

The Parish Newsletter of St Mary's, Weston Colville and St Andrew's, West Wratting
The views expressed herein are those of the contributors.
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Christingle Family Service

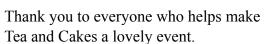


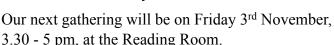
West Wratting Church
Sunday 3rd December 4-5 pm

Tea, Mulled Wine and Cakes afterwards

Kids - come to prepare the craft for this on **Saturday 2**nd **Dec** during the Village Hall Café 10.30

Tea and Cakes, Weston Colville





We look forward to seeing you for a chat, a cup of tea and of course a slice of cake.

Melanie and the Tea and Cakes Team (291319)

Saturday Morning Café, West Wratting

The Saturday morning café will run as usual on Saturday 4th November between 10.30 am and noon in the village hall.

The café works by different volunteers kindly offering to serve and donate cakes every month. There is always a play corner set up for kids, and a bookstall with second hand books.

There will also be a table with hand-knitted items on sale this month to raise money for charity. Granta School will also be running a fundraising stall. Please come and join us for a catch up over tea / coffee and delicious cake!

The December café on Saturday 2nd December will have mulled wine, and Christmas-themed arts and crafts for the kids!

Sherry (290070) and Catherine (291307)

Pop-Up Pub Returns

Cambridgeshire cider, Adnams lager, Guinness, prosecco, etc.

The Pop-up-Pub in the Reading Room (courtesy of 'The Portable Pint') will return on Friday 10th November from 6.30 - 10.30. Hot food will be available on the night (burgers/hot food for £4 - £5, cash only, no need to pre-order) as well as a full range of beers, wines, soft drinks and snacks – Real Ale from local breweries,

The event on 1st September attracted around seventy people who enjoyed an informal evening of relaxed chat, food and drink. Thanks to everyone who came, and we hope to see even more people in November.

Jeremy Newton

GARDEN MAINTENANCE

We offer a professional and reliable service from lawn mowing to new planting projects. Other services include tree surgery and hedge cutting.

Please telephone Zara or Francis at

Napier Garden Planning Tel: 01638 508847

Westley Waterless, Newmarket e-mail: napierfz@aol.com

Churchyard Clear-up - West Wratting

The autumn clear-up of St Andrew's churchyard will take place on **Saturday 11**th **November**, 10 am to 12 noon. Everyone welcome, and, as ever, doughnuts and coffee will be served.

Colin McCall (290036)

St Mary's Churchyard Clear-up and Bonfire

Saturday 4th November, from 10 am

Come and take part in the autumn clearing, and join us for soup and sausages around the bonfire.



West Wratting Pink Evening

Back by popular demand, the Pink Evening in West Wratting will be held on Friday 3rd November at 7.30 pm to raise money for Cancer Research UK.

We will have stalls, games, a raffle and a cash bar selling 'pink drinks'. Additionally, there will be a rolling 'taxi' service (within a 5 mile radius). £5.00 entry (including FREE drink).

More details on the Facebook page: www.facebook.com/pinkevening2017/

Karen Arnott (290242)

West Wratting Over 60s

The next meeting of the club, to include lunch, will be at The Chestnut Tree at 12.30 pm on Wednesday 1st November.

The last meeting of 2017 will be Christmas lunch at The Chestnut Tree, on 6th December at 12.30 pm.

Wendy Halls

St Andrews, West Wratting, Support Group

Following the next Saturday morning café in West Wratting village hall there will be a first meeting to discuss how the village might form a support group to assist St Andrew's church in remaining as a focus for village activity.

All villagers are invited, and the group welcomes anyone including those who do not attend church regularly.

12.15 pm, following the next village café
West Wratting Village Hall
Saturday 4th November

Alex Walsham

West Wratting Bridge

There will be no bridge club meeting in West Wratting on Friday 3rd November as the Pink Evening will be taking place in the village hall – a very welcome return to this great evening.

We hope to reschedule bridge for another evening in November but we will be back as usual on Friday 1st December – please join us then, 7.30 in the village hall

Sherry (Sherry.odonovan@gmail.com)

St Andrew's Auction of Promises

Please come to a planning meeting at 84 High Street West Wratting on 20th November at 7.30 pm.

If you cannot make it, please ring me with your ideas beforehand. Many thanks.

Jeanette Job (290706)

Litter

The litter picking teams in West Wratting and Weston Colville have done a great job within our parish boundaries. Three fly tips were reported to me in the Weston Colville area and since the road scrapings have been put down on Fox Road, three fly tips have been recorded there, for one of which we are hoping to obtain a prosecution.

We have an excellent relationship with the South Cambs litter and fly tipping teams, so if you spot a fly tip or a car dump, please contact me. The two fly tip experts are ex-policemen and it is surprising what



evidence they can glean from a fly tip, and won't hesitate to prosecute if at all possible.

Meanwhile, it would be nice for all litter pickers to meet – can I suggest Sunday 12th November at 12.45 pm onwards at The Chestnut Tree – accompanied, of course, by spouses, partners and dogs. The first drink will, as ever, be on me.

Colin McCall (290036)

Indian Music and Dance

The stage in West Wratting village hall has never been put to better use than on the early evening of Saturday 14th October, when we were treated to a rare display of Southern Indian music and dance. Our village resident Gomathy Moorthie and daughter Sowmi played a number of gently soothing Ragas on their traditional instruments, the Veena, then elder daughter Viji and her star pupil Isha performed some beautiful solo dances. To close, Viji brought some of the younger members of the very enthusiastic audience on stage, for an interactive dance lesson, demonstrating why she is such an effective and inspiring teacher in her own Indian Dance classes in Norwich.

We had a great audience of around fifty people, encompassing all ages from infants upwards, all evidently enthralled by the spectacle.

We are immensely grateful to the Moorthie family and friend for providing us with such wonderful entertainment, and to the audience, whose generous donations towards our village hall refurbishments totalled £245.

Numerous people have echoed my own feeling that we hope we can look forward to another such event in the future

Mike Rowland (290788)



West Wratting Harvest Songs of Praise

It was standing room only on Sunday 8th October when over a hundred gathered in St Andrew's for an informal all-age Songs of Praise service in the recently restored church to celebrate the Harvest. A collection for Tearfund's appeal for the South Asia Flood Victims raised over £300, and after the service everyone gathered in the churchyard to enjoy potatoes and bananas baked on a camp fire. A very happy occasion!

The next similar event will be the Christingle Service on 3rd December.

John Harvey

West Wratting Harvest Supper

I would like to say a big thank you to all those who supported this year's harvest supper. It was a great evening, only made possible with your support.

This year we made a profit of £530 which was given to the Meadow Primary School to enable them to buy new books for the school library. The library has been a casualty of financial cuts and through our support it will benefit the younger members of our community by offering an extensive range of children's literature. Next year any profits raised through the supper will be put towards St Andrews porch and toilets project.

Karen

Thank You

A huge thank you to everyone who came to the Macmillan Coffee Morning at Fourwinds, Carlton, and donated cakes and raffle prizes, and a big thank you to Ian Wylie for the wonderful turkey raffle. We raised a massive £700.

Helen & Bena



West Wratting Progressive Supper Saturday 20th January 2018

There has been a good response to the progressive supper notice – thank you. We don't need total commitment yet but it would be very helpful to know if you hope to join us so that we can start working on a plan. Please email either of us.

Tamara and Sherry tamara.keith@gmail.com Sherry.odonovan@gmail.com

RAF Wratting Common – Remembrance Sunday

There will be a short service at the memorial on Sunday 12th November at 12 noon. The memorial is situated at Weston Woods Farm, Weston Colville, CB21 5NR. We hope to be joined by some of the

veterans who served with XC Squadron, 1651 Heavy Conversion Unit and 195 Squadron. Also, cadets from 1451 (Haverhill) Squadron of the Air Training Corps will be on parade. Wreaths will be laid in memory of all those



who served here and throughout the world, especially those who gave their lives in the cause of freedom. Attendees are invited to lay wreaths or crosses for those they wish to remember, and anyone is welcome to attend.

WE WILL REMEMBER THEM.

Dan Heath (07736 737174, 01440 730192)

Friends of Wratting Common
(rafwrattingcommon@gmail.com)

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CRIME PREVENTION EVENT

in West WrattingVillage Hall 79 High Street, West Wratting, CB21 5LU Wednesday 8th November from 5.00 pm to 7.30 pm

Cambridgeshire Constabulary invites you to come along to meet your local policing team and receive security advice on how to protect your home.

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Weston **Colville** Reading Room



Weston Colville Cinema Club

On Wednesday 1st November we'll show a biopic of a musician, and on 6th December, it'll be a classic Christmas film. Both evenings will



start at 7.30 pm with a pre-screening talk. For details, see posters at the Reading Room, or look on the Reading Room website. Alternatively, email to the address below to subscribe to our mailing list.

Talk on Beekeeping



Wednesday 8th November, 7.30 pm.

Andrew Durham is a local beekeeper who has been keeping hives at Weston Colville for four years, and talks engagingly about

bees and the challenges faced by beekeepers today. He's a member of the British Beekeepers' Association, and introduces others to beekeeping as a member of the Cambridge Beekeepers' Association training team.



Circular Walk

For what turned out to be our first ever no-dog walk in September, we were bathed in sunshine.



We're next heading out on Saturday 11th November, for approximately 5 miles. Meet at the Reading room at 10 am, BYO lunch and maybe something to share.

Village History Exhibition

We're holding this from 30th December until 5th January, and as well as pictures and tales from the village archive, and records held in Cambridge, we'd love to include any photos you have, or stories you know of your house or the village. Please get in touch. More details in December's Chassenge.

For all events, refreshments will be available, and all are welcome. Enquiries: 291475, jacquelinetheteacher@hotmail.com

46 Chapel Road, Weston Colville, Cambridge CB21 5NX For directions, booking and details of all events, see our website, www.thereadingroom.org.uk

West Wratting Village Hall AGM

The AGM of the Village Hall Management Committee is scheduled for Monday 11th December at 7.30 pm, when the report and accounts for the last financial year will be presented. All interested residents of our village are welcome to attend. New committee members must be elected at the AGM. If you might like to join the VHMC we would like to hear from you in advance of the meeting.

Mike Rowland (290788), Anne Catchpole (290967)

Post Office, Weston Colville

I am really sorry to be making this announcement, but I have decided it's time for me to retire, so the doors will be closing on 21st December.

At the moment there are no plans to re-open the post office and store, but if anyone is willing to take it on in their own property, or maybe a hall or similar, I can send contact details to the post office.

I have enjoyed my 33+ years, but I need to step down now. I'll miss everyone, and I thank you all for supporting the post office for all those years.

Chris

Road Closure in Carlton

The main thoroughfare through the village of Carlton is being completely closed between 6th and 9th November for road repairs. A diversionary route is being set up through Weston Colville.

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West Wratting Oil Syndicate

October fill up results – although I just squeezed past the Boilerjuice '2,000 litre' price in October, it was as hard to beat it as it was for the September syndicate fill up.

19 houses in West Wratting participated in the order that was placed on 10th October with Goff Petroleum, who won the order with a price of 38.10p per litre, which was a small saving of 0.5p against my benchmark Boilerjuice 2,000 litres + price of 38.60p. All prices + VAT. Prices are going up, but less quickly than I thought they would.

There will not be a West Wratting syndicate fill up this month as we don't get a worthwhile price reduction in the run up to Christmas, so the next will be January 2018.

Richard Holness

Weston Colville Oil Co-operative

Ordering deadline: noon, Sunday 26th November.

Church End to the bottom of Mill Hill:

Alastair Douglas (291475, or salguoda@hotmail.co.uk)

Chapel Road, Common Road, Horseshoe Lane:

Anne Vidler (290010, or anne.vidler@talk21.com)

Any orders left by email will always be acknowledged; if you do not get a reply, we haven't received your order. Please don't phone before 8 am or after 10 pm (leave a message during the day).

We keep a note of any special requirements, such as needing a phone call the day before delivery to arrange access; please let us know if you wish to change these. The minimum delivery is 500 litres; this is a Trading Standards ruling because of the

accuracy of lorry gauges. To get the minimum ask for 500 litres; do not ask for a 'top up' because you might get a 'fill up'.

Orders will be collated and placed shortly after the order deadline and deliveries may or may not begin the same week. If you are close to running out, tell your contact. The price will not be known until the order is placed, and the supplier may ring for payment before delivery (failure to reply to this call may put your order in jeopardy) or bill you direct after delivery.

Please be aware that most suppliers now add 2% to the invoice for credit card payment. Debit cards and cheques attract no surcharge.

Please ensure we have your correct address and post code because some deliveries have been delayed due to the lack of correct information.

Weston Colville Neighbourhood Watch (NHW)

There were burglaries in two houses in The Common, West Wratting on 10th October. This suggests that we need to take great care with our personal security, because no one wants to suffer a burglary, lose a handbag, or valuable items from a car, or the vehicle itself.

The police are involved in a number of projects designed to help us all, like 'Hate Crime Awareness events' and 'Tackling Domestic Abuse'. The Cambridgeshire and Peterborough 'Prevention and Intervention Project' will provide long term support to young people who are victims of domestic and/or sexual violence. This project has been made possible after a successful partnership with the Police Commissioner and Cambridgeshire County Council.

RUN HIDE and TELL is a new national campaign which aims to educate young people to stay safe in a terrorist attack. TV star Bear Grylls and England footballer Jamie Vardy are among the stars supporting the first phase of an initiative designed to teach 11 to 16 year olds how to react in the unlikely event they are caught in a gun or knife terror attack – including advice not to wait around taking pictures on their phones. See https://youtu.be/s3y51Vd4kJ4. Children will be taught to RUN if they are able to, HIDE if they are not, and TELL police of the threat only when it is safe to do so. They will also be advised to warn



hers about any on-going threat, and crucially told

others about any on-going threat, and crucially told NOT to stop and use their phones until they are safely away from danger.

The Herbert Protocol – when a friend or family member with dementia goes missing it can be incredibly distressing. The Herbert Protocol is a national initiative which encourages carers to keep a record of key information that could be useful to the police in the event of a vulnerable person going missing. Helpful information includes phone numbers, places the person often goes, medication they are taking, a photograph of them, etc. See https://www.cambs.police.uk/Help/TheHerbertProtocol/

Remember, if you need immediate assistance call 999. If you have information or something makes you suspicious call 101; alternately use https://www.contactcambspolice.uk/Report/Crime/

PS I am aware, and so are the police, that 101 has had its difficulties lately. Big improvements to 101 are in hand.

Allen Scott (290837, allen.scott70@googlemail.com)

West Wratting Book Club

The book for October was 'A Heart So White' by Javier Marias, translated by Margaret Jull Costa.

The award winning author is extremely well thought of in his native country of Spain and around the world. He speaks several languages and appears to be very good at 'reading' other people, with a gift for observation. He has obviously used this for certain aspects of the story.

The book opens with a suicide and then moves forward to the narrator's description of his own



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marriage and honeymoon, and then other events from his and his father's lives which link back to the opening event. It was felt that the language was amazingly descriptive and the translation brilliant, although some thought it took a bit of time to get into. It is almost a random stream of thoughts sparked by current issues, while he maintains the thread of the relationship with his wife. Another person commented on the detailed language and the telling of innermost thoughts – quite astounding. It is to some degree repetitive which could be annoying but also helps to make it more dramatic.

Scores were between 8 and 9 and we would recommend it although it is not the sort of book to try to read last thing at night when you are sleepy, as it needs concentration.

Our next meeting will be on Wednesday 15th November at 8 pm in The Chestnut Tree. The book to read for this month is 'The Shepherd's Life' by James Rebanks.

Linda Gorman



BURROUGH GREEN CHRISTMAS FAYRE

Saturday
9th December

10.30 am - 4.00 pm

Reading Room, Burrough Green

As well as home-crafted Christmas gifts, we will be selling light lunches, cakes and beverages during the day.





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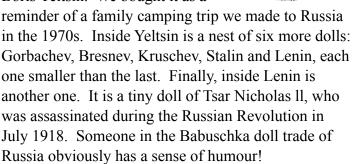
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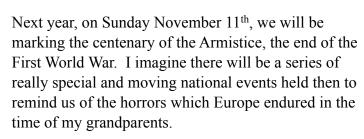
NATURAL POOLS

Ministry Matters

In our lounge, on a bookshelf, is a Russian 'Babuschka' wooden doll of the Russian President Boris Yeltsin. We bought it as a



This month, as we hold our Remembrance Sunday services on 12th November, we are reminded of all that happened a century ago. Our services will be at 10.45 am in church at Balsham, Little Abington, and Weston Colville, and at noon at the war memorial on Wratting Common.



As we wear our poppies this month and hear of family tales of the war from our parents and from our friends' parents, and as we stand silently through the two minutes' silence, please remember all those men who went to France and to Belgium from these Cambridgeshire villages between 1914 and 1918 to give their lives in the battlefields of the Great War.

Keith Johnson

Bonfires

Autumn is a traditional time for bonfires, but these can be a source of annoyance to neighbours if too frequent, or badly timed. South Cambs has some useful guidelines on this topic:

https://www.scambs.gov.uk/content/smoke-and-bonfires

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Weston Colville Parish Council

A meeting was held on 4th September.

Planning:

Discussed and voted by parish council:

Ref	Address	Proposal	Decision
S/ 2984/ 17	Weston Woods	Installation of new portacabin office, access ramp and 5 parking bays	All present voted to support

Status of applications with District Council:

Ref	Address	Proposal	Status	
S/ 1993/ 17	Weston Green Barn, Common Rd	Planning consent for erection of an agricultural building	Approved 10/08/17	
S/ 6 Horseshoes 2271/ Lane 17		Front elevation porch extension. Demolition of old outbuilding and construction of new single story rear extension	Approved 17/08/17	
S/ 2467/ 17	25 Spring Terrace, Church End	rear, first floor		
S/ 2254/ 17	St Mary's Church	Extension to churchyard burial ground	In hand	

Ditch and stream clearing: drains at Mill Hill / Brinkley Rd, Church End were reported by the clerk to Highways as needing attention after recent heavy rain highlighted the issue of the amount of surface water flowing down the highway and not into the drains. Nicola Burden's response was: Gullies have been cleansed and all running fine, heavy rainfall means water takes longer to disperse, aware of problem with houses along Brinkley Road but solution was for farmer to dig ditch. No further action taken, report closed. Councillors requested the clerk find out when the drains were flushed out.

With a view to clearing the ditches in Weston Green it was agreed to start by asking the Reading Room Committee to clear their ditches first and then approach other land owners once this has been done.

Council Verge Cutting Responsibilities: the parish council is responsible for cutting verges within the 30 mph zones only. It was confirmed and agreed that verges are to only be cut to a width of 1m in these areas. It was further agreed that the two roadside verges around Weston Green recreational field be cut right up to the hedge, from public footpath sign on High Street towards junction of Horseshoe Lane and along Horseshoe Lane.

Playground: concern over occupancy of Church End playground was discussed. It was agreed that a lock and chain be put on the gate.

At the church end playground the grass has been cut. Nettles to be cleared from picket fencing at the Green.

All the equipment at both playgrounds appears to be in sound condition. There is a proposal to buy a new slide for Church End.

Finance:

Receipts – £456.75 from CCC towards grass cutting. Payments since last meeting – £500 to Simon Ratford for grass cutting.

Payments agreed - £225 to Melanie Laing for clerk's wages, and £250 grant to the cricket club.

Date of Next Meeting: 20th November at 7.30 pm in the Reading Room.

Vacancy for Parish Clerk and Councillor

We currently have a vacancy for a parish clerk and councillor. Anyone interested please contact the chairman on 01223 290010 or at ray.vidler@haindaniels.com





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Weston Colville Marsh Tit Study

This is the time of year when this year's fledglings are starting to know hunger for the first time. They don't yet have the experience to know where to look for wild food. They will die in droves. We know that half of all marsh tits perish – adults and juveniles – when there's no additional food, possibly because there's not enough woodland left to provide enough winter food for them.

Bird food doesn't have to be expensive. A lot of birds are partial to lard, left over from cooking the Sunday joint. Mix in some seeds and berries from the garden. Blackbirds and fieldfares are very fond of windfall apples. If you dig up worms while gardening, or find leatherjackets in your lawn, pop them on the bird table. Marsh tits prefer sunflower hearts, which are cheaper than peanuts at the moment.

Our marsh tits are definitely coming to garden feeders now. Grey over Green 'Titty McTitface' from Lower Wood is a regular visitor to Joyce's garden in Mill Hill, as is young Yellow over Red 'Carpe Diem' from Great Coven's Wood. A new youngster – White over Black 'Vinnie' - accompanied 'Titty' on one of its visits to Joyce's excellent eaterie. Please watch out for them in your gardens and on your walks.

John Rogers found a dead knot on Snettisham beach. It was ringed, so we could learn that it had reached the ripe old age of over eight years, having been ringed as a fully-grown bird at Snettisham on 6th December 2009. In the Old World, knot breed in Arctic Russia and winter in West Africa, following the coast between the two, and passing through the UK for a bite to eat. So John's knot had travelled around 65,000 miles across the world. Not bad for a bird just 24 cm long and weighing 140 grams, with short little legs.

R BRISTLEY

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Research at the University of Exeter – where our own Rachel Durham studies – has shown that individual fish have different personalities. (https:// www.sciencedaily.com/releases/

2017/09/170925095441.htm). Here in Weston Colville and West Wratting, we can certainly confirm that different bird species have different personalities. With apologies to Dickens, here is 'A Tale of Two Birdies'. Both were treated with exactly the same kindness and respect.

Goldfinches are very relaxed characters. This young male is so chilled that he's still got food in his beak

from the garden feeders, despite being caught, measured and even having his photo taken.







[cocoon]

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Ah, blue tits . . . this tiny bird, averaging 10.9 g, has the heart of a lion (admittedly, a homicidal lion with anger management issues). He doesn't care that I'm 25 times as long and 11,000 times his weight, he's doing his best to draw my blood. You just have to admire such courage. It makes them excellent parents, raising up to fifteen youngsters in just three weeks. To sum up blue tits in one word is easy: ouch!



As usual, please report sightings of marsh tits, ringed or unringed, to myself at cambsmarti@gmail.com, Mel at m_stammers@btinternet.com or Anne at Chasses. We're always pleased to hear from you. :)

Alex Inzani and your friendly neighbourhood ringing team, for the BTO National Ringing Scheme

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Bringing Food & Friends Together

Saturday 11th November 2017 2pm to 4,30pm Balsham Church Institute

Featuring:

The Radwinter Wild Game Company; Parkins Farm Butchers; The Lamb Charcuterie Company; Jigsaw Bakery; Chocs-Away/CB21 Cheesecake Co; Jane's Cupcakes; Borakis Greek Foods; The Wild Flour Kitchen savoury foods; iBalans Nutrition; Nikki's Homemade preserves; Spoonstruck ice cream; The Old Butchers/Plumbs Dairy; allotment produce; Weston Colville Honey; Ethnic in the Village silver jewellery; NV Candles; Helen Wiseman Illustration; LVC Fundraiser; Michael Moore Wood Turner; Lord Conrad's Brewery, Raffle and Treasure Hunt for under 10's at 2.15pm.

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The Meadow School

Life in our school is always full of community spirit and this half term has been no exception. We were thrilled to have some of our Y6 children stand so

confidently in the church and lead our harvest service, to the delight of their family members and the whole school. It really was a community



event, with our families all donating food produce to Jimmy's Night Shelter, who provide an amazing service to people who find themselves for many reasons without a home or the knowledge of where their next meal may come from. It is always humbling for us to hear how much impact a few tins and packets of dried goods will have. Harvest Festival was quickly followed by another event that relied on good will and community spirit – the annual craft and gift fair. Our families and staff once again rolled up their sleeves and got stuck in setting up, baking cakes, running stalls, washing dishes and clearing up. It is no mean feat to put on an event like this and this year Bernadette Battom took it on with enthusiasm. A huge thank you to Bernadette, her team and everyone who came to the fair.

The week after craft fair we held our annual Meadow Mile sponsored walk. This year our dressing up theme followed our whole school topic of 'Out of this World'. We were amazed at the ingenuity of the costumes and the perseverance of our children who

walked their mile in them! We are hoping to have raised enough money to buy some permanent, giant outdoor musical instruments and a willow structure for the playground and field to enable our children to be creative in a different way.

If you have a child due to start school in September 2018 and would like to come and look around our school please contact the school office to book a tour.

Nichola Connor, Headteacher

Daisy Chains Pre-School

Daisy Chains Pre-School has availability for immediate starters or for those wishing to enrol in 2018.

Set in West Wickham Village Hall, Daisy Chains is a small preschool which accepts children from two to five years. It is very well established (will be celebrating its 40th birthday next year) with exceptional, experienced staff, and a very low child to staff ratio. It has fantastic facilities, a large playground, and access to a nature reserve. If you feel your child would benefit from being with smaller groups of children then Daisy Chains will give their education a great start, and preparation for attending primary school.

We are open Monday - Friday 9.30 - 12.30, with lunch clubs on Tuesday and Thursday until 2.30.

On Saturday 25th November between 2 - 4pm, we will be holding our Christmas Fair, with craft stalls, Christmas crafts for children, raffle, cake stall, refreshments, and Father Christmas' grotto! This is an important fundraiser for us, a fun afternoon with entertainment for all ages, and we look forward to getting you in the Christmas spirit!



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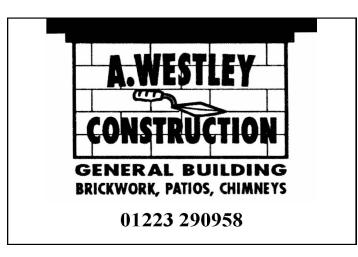
The Marsh Mail (news from Linton Village College)

Education news has been awash with challenges faced by schools. There have been a number of high profile campaigns, including

www.schoolsjustwannahavefunds.org to address endemic funding issues that are affecting our ability to deliver the excellent education that all children deserve.

After months of consultation, the National Funding Formula was published in September. Despite a commitment to tackle inherent inequalities that saw schools in Cambridgeshire being grossly underfunded on the basis of historic formulae, the indicative figures demonstrate little real improvement.

Linton Village College stands to gain a nominal amount over the coming years. Unfortunately much of this is wiped out by real-term cost increases, and meanwhile caps to protect the funding of better-off counties maintain existing inequities. If we were positioned over the Essex border we would see around £105,000 more in our annual budget; if we were in Greater Manchester we'd be over a million pounds better off; in Hackney we would receive an extra £2.5 million



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Making the books balance is becoming increasingly difficult. We are keen to maintain a holistic and enriching learning experience at LVC, avoiding a narrowing of the curriculum that other schools in the area have resorted to, or having to cut back on muchneeded pastoral and learning support, especially as access to other services is under significant pressure.

We are really grateful to the school community for supporting us with fundraising. The Chestnut Tree at West Wratting raised over £1,300 from donations from their beer festival at the start of term, which has been committed to improving IT resources. The monies raised from our annual sponsored walk will help to update school facilities.

The Friends of LVC have recruited a new Chair and Secretary to the committee and we are thrilled that this important source of support will continue. Anyone wishing to volunteer can contact <code>friends@lvc.org</code>

I know that many LVC families past and present and the wider community already contribute to LVC's Trust Fund. If you would like to contribute on a monthly, annual or one-off basis, please contact <code>jackie.Bailey@lvc.org</code>

Helena Marsh, Executive Principal



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Balsham Gardening Club

At the October meeting the club enjoyed an illustrated talk by Colin Kirkland on 'Wildlife in the garden', with birds, frogs, butterflies, moths, squirrels and hedgehogs all represented.

We heard that house sparrows and starlings are amongst those in decline and there are a number of theories as to why this is, including the reduction in flying insects that provide food for some species. It is also thought that global warming may reduce the need for some migratory birds to travel to warmer climes to



Mulled Wine & Mince Pies Face Painting Meet Elsa & Anna Raffle and Prizes Christmas Carols

Christmas light switch on by Father Christmas himself And lots, lots more, fun for all the family!



All funds raised will support Burrough Green School & Playgroup

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www.burchill.co.uk gb@burchill.co.uk

breed. Decline is not universal and the collared dove is now one of the more common birds, although it only arrived in the UK in the mid 1950s, with the first pair breeding in Cambridge in 1961.

The meeting on 7th November will include the AGM, followed by a talk on 'Gardens of China' by Warren George Thorpe. As always, visitors and new members are welcome.

The committee urgently needs volunteers to join them. The commitment is not huge, although opportunities exist for anyone wanting to take a more active role. Committee meetings are held around four times a year to organise the plant sale, village show, AGM and Christmas event.

Jennie Tipler

West Wickham and District Gardening Club

The club had a very interesting first meeting of the season when Ian Seager gave an illustrated talk on 'Aquatics, Marginals and Bog Plants'. Many of our members have ponds and they were eager to know which plants would be suitable for their own garden, be it a boggy area or shallow or deep water. Ian has spent his whole life in all aspects of horticulture and was able to tell us which plants to avoid as well as those which were rather special in his opinion.

Next month, on 20th November, we have a change to our programme. Ian Bedford will be coming to give a talk on 'Garden Bugs - Cohabit, Conserve or Control', which should be a most informative talk and one that is very relevant to today's concerns about our environment. Visitors are most welcome at West Wickham Village Hall, 7.30 pm. Paula Dyason's talk on 'Daylilies' now moves to March.

Rosemary Yallop (01799 584262)

Appointments at Health Centre

We have a very high demand for appointments, but we never turn away urgent cases, and continue to offer unlimited on-the-day access for urgent problems; we are the only local surgery doing this.

Our routine ability to book ahead depends on the clinician, and the current wait for the next available routine appointment is three weeks. For doctors with specialist areas of expertise the wait may be longer, but this service is far quicker than waiting for a hospital specialist.

Following discussion at the patient group, we have implemented a change to our system to generate an extra 64 routine appointments a week. Unfortunately we also have to deal with some staff sickness at the moment (down six sessions a week).

Jane Bertram, Granta Medical Practices

Save the Children

Linton & District Branch

Coffee Morning

Thursday 16th November Mulberry Cottage, 10 Fox Road, Balsham 11am —12.30pm

Produce stall, Book stall, Christmas cards

Raffle

£1.00 entry

Cambridgeshire Fire & Rescue Service

As the colder months draw in, we begin using our fires, burners and chimneys once again. We experience an average of 81 chimney fires a year in Cambridgeshire alone.

To ensure you keep your home safe from fire, follow our top tips:

- Whatever fire you have or fuel you burn, it is vitally important to have your chimney swept to avoid a build-up of ash and soot
- Avoid burning resinous woods (that quickly build up soot)
- Only burn fuels suitable for your burner (never burn anything other than wood in a wood burner)

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- Do not overload the grate/appliance
- Do not bank fires too high and remember to let them burn out well before you go to bed
- Check the hearth, floor and furnishings near the fire for hot sparks/embers
- Do not place objects on or over the mantelpiece, which may cause you to stand too close to the fire in order to reach them
- Use a fire/spark guard to prevent accidental fires and make sure it has the kite mark or conforms to British/European standards
- Inspect your chimney breast, particularly the roof space. Make sure it is sound and sparks/fumes cannot escape through cracks or broken bricks
- For each slow burning period there should follow a quick burn to dry out unwanted tar/creosote deposits and to warm up the chimney again
- At the end of each burning season and at least once during the season the entire system should be cooled and thoroughly cleaned to maintain top performance.

Also ensure that wood and multi-fuel burners are installed and regularly maintained by a qualified and competent engineer. You can refer to www.solidfuel.co.uk for further advice and information.

Most importantly, ALWAYS fit a smoke alarm that carries the kite mark or British Standard number 5446. Test your alarm weekly by pressing the test button, and know the life of your battery.

ALWAYS also install a carbon monoxide (CO) alarm in the room where the burner is installed.



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Fireworks and bonfire night can be plenty of fun for all of the family to enjoy, and going to an organised firework display instead of holding one at home can be a great way of supporting your local community. If you plan on using fireworks or lighting a bonfire at your own home however, please ensure you consider our safety advice below:

Fireworks:

- Only buy fireworks marked BS 7114
- Light fireworks at arm's length using a taper, stand well back and never go back to a lit firework
- Never throw fireworks or put them in your pockets or clothing
- Light sparklers one at a time wearing gloves, and place used sparklers in a bucket of water
- Never give sparklers to children under five
- It is illegal to sell fireworks to someone under the age of 18 or to light fireworks in a public place
- For more information on Firework Safety, visit: www.hse.gov.uk
- Always consider animals and wildlife nearby when holding a firework display
- Always consider the location of a bonfire or firework display, smoke drifting near or on to surrounding roads can have devastating consequences.

Bonfires:

- Do not light bonfires in unsuitable weather conditions, particularly when windy
- · Do not leave bonfires unattended
- Keep a bucket of water or a hosepipe handy just in case
- Build bonfires well clear of buildings, garden sheds, fences and hedges

www.westwratting.org.uk

for information on:

What's On Directory

Parish Council

Parish History Church News Local Sports
Parish Matters

Village Hall Events
Village Calendar

CAMBRIDGESHIRE FIRE & RESCUE SERVICE

Please send us your contributions, events, notices, photos and comments.

- Never use flammable liquids to start the fire
- Never burn dangerous rubbish such as aerosols, paint, foam furniture, rubber tyres, batteries, etc
- Before you light the bonfire, check that children and animals are not hiding inside and are a safe distance away.

Cats and Fireworks

The issue with fireworks is that they are being used more commonly and not just on 5th November. This makes it very tricky to plan for such an event. Commonly, the advice given around Fireworks Night is to make sure that all animals are inside. This is not necessarily the right advice for every cat. Firstly, not all cats are scared of loud bangs and some will find it much more stressful to be forced to stay inside when they would rather be out. We must remember that cats are born with a very strong survival instinct and are very good at ensuring their own safety. If they are outside, they will find a place to hide if they are scared. So if your cat is usually allowed out at night then simply treat her as normal.

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With indoor cats who are a little worried by loud noises then you might consider ensuring that all the windows and curtains are closed as this will go some way towards reducing the noise. You could also make sure that a TV or radio is on. Another important thing is to ensure that your indoor cat has access to her favourite hiding place, in this instance this may be under a bed. So the overall message is to allow your cat access to where they wish to be as they know what they need. If possible, try to ensure that your cat has access to the indoors via a cat flap, or ensure that you are at home to let them in or out, depending on their wishes. Another thing to remember is to try not to make too much fuss if she appears frightened, just behave calmly and let her know you are there. It is possible for owners to 'encourage' fearful behaviour by rewarding it with cuddles, increasing their cat's anxiety.

Plugging in a Feliway and/or Pet Remedy Diffuser (available to purchase at the clinic) a couple of weeks before Bonfire Night can increase your cat's feeling of security within their own home. This helps to create a calm and safe environment which they can retreat into when frightened.

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St Andrew's, West Wratting (10.45 am, unless noted otherwise)			SET UP	FLOWERS	CLEANING
(ALL SERVICES SUBJECT TO PROGRESS OF REDECORATION)					
Sunday 5th November	Holy Communion	Canon John Pinder	Ben	Linda	Pauline
Sunday 12 th November, noon at RAF Memorial	Remembrance service at Weston Colville, 10.45	Very Rev Keith Johnson	n/a	Alex	Maggie
Sunday 19th November	Morning Prayers	Steven Wheeler	Sisse	Louise	Fanny
Sunday 26th November	Holy Communion	Very Rev Keith Johnson	Alex	Louise	Jenny

St Mary's, Weston Colville (9.15 am)			
	FLOWERS	CLEANING	
November	Ruth	Gay	

Roman Catholic Mass

Every Saturday at 5.30 pm, Sundays at 10 am and noon, at St Philip Howard Church, Cherry Hinton. Every Saturday at 6.30 pm, Sundays at 10 am, Haverhill (St Felix Roman Catholic Church)

37 1 2015				
November 2017				
Wed 1	West Wratting Over 60s			
	Weston Colville cinema club, Reading Room			
Fri 3	Tea & Cakes, Reading Room, Weston Colville			
	Pink Evening, West Wratting			
Sat 4	Saturday Morning Café, West Wratting			
	St Andrew's support group meeting			
	Churchyard clearup and bonfire, St Mary's			
Tue 7	Balsham gardening club AGM			
Wed 8				
	Crime prevention event, West Wratting			
Fri 10	Pop-up pub, Weston Colville			
Sat 11	Churchyard clearup, St Andrew's			
	Circular walk from Reading Room			
	Balsham community market			
Sun 12	2 Remembrance service, RAF Wratting Common			
	Litter pickers meeting, The Chestnut Tree			
Wed 15	d 15 West Wratting book club			
Thur 16	16 Coffee morning, Balsham, for Save the Children			
Mon 20				
	Auction of promises planning, West Wratting			
	West Wickham & District gardening club			
Sat 25	Coppicing, Lower Wood			
	Daisy Chains Christmas fair, West Wickham			
Sun 26	Deadline for ordering oil, Weston Colville			

December 2017

Decem	December 2017		
Fri 1	Tea & Cakes, Reading Room, Weston Colville		
	First Friday bridge, West Wratting		
Sat 2	Saturday Morning Café, West Wratting		
Sun 3	Christingle service, St Andrew's		
Wed 6	West Wratting Over 60s, Christmas lunch		
	Christmas lights switch on, Burrough Green		
	Weston Colville cinema club, Reading Room		
Sat 9	Christmas fayre, Burrough Green		
Mon 11	West Wratting VHMC AGM		

Mobile library: first Tuesday of each month		
(7 th November, 5 th December)		
High Street, West Wratting	12.15 - 12.45	
Post Office, Weston Green	1.50 - 2.15	
Mill Hill. Weston Colville	2.20 - 2.50	

Revd Kathy Bishop, Associate Priest tel: 892288 email: revkathy@hotmail.co.uk Very Revd Keith Johnson, Honorary Associate Priest tel: 890835 email: jkeith1412@gmail.com Mr Steven Wheeler, Licensed Lay Minister tel: 290643 email: steven@juicyfruitsuk.com Mrs Rosemary Mead. Authorised Lav Minister tel: 891718 email: leonardavmead@hotmail.com Mr Keith Day, Authorised Lay Minister tel: 891527 email: keithdday@btinternet.com

Churchwardens: St Mary's – Ian Ashbridge (291344) Philippa Coates (290842) St Andrew's – Sebastian Bain (403415), Alex Walsham (291491)

Parish Council contacts:

Weston Colville parish council chairman – Ray Vidler, ray.vidler@haindaniels.com, 01223 290010

West Wratting parish clerk – Jenny Richards,

j.richards597@btinternet.com, 01223 665260

Church Administrator: Caroline (Cazzy) Walshe, 7churches.seven@gmail.com, 01223 891443

Parish Nurse: Claire Gillett.

7churches.parishnurse@gmail.com, 07498 994205

Monday 6th & 20th November, Black bins: Monday 4th & 18th December

From Monday 11th December, paper caddies will no longer be collected, and from that date paper should be placed directly into the blue bin.

Monday 13th & 27th November, Blue bins:

Monday 11th & Wed 27th December

Monday 13th November, Green bins:

Monday 11th December

Editor: Anne Bragg (290550) or email: editor@challengemag.co.uk

Thank you for all your articles, news, etc. If these are sent by email, they are always acknowledged; if you don't get a reply, your items haven't been received. Contributions can also be left at Weston Colville Post Office. Some may have to be edited, to fit the space available, and are published at the discretion of the editor.

> **December issue's copy date:** Monday 20th November