

Marsh Mail

Much of the magic of Christmas is the traditions that serve to remind us of the important things in life, family and community; Christmas lunches appear, Carol services take place, decorations festoon our homes and mulled wine keeps out the cold. It is no surprise then that Christmas is a key time in the College calendar in expressing those values.

The Music Department, led by Helen Jukes, is integral to Christmas at Linton Village College. Holy Trinity Church, Balsham was packed to the rafters, on 10th December, for the Christmas Service. Students from all years performed a wide range of favourites including Elgar's 'The Snow', 'Chanson de Nuit' as well as carols by Britten and Rutter. The Year 7 choir also put together a Christmas medley with a big band. It was a truly heart-warming sight to see proud parents, grandparents and excited students together in church celebrating and enjoying the festive spirit. It is a huge event to organise and our thanks go to Mrs Jukes for her leadership, and Holy Trinity Church for hosting, in making the service such a success.

As if that wasn't enough, the following week the Drama and Music Departments also hosted a 'Live Lounge for Cambodia' evening of music and drama to raise money for the Year 11 expedition to Cambodia. The set included performances from Mrs Clark's Music Theatre and a preview of The Caucasian Chalk Circle as well as some solo items. A busy Christmas indeed for the Arts Faculty.

It is sometimes easy to forget that Christmas traditions don't just happen. They require nurture, love and hard work to maintain them. This year, one LVC tradition lapsed which we will restore for Christmas 2020. 25 years ago, Jenny Pullin, Head of Food Technology and Lead Tutor hosted an afternoon tea for 20 members of the community as part of a Year 9 project. It grew! Since then, Mrs Pullin (now in her 36th year at the College) organised the 'Coffee and Carols' morning each December in the College Hall, complete with music, decorations and Year 9 students serving food and refreshments to over 120 members of our local community. To see three, sometimes four, generations from the villages sharing Christmas was a wonderful example of the Village College community ethos being lived out and has often brought out the odd sentimental tear in staff, guests and students alike. Charities including CLIC Sargent, Haverhill Food Bank and Anglia Air Ambulance have also benefitted from the event's raffles through the years.

Mrs Pullin continues to be Exams Officer at LVC but as part of her phased retirement has relinquished leadership of the event. In the words of Austria's most famous pensioner though: 'Coffee and Carols will be back' for 2020. Our thanks to Mrs Pullin for all her hard work and organisation of such an important event for so many people for the last quarter of a century.

LVC's annual Charities Fayre on the last day completed the autumn term. Students raised money for a number of local charities through an array of different stalls and activities. The students' entrepreneurial skills were very much on show in a celebratory atmosphere. It is a wonderful way to end the term in the Christmas spirit and to remind everyone of the values of giving, family and community.

Doug Brechin

Assistant Principal