

Challenge

The Parish Newsletter of St Mary's, Weston Colville and St Andrew's, West Wrattling

The views expressed herein are those of the contributors.

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Saturday Morning Café, West Wrattling

We enjoyed another wonderful gathering at the café on 5th August. The café will run next on Saturday 2nd September between 10.30 am and noon in the village hall.

The café works by different volunteers 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.

Please come and join us for a catch up over tea / coffee and delicious cake!

Sherry (290070) and Catherine (291307)

Tea and Cakes, Weston Colville

The school summer holidays mean that Tea and Cakes is a bit quieter. It's lovely how each gathering is different. As always, thank you so much all of you who help out.



We get together next on Friday 1st September, from 3.30 until 5 pm, in the Reading Room. Please come along for a chat over a cuppa and a piece of cake.

Melanie and the Tea and Cakes Team (291319)

West Wrattling Over 60s

The next club meeting, including lunch, will be held at The Chestnut Tree at 12.30 pm, on Wednesday 6th September.

At last month's meeting (at Janet's) we were treated to refreshments and given quizzes to test our memory of past memorable events. All in all, a most enjoyable afternoon.

The following meeting will be held on 4th October at The Chestnut Tree.

Wendy Halls

Pop-up Pub in the Reading Room

On Friday 1st September from 7 pm in the Reading Room, we're launching Weston Colville's first Pop-up Pub. All welcome, including children. Full range of drinks (soft and alcoholic) and snacks available. Fish and chips (or chicken and chips, or veg burger and chips) are also available at a price of £6, served at about 8 pm, to be paid for on the night, but must be ordered in advance (by midday on 31st August) via email to newtonjed@gmail.com. Alternatively, orders can be lodged with Christine at the village post office (again by midday on 31st August, please).



Jeremy Newton

HARVEST SUPPER

Ploughmans
Raffle
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Bar
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West Wrattling Village Hall
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7 pm till midnight

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West Wrating Harvest Supper

This year's event will take place on Saturday 30th September, starting at 7 pm and finishing at midnight.

The format will be the same as previous years: we will be serving a simple supper of cheese and ham ploughman's, followed by apple pies/crumbles.

There will be a raffle, produce auction and bar.

Tickets: Adults £10, Children £5.

As this is a community event I am looking for people to help with running the supper (before, during and after), as well as donations for the raffle, produce auction and apple crumbles/pies. If you will be free and can help with the supper, please email or leave a message. Thank you.

Karen (291229, karen@karenbakerdesign.co.uk)

West Wrating Book Club

There is still time to read 'Colonel Belchamps's Battelfield Tour' by local author, Adrian Crisp, in time for our next book club meeting on Wednesday 13th September at The Chestnut Tree, as well as 'A Street Cat Named Bob' by James Bowen. We plan to

start this meeting at 7.30 pm and we are delighted that the author will then join us at approximately 8.30 pm to discuss his book and answer questions. Please do try to read this book and join us for what should prove to be an interesting evening. All welcome.

Linda Gorman

West Wrating Recreation Ground Car Park

You may have noticed a chain blocking the entrance to the car park. The parish council were led to believe that a group of travellers who were evicted from Cherry Hinton were seeking a new site. As an emergency measure, the parish council, with the cooperation of the football club, decided to take this precautionary action to prevent any unwanted occupation of the site. This will be reviewed at the next parish council meeting.

Please contact me for any further information.

Mira Nichols (miranich@hotmail.co.uk)

Vice Chair, West Wrating Parish Council

Churchyard Clear-up – West Wrating

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

Colin McCall (290036)

Change of Address

Canon John Fellows' new address is:

29 Upper Olland Street
Bungay
NR35 1BE

Telephone: 01986 984414 (no change)

Email: j.fellows321@btinternet.com (no change).



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The Weston Colville Archive

This archive was collected by Professor Roger Whitehead and myself between 2000 and 2016 and includes several hundred photographs of Weston Colville people, local scenes, and houses from the 19th century until modern times. It has now been deposited at the Cambridgeshire Collection, Lion Yard, Cambridge, as I no longer have the space to store it and where it will be properly looked after and accessible to all.

However, I continue to keep my own bound copy of the transcripts of the parish registers 1599 - 1950, the church inscriptions and gravestones, a complete copy of the poems of James Reynolds Withers (the 19th century Weston Colville rural poet), and the original copy of the Womens' Institute history of the village compiled in 1951, all of which can be produced at short notice.

If anyone has old photos, documents or papers relating to the history of Weston Colville please contact me so that I can at least see them, hopefully copy them, or accept them as an addition to the archive in the Cambridgeshire Collection.

Tim Cockerill (tjcockerill@btinternet.com)

Memorial Stones, Methodist Chapel

The Methodist chapel at Weston Colville has been poorly attended for a number of years, and the congregation ceased to meet in 2011. After much heart searching the trustees eventually decided to close the church, and extensive discussions with various people and bodies revealed that the village had no further use for such a building. You will probably be aware that the chapel is due to be sold

shortly, and there is planning approval for conversion into a four bedroom house.

There are a number of memorial stones in the chapel grounds and we have been advised by our (Methodist Church) legal department that memorial stones technically belong to the families of the people they mark to remember. We should try to ascertain whether any family members are still local to the



area. If any are identified then they should be asked what should be done with the stones. If no family

members can be identified then they should remain on site and be left for the purchaser to deal with, unless they



are of historical interest to other parties. However it is possible that anything left on site may be destroyed rather than preserved.

I would be grateful to know whether any relatives can be traced. I have also spoken to members of St Mary's church who will enquire of their members.

The individuals commemorated on the memorial stones outside the chapel are:-

JUDITH ELLAM wife of JOHN ELLAM (died 4th August 1863) and daughter JULANAH ELLAM (died 17th May 1852)

JOSEPH FROST (died 8th July 1880)

JAMES LORD (died 29th August 1880).

I remember a Miss Gwen Lord and her sister who attended the chapel back in the 1970s/80s, although I am unsure whether they were related to James Lord.

John Loader (01440 703947)
Haverhill Methodist Circuit Property Secretary



Weston Colville Reading Room

Circular Walk

We're heading out on Saturday, 30th September, for a walk of approximately five miles. Meet at the Reading Room at 10.00 am, BYO lunch, and maybe something to share. One of our newer regulars is bringing a chilli, with a veg option too. You can put food in the fridge before we set off, if you'd like, and refreshments will be available.

Demonstration and Talk: John English – Woodturner

John, a member of the Essex Guild of Craftsmen and the National Association of Woodturners, will come and demonstrate how he works with wood. As he also teaches woodturning, he's adept at 'show and tell' and this promises to be an informative and entertaining evening.

Wednesday, 27th September at 7.30 pm, no ticket required, all welcome, refreshments available.

'Pub' Quiz

Eight teams competed in our April quiz to make it a fun evening and 'Rosie Posy's Posse' pipped 'The Windmill' by one point to the cash prize. Thanks to all who came, including newcomers to the Reading Room.



Next quiz: Wednesday, 20th September at 8 pm. Up to four per team, entry £2 per person. Bar includes wine, cider and draught ale. No need to book, all welcome.

Weston Colville Cinema Club



We're back for the season on Wednesday 4th October, when our film will be a comedy, and on Wednesday 1st November for a biopic of a musician. For details, see posters at the Reading Room or look on the Reading Room website. Alternatively, email as below to subscribe to our mailing list. The evening will start at 7.30 pm with a pre-screening talk; refreshments available, all welcome.

Enquiries for all these events:
jacquelinetheteacher@hotmail.com or 291475

**Weston Colville Reading Room, Chapel Rd,
Weston Colville, Cambridge CB21 5NX**

West Wrating Oil Syndicate

There will be a fill up this month, with the cutoff for orders being Wednesday 6th September at 6 pm. Place your orders either by email to me at richardholness023@btinternet.com (if you don't get a reply from me to your emailed order within 48 hours, please place your order with the pub by phone), or by phoning the pub during licensing hours – not too late, please – on 290384. Please also make sure that you tell me if you have any special delivery requirements, such as 'phone day before for gate to be unlocked' etc.

Remember that syndicate orders take at least a couple of weeks from the cutoff date to be collated, brokered and delivered, but if you take the minimum of 500 litres every time there's a fill up, you'll always buy at the best possible price and improve your cashflow to boot.

Details of the supplier, price and delivery dates will be placed on the West Wrating website www.westwrating.org.uk about three days after the order cutoff day.

The next fill up will be in October, with a cutoff date of Monday 9th at 6 pm. Please don't order before 1st October. Please note that October's fill up will be the last one for the West Wrating syndicate in 2017 as we don't get a worthwhile price reduction in the run up to Christmas, so the next will be in January 2018.

Richard Holness

Weston Colville Oil Co-operative

Ordering deadline: **noon, Sunday 17th September.**

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.



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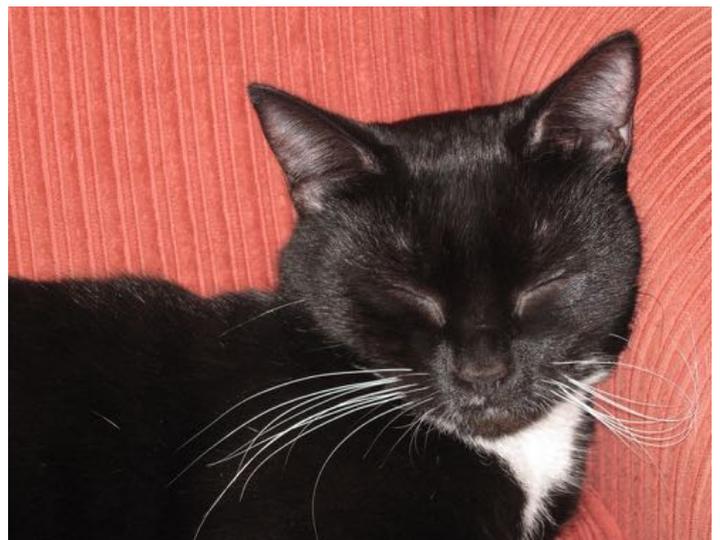
coming to the **Reading Room**
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- Babies - 4 years
- 11.30 - 12.30
- Friday 22nd September

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Missing Cat

Our seven year old black and white female cat 'Poppy' has gone missing. She is quite small, mostly black but with white paws and a white chest, and is



microchipped. She hasn't been seen since 6th August. If anyone has seen her please let us know. Thanks.

Colin Manning (290216)
High St, West Wrattling

The Chestnut Tree Beer Festival

Our Charity Beer Festival will be taking place from Thursday 21st to Sunday 24th September, and we very much hope that we are blessed with the lovely weather we have enjoyed on previous years.

We will have twelve different ales from twelve different brewers for you to sample, and they will all be brews that you will not have seen on our pumps before. A full line up of the beers and ciders will be on our Facebook page nearer the time.

On **Thursday** there will be a charity quiz starting at 8 pm. Teams of no more than four please, with the winning team being rewarded with £200 for their nominated charity. If you would like to join us please call to reserve a table, as we usually have a full house.

On the **Friday** there will be an evening of live music to keep you entertained.

On **Saturday** we will be serving pie'n'mash from 6.30 until 8.30, with four tasty pies to choose from; please book to avoid disappointment. We will be finishing off the evening with a race night from 9 pm, so please come along, sup some lovely beers, and enjoy a flutter (all proceeds from your bets will be going straight to this years' charity).

Sunday will be family day when there will be garden games, face painting and a bouncy castle to keep the children entertained, whilst a BBQ will be available from 12.30 until 4 pm. We will then be rounding things off with a pool and darts knockout.

This year we are raising funds for the Friends of Linton Village College. All festival ales will still be only £3 a pint, 50p of which will be going straight to LVC. Therefore, we hope to see lots of you enjoying some great beer and entertainment, whilst also supporting our amazing local secondary school.

Peter & Rachel

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Thought For The Month

Please trim your bushes!

Or hedges, shrubs and trees – any vegetation if it's overhanging the pavement.

The recent hot and wet weather has made everything shoot up, and your help in keeping the pavement clear means that people don't have to walk in the road.

Thank you,

West Wrating Parish Council

Les Moulton 'West Wrating Vegetable Gardener of the Year' Memorial Vase

The Les Moulton 'Vegetable Gardener Of The Year' memorial vase event was held in West Wrating on Sunday 6th August. The judges were Mr Harold Gawthorp (of Balsham Gardening Club) and last year's winner, Mr Phillip Tempest (of High Street, West Wrating). A small fee was offered to Harold for acting as lead judge, which was given to Arthur Rank Hospice as he requested.

The judges visited six vegetable gardens of varying sizes and were impressed by the range of produce, including fruit and herbs, that was being grown. Such was the quality of the entries it was clearly difficult for them to decide on a single winner, but they eventually agreed to award the Les Moulton memorial vase to David and Jill Holah, of Green End Cottages, Six Mile Bottom Road, with an honourable mention to Melvin and Lyn Cottage, also of Six Mile Bottom Road.

The parish council will be holding the event again next year and is pleased that the village continues to have a number of parishioners maintaining the tradition of growing their own produce.

West Wrating Parish Council

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Ministry Matters

Last month, on 14th August, was the first anniversary of the departure of the Revd Dr Julie Norris. This month a second series of advertisements are being placed in the Church Times newspaper for priests to apply to fill the vacancy. As I have asked before, please do pray for the right priest to apply. Meanwhile our church services, and all the baptisms, weddings and funerals, have continued. Our ministry team have gone above and beyond their normal duties, serving all seven churches as well as possible in the circumstances. We have also been generously helped by a team of other local clergy.

The aftermath of the theft of the lead roof at St Andrew's, West Wrating, has caused the church to be filled with scaffolding as the walls are being repaired and repainted. Before the repairs could be made, rain inevitably penetrated the church and stained the walls. Great generosity has been shown in answer to the appeal for the cost of the repairs, but the need for the plastering and painting of the walls has turned the church into a construction site. Please sympathize with the congregation, the churchwardens and the church council as they try to cope with the situation. Many other churches in East Anglia have suffered in the same way.

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Last month a play was staged at West Wickham by the West Wickham Local History Club, telling the story of John Wollaston, perpetual curate, who left the parish in 1840 and travelled to Western Australia. The generous actors, who came from Bunbury and performed the play, asked for the proceeds of ticket sales, over £460, to be donated to the repair fund for St Mary's, West Wickham.

Summer fetes, barbecues, and many other events have taken place in all our churches through this summer. Our thanks go to all those enthusiasts who give time and energy to keep our churches in good heart as we wait for our new 'Rector-Designate' to be appointed.

Keith Johnson

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Parish Nurse Update

Over the past two years our parish nurse has become an integral part of our community. Funded by our community, the nurse has been quietly providing help, advice and support for those who need it most. We are immensely grateful to both Teresa, our inaugural nurse, and Claire, our current nurse, for their dedication and commitment in helping us to care for one another.

The parish nursing post was created both to meet a need and to be a self-sustaining additional resource within our villages. The role complements, not replaces, the services already provided by the NHS and voluntary agencies. The nurse works closely with existing organisations including Granta Medical Practices.

Requests for support have grown month on month, with the nurse providing help to the elderly, young families and individuals at time of difficulty. Feedback has been enormously positive. Beyond providing direct care the parish nurse has also been instrumental in arranging community events around health issues – dementia, childhood illnesses, end of

life care, and getting the best from the health services. The next event will be on 6th October in Great Abington, so do keep the evening free.

If you would like to know more about the parish nurse project, or might be able to volunteer some time to support the project, or can contribute in any way, please contact Cazzy Walshe, project secretary, at 7churches.seven@gmail.com. Claire, the parish nurse, is contactable on 07498 994205.

Dr James Morrow

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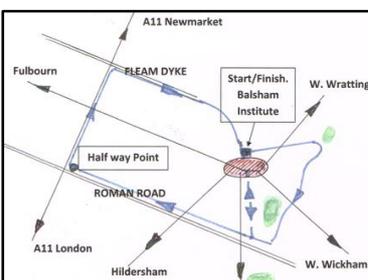
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Sunday 10th Sept 2017

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You are eligible for a free flu jab if you have any of the following conditions:-

- Ischaemic heart disease
- Stroke and TIA (Transient Ischaemic Attack)
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- Immunocompromised – HIV, on certain drugs, patients without a spleen, on chemo or radiotherapy
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- Cancer
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Hedge Cutting – Neat & Tidy or Birds – Your Choice

Has anyone else noted that there are fewer birds in the garden than there used to be? It was once the case that you didn't cut hedges until August but today (30th July) the hedge cutter was out, field hedges were being cut and garden hedges were being trimmed.

But the long held wisdom that the nesting season is over by August is no longer valid. Call it what you will, but changes in our climate have extended the nesting season. The RSPB advise as best practice not to conduct large scale work on vegetation until September, then through to March. It is not illegal to do this kind of work outside this period but it is an offence, if nesting birds are known about, to intentionally take, damage or destroy their nests.

I wonder how many looked to see whether there were any nests in the hedge before cutting.

In recent years the date for cutting hedges on agricultural land in receipt of subsidies was moved to 1st September in recognition that birds are nesting for longer. Co-incidentally, today is also the day I found a dead chick that had obviously fallen from a nest in the hedge. It rather put the lid on the argument that nesting is over by August.



You can have neat and tidy hedges or you can have birds in your garden. Isn't it time to rethink when you have your hedges cut?

Andrew Durham

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NARPS National Association of Registered Pet Sitters

Weston Colville Parish Council

Matters discussed at the July meeting included:

Planning – the extensions application at 6 Horseshoes Lane was supported by councillors. Erection of an agricultural building at Weston Green Barns is still out for consultation.

Speed Indicator Devices – in a joint venture to address speeding in the villages we have joined together with neighbouring parishes to invest in two speed indicator devices which flash up the vehicles' speed and are a proven means of calming speed.

Village Maintenance – we have reported and are chasing this list:

Potholes	Six Mile Bottom Road	Completed
Drain position causing flooding	Between 14 & 15 Church End	Under investigation
Sunken manhole and grating	Adjacent to 30 Mill Hill	Works ordered
Blocked manholes and gratings	Adjacent to Lane House, Mill Hill	Under investigation

Playgrounds – both playgrounds passed the yearly RoSPA safety check and maintenance is in hand. If

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you spot a problem with either of these areas please contact the parish clerk.

Tree Warden – Allen Scott has kindly agreed to continue his voluntary role as tree warden and will be attending the latest training seminar shortly.

Website – the parish council is currently looking for someone to create a basic website. If you can offer your services then please contact us.

The next parish council meeting will be on Monday 4th September.

There is a vacancy for a parish councillor. Please contact the clerk for further details.

Melanie Laing (01799 584428,
 westoncolvilleparishclerk@gmail.com)

Weston Colville Neighbourhood Watch (NHW)

Thieves have been at work in Weston Colville recently. You will have heard that the cricket club lost valuable mowers from the new equipment store after the doors were forced. Our sympathies are with our cricket club. Then a friend of mine had his garage jemmied open with enough force to bend the whole door upwards. Tools were stolen, but some blood was left behind which SOCO are investigating. A heavy

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duty battery used to run electric sheep fencing has been stolen from a neighbour, and one of our farmers has suffered severe damage to crops due to hare coursing in our parish near to Six Mile Bottom.

So please put your property away, disguise or hide it. If you have suffered a loss please call 101 and tell them what has happened. If we don't tell them they will have no idea about the problems we face and SOCO may be able to find useful evidence.

A tree-mounted thermo camera was stolen in Balsham. Items were stolen from buildings in Shudy Camps Cardinals Green. A car stolen from Castle Camps was set on fire. A digger bucket and 100 litres of fuel were stolen from a site in Great Wilbraham.

Early this year the police launched an on-line reporting system where you can highlight parking concerns in your village. Last Thursday they held a third crack-down day based on the information provided. The police also hold information events like Crime Prevention and Get Safe Online.

Do take care and watch out for unusual activities which make you suspicious. Remember to dial 999 when a crime is taking place or you need immediate assistance. To report non-emergency incidents dial

101 or go to www.contactcambspolice.uk/Report/Crime/, when the suspects are not at the scene, such as theft, criminal damage and burglary.

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



**Weston Colville
Cricket Club**



There will be a review of recent games and a roundup of the season in October's Challenge

Fixtures for September

	1st XI	2nd XI
2 nd	Chatteris (A)	Elmdon (H)
9 th	Wisbech (A)	Thriplow (H)

John Garrod

**Cambridgeshire Historic Churches Trust
Ride, Drive & Stride**

Saturday 9th September, 10 am - 6 pm

This year's national Ride, Drive and Stride Day coincides with Heritage Open Day, and is CHCT's main fundraising event, in aid of the grants they offer to churches of all denominations to assist with the cost of repairs and new facilities. St Andrew's church has recently benefited from this.

We hope to have St Andrew's open for this event and to provide refreshments for any participants. Please let me know if you can help in any way. If you would like to take part or would like more information please contact me or go to: www.camhct.uk/ride/

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Weston Colville Marsh Tit Study

August was a fine month for your birds, with the fledglings out and about in force, and a real surprise mixed in.

Firstly though, a plea. Please read Andrew Durham's article (on page 9 of this month's *Challenge*) about nesting birds and hedge cutting before September. It's a death sentence for birds. Blackbirds and Thrushes nest close to the tops of hedges until September. More info at the RSPB: <https://goo.gl/DECTR9>

I'm sure you'll like this heartwarming photo of four Long-Tailed Tits about to be released together, as they are a very social species. The visiting ringer is Steve



Thompson from John O'Gaunt Golf Club in Bedfordshire, who has won numerous awards for his quarter-century of conservation work on birds, bees, badgers, bats and moths.

The Marsh Tits also have youngsters: Z725720 Black over Red on Left 'Moaty', who made a new friend in

Emma Kaye, and Z725737 Blue over Black on Left

'Reggie', who saw us in Joyce's garden on 12th August.

It still amazes me to see how relaxed these little wild birds are around people. The

other half of the Kray twins, S320140 Green over Black 'Ronnie', was strutting up and down Mill Hill and Chapel Road in February and March, but hasn't been spotted since. We miss him. Please watch out for all three birds!

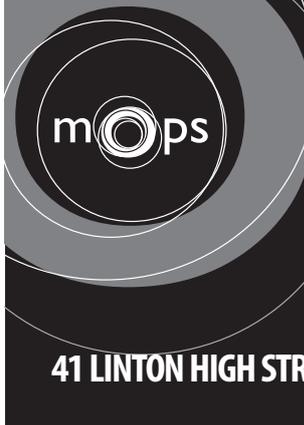


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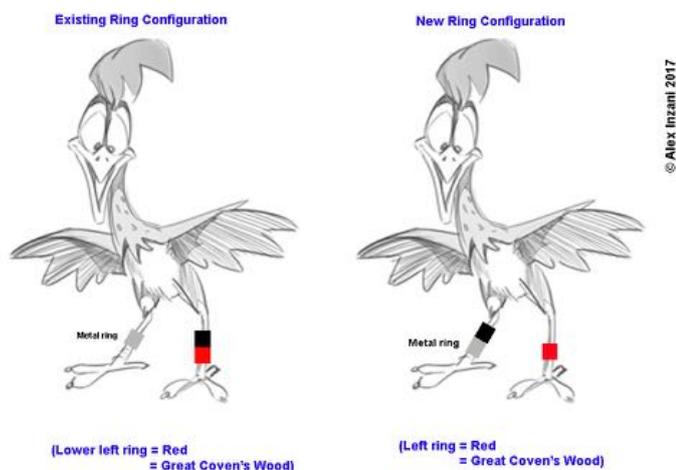
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We were delighted to be invited to the home of Lynn and Ian Davidson in West Wrating, where we were able to introduce Lynn to young Coal Tit A725757, who had been gracing her feeders, and Ian to his favourite gardening companion, Robin A725755, which hatched last year. This wild bird did look as if it recognised and trusted Ian, as it sat on his open hand for a few seconds before heading off where it belonged. I bet A725755 got a few extra worms afterwards.

Our RAS project has also been awarded a new set of ring combinations, as we're exhausting the original set of colour ring patterns. There will be now be Marsh Tits with one colour ring on each leg, as well as birds with both colour rings on the left leg. We'll be keeping the site-identifying lower ring colours on the left leg, so it will still be that left Red = Great Coven's Wood, left Green = Lower Wood, etc. The picture below shows both sets of colour rings to look out for.



And lastly, a first for Weston Colville. The first couple of people to identify (by themselves) what this young and uncommon bird is, will be awarded a slice of homemade chocolate cake containing Venezuelan single-estate cocoa. Some clues to help you along:

1. It has a noticeable dark stripe through its eye, like the mask of Zorro;
2. Unusually for this secretive scrubland and hedgerow specialist, it was found in Joyce's lovely garden on Mill Hill.
3. This bird will soon migrate to East Africa, crossing round the eastern end of the Mediterranean via Israel and the Saharan / Arabian deserts;
4. The generic name is Latin for a woodland sprite, related to silva, a wood. The species name *curruca* is Latin for a bird mentioned by Juvenal, a Roman poet.



NB My ringing team and Steve can't enter. You were there with the bird so you're not getting second or third slices, tough luck!

Please keep those Marsh Tit sightings coming in to Mel (m_stammers@btinternet.com) or myself (cambsmarti@gmail.com). Ringed or unringed, we like them all . . . :)

Have a great September,

*Alex Inzani and the Weston ringing team,
for the BTO National Ringing Scheme*



*The Meadow School –
Alice Westland Trophy 2017*

In memory of her daughter Alice, a former pupil at the Meadow School, each year Anne Westland presents a trophy to the KS2 pupil who she considers to have produced the best creative writing, selected by teachers in each class.

This year Lizzie Coles was the winner, for her imaginative piece on the Phenomenal Ferris Wheel. Freya Humphrey was runner up, and Emily Loe and George Green were highly commended.



The Phenomenal Ferris Wheel

When the sun has set and the dark has come,
One radiant light stands in its way.
With a myriad of colours the Ferris Wheel smiles,
And fights for the luminous lights of the day.

As the children clamber on for the final ride,
Enthusiastic, vociferate screams and deafening
cries

Echo through the deep-blue sky,
Then the wheel starts to gyrate and the chattering
dies.

Clinging frantically to the cold steel bar,
The children tremble in the nervous air,
By the dizzying, stomach churning heights,
Now that they realise this ride is quite a scare!

Vibrant, pulsating lights lace the hypnotic eye,
Like a vivid light in the sky,
The Ferris Wheel dazzles every nook and cranny,
With its sensational smile in the sky high.

In a kaleidoscope of colours,
And like wonderful dreams,
The children scream and whoop vociferately
Under the light of the moonbeams . . .

The unstable carriages sway in the cold breeze,
With bright and brilliant scintillating lights,
Then the unmistakable smell of diesel fills the air
While the children overcome their fears of heights.

A bitter taste of metal fills the children's mouths,
Now the colossal ride has come to an end.
The faint squeal of brakes run through their ears.
Now tell your family and tell a friend
Of the magnificent ride: The Phenomenal Ferris
Wheel !!!

Lizzie Coles

School Governor

The Meadow governing body is looking for anyone interested in becoming a non-parent governor. Please contact the chair of governors (clare.tidswell@gmail.com) for further information.



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The Marsh Mail (news from Linton Village College)

Healthy competition has an important role in education. Having recently witnessed great sporting achievements and house spirit at our sports day, I am proud to recognise and reward the successes of students at LVC.

Competition doesn't only take place on the sports field, though. This summer our Year 11s vied for their places on the bell curve of exam results to govern their academic outcomes. Students' relative performance, compared with all other entrants, determined the letters and numbers that they will have received in brown envelopes on 24th August. The same is true of schools.

Education itself is not a competitive sport yet as I write this, awaiting the publication of GCSE results, I am acutely aware of how the school is judged against other institutions on the basis of a few select headline measures.

School league tables were introduced in 1992. The stated aim by the government at the time was to give parents the consumer information they needed to create a free market in school choice. This 'Compare the Market' style approach offers a very narrow and

reductive assessment of schooling and creates a false sense of commercial competition. Furthermore, when the stakes are high, they can encourage immoral or divisive practices.

At LVC we believe that collaboration is more fruitful than competition. Our involvement in a number of educational networks, including our Teaching School status and our role as founding school in the Chilford Hundred Education Trust, reflects our commitment to reciprocal relationships that work in the best interests of all children. CHET's opening of a new primary school in Red Lodge and exploration of partnership with Long Road Sixth Form College are indicative of the Trust's ambition to sustain and grow educational excellence in the region.

An important vacancy of clerk has arisen at CHET. This part-time, flexible role plays a significant function in supporting the board of directors to ensure the effective running of the organisation for the benefit of local education and students. Further details about the post and how to apply can be found in the vacancy section of the LVC website. We look forward to applications from those that share our commitment to securing exceptional education for all.

Helena Marsh, Executive Principal



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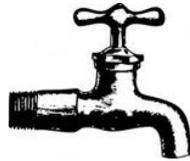
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for information on:

What's On	Directory	Parish Council
Parish History	Local Sports	Village Hall Events
Church News	Parish Matters	Village Calendar

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

THURLOW FAYRE SUNDAY 3RD SEPTEMBER
12 - 4pm
Family Fun Day

Admission - Adults £3.00 - Under 16 free

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BEER FESTIVAL Saturday & Sunday
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Swing Boats, * Zorb Balls * Pony Rides * Bottle Stall
Thurlow History Display

www.thurlowfayre.org.uk

Balsham Gardening Club



The Garden Club's 40th Anniversary Annual Village Show, in Balsham church (floral displays and photography) and in the Church Institute (all other classes), will be open to the public between 2 pm and 4 pm on Saturday 2nd September. There is no admission charge, although there will be an opportunity to make a voluntary donation, with the money raised to be split between funding the show and the church alterations.

From the archive: a mini show was held at the Queen's Head on 24th September 1977, making a profit of £1.70, thanks to an anonymous donation of £2. The show in July 1978 was the first to be held in the Church Institute.

There will be an autumn outing to Fullers Mill Garden on 5th September, providing an opportunity for those who visited in the spring last year to see the garden in a different season, and for anyone who hasn't been to this wonderful garden to do so. Travel by members' cars, to arrive at 5.30pm. There are still places available for members and non members alike. The cost is £10, which includes refreshments. Bookings

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and arrangements for lift sharing can be made by contacting Lyn Bobrow (890598 or lgb21@cam.ac.uk).

The programme of talks for the 2017/18 season will recommence on 3rd October when Colin Kirkland will be speaking about 'Wildlife in the Garden'. As always, visitors and new members are welcome.

Harold's tips for September:

- Sow hardy annuals for early flowering
- Gather apples and pears if ready
- Plant bulbs for early flowering indoors
- Replace summer bedding that has gone over
- Sow new lawns
- Sow green manures for digging in later
- Move inside any tender plants that have spent the summer outdoors
- Order seeds for autumn sowing, such as broad beans and round seeded peas (varieties such as 'Meteor' or 'Feltham First').

Jennie Tipler

The Ellesmere Centre, Stetchworth



Judo Classes for children aged 5+ will be starting at the centre on 21st September. Please contact the office for details.

Saturday 9th September – **Open Mic Night**. This promises to be another great night of music from local artists, with a fully licensed bar with real ale. This month we are featuring a new band, Spring-Heeled-Jack from Bury St Edmunds.

Saturday 7th October – **Creedence Clearwater Review**– the country's number one tribute band to Creedence Clearwater Revival – currently on tour across the UK, and performing one night only at the Ellesmere Centre. This will be a really great night with some wonderful music, including some of John Fogerty's solo work. View the band on 'YouTube' to get a taste of what's to come. Tickets £7.50 in advance, £8 on the door. Contact Julie (01638 508212).

The **Grimsby Fish Van** stops at the Ellesmere Centre on Wednesday afternoons at 3.30 pm, selling wonderful fresh fish from the car park. Come along and make this a weekly treat.

*The Ellesmere Centre, www.ellesmerecentre.org.uk
(01638 508212. office@ellesmerecentre.org.uk).*

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**Sunday 10th September 2017
2.00pm onwards**

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Tickets (with supper): Adults £10 Conc. £9 Under 18s £7

Tickets (no supper): Adults £5 Conc. £4 Under 18s £2

St Andrew's, West Wrattling (10.45 am, unless noted otherwise)			SET UP	FLOWERS	CLEANING
<i>(ALL SERVICES SUBJECT TO PROGRESS OF REDECORATION)</i>					
Sunday 3 rd September	NO SERVICE	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
Sunday 10 th September	Morning Prayers	Steven Wheeler	Alex	Jenny	Sue
Sunday 17 th September	Holy Communion	Canon John Pinder	Jenny	Linda	Pauline
Sunday 24 th September	Holy Communion	Very Reverend Keith Johnson	Fanny	Alex	Maggie

St Mary's, Weston Colville (9.15 am)	
FLOWERS	CLEANING
September	Philippa

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)

DIARY

September 2017

- Fri 1 Tea & Cakes, Reading Room, Weston Colville
Portable Pint, Weston Colville Reading Room
First Friday bridge, West Wrattling
- Sat 2 Saturday Morning Café, West Wrattling
Farmers' Market, Linton
Balsham Gardening Club 40th anniversary show
- Sun 3 Thurlow Fayre
- Mon 4 Weston Colville parish council meeting
- Wed 6 West Wrattling Over 60s
Cutoff for West Wrattling oil syndicate orders
- Sat 9 Historic Churches Trust Ride, Drive & Stride
- Sun 10 Great Balsham Boundary Walk
Thurlow Hunt kennel open day
- Mon 11 West Wrattling parish council meeting
- Wed 13 West Wrattling book club
- Sun 17 Cutoff for Weston Colville oil syndicate orders
- Wed 20 'Pub quiz', Reading Room
- Thur 21 West Wrattling lunch club
Chestnut Tree beer festival, charity quiz
- Fri 22 Active Ants, Reading Room
Chestnut Tree beer festival, live music
- Sat 23 Chestnut Tree beer festival, pies and race night
- Sun 24 Chestnut Tree beer festival, family day
- Wed 27 Woodturning talk, Reading Room
- Fri 29 Macmillan coffee morning, Carlton
- Sat 30 Circular walk, from Reading Room
West Wrattling harvest supper
LlamaDrama race night, Fulbourn

October 2017

- Wed 4 West Wrattling Over 60s
Weston Colville cinema club, Reading Room
- Sat 7 Creedence Clearwater Review, Ellesmere Centre
- Fri 6 Tea & Cakes, Reading Room, Weston Colville
First Friday bridge, West Wrattling
- Mon 9 Cutoff for West Wrattling oil syndicate orders

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 Lay 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 Clerks:
 Weston Colville – Melanie Laing,
 westoncolvilleparishclerk@gmail.com, 01799 584428
 West Wrattling – 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

Black bins: Monday 11th & 25th September,
 Monday 9th & 23rd October
Blue & green bins: Monday 4th & 18th September,
 Monday 2nd, 16th & 30th October

Mobile library: first Tuesday of each month
 (5th September, 3rd October)
 High Street, West Wrattling 12.15 - 12.45
 Post Office, Weston Green 1.50 - 2.15
 Mill Hill, Weston Colville 2.20 - 2.50

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.

October issue's copy date: Wed 20th September