

# Challenge

The Parish Newsletter of Weston Colville and West Wrattling  
 The views expressed herein are those of the contributors.  
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## Covid-19 Vaccinations

### GRANTA Medical Practices

At the time of writing, we are about to embark on the mammoth task of vaccinating our 44,000 patients with the COVID-19 vaccinations. Please be assured that everyone will be vaccinated. However, please remember that we have to vaccinate in accordance with Public Health England's priority list.

Initial doses of the Pfizer vaccine were made available to areas of highest infection, including Peterborough City Hospital, and also to Addenbrookes Hospital, centres able to handle the ultra low (cryogenic) temperature storage needed. In the past few weeks, many Granta patients over 80 years old have been vaccinated at Addenbrookes. The authorisation of the AstraZeneca vaccine has enabled a wider rollout of vaccinations to GP practices and to other vaccination centres in Cambridgeshire.

As patients of Granta Medical Practices you will be invited for vaccination at the Sawston medical centre which has been set up as our vaccination hub. It is being staffed by practice staff and additional clinically trained volunteers. Appropriate space is needed as patients are requested to stay for 15 minutes for observation after being vaccinated.

Patients will be invited for vaccination by text, phone call, email or letter but should not pre-empt an invitation by phoning or emailing the practice. As a registered patient, GMP has your contact details. At the time of writing they are being restricted to weekends to minimise any impact on the provision of other primary care services by Granta staff.

Due to the extreme demand for the vaccine around the country we may get deliveries at short notice, which means we may have to contact you at short notice.

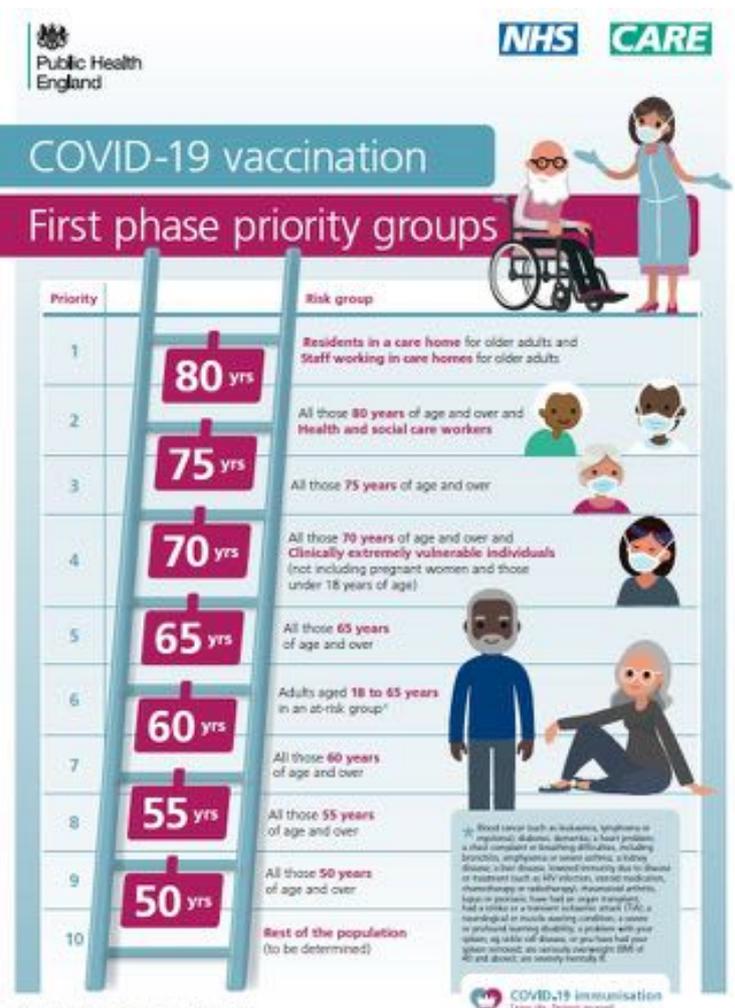
Please note that you will NEVER be asked for payment for a Covid-19 vaccination, and any texts,

phone calls, or letters requesting payment or bank details should be ignored.

Please continue to keep yourself and our community safe by adhering to national restrictions, social distancing, wearing of face masks and hand hygiene. We would like to thank you all for your patience and understanding whilst you wait for your vaccine.

*Sandra East*

(01223 627743, [capccg.contact.gmp@nhs.net](mailto:capccg.contact.gmp@nhs.net),  
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**Village Resources**

If you need help with shopping, transport, delivering medications (including emergency supplies, eg antibiotics), or anything else, please contact:

**Weston Colville:** Jo Jackson ( 07798 525300) or Mel Stammers (07890 296998). They are also the contacts for the village WhatsApp group for Covid-related issues. There is a separate Weston Colville WhatsApp group for general village issues: contact Jackie Brearley on 07984 655116.

**West Wrating:** Suan Rowland (290788, [suanrowland@btinternet.com](mailto:suanrowland@btinternet.com)) or Donna Gilmour (07986 006129, [donna.gilmour@hotmail.com](mailto:donna.gilmour@hotmail.com))

Weston Colville also has a Facebook page, and both villages have websites.

**From the Rectory**

When we see people in public these days, whether in the shops, perhaps at the doctors, or on television, invariably we see a kaleidoscope of masks. I've seen all sorts! Plain white or blue; multi-coloured home-made masks; even union jacks. Mostly people recognise the reasons for using them. Yet wearing a face mask during the pandemic has nevertheless touched on a raw nerve. Many of us feel uncomfortable about having to mask our faces. How do we communicate well if our faces are hidden? How do we read someone else's expression; how do we pick up on cues?

Maybe, however, there are some insights to gain. The prevalence of masks might encourage us to pay more attention to our whole body in communication. How do you smile with your eyes? How do you



communicate interest or sympathy with your body? As the Christian faith is incarnational, we remember it's our whole body, our whole self, we bring not only before each other but also before God: in kneeling or lifting hands, in speech or in silence, with our hearts or minds.

Our masks may also remind us of the way we present ourselves to the world. We may talk about 'putting on a brave face'; 'saving face'; or 'losing face'. In the Christian faith, however, we can't 'put on a face' before God. The gospels teach us that in following Jesus, we learn more about the truth of who Jesus is, but also who we are. Turning towards God calls for deep honesty. But if we gradually get used to this, we can also approach one another with deeper honesty, understanding and joy.

During this pandemic, but perhaps at any time in our lives, these truths may sometimes recede into the background and sometimes appear in sharp focus. Perhaps this is partly because for now, as the apostle Paul says, we "see in a mirror, dimly". Yet, as Paul adds, "we will see face to face". As we support and love one another in this difficult time, we may also seek to put aside our home-made, self-serving masks and attend to the presence of each other and to God with openness and joy.

*Revd Iain McColl*



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### Weston Colville Oil Co-operative

Ordering deadline: **noon, Sunday 7<sup>th</sup> February.**

#### 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'.

Please ensure we have your correct address and post code. 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.

*Anne Vidler*

### West Wrating Oil Syndicate

There will be a West Wrating oil syndicate fill-up this month, with the order cut-off at 6.30 pm on Monday 8<sup>th</sup> February. Place your orders either by email to me at [westwratingoil@gmail.com](mailto:westwratingoil@gmail.com), and put your surname in the subject box, or by phone/text on 07982 291922.

I will reply to all communications within 48 hours. If you require a 'fill-up' please provide a rough estimate of the quantity, and also make sure that you tell me if you have any special delivery requirements. In addition to the regular suppliers, I may use BoilerJuice or another order consolidation website, whoever gives the best price. Remember that syndicate orders take at least a couple of weeks from the cut-off 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 price.

*Phil Tempest ([westwratingoil@gmail.com](mailto:westwratingoil@gmail.com))*

### Fitbit Found

A Fitbit on a wrist strap was picked up from the verge opposite the Reading Room car park on Thursday 14<sup>th</sup> January. Please contact me if this is yours.

*Anne (290550, [editor@challengemag.co.uk](mailto:editor@challengemag.co.uk))*



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***Lockdown Christmas Puddings***

Thank you so much to everyone who supported my fund raising by purchasing a Christmas pudding. I raised over £800 towards my charitable work in Borneo. I am thrilled, and with fingers crossed we should be heading east in July.

*Emily Jackson*

We enjoyed some truly delicious chocolate Christmas puddings home made by Emily Jackson – her way of helping to raise funds for her trip next year – and have no way of letting her know how lovely they were. She even took the time to attach a recipe for a delicious butterscotch sauce to go with the pudding. None of it any good for the waistline but delicious all the same!

*Emma Parsons*

***Used Stamps***

Very many thanks to those of you who have taken the trouble to save your Christmas card stamps and deliver them to me, and a special thanks to those of you who have trimmed round the stamps – much appreciated!

Don't forget the jigsaw puzzles – now around 100 in stock, mainly 1,000 and 500 pieces – in Nine Chimney House Garage, Balsham.

*Joanna Sanders*

***Peter the Postie***

Dear Friends of Weston Colville and West Wrating, I would like take this opportunity to thank everyone for their kind and generous gifts I received for Christmas and my retirement. I was blown away by your generosity for both the gifts and the kind words many of you wrote in your cards. My wife couldn't

believe it either, she wanted to know if you were talking about the right person! It made me realise how much I will miss everyone.

I have enjoyed my 15 years delivering your post (can you believe it was that long!), even through all weathers imaginable. I feel that I made many friends and will miss my chats with various villagers.

Unfortunately I am unable to enjoy my retirement to its full potential at the moment due to Covid restrictions but I must admit it is nice not having to get up at silly o'clock every morning. I am looking forward to the time when I am able to get out and about and make the most of my retirement. No doubt quite a bit of golf will be involved, and motorbike outings. Hopefully it won't be too long before I am able to come and see you all for a chat and a catch up. Many thanks again; stay safe everyone.

*Peter the Postie*

***Litter Picking***

I wanted to extend a thank you to everyone who has been picking up litter and dumped items in our villages. It's so much better to exercise locally when our villages look tidy and healthy. The Weston Green telephone box will continue to house litter picking equipment, and the seed and plant exchange will commence in spring, by which time the BT equipment will have been removed.

*Jo Jackson*

***Defibrillator Codes***

If you forget the specific codes for the village defibrillators, phone 999 or 112, ask for the ambulance service, and quote the postcode and the village name: West Wrating CB21 5NP (code 1999), Weston Colville CB21 5NX (code C159X).

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***Book Exchange at Church End***

Thanks to the generosity of the village, and owing to the closure of charity shops now that we're in lockdown, unfortunately we have run out of storage room.



This means that, for the moment, we are unable to accept any more bags of books. We might also gently discourage some types of donation – though magazines are of interest, there isn't really room. We'll keep the Book Exchange open and we'd love you to use it to keep you and all of us going during this strange time. Bring one you've enjoyed, and swap for one you think you might like reading.

*Joyce, Jackie B, Emma Kaye and Jacqueline Weston Colville Community Bookworms*

***West Wrating Book Club***

At our December meeting we attempted to introduce a little Christmas atmosphere with drinks, nibbles, home-made Christmas hats and decorations. The book we read and discussed was 'Miss Benson's Beetle' by Rachel Joyce.

Set in the years after the Second World War, this is the story of a woman whose life was affected by childhood tragedy which left her emotionally and intellectually unfulfilled. She finally decides to follow her dream, inspired by her father, with unexpected consequences. It was generally agreed that it was an easy, exciting read, a 'page-turner' and well researched, although one person thought the writing somewhat facile. Another suggested it could be the script for a comic caper including a humorous description of the lives led by expatriate diplomatic wives of the period. There are, however, some serious

themes and dark moments, in particular in relation to a character damaged by his wartime experiences. It is also a study of how new situations and demands can reveal unexpected strengths and abilities, and cause roles to be reversed. Scores were mainly 8 out of 10, with one 6.

In January, we discussed 'The Hotel' by Daisy Johnson. This turned out to be unavailable as a physical or e-book, so we listened to the BBC Radio 4 serialisation (available on BBC Sounds). Not everyone was able to listen to all the episodes. It is a series of ghost stories set around a hotel in the Fens. It starts with a summary of the history of the hotel, the house that preceded it and some of the events that had happened over the years. The following episodes tell the story of different events and those involved, from the farmer's wife accused of being a witch to those who stay at or work at the later hotel. It becomes clear that this is a story of possession and perhaps revenge, with the main protagonists/victims linked by their DNA. It was agreed that it was very much gothic horror with some episodes more enjoyable than others. One person commented on the pleasure of listening to 'proper' English, with others saying that they had found it interesting; quirky but not enjoyable. The need of people to keep returning to a place in their past with perhaps double layers of meaning was raised. Another of our number suggested that it could be interpreted in a different way in as much as there are events from our past that haunt us in a metaphorical way. The final episode reminded some of us of 'The Blair Witch Project'. Scores were between 6 and 8 out of 10.

Our next book is 'Our Kind of Traitor' by the late John le Carré, to be discussed at 7.30 pm on Wednesday 17<sup>th</sup> February, via Zoom.

*Linda Gorman*

**www.westwratting.org.uk**

for information on:

What's On	Directory	Parish Council
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***Flooding in Weston Colville – Your (Riparian) Responsibilities as a Householder***

Surface water following heavy rainfall has again become a problem in Weston Colville. Work has already been carried out to alleviate the problems on Common Road and Church End. Properties along Chapel Road were particularly affected just before Christmas. Investigations carried out at the time, and after the water receded, determined why the water runoff was not contained in the existing drainage channels. The reports are available from the parish clerk. Several of the channels had not been cleared in a while, and debris had collected in them, reducing capacity.

The parish council considers it timely to remind everyone of their responsibility as a householder to keep the drainage ditches around their property clear. These are known as riparian responsibilities. The diagram below explains these responsibilities. Please be aware it is not the parish council's responsibility to keep drainage ditches by the side of the road clear.

This illustration came from a leaflet published by Staffordshire County Council but applies nationally. The full leaflet may be found at [www.staffordshire.gov.uk/Highways/flooding/Ditches-and-Watercourses.aspx](http://www.staffordshire.gov.uk/Highways/flooding/Ditches-and-Watercourses.aspx)

A small team of parish councillors has volunteered to identify all areas in the parish subject to flooding by surface water, identify what needs to be done and track the progress of any work. They will liaise closely with Cambridgeshire County Council where their input is required. There is also a plan to help co-ordinate a joint effort by householders with riparian responsibilities.

It is not ideal that several of the original drainage channels have been piped in the past decades, a practice that is no longer supported by the Environment Agency, but if the whole community works to ensure the ditches are clear and pipes run freely and at capacity when needed, we should see a reduction in the number of occasions surface water causes a problem. Should you have any questions, please contact the parish clerk, or go to [floodandwater@cambridgeshire.gov.uk](mailto:floodandwater@cambridgeshire.gov.uk)

***Weston Colville Parish Council***





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***Horseshoe Lane Flood Work***

The West Wrattling Park Estate was very disappointed to receive a complaint (anonymously) about the work being carried out to alleviate flooding to properties at the bottom of Horseshoe Lane, moving the footbridge which will allow higher flow of water in the water course. After talks with George Hay of CCC Highways the estate agreed that CCC could tip spoil from the river onto our land which when it dries out will be levelled and reseeded with grass. Maintenance to the River Stour beside Clamp's Lane will be carried out when the weather dries up, so we can gain access without making a mess.

*Nigel Clayson, Farm Foreman*

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***Muriel Taylor, 1931 - 2021***

If you have only become a Weston Colville resident in the last five years or so the name above will not be familiar. Those with a longer association will know my mother, who passed away in January, two weeks short of her 90<sup>th</sup> birthday. She lived at 6 Common Road for 61 years up to 2014, when she moved to Nichols Court in Linton. She spent her final days at the Meadows Care home near Haverhill.

During her time at Weston she had spells with the WI and Parish Council and for many years ran the Happy Circle Club (for older residents). She was an active supporter of the cricket club, helping out at fetes and fundraising events. After my father died in 1971, she spent seven years working at Cathodeon Crystals in Linton before marrying Arthur Taylor from West Wrattling. They enjoyed 16 years together until Arthur's death in 1994. Thereafter she lived contentedly alone, but in the knowledge that her family were close by and that she was supported by a circle of friends from both villages.

*Steve Potter*

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**West Wrating Parish Council**

The following are some of the items discussed at the Zoom meeting held on Monday 11<sup>th</sup> January. The full draft minutes will be placed on the noticeboards.

**Vacancy for a Parish Councillor:** due to the resignation of Richard Holness there is still one vacancy on the parish council. Please contact myself on email ([j.richards597@btinternet.com](mailto:j.richards597@btinternet.com)) or a parish councillor if you would like further information.

**Finance:** the payments and receipts are listed fully on the draft minutes.

**Budget & Precept for 2021/2022:** the chairman discussed the up-to-date accounts which show a healthy balance for the coming year. As there is no major project planned apart from the purchase of another SID, £1,500 towards which has been awarded to the council from Wadlow Wind Farm Foundation, and a possible LHI award where we will have to pay half the cost for further road safety improvements, a request for a precept increase of 2.6% (RPI) was put to the council. This was put to the vote and agreed.

**Maintenance:**

**The Lamb Public House:** Julie Ayre from Planning joined the Zoom meeting to discuss the situation regarding The Lamb public house and land. With regard to the safety of the building, this is inspected every three months by the Enforcement Officer. The owners have been liaising with Planning with regard to the development of the site but no decisions have yet been made. She said she would keep the parish council informed of any decisions and apologised for the delay in responding to queries raised by the council.

**Highway Problems:** the drains and gulleys are blocked with leaves etc, causing considerable flooding in The Causeway and also along the High

Street and Bull Lane. The road is also broken up in several places caused by the frost. Reports have been sent to Highways for over 5 months but nothing resolved. There are also deep potholes and very pitted road from The Chestnut Tree along the road to Withersfield. The Highways Officer has now left Highways with no replacement so far. Cllr Batchelor said he would see what could be done about pumping out the drains etc.

**Overhanging branches:** there are some trees whose branches are hanging over the road causing a vision obstruction. It is the responsibility of the owners to keep shrubs and trees pruned back and if not done the parish council or Highways can ask for this to be done. If not carried out, Highways would carry out the work and charge the owners for doing it.

**Traffic issues:** a decision will be made on either the 8<sup>th</sup> or 17<sup>th</sup> February concerning the LHI application submitted in December.

**Reports by District and County Cllrs Harvey and Batchelor for December & January:** available on the website.

**Next Parish Council Meeting:** Monday 15<sup>th</sup> March at 8 pm.

*Jenny Richards, Parish Clerk*

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**Weston Colville Parish Council**

A meeting was held on Monday 4<sup>th</sup> January via Zoom. Full minutes and appendices can be found at <http://www.westoncolville.org.uk>.

**Co-option of New Parish Councillor:** Faye Parker was voted on to the council via co-option.

**SID and LHI:** at the time of the meeting the SID was near the pond, approaching Weston Green. Cllrs Hubbard and Ashbridge will form a working party to work on the LHI application to be discussed at the May meeting, followed by a public consultation in the early summer on possible actions.

**Footpaths:** Cllr Durham reported that the bridge at the junction of Footpath 18 (Weston Colville Parish) and Footpath 15 (Carlton Parish) had still not been repaired, and queried why a new bridge had been placed on a path that was not a footpath.

**Flooding and Road Drainage:** a working party consisting of Cllrs Garrod, Durham, and Parker will carry out a village wide flooding survey. Property owners on Chapel Road will be approached to highlight their riparian responsibility to keeping the ditches bordering their properties clear. An article would be placed in *Challenge* explaining the situation.



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**Clerk Training:** the clerk received training, costing £30 + VAT, in making Excel documents accessible via the SLCC. The clerk's other council paid for the training, but have requested a contribution towards it. WCPC will pay the full amount as there have been no other clerk training costs due to a bursary being provided by ECC.

**Playground:** the grant acceptance form was submitted in December. The contractor will commence work on the playground fence the week after the meeting and had requested signs stating that the play equipment would be closed while the work was completed. A request was made that a risk assessment and method statement be provided by the contractor, and the plaque that was on the fence be retained and replaced.

**Draft Budget:** the draft budget was received, and costs were determined.

**Precept:** 2021/2022 precept will remain at £12,500.

**Matters for Next Agenda:** flooding, village sign (Cllr Ashbridge will clean it with a soft brush), village survey (for May's meeting).

**Grass Cutting Tenders:** T J Potter will cut the verges, with a 1 metre cut 3 - 4 times a year, and once in the three-year period cut the full width of the verge, and spray the Reading Room Car Park.

It was determined that Simon Ratford will cut the play areas and war memorial.

**Date of Next Meeting:** 1<sup>st</sup> March. *Meeting dates in 2021 are: 1<sup>st</sup> February (planning), 1<sup>st</sup> March, 5<sup>th</sup> April (planning), Wednesday 5<sup>th</sup> May (APM/AGM), 7<sup>th</sup> June (planning), 5<sup>th</sup> July, 2<sup>nd</sup> August (planning), 6<sup>th</sup> September, 4<sup>th</sup> October (planning), 1<sup>st</sup> November, 6<sup>th</sup> December (planning).*

*Jess Ashbridge, Parish Clerk*



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### Balsham WI

For our January meeting we had Balsham's own Dr Seppe Cassettari. Seppe has had a varied career in mapping and at present is the President of the British Cartographic Society. Via Zoom Seppe gave a very informative talk on 'The Story of London Maps' illustrated by different historic maps as created at the time. Amongst others we saw maps that gave information about the devastation of the Fire of London; the layout of the Victorian sewage system; the underground and road networks; the damage done by the war and the layout of the prefab buildings built at that time; and even a map of the housing of the social classes. It was a most interesting and fascinating talk.

On Tuesday 9<sup>th</sup> February we will be taking part via Zoom in a 'Face Yoga Workshop' that promises to be great fun.

*Alison Clarke (894031)*

### 2523 Linton RAF Air Cadets

Linton now has both wing and regional approval to return to face to face training when the lockdown is lifted and the National Youth Agency guideline is amber. Meanwhile, cadets continue to achieve through our classification syllabus; there is plenty of lockdown success to be had yet!



The squadron civilian committee is poised to purchase two brand new, high tech, squadron 'quad' drones, which will open up another stream of air-minded training achievable locally with a syllabus of ground school and drone piloting techniques.

The drones come alongside the additional first aid training aids purchased in 2020. The civilian

committee is committed to enhance all aspects of cadet training ahead of our return, giving cadets access to the latest equipment and resources.

With face to face training to resume soon, our first priority will be to get current cadets back up to speed and to finish the BTEC and Duke of Edinburgh awards outstanding from 2020. Once this is complete we will be looking to invite new cadets to the squadron. If you are 12 years old and in year 8, or know someone that would like to join, please contact me on the details below and see [www.2523linton.co.uk](http://www.2523linton.co.uk).

*Bradley Wright, Acting Pilot Officer*  
(07943 873272, [training.2523@rafac.mod.gov.uk](mailto:training.2523@rafac.mod.gov.uk))

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**West Wickham and District Gardening Club**

The committee has put together a programme of talks on Zoom for the spring, and will be happy to welcome non-members who wish to join us. The talks are as follows: on February 15<sup>th</sup>, Cherrill Sands, a gardening historian from the Guildford Institute, will talk on Gertrude Jekyll, one of the most iconic figures in 20<sup>th</sup> century garden design, and on March 15<sup>th</sup>, Andrew Ward from Norwell Nurseries in Nottinghamshire will talk on ‘Ringing the Changes with Bell Flowers’ which will include plants such as Foxgloves and Campanula.

These talks will begin at 7.30 pm, and are being offered by the club free, as a gesture to our local communities during this long lockdown. If you would like to take us up on the offer, send your email address to Sue Boase, our Zoom co-ordinator, at [sueboase@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:sueboase@hotmail.co.uk). Sue will then invite you in from 7.15 on the evening of the talk.

We are lucky to be able to book these eminent speakers online, since under normal circumstances they are too far away to travel to West Wickham.

**Rosemary Yallop (01799 584262)**

**1<sup>st</sup> Horseheath Brownies**

We managed one more face to face meeting at the end of term, where we completed Christmas crafts – a bauble for the tree, cracker and a calendar.

We will be busy Zooming on Wednesdays, so if you notice a dip in your internet service around 6 pm you’ll know the Brownies are taking over. This term we will be joining the county in a virtual Thinking Day event. We might also try having a virtual sleepover, in lieu of our annual holiday at the Jarman Centre.

**Pauline, Katie, and Laurené**  
([horseheathbrownies@gmail.com](mailto:horseheathbrownies@gmail.com))



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### *The Meadow School*

We welcomed the children back for only one day after Christmas, then heard the announcement that the country was going back into lockdown. Contrary to the rhetoric, our school was not closed; we have very much remained open for children of vulnerable families or critical, frontline key workers. We closed to everyone until 7<sup>th</sup> January to organise things safely, and the staff worked tirelessly changing all of our plans and re-writing our curriculum to enable us to deliver it remotely to two thirds of our cohort. Then came the trickier aspect still – what happened to the children at home who didn’t have access to a laptop or tablet or adequate broadband? Our school community pulled together in the most generous way. Laptops were donated, and money to buy devices to allow everyone to access learning from home. The government laptop scheme only allocated our school ten devices, and as I type this, they still have not arrived.

We have been determined to keep things as structured and normal as we can for the children both in school and at home. We have merged the children in school to have four classes, with one teacher teaching them with Teaching Assistant support, and one teacher to

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deliver live lessons to the children at home. This has been no mean feat and the teachers have been absolutely amazing in transforming their plans and getting their rooms set up to enable this. We are keeping our fingers crossed that we all stay fit and well and can continue to deliver this model.

School is a very different place to a year ago, with one way systems, Perspex screens, hand sanitiser dispensers, coned areas to play in, children not mixing outside their bubble, staff wearing face coverings in all communal areas, and all meetings being held online. We can never say we are Covid safe, but we can say we are very Covid aware.

Schools should be full of chatter, laughter, smiles and you should feel the ‘buzz’ as you walk around school. At the moment we still have an element of that and it is lovely to hear the children at home chatting to their teachers via Google Meet, but it isn’t the same. The personal interaction, the smiles, the waves, the high-fives are all missing. We cannot wait to welcome every single one of our children back into school and are very much looking to the light at the end of this awfully long tunnel to be able to rebuild those connections and more than anything, just to be able to hug our loved ones. Please keep safe everyone.

*Nichola Connor, Headteacher*



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### *Time to Say Goodbye*

Well, the time has come to say goodbye. I say this with a heavy heart as I have been working as the parish nurse here for four years, and supported the planning of the service almost nine years ago while at St Mary's Ely. After ten years as a parish nurse, I have come to the end of that pioneering ministry as well as 43 years as a registered nurse.

I have developed many deep friendships and have found a real sense of 'family' in the



Parish Nursing  
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villages; I will miss you all, but have many fond memories. Thank you for the generosity you have shown me, not only in your kind gift (with which I am overwhelmed) but also by sharing your lives with me and trusting me with them. There have been highs and lows, but I think the most enjoyable things have been meeting at the Community Hubs and being welcomed into so many of your homes, sharing your joys and your suffering. I feel very privileged, you have made every day worthwhile, thank you all.

I am retiring in order to spend more time with my husband Andy. During September Andy had an emergency admission to Addenbrookes hospital, which has left us acutely aware of how short this life can be. We plan to travel more in our caravan (when allowed) and to walk our dogs in God's amazing creation, while we are fit enough to do so!

I am thrilled that the Parish Nursing Service for the Granta Vale Benefice will continue and I am sure that the right person will come forward to continue and develop the role.

This project would not have been possible without the financial and practical backing given by all who have contributed in any way, whether that be local

authorities, parish councils, PCCs, charitable trusts, plus of course all the generous individual donors – I am so grateful to you all.

I have been unfailingly supported in my work here by so many people including everyone at Granta Medical Practice, the ministry team, Hildersham PCC who have employed me and of course the Parish Nurse Management Group, the members of which have always been there for me.

I have come to know some extraordinary people in the villages and in recent times have had the privilege of working with the volunteer initiatives that have been such an amazing comfort to so many during the COVID lockdowns. I am thrilled that these continue and epitomise what compassionate communities you all live in.

And last but far from least, many of you know that I heard from God that I should train to be a parish nurse and how he called me to work in these villages. I thank Him constantly for that calling and know when you believe in Him you find peace, joy, freedom and truth that change your lives for ever. I will always have the villages in my heart and will continue to pray for you all. God bless.

*Claire Gillett, Parish Nurse*

### *Cambridgeshire Fire and Rescue Service*

New year, same message – **Smoke alarms save lives.** Smoke alarms are the most important things you need in your home – they will alert you to a fire and give you precious minutes to escape to safety.



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**Home Schooling** – as home schooling resumes, we know lots of children will be disappointed they haven't been able to visit our stations, or for us to come and see them in school. We've put together some resources on our website, where you'll find everything from colouring in, to virtual tours of a fire station. We've also signposted some other topical resources that you might find useful.

## Marsh Mail

Needing to revert back to remote learning and closing the college to the vast majority of our students came as a shock at the end of term. However, the resilience and adaptability of our staff, students and families has been remarkable.



While the press is quick to criticise teachers and teenagers, I have the privilege of working alongside both and observing how hard both have worked to make online learning a success. Overnight, teachers changed curriculum plans and upskilled to move their regular lessons onto Microsoft Teams. Students stepped up, with the support of their parents and carers, to take greater responsibility for their learning.

Members of staff and volunteers from the local community have contributed to the setup of a rapid Covid-19 testing centre on site. The college's sports centre has been converted into testing bays and the trained testing team, expertly led by our Sports Centre Manager, is now working hard to administer lateral flow tests for staff and students based in school.

In time, as we welcome back more teachers and students to work and learn in school, more testing will be required. While not as accurate as the lab-processed PCR Covid-19 tests, the lateral flow devices can help us to identify asymptomatic cases amongst the college community.

I am incredibly proud of how colleagues and families have responded in the current challenges. The volume of appreciative messages and comments of support have also helped to keep morale high and community relationships strong.

*Helena Marsh*

## Church Services

Please do keep an eye on our church website, [www.grantavale.org.uk](http://www.grantavale.org.uk), and our church noticeboards, to see the latest information on church services. Contact parish administrator, Cazzy Walshe, on [7churches.seven@gmail.com](mailto:7churches.seven@gmail.com), if you would like to receive a weekly newsletter by email or by hand, or find out how to log into the services.

Revd Iain McColl  
tel: 890693 email: [mccoll.iain@gmail.com](mailto:mccoll.iain@gmail.com)  
Revd Kathy Bishop, Associate Priest  
tel: 892288 email: [revkathy@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:revkathy@hotmail.co.uk)  
Mr Steven Wheeler, Licensed Lay Minister  
tel: 290396 email: [steven@juicyfruitsuk.com](mailto:steven@juicyfruitsuk.com)  
Jeanine Kennedy, Lay Pioneer Minister  
email: [jeaninekenedygv@gmail.com](mailto:jeaninekenedygv@gmail.com)

### Churchwardens:

St Mary's – Ian Ashbridge (291344)  
St Andrew's – Sebastian Bain (403415)

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

**Weston Colville Parish Clerk:** Jess Ashbridge,  
[jess@agrarian.biz](mailto:jess@agrarian.biz)

**West Wrating Parish Clerk:** Jenny Richards,  
[j.richards597@btinternet.com](mailto:j.richards597@btinternet.com), 01223 665260

**Community Warden:** Faye Parker,  
[Faye.Parker@AgeUKCAP.org.uk](mailto:Faye.Parker@AgeUKCAP.org.uk), 07436 102865

## DIARY

### February 2021

Sun 7 Weston Colville Oil Co-operative order deadline  
Mon 8 West Wrating Oil Syndicate order deadline  
Tue 9 Balsham WI  
Mon 15 West Wickham & District Gardening Club  
Wed 17 West Wrating Book Club

**Mobile Post Office:** Thursdays, Reading Room carpark,  
Weston Colville, 12.30 - 1.30 pm

### Mobile library: 2<sup>nd</sup> February, 2<sup>nd</sup> March

High Street, West Wrating	12.15 - 12.45 pm
Weston Green	1.50 - 2.15 pm
Mill Hill, Weston Colville	2.20 - 2.50 pm

**Black bins:** Monday 8<sup>th</sup> & 22<sup>nd</sup> February,  
Monday 8<sup>th</sup> & 22<sup>nd</sup> March

**Blue bins:** Monday 1<sup>st</sup> & 15<sup>th</sup> February,  
Monday 1<sup>st</sup>, 15<sup>th</sup> & 29<sup>th</sup> March

**Green bins:** Monday 1<sup>st</sup> February,  
Monday 1<sup>st</sup>, 15<sup>th</sup> & 29<sup>th</sup> March

**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.

**March issue's copy date**  
**Saturday 20<sup>th</sup> February**