

# 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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## ***RAF Wrattling Common Memorial Service***

**Sunday 26<sup>th</sup> May**

A short open air service will be held at 12 noon on Sunday 26<sup>th</sup> May at the RAF Wrattling Common Memorial, to commemorate the 30<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the unveiling of the memorial stone. The last Sunday in May was chosen as it was the same day in 1943 (Sunday 28<sup>th</sup>) that the airfield was commissioned. The memorial is dedicated to those who served at the airfield, especially the 260 who gave their lives in the cause of freedom. We look forward to seeing some of the veterans who served with XC Squadron, 1651 Heavy Conversion Unit and 195 Squadron. Cadets from 1451 (Haverhill) Squadron of the Air Training Corps will be on parade. The memorial is situated at Weston Woods Farm, Weston Colville, CB21 5NR and all are very welcome to attend the service. For further information please email:

*rafwrattlingcommon@gmail.com*

To mark this anniversary Richard Adams has kindly arranged for a fly-past and some aerobatics by an ex RAF Bulldog training aircraft. We expect the fly-past at around 12.30 but it will be dependent on flying conditions. It is intended that tea and cake will be available while we await the fly-past.



We are always pleased to hear from anyone interested in getting involved with the airfield memorial. With just two services per year to arrange, as well as year-

round general maintenance, this is not an onerous project to assist with but is very rewarding. It is hoped that, with the continued support of people in the locality, this important memorial to our community's war effort will survive for many generations.

*Dan, Friends of Wrattling Common*

## **CLASSICAL GUITAR CONCERT DANIELA ROSSI**



**Sunday 26<sup>th</sup> May  
at 6.00 pm**

**ST MARY'S CHURCH,  
WESTON COLVILLE**

**TICKETS £10**

from *jane@janepryor.co.uk* and on the door

Daniela Rossi is an exciting classical guitarist from Argentina, based in Cambridge. She played for us at St Mary's in 2015 and we are thrilled that she is returning to Weston Colville. In 2015 Daniela won the London International Guitar Competition, and in 2017 won second prize in the Heinsberg International Guitar Competition. She regularly performs in Latin America, Europe and the UK.



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### News from The Chestnut Tree

For those of you who haven't heard, we are beyond happy to report that we have, once again, been voted **Pub of the Year** by the Cambridge Campaign for Real Ale. To receive this recognition twice, and to have been voted as best real ale pub out of more than 200 in our area, means the world to us. We were also voted **Rural Community Pub of the Year** for 2019, so another to add to our collection.

We would like to say a huge thank you to everyone for supporting The Chestnut Tree and we hope you are as proud of your pub as we are! We have come a long way in the last seven years and, with your continued patronage, we look forward to seeing the pub continue to go from strength to strength.

*Peter & Rachel*

### St Mary's Flower Festival

The Flower Festival will be on Saturday and Sunday 29<sup>th</sup> and 30<sup>th</sup> June.

After last year's very popular wedding dress theme, which captured so much interest from participants and visitors in and around the village, this year we are inviting anyone who wishes to create their own display of flowers within the church.



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This could be a window display, surrounding an arch or other architectural feature, or developing a special theme, such as wild flowers or a particular colour palette. It's a chance for anyone in our village to demonstrate their creativity and take part in a spectacular celebration of colour and scent.

As usual there will be traditional English afternoon teas available, and children's activities.

If you would like to take part, or offer to help with general flower displays or provides cakes and tea, please contact the organising group of Gay Redman (290807), Philippa Coates and Emma Kaye (01638 506094).

## Café Church


Sunday 12<sup>th</sup> May  
4 - 5 pm  
West Wrating Church  
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Faculty of History, Cambridge University  
West Wrating Church Warden



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## WESTON COLVILLE READING ROOM

### FRIDAY 10<sup>th</sup> MAY

### BAR & FOOD 6.30 - 10.00 PM

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### *Weston Colville Seniors*

The tour to Ely Cathedral is going ahead as planned on Tuesday 14<sup>th</sup> May. We will meet up at the main entrance to the cathedral, at the west end, at 2.30 pm. The entry charge will be £6 each unless you have a Parish Pass. After the tour we will have tea in the cathedral café.

Please could you let me know if you would like to come, and particularly if you would like a lift. Everyone over retirement age is welcome, from any of our local villages.

*Chloë Cockerill, Old Mill House, Weston Colville (290439, [chloe.cockerill@btinternet.com](mailto:chloe.cockerill@btinternet.com))*

### *West Wrattling Tennis Club*

Great value local tennis club membership for all the family! New members always welcome!

This year's supper party will be on Friday 17<sup>th</sup> May, at 7.30 pm. Annual Wimbledon ballot for affiliated BTM members.

Online court booking – never make a wasted journey.

For more information about the club, and to join, visit [www.WestWrattlingTennis.co.uk](http://www.WestWrattlingTennis.co.uk)

*James Merrells, West Wrattling Tennis Club*

### *West Wrattling Clay Day*

This year our annual event will be taking place on Saturday 24<sup>th</sup> August (morning, followed by lunch). As in previous years we will be hosted by Richard and Jackie at Six Mile Bottom

Please let me know if you would like to take part.

*Simon Sampson ([simon.sampson@btinternet.com](mailto:simon.sampson@btinternet.com))*

### *Second Friday Evening at The Chestnut Tree*

There is a standing booking for this dinner every month. If you would like to take part, please book with the pub by the Wednesday prior to 'Second Friday'.

We each choose a main dish from the regular menu (and sometimes pudding too). If there is a large number taking part Pete provides a sharing platter of starters for each table. We divide the cost of our food bill by the number taking part, but we buy our own drinks.

There have been as many as twenty-four taking part, sometimes just four, but most often somewhere in between. The group began as a group of West Wrattling dog walking friends when Pete and Rachel first came to the village, but has grown over the years. Please join us if you like the idea.

*Sherry O'Donovan and Anne Catchpole*

### *West Wrattling Book Club*

Unfortunately, our April meeting had to be cancelled so we will now discuss 'Becoming' by Michelle Obama on Wednesday 15<sup>th</sup> May at The Chestnut Tree at 8 pm.

This means that you will have more time to read this revealing but rather long book.

*Linda Gorman (290653)*

### *West Wrattling Over 60s*

We will meet as usual at The Chestnut Tree, to include lunch, at 12.30 pm on Wednesday 1<sup>st</sup> May.

The following meeting, on 5<sup>th</sup> June, will be a garden meeting at 2 pm in Hayter Close.

*Wendy Halls*



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### Saturday Morning Café, West Wrattling

Join us for a catch up over tea / coffee and delicious cake at the next café on Saturday 4<sup>th</sup> May between 10.30 am and 12 noon in the village hall.

This year, all proceeds from the bookstall will go to Granta School.

A team of villagers are looking at redevelopment opportunities for the playground. Please come and see the proposals at the April café and provide any feedback or suggestions.

*Sherry (290070) and Catherine (291307)*

### Allen Scott

Very sadly, Allen died in April. He will be missed very much. Val would like to thank everyone for their cards and kind messages.

### Tea and Cakes

Our gathering in April was a busy one, with lots of children.



Sadly, since then we have lost our dear friend and committed helper Allen Scott. Allen and his wife Val have supported Tea and Cakes from the very beginning. Allen was very active in the village community as part of the parish council and the Reading Room committee, and recently started the seniors group. Our thoughts are with Val and the family.

We meet next on Friday 3<sup>rd</sup> May, 3.30 - 5 pm, at the Reading Room. As planned we will be taking donations for 'Stand Up 2 Cancer'. Please join us for a cuppa, a piece of cake and a chat.

*Melanie (291319)*

### West Wrattling Village Hall – Occasional Help Required

The management committee of West Wrattling village hall have a responsibility to make this valuable village asset a pleasant and safe place for the community to use, and have over the last few years obtained grant funding for major improvements, which have been carried out by professional tradespeople. However, there are sometimes little jobs that despite our best efforts, we don't always have the skills and the time to do, such as small repairs, picture hanging etc, and we would really appreciate some help.

We are looking for one or two people with useful practical skills and a bit of spare time. This would be on a voluntary basis, although we would pay for any materials. You wouldn't need to join the committee in any formal capacity, and we only anticipate needing your help occasionally.

If you would like to help, please email [annemarie.catchpole63@gmail.com](mailto:annemarie.catchpole63@gmail.com) or [rowlandmgm@btinternet.com](mailto:rowlandmgm@btinternet.com).

*Mike Rowland and Anne Catchpole*

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### Weston Colville Circular Walk

The next walks, of approximately five miles, will be on Saturday 11<sup>th</sup> May, meeting in the Reading Room at 10 am, and Saturday 20<sup>th</sup> July, meeting at a new place locally as a one-off – see July's *Challenge*. For both walks BYO lunch and maybe something to share back in the Reading Room afterwards. All welcome, refreshments available. Enquiries: [jacquelinetheteacher@hotmail.com](mailto:jacquelinetheteacher@hotmail.com), 291475.

### Weston Colville Village and Garden Ramble

**2.30 pm, Sunday 2<sup>nd</sup> June**

The Weston Colville Village and Garden Ramble advertised in last month's *Challenge* will take place on the afternoon of Sunday 2<sup>nd</sup> June. We'll begin at the Reading Room and follow a circular route round Weston Green, Lower Wood, Church End and Mill Hill before returning to the Reading Room for tea. It'll be a chance to enjoy seeing the village from different perspectives, with detours through a few gardens and some snippets of local history along the way. If there are any more people who are willing for the walk to take a detour through their garden, we'd still love to hear from you – don't worry if you're not Monty Don, the focus is on space rather than the plants themselves or Latin names. Otherwise, if you'd just like to join us, please save the date and come to the Reading Room in time for a 2.30 start. All welcome!

**Jacqueline Douglas**

([jacquelinetheteacher@hotmail.com](mailto:jacquelinetheteacher@hotmail.com), 291475)

**Gabrielle Cliff Hodges**

([gabrielle.cliffhodges@cantab.net](mailto:gabrielle.cliffhodges@cantab.net), 290890)

**Alan Ogden** ([alan2ogden@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:alan2ogden@yahoo.co.uk), 291401)

### Weston Colville Cinema Club

For our last film before the summer break, in a Cinema Club first, we're showing an Irish film. The characters in 'Sanctuary' are a group living with intellectual disability, played by actors living with intellectual disability. It subverts received ideas about disability in its very approach to filmmaking – as the Guardian reviewer has it, "care, chaos and comedy in the community". Come and see it – it'll make you think, it'll make you laugh inside and I hope you'll leave the Reading Room feeling glad you watched it. The film will be in the Reading Room at 7.30 pm on Wednesday 1st May. Donations; refreshments available; all welcome.



[jacquelinetheteacher@hotmail.com](mailto:jacquelinetheteacher@hotmail.com) , 291475





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| Church News    | Parish Matters | Village Calendar    |

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

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### West Wratting Oil Syndicate

There will be a West Wratting Syndicate fill up this month, with the order cut off on Tuesday 7<sup>th</sup> May at 6.30 pm.

Place your orders either by email to me at [richardholness023@btinternet.com](mailto:richardholness023@btinternet.com) (please put 'Oil' in the subject box; 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 be buying at the best possible price. Details of the supplier, price and delivery dates will be placed on the West Wratting website [www.westwratting.org.uk](http://www.westwratting.org.uk) about three days after the order cutoff day and emailed to you if you ordered by email.

*Richard Holness*

### Weston Colville Oil Co-operative

Ordering deadline:

**noon, SUNDAY 12<sup>th</sup> MAY.**

#### Church End to the bottom of Mill Hill:

Alastair Douglas (291475, or [salguoda@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:salguoda@hotmail.co.uk))

#### Chapel Road, Common Road, Horseshoe Lane:

Anne Vidler (290010, or [anne.vidler@talk21.com](mailto: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 do not attract a 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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All are welcome at the Community Hub for our monthly gathering with tea, coffee and refreshments.

We also offer help and advice from:

The Parish Nurse project

Community workers -working alongside the Parish Nurse

Members of the seven churches ministry team

Reach Community Projects

and other local organisations

Granta Vale Community Hub, Church Institute,  
Church Lane, Balsham CB21 4DS

**Thursday 2<sup>nd</sup> May**

**1.30 pm – 3.30 pm**

*The Parish Nurse and Parish Nurse Plus project is supported and funded by local villagers, charities, Parish Councils, Parochial Church Councils, the Ely Diocese Mission Fund, the Radley Trust, the National Lottery Community Fund, Cambridgeshire County Council and the Halley Stewart Trust.*



## Parish Matters

What a joy to be going to evening meetings in the daylight now the clocks have come forward. Spring has never felt so good, in the way of colour and blossoming trees.



All this indicates change and in our parishes we are experiencing different ways of drawing closer together. One of them is the Granta Vale Community Hub at Balsham Institute that meets every month on the first Thursday, 1.30 - 3.30 pm, where people are invited to drop in for tea and cake. It is a good way to meet new people and to see the parish nurse if there are any health concerns. Come and meet us, everyone is welcome. We also now have more café church services throughout the seven churches as we try to reach out to families.

All this sounds very busy but it does not have to be that way. I had a conversation with a retired vicar the other day and somehow, we got onto the subject of the busy lives. We live like hamsters on a wheel that is ever turning. In an aeroplane we are advised to look after ourselves first with the oxygen and then look after others later. Love our neighbours as ourselves; both are equally important.

In our society so many people rely on carers to help keep people in their own homes. It is a dedicated job that is so valuable, and it is easy for the carers to be worn out with the daily grind of just keeping on top of things. Carers' Week begins on 10<sup>th</sup> June and to recognise this there will be an afternoon event on Thursday 13<sup>th</sup> June at the Institute in Abington for those who care and those who are being cared for. It is a recognition of the work that goes on unseen by the wider world. There will be tea and cake and the afternoon will run from 2.00 pm until 4.30 pm. Come along if you can.

How can we help ourselves to change the habits we pick up so easily? Rushing here and there is not good for our mental wellbeing, so how about trying this. Sit still and just be for a few moments – it does not have to be a long time. Listen to the sounds around you. Sit with a cuppa and hear the birds or walk up the garden and allow yourself to look and listen to nature. Pacing the chores is better than burning out.

*What is this life if, full of care,*

*We have no time to stand and stare.*

*No time to stand beneath the boughs|*

*And stare as long as sheep or cows.*

A reminder to catch those moments when we see life through different eyes.

I am involved in a retreat movement that encourages people to come away from their daily lives to spend time listening to talks and slowing down the pace of life to deepen their faith. Some are hungry spiritually and do not know where to receive feeding. This retreat is one way of discovering the beauty of a rule of life that keeps us connected to each other and to ourselves. Ring any bells? Why not have a word with me and find out more.

May the month of May provide opportunities to experience God's good creation to share with others. Very best wishes,

**Rev Kathy Bishop**



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### *Weston Colville Marsh Tit Study*

The birds and the bees are active – the first Bedfordshire bee swarm was recorded in the last two weeks of April, and nesting material for birds is at a premium.

The Eeles of Weston Colville sent in this report:

"After reading the article in [April's] *Challenge* re nesting material dispensing, my wife Myra hung out something suitable in an old fat ball feeder. Literally within minutes we watched via the kitchen window, the Blue Tit from the nest box by our kitchen window, helping itself. Days go by. This morning [22<sup>nd</sup> April] just after 9 am, a call from the kitchen – Marsh Tit – two of them ! Managed to get a couple of pics, to show Black over Red watching his mate helping herself to nest material from the dispenser. They left together towards [the local wood]."

Here are two of their excellent photos. The unringed (probable) female is collecting the provided natural fibre lint, while male Red over Black on Left 'Rob' – an old codger at least four years old – is eyeing up the birdseed buffet instead. Oh dear . . .



The morals of this story are:

(a) Keep putting out natural fibres for the birds – it's a proven (and cheap) magnet to get them into your gardens at this time of year;

(b) Work-dodging is not restricted to Homo sapiens.

We have a new Marsh Tit to look out for – White over Red over White on Left 'Alexandra', a female ringed in eastern Hill Croft wood. John Rogers spotted her in his Mill Hill garden, so she is moving around.

If anyone would like the full list of colour-ringed birds, just email me at the address below. I can give you a CV for every bird that you spot.

Please keep sending in your sightings, photos and stories to myself ([cambsmarti@gmail.com](mailto:cambsmarti@gmail.com)), Mel ([m\\_stammers@btinternet.com](mailto:m_stammers@btinternet.com)) or *Challenge*. Sightings are particularly important for our scientific study in the breeding season, as they help determine productivity – a key measure of long term survival of a species.

Have an excellent May and enjoy all the beauties of a rural English Spring - there's nothing like it in the world.

*Alex Inzani*

*and the wonderful South Cambs Ringing Group*

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**West Wrattling Youth Football Club**

West Wrattling FC are setting up a new u10 team for the 2019-20 season and are looking for new players to join the team. Training will start on Saturday 11<sup>th</sup> May and continue through the summer in preparation for the new season.

If you are interested in joining the team, please contact [wwfcyouthchair@hotmail.com](mailto:wwfcyouthchair@hotmail.com) for further information.

*West Wrattling Youth Football Club*

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### *West Wickham & District Gardening Club*

The speaker for the last talk in our 2018/2019 programme was Matthew Long from Riverside Bulbs at Monks Eleigh, who gave us an illustrated talk on all those late flowering bulbs and corms that need to be planted in spring. Some of these were only suitable for heated greenhouses but others such as Cannas, Eucomis and Dahlias can be grown in our gardens with winter protection. He had brought a large number for sale, and our members took advantage of this.

We are now in the process of preparing for our SALE on 18<sup>th</sup> May at West Wickham Village Hall, 10.30 - 12.00. This annual event is our main money raiser and is great fun for all who come for the bargains and to sit with friends for coffee and cake.

We have a coach trip to West Acre Nursery and then to Mannington Hall, near Fakenham on June 23<sup>rd</sup> and will always have spare seats so if you would like to join us, at £20 a head, please ring me on 01799 584262. After that cold wind during these last two weeks we should see some warm weather over Easter and it is not too late to get those potatoes planted.

*Rosemary Yallop*

### *Balsham Singers Summer Concert*

The programme for this year's concert is rich and varied, including Mozart, Finzi, Balfour Gardiner, Chilcott, a medley from 'Les Miserables', and more. We try hard to sing music that everyone can enjoy.

Our concert will take place at 7.30 in Holy Trinity Church, Balsham on Saturday 18<sup>th</sup> May. Tickets cost £10 and can be purchased from the post offices in Balsham and Abington.

*Lesley Crisp (891141)*



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**Balsham Gardening Club**

Our speaker this month, Andrew Snelson, has worked for Anglian Water for over 25 years, and provided us with an informative and interesting evening.

Each person uses 133 litres of water each day, most of which is used for personal washing and flushing the toilet. As Andrew pointed out, a lot of effort is spent in producing clean drinking water that will simply go down the toilet! Simple tips were highlighted whereby water can be conserved, perhaps by ensuring the washing machine has a full load, leaky taps are fixed, and installing a water butt instead of using fresh water on the garden.

Sustainable systems managed locally allow surface water to be used more efficiently and this is an area that Anglian Water is focussing on. Retaining water in the environment it is better for the sewers and the environment.

Another important area is within agriculture. Anglian Water is working with farmers to ensure that chemicals are not washed into rivers and ditches. One such campaign, ‘ Slug it Out’, is trying to combat the use of slug pellets which contain Metaldehyde. Whilst this is harmless to humans, it is impossible to remove at existing water treatment works. DEFRA

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has recently announced that Metaldehyde will be banned in all products in two years' time.

All water companies have a legal obligation to protect wildlife and to guard against invasive species entering our waterways. Equally, Anglian Water has to ensure that their coastal areas offer the best bathing quality. At present 33 out of 49 are classed as excellent, with only one seaside resort, Clacton, registered as poor.

Blocked sewers are a problem throughout the country. Anglian Water spends £6 million removing fats, oils and wipes from blocked sewers, as well as hidden plastics which cause major problems in treatment works. I think we all left the meeting thinking hard about how we can conserve water for ourselves and future generations.

Our next meeting will be the outing to Great Easton Lodge on Wednesday 8<sup>th</sup> May, with a start time of 5 pm. The details for the joint trip with West Wickham have been circulated to those members who have shown an interest. Please contact Annie Marks for any further information.

Our annual Plant Sale will take place at the Prince's Memorial, Balsham on Saturday 25<sup>th</sup> May, starting promptly at 9.30 am.

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### Balsham WI

Steve Sayers was our speaker this month, speaking about his life in service working in the military, with the royal family on the Queen's Flight, for the government, and finally working as a college butler.

His interest in his career started when watching the TV programme 'Upstairs Downstairs' and listening to his grandmother's stories of when she was in service working as a scullery maid in a big house.

He flew on the Queen's Flight with the royal family, being a personal steward for Princess Anne. It was interesting to hear how the royal family are quite different in private and most of them being very pleasant! Sadly Steve accompanied Princess Diana's body on her last flight home from Paris after her death, which had a profound effect on him. Steve then worked as Tony Blair's private valet, travelling backwards and forwards between Chequers and Downing Street, and found Tony Blair very personable and a dedicated family man. He also found Mo Mowlam a wonderful woman.

Steve then realised he was spending too much time away from home so after turning down a job at the Savoy in London he settled for being a butler at Jesus College, so he could spend more time at home.

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Our monthly meetings are held on the second Tuesday of the month at 7.30 pm at the Meadow School, Balsham. The WI is open to all people who identify as female and are over the age of 18; visitors fitting this are always welcome. We are a friendly bunch at Balsham WI so why not come along and meet us? Keep an eye on our Facebook page @balshamwi for more details. Our next meeting is on Tuesday 14<sup>th</sup> May when our speaker will be Lucy Tranquillan speaking about 'The Suffragettes'.

*Alison Clarke (894031)*

### Carers Week

On 13<sup>th</sup> June, as part of the Parish Nurse Plus project, we'll be holding an event for people from across our seven villages to mark Carers Week. The informal afternoon event will be held in the Institute in the Abingtons with refreshments, including cakes, provided.

This will be an opportunity for carers (and, if wished, the people they help) to share their experiences and any issues that we might be able to help resolve.

There will be more information in the next issue of *Challenge*. If you have any thoughts on what the event might include please feel free to email me.

*Diana Edwards (dedwards594@btinternet.com)*



**Caroline Pinkham-Smith**

MCFHP MAFHP

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**Community Champion**

We're looking for volunteers to join our team of community champions, to support and participate in local initiatives and campaigns, helping to spread the word to local communities about keeping safe, and to work towards the vision for a safe community where there are no preventable deaths or injuries in fires or other emergencies.

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- Attending local events – representing CFRS at events such as school fetes, school presentations and community festivals.
- Community fire station open days – helping out at events and sharing safety advice.
- Fire station car washes
- Community fire safety campaigns – targeted activities to coincide with safety themes, such as electrical appliance safety and cooking safety.
- Taking part in large-scale joint training exercises – volunteers can act as injured casualties/concerned bystanders, helping to make training scenarios as realistic as possible.

Community champions receive training as part of the role to help develop their skills. No previous qualifications or specific skills are needed, and CFRS is always seeking people from diverse backgrounds. It's a rewarding role, and one that you can give as much or as little time as you can. Visit [www.cambsfire.gov.uk](http://www.cambsfire.gov.uk) to find out more.




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## *The Meadow School*

The spring term ended really positively, although with the amount of activity squeezed into the end of term, everyone was ready for their break!

Years 3 and 4 performed 'King of All Polar Bears', fitting in with their spring term 'Out of the Freezer' topic. The Year 4 children took on the leading roles, made more of a challenge as there are less than twenty children in the year group. They spoke confidently and clearly, supported very ably by the dancing and singing of Year 3. The teachers and parents were very proud of their efforts.



In the last week of term Year 5 enjoyed their residential trip to How Hill on the Norfolk Broads. The weather was chilly but dry and the location was incredible. The children spent three days exploring the vast grounds and setting cameras to watch wildlife at night, thatching, dissecting owl pellets, dyke dipping, completing an ecology study of the local water, and taking a boat trip onto Barton Broad. The children impressed the staff with their attitude, their questioning, inquisitive nature and exemplary behaviour. We were all very proud of them!



To help get everyone in the Easter mood, the PTA held a Chocolate Bingo Evening, a new event for the families this year. Each child donated chocolate for Bingo prizes or raffle prizes. It was an incredibly popular event, with the hall packed full of excited children and parents, and it was amazing how competitive it got. Overall, the event raised over £950, which will help towards supplying children with extra equipment and extra-curricular events and experiences, which as a school, we now struggle to provide.

As you are probably aware from the media, school budgets are under huge strain, with rising costs over the years, and budgets stripped back to the bare minimum. We continue to be extremely grateful to our PTA for giving up their time to help with fundraising. Our next planned event is the School Ball, held at Chilford Hall. This is held every two years, with great success, and normally raises a fantastic amount of money. There are still tables available for the ball, and we aim this to be a community event, rather than just exclusive to school. If you would like to support the school, and enjoy a really fun evening socialising with friends in a beautiful setting, then please do consider booking a table.

Spring term ended with the usual traditions. The whole school attended church for an Easter service led by some of our Year 6 children. Mrs Sarah Bassett played the organ for our Easter songs, which the children sang beautifully. Then all the children took part in the annual Easter egg hunt in the playground. Many thanks to the PTA for supplying the children's sweet treats.

*Nichola Connor, Headteacher*

## *The Ellesmere Centre, Stetchworth*



Do you or a loved one have Parkinson's disease, MS, or polio, or have you been referred by a doctor to attend exercise classes? A new group will be starting on 20<sup>th</sup> May at 11 am, offering **chair-based exercise** and gentle use of spin-bikes. The group welcomes all abilities, and partners and carers are welcome to watch or join in. Refreshments will be available afterwards. Please contact Julie in the office if you are interested in coming along. Cost £2.50.

*The Ellesmere Centre, [www.ellesmerecentre.org.uk](http://www.ellesmerecentre.org.uk)  
(01638 508212. [office@ellesmerecentre.org.uk](mailto:office@ellesmerecentre.org.uk))*

## *Stronger for Longer*

The 'Stronger for Longer' campaign has been designed by Cambridgeshire County Council and CPFT to encourage older people to take up strength and balance exercises twice a week to reduce their risk of falling and keep them doing the things they enjoy.



The campaign is now encouraging local older people to have a ‘Stronger for Longer MOT’ to help keep them fit, active and independent. With the help of a qualified instructor, a person will learn about their level of fitness to do everyday activities and find out what simple strength and balance exercises they could do at home or at recommended classes in the community.

The MOTs taking place locally are:

- Thursday 9<sup>th</sup> May, 10 am - 12 noon  
Kay Hitch Way Communal Room, Histon
- Wednesday 15<sup>th</sup> May, 2 pm - 4 pm  
Orchard Close Communal Room, Girton
- Thursday 16<sup>th</sup> May, 10 am - 12 noon  
Blythe Way Communal Room, Gamlingay

For more information on the MOTs go to [www.cambridgeshire.gov.uk/strongerforlonger](http://www.cambridgeshire.gov.uk/strongerforlonger).

Rita, from Ely, said: *“The class has helped me with my walking, strength, balance, and posture, along with confidence outside the class.”*

*“I can see the difference in myself, I do a lot of walking and since going to classes I am now able to walk that bit longer without any problems – which means I can go out more and enjoy with my friends.”*

*“Coming to the class will improve your well-being and help you to keep active. You will meet new people and it can be fun.”*

Over 2,300 people have also downloaded our Supersix leaflet, which is helping people to do strength and balance exercises at home at least twice a week.

Strength and balance classes in the district are run by Forever Active. For more information go to <http://www.forever-active.org.uk/>



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The Stronger for Longer campaign involves a range of partners, including Cambridgeshire County Council, Let’s Get Moving Cambridgeshire funded by Cambridgeshire County Council Health Committee, District Councils, local NHS, Living Sport and Forever Active.

### Royal National Lifeboat Institution

Ever wondered where our lifeboat service, the RNLI, started? Well, if you would like a speaker for your group, please get in touch.



I can give an illustrated (or not) talk for between 30 and 45 minutes to allow for questions.

I charge no fee, but do respectfully ask that you consider a collection or donation for the charity.

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| St Andrew's, West Wrattling (10.45 am) |  | SET UP                 | FLOWERS | CLEANING     |
|--|--|------------------------|---------|--------------|
| Sunday 5 <sup>th</sup> May             | United Service, <b>Balsham, 10.30 am</b> | Rev Iain McColl        | n/a     | Linda Fanny  |
| Sunday 12 <sup>th</sup> May            | Café Church, <b>4 pm</b>                 | Scilla & John Harvey   | n/a     | Alex n/a     |
| Sunday 19 <sup>th</sup> May            | Holy Communion                           | Very Rev Keith Johnson | Alex    | Louise Sue   |
| Sunday 26 <sup>th</sup> May            | Holy Communion & Baptism (Jack Brown)    | Rev Kathy Bishop       | Sisse   | Louise Jenny |

| St Mary's, Weston Colville (9.15 am) |  |                   |
|--------------------------------------|--|-------------------|
| Sunday 5 <sup>th</sup> May           | United Service, <b>Balsham, 10.30 am</b> | Rev Iain McColl   |
| Sunday 12 <sup>th</sup> May          | Morning Worship                          | Steven Wheeler    |
| Sunday 19 <sup>th</sup> May          | Holy Communion                           | Canon John Pinder |
| Sunday 26 <sup>th</sup> May          | Holy Communion                           | Rev Kathy Bishop  |
| <b>Flowers</b>                       | Charlotte                                |                   |
| <b>Cleaning</b>                      | Katie                                    |                   |

## 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

### May 2019

- Wed 1 West Wrattling Over 60s, The Chestnut Tree  
Weston Colville Cinema Club, Reading Room
- Thur 2 Community Hub, Balsham Church Institute
- Fri 3 Tea & Cakes, Weston Colville Reading Room
- Sat 4 Saturday Morning Café, West Wrattling
- Tue 7 Order deadline, West Wrattling Oil Syndicate
- Fri 10 Portable Pint, Weston Colville Reading Room  
Second Friday Evening, The Chestnut Tree  
Buttercups Bingo, Balsham Church Institute
- Sat 11 Circular walk, Weston Colville Reading Room  
Training starts, West Wrattling Youth Football
- Sun 12 Order deadline, Weston Colville Oil Co-operative
- Mon 13 West Wrattling Annual Parish Meeting
- Tue 14 Weston Colville Seniors Ely Cathedral Tour  
Balsham WI meeting
- Wed 15 West Wrattling Book Club, The Chestnut Tree  
Weston Colville Annual Parish Meeting
- Thur 16 Lunch Club, The Chestnut Tree
- Fri 17 West Wrattling Tennis Club Supper Party
- Sat 18 Plant Sale, West Wickham  
Balsham Singers Summer Concert
- Sat 25 Plant Sale, Balsham Gardening Club
- Sun 26 RAF Wrattling Common Memorial Service  
Classical Guitar Concert, St Mary's

### June 2019

- Sun 2 Weston Colville Village & Garden Ramble
- Wed 5 West Wrattling Over 60s, Hayter Close
- Sat 25, Sun 26 Weston Colville Flower Festival

|  |                  |  |
|--|------------------|--|
| <b>Mobile library:</b> Tuesday 7 <sup>th</sup> May, Tuesday 4 <sup>th</sup> June |                  |  |
| High Street, West Wrattling  | 12.15 - 12.45 pm |  |
| Post Office, Weston Green  | 1.50 - 2.15 pm   |  |
| Mill Hill, Weston Colville   | 2.20 - 2.50 pm   |  |

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#### Churchwardens:

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

#### Parish Council Contacts:

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[jess@agrarian.biz](mailto:jess@agrarian.biz)  
 West Wrattling Parish Clerk – Jenny Richards,  
[j.richards597@btinternet.com](mailto:j.richards597@btinternet.com), 01223 665260

**Church Administrator:** Caroline (Cazzy) Walshe,  
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**Parish Nurse:** Claire Gillett,  
[7churches.parishnurse@gmail.com](mailto:7churches.parishnurse@gmail.com), 07498 994205

**Black bins:** **Tuesday 7<sup>th</sup>** & Monday 20<sup>th</sup> May,  
Monday 3<sup>rd</sup> & 17<sup>th</sup> June

**Blue & green bins:** Monday 13<sup>th</sup> & **Tuesday 28<sup>th</sup>** May,  
Monday 10<sup>th</sup> & 24<sup>th</sup> June

**Editor:** Anne Bragg (290550) or email:  
[editor@challengemag.co.uk](mailto: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, so please resend. Some contributions may have to be edited, to fit the space available, and are published at the discretion of the editor.

**June issue's copy date**  
**Monday 20<sup>th</sup> May.**