-head against other indoor bowls clubs across Suffolk. There is plenty still to play for, and a top-half finish looks a realistic target across all our leagues.

Back at club level, our Indoor Club Competitions are also underway. With 11 competitions up for grabs, bowlers will be battling it out over the coming months to secure their place at our Finals Weekend in April 2027.

There is plenty of exciting indoor bowls still to come, and we look forward to seeing how the season unfolds. Good luck to everyone representing West Row!

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

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Tel.: 01638 495001
Email: mark.larkandlee@outlook.com

Churchwardens: Beryl Austin 01638 712708 - Debbie Eaglen
Elders: Tricia Leverington

Was it the White Lego Apollo Rocket (only 6 inches high or so, this was the early '70s), or was it the Electronic Circuit Set (that I recently discovered my parents still have despite it being 45 years old and probably no longer working).

Which is my favourite Christmas gift I received as a child?

Which is your favourite? Is it something simple, or something grand? Is it your favourite not because of its monetary value but because of who gave it to you?

To say that Christmas is about gift giving is to state the obvious. With the Christmas Advert battle already in full flow on TV, how could we think any different.

The best Christmas gifts are all about love. As a small boy, fascinated by the Apollo Space Missions and wanting to be an astronaut, a Lego Apollo Rocket was just right.

For Christians the giving and receiving of gifts is not just right because it is traditional, or because we are being sold a consumer dream, but because we believe that Christmas is ALL about being given a gift – that 2000 years ago in an obscure town on the edges of the Roman Empire, a baby was born that was God's gift of salvation for all of humanity.

That Christmas is all about the desire that the creator of the universe has to have a living, loving relationship with us that lasts into eternity.

I love singing Carols because for me they bring together those two aspects of Christmas – our celebration of it with traditions, gift giving and partying – and the reason behind it, the amazing gift of Jesus for all who will receive him.

At St. Peter's, we hope that you will join with us in celebrating Christmas at our Christmas events and services.

- **On Friday 4th December, like last year, we will be having a Family Christmas Craft event at St. Peter's from 5:30pm to 6:45pm to tie in with the Christmas Tree Lighting Ceremony on the green.**
- **On Sunday 20th December, at 4:00pm we will be having our Village Carol Service.**
- **On Christmas Eve (Thursday 24th December) at 11:30pm we will be having our Christmas Communion Service.**

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Down on the Allotment

December & January – A Little Winter Work Goes a Long Way!

As the days grow shorter and the temperatures drop, you might think it's time to hang up your gardening gloves until spring. But there's still plenty to do on the allotment during December and January, even if it's just a little planning and preparation for the growing season ahead.





December – Tidy Up and Protect

- **Protect your soil** – cover empty beds with cardboard, compost or well-rotted manure to suppress weeds and improve the soil.
- **Harvest winter vegetables** – Brussels sprouts, leeks, parsnips and kale can all provide delicious home-grown produce.
- **Plant garlic** – if the ground isn't frozen or waterlogged, there's still time to plant suitable varieties of garlic.
- **Look after your tools** – clean, sharpen and oil them so they're ready for spring.
- **Help wildlife** – leave a small undisturbed corner with leaves or stems to provide shelter for beneficial insects and other wildlife.

January – A Fresh Start for the Growing Year

- **Plan your vegetable beds** – think about what grew well last year and where to plant your crops this year. Rotating crops can help reduce pest and disease problems.
- **Order your seeds** – January is the perfect time to browse seed catalogues and try something new.
- **Start early sowing** – broad beans and hardy peas can be started under cover, while onions can be grown from seed indoors.
- **Check your fruit bushes** – on suitable frost-free days, prune established currants and gooseberries, avoiding any plants that need different treatment.
- **Keep on top of weeds** – remove any persistent weeds when the soil is workable, but avoid walking on beds when they're frozen or waterlogged.

A Little Tip for Winter Gardeners

Don't be tempted to dig or work the soil when it's soaking wet. This can damage its structure and make growing more difficult in spring. Sometimes the best thing you can do for your allotment is leave it alone!





And Finally...

An allotment isn't just about growing vegetables. It's a wonderful way to enjoy fresh air, gentle exercise and a sense of achievement throughout the year.

Happy gardening, and here's to a productive growing year ahead!

MORE WINTER ALLOTMENT IDEAS

Feed the birds

Put out fresh water and suitable bird food. Keep feeders clean.

Check your plot

Inspect paths, fencing and water butts after winter storms.

Plan for spring

List the seeds, compost and supplies you will need for the new season.

A little winter preparation makes a big difference in spring!

EARLY WINTER QUIZ of 2026

All answers are MAN MADE LANDMARKS across the WORLD
e.g. Parisian triumphal arch (3,2, 7) **ANS Arc de Triomphe**

1. Monument of freedom? (6,2,7) ANS.....
2. See England's capital from here? (6, 3) ANS.....
3. Elizabeth's large bell? (3,3) ANS.....
4. Film studio's notice (9,4) ANS.....
5. Could be the spiral coo? (9) ANS.....
6. 9.00a.m., 10.00 a.m. 4.00p.m. shape? (5,6) ANS.....
7. Shakespeare's lover's parapet? (7,7) ANS.....
8. A crying place in Jerusalem? (7, 4) ANS.....
9. Its entry is opposite the southern end of the A23? (8,4) ANS.....
10. Clay soldiers, horses and chariots that cannot fight? (10, 4) ANS.....
11. Four presidents set in stone? (5, 8) ANS.....
12. City of islands shopping crossing (6,6) ANS.....
13. Largest Art Deco sculpture in South America? (6,3,8) ANS.....
14. Al Capone & Robert Stroud resided here sometime?(8) ANS.....
15. Could be regarded as a slither of glass in a capital? (3,5) ANS.....
16. Small Scandinavian mythical sea creature? (6,7) ANS.....
17. Various cultures are depicted in a form of pecto?(5) ANS.....
18. Found on an English plain? (10) ANS.....
19. 3rd & 14th. letter column? (2,5) ANS.....
20. Italy's largest water spout? (5,8) 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 13th December 2026

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Children's Corner

Christmas Activity Page

Colour the Nativity Scene



Christmas Quiz

Circle the correct answer for each question.

1. **Where was Jesus born?**
   a) Nazareth b) Bethlehem c) Jerusalem
2. **What was the baby's name?**
   a) John b) Jesus c) David
3. **Who visited the baby and brought gifts?**
   a) The shepherds b) The Wise Men c) The angels
4. **What did the Wise Men follow to find Jesus?**
   a) A candle b) A star c) A rainbow

Word Search

Can you find these Christmas words in the grid?

B	S	T	A	R	M	P
E	A	N	G	E	L	H
T	J	O	S	E	P	H
H	E	S	U	S	W	E
L	S	H	E	P	H	E
E	M	A	R	Y	R	M
H	W	I	S	E	M	E
M	B	E	T	H	L	E

JESUS
MARY
JOSEPH
ANGEL
STAR
SHEPHERD
WISEMEN
BETHLEHEM

Did You Know?

Christmas is when we celebrate the birth of Jesus, God's Son, who came into the world to bring God's love to us all.





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