

Challenge

The Parish Newsletter of Weston Colville and West Wratting

The views expressed herein are those of the contributors.

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Tea and Cakes Starts Again!

Please join us at the Reading Room on Friday 25th June, from 3.30 to 5pm. We are looking forward to catching up with everyone over a cuppa and a piece of cake. We've missed you all.

To help keep us all safe we are planning to bring the tables and chairs outside for an al fresco gathering. If it rains we will postpone until the following Friday (2nd July).

Melanie and the Tea and Cakes Team

West Wratting Parish Council

A volunteer is needed to join the Parish Council.

Are you interested in helping shape the life of your village?

Your local environment, road safety, recreational facilities, planning and housing issues are just a few of the areas where we get involved to help make a positive difference to our community.

At the moment the parish council is made up of six members of the public, assisted by our parish clerk. Meetings are held on Mondays at 8 pm every two months. If you are interested in becoming our seventh member we would be very pleased to hear from you.

To find out more, please contact me or our parish clerk, Jenifer Richards (j.richards597@btinternet.com, 01223 665260)



West Wratting Café – SAVE THE DATE

Our West Wratting café will be returning at the recreation ground on Saturday 10th July from 10 am to noon! Please come and join us for a catch up over coffee and cake. More details to follow in the July *Challenge*, once government guidelines have been updated.

Sherry (290070) and Catherine (291307)

Weston Colville

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Telephone Box, Weston Green

Following the removal of the telephone by BT, the seed and plant exchange is now open for business. The litter picking handles and bags remain housed in here too. To those villagers who regularly litter pick, your time and effort is much appreciated.

We will be looking to update the phone box this summer by repairing, repainting and installing permanent shelving.

Jo Jackson, Reading Room Committee Member

Thanks

Now that our Covid-induced detention is slowly being unlocked it is appropriate to thank all those who have been so kind to villagers who, like us, are vulnerable. We have had our medicines delivered, lunches prepared and sent along, offers for shopping, transport to hospital and many other kindnesses. In particular, our sincere thanks to Rachel and Pete at The Chestnut Tree, and to Suan and her group of village helpers.

Lesley and Peter, West Wrattling

We have all benefitted greatly during the last months from those who have helped, and are still helping, their neighbours in both villages. Many thanks!

Anne, Weston Colville

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Pimp My Fish

Pimp My Fish will be in the Reading Room carpark, Weston Colville, on the first Friday of the month from July, 5 - 8 pm, starting on 2nd July. Menus and booking forms can be found at <https://www.pimp-my-fish.co.uk/>; bookings open on the Monday before they attend, and are taken until 20 minutes before the end of service.

The Chestnut Tree

We are writing this on 16th May, looking forward to finally being able to open inside from tomorrow.



Hopefully we will be back in the swing of it by the time you read this; we are a little rusty and still confined by various restrictions to keep us all safe, but are thankful to be trading fully once more.

Going forward we will be opening our pre Covid hours with the exception of now closing for Tuesday lunchtimes. This was always a very quiet shift for us and lockdown has taught us that we were in desperate



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need of a better work life balance. Therefore, our trading hours will be as follows:


Monday & Tuesday	5.30 to 11 pm
Wednesday & Thursday	12 to 3 pm and 5.30 to 11.30 pm
Friday & Saturday	12 pm to 12 am
Sunday	12 to 9 pm

We are also happy to report that, with the opening of inside, we are serving food again. We will update our Facebook page and the village website with our new menus. We are also happy to report that food service in the evenings will be starting an hour earlier than was the case previously. Our service times for food will be:

Wednesday to Saturday	12 to 2 pm and 6 to 8.30 pm
Sunday	12 to 3 pm

We are also happy to provide takeaways again providing that trade levels at the pub permit; please just give us a call. We have been taking lots of bookings this week so it looks like we will be getting back to normal on the food front quite quickly.

Finally, from Monday 21st June prescriptions will revert to being collected three times a week from



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Linton surgery, and then they will be held at the pub for patients to come in and collect during opening hours. We have given lots of notice on this in the hope that everyone is aware of the change. Should you have any concerns though please do give us a ring.

Thank you all so much for your continued support, we are so happy to be open again and, if you haven't been in yet, we have made quite a lot of improvements – we hope you like them! Best wishes,

Peter & Rachel

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West Wrating Book Club

For the first time in many months, on a slightly changeable evening, we met outside at The Chestnut Tree to discuss our May book, 'Circe' by Madeline Miller. It is the story of the minor Greek goddess, Circe, probably most famous for turning Odysseus' men into swine. It helps to have some knowledge of the Greek myths when reading this book. It weaves various well-known stories with Circe's story told from her own viewpoint as a female, if an immortal one, side-lined by the other gods, even her own family, due in some degree to her differences including a mortal-like voice. She is teased and punished when she shows un-godlike sympathy for other gods and humans. Even with the ability to heal almost immediately from the most dreadful wounds, the pain of physical punishment from her father, Helios, stays with her. It explains how Circe becomes the 'person' who does such horrible things as she discovers and learns how to control her full powers, but also the pain of self-sacrifice, through enforced separation and 'the sadness of losing love and facing eternity alone'. Some were unsure about the unresolved ending, but perhaps it cannot be any other way when dealing with the gods and myths. It took several people some time to get into the book but they then enjoyed it, although one of our number felt unable to read it, being so familiar with the originals. Most would probably recommend it to anyone who has an interest in mythology and is open to a new re-telling of one of the most famous events, especially one which addresses some modern concerns. Scores were between 7 to 9 out of 10.

Our next book is the classic Gothic novelette, 'The Strange Case of Dr Jekyll & Mr Hyde' by Robert Louis Stevenson, to be discussed, all being well, at 7.30 pm on Wednesday 16th June at The Chestnut Tree.

Linda Gorman (290653)

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West Wrating Parish Council SID Update

Thanks to part funding from the Windfarm Trust we have purchased our own Speed Indicator Device, SID. The Parish Council worked with Horseheath Parish Council who also wanted to purchase a SID, we agreed identical requirements and obtained a useful discount on the purchase of two signs from Morelock Ltd. These signs record speed and vehicle numbers in both directions at the same time, as well as displaying vehicles' speed along with a range of configurable displays such as 'Thank You', 'Slow Down', or a sad or smiley face. Vehicle speeds have increased over the last 14 months with SID recording 102 mph along the common, with many exceeding 90 mph, and we will be contacting Cambridge Police and politicians to see what, if any, enforcement action can be taken.

On a positive note Speedwatch sessions have restarted. On the High Street on 17th May during the morning rat-run peak we logged 208 vehicles/hour in one direction, with no one speeding. Speedwatch does have a great value to our community; if anyone is interested in joining our team or wants advice on how to set up their own team please contact me via our parish clerk, Jenny Richardson.

Martin Davey

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Cambridgeshire Churchyard Conservation Award – St Andrew's Churchyard

We were recently approached by CCCA to see if we would be interested in their bronze award. We invited their representative, Diana Cook, to visit our churchyard to give us some tips on conservation, and to our amazement she not only gave us some tips, but also said that with some tweaking we could qualify.

The award is based on a points system, and we need a minimum of 10 points to qualify.

- Short grass areas – 1 point. Done; thanks Ben Willcocks and Simon Sampson.
- Nettles retained in sunny spots – 2 points. Done.
- No use of chemicals or herbicides – 2 points.
- Wild summer flower area – 3 points. (We only lacked a summer flower area, but luckily we had a dug-over area near the road, which was a storage area while work was being done to the church. A perfect location. Sherry O'Donovan has very kindly taken on the task of making this a wildflower area starting from scratch, and would be very grateful for any wildflower seeds or wild plants that could be added to the area.)
- Uncut area every four years – 2 points.
- Spring flower area – 3 points. We have the spring flowers, but the area would need to be cut in May, August and October to qualify.
- Log pile – 1 point. This has been completed by Harry Mercer and Matthew Morrow (both aged 10) – great job.
- Compost heap – 1 point. Discussion.
- Seat(s) for visitors – 1 point. We have two.
- Bird boxes – 1 point. Two completed by James and Hannah Willcocks (aged six and seven). We could do with a couple more.

- Water provided for birds, insects and mammals – 2 points. Wally Potter has constructed a water trough which is now in full use.

As you can see, provided the wild flower area 'takes' we would nearly be there, but if anyone can provide more wild flowers, and indeed if anyone has some spare grass seed for the numerous bare patches in the churchyard, they would be very gratefully received.

Whether we get the award or not, all the work done so far will greatly enhance the biodiversity of the churchyard, and makes me wonder why I had not thought of it before!

I will regularly report on progress, and meanwhile, if anyone would like to lend a hand on the conservation work, please give me a call. I would be delighted to hear from you.

Cobby McCall (290046)

Dog Problems

Whilst walking my very elderly dog, I have been horrified by the large piles of dog poo in the beautifully tilled fields just past the woodyard. This is a disgusting practice. It is not nice to think that this may be wheat which may end up in our food and is a health hazard. I guess it is a minority spoiling the beautiful footpaths and fields we are lucky enough to have.

I recently saw two people with a dog deliberately sending it backwards and forwards using a whistle, into a field of growing crops, just over the footbridge at the bottom of Horseshoe Lane. Crops were being damaged, and the wild life such as leverets, and the conservation aspect, particularly at this time of year, was mentioned in *Challenge*. Additionally, out of control dogs off the lead may be intimidating for walkers, especially those with children.

Chrissie Gooch



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Church News	Parish Matters	Village Calendar

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

Parish Matters

How could I have been so stupid?

I vividly remember my brother's surprise 60th birthday party, in the local village hall. Genuinely, he simply hadn't seen the surprise coming; and he was gracious enough to acknowledge this in his speech at the end.

"I just didn't realise that it was all being prepared? How could I have been so stupid?"

The answer came from the back of the hall, "Years of practice, Brian!"

That the Church of England has an appalling track record of institutional racism burnt fiercely in the news some weeks ago. But like much 'shock'n'horror' news, by the next day or so it quickly spluttered out.

I guess most people, actually, really weren't surprised at the news. Especially, if like me you've had the good fortune to make close friends with black and brown people whom you've come to respect, and in whose judgement and honesty you completely trust. And you've become comfortable enough with each other to be able to ask them if they've ever experienced racism. And they look at you as if you've asked them if the earth really does go round the sun.

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How could I have been so stupid, not to be more in touch with my own unconscious racial biases? Years of practice, Alistair!

The important question then becomes, "Well, what to do about it?" The positive discrimination of ensuring that black and brown candidates are always shortlisted for jobs? Making sure you're especially nice to your neighbours of colour – hmm probably few opportunities, locally? Yes, all these are good things.

Nevertheless, at the end of the day, as white, it's hard not to fall into the feeling of being accused of something that's a little bit unfair. What about that article you read on paler black people discriminating against darker black people; or the involvement of native Africans in capturing and trading their own into slavery? Not that such excuses can ever exonerate inhumanity and gross inhumanity. But surely the discussion is more complicated . . . and fraught with difficulty and potentially heated and unpleasant; and we'd all rather it went away. After all, surely things are gradually improving?

The risk, as always, is that racism becomes yet another thing to kick into the long grass. And, then our racism just becomes yet more furtive, unprocessed and unacknowledged.

And that's not good enough. Certainly not good enough for Christians.

Perhaps, because for Christians the concept of forgiveness is so overfamiliar, we forget how key the asking for and the offering of forgiveness is to our faith. And yet 'forgiveness', when we start to unpack it, can seem to throw up more questions than it answers. Indeed, it becomes a life-time's exploration of learning the true impact of Jesus Christ's death and resurrection, for love of us, in our lives.

Forgiveness must be central to the work of reconciliation. But how in practice can/should/will forgiveness play out to bring about change for the better in our multicultural world with its years of stupidity, bad practice, and racism?

It's not exactly clear, I think. However, Christians might well reflect on the likelihood that this extraordinary and needed cultural change is the work of the Holy Spirit bringing in the Kingdom of God. And, at the very least, we must listen to the Spirit's promptings, and cooperate with God in where He is leading us.

Alistair Collen



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West Wratting Football Club

We are looking to build a stronger relationship with the village, and this is the first step in communicating with you about all things local football.

We currently have six junior teams playing on the recreation ground with players drawn from the local villages, including sons from current members of the West Wratting and Weston Colville parish councils. Also, our local priest, Iain McColl, coaches his son in our under 11 side.

We would very much welcome more children to join the club, and if your child is interested in coming along and experiencing all that junior football has to offer, please contact wwwfcyouthchair@hotmail.com

The football club was originally formed in the village in 1884 and is a proud founder member of the Cambridgeshire Football Association. We are always looking for more players and volunteers to join us and we currently have two senior teams that punch well above their weight. These teams were recent County Cup and County League Winners, which is quite an achievement given the size and resources of the competition.

The season is nearly over, and the coaches will be taking a well-earned rest and making plans for next season. Dates of open sessions for juniors and seniors will be placed in future issues of *Challenge* along with details of fixtures and results to keep you all informed.

Finally, we would very much welcome you all to come along and experience a game, where you can be assured of a very warm welcome. Hot food and drinks are available, as well as a licensed bar for you to enjoy both during and after the game. We hope to see you at a game very soon.

Jon Cliston, West Wratting Seniors Chairman

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West Wratting First Team Report

The First team were winning the Cambs Premier League until the league was stopped due to the pandemic. Frustrating for the group, but it was obviously the right decision.

Since the restart we have finished top of our group in the Kershaw Cup Competition, winning all 6 of our group games. We then beat Witchford96 in the Quarter Final (4 - 3) – a very entertaining game at Bull Lane.

We now face a tough game against Eaton Socon in the semi final, again at home.

Lee Miller, First Team Manager

West Wratting Senior Reserves Report

The season went OK, till Covid-19 messed it all up.

The team was going well in the league, and starting to push for one of the promotion spots, but I am sure it will be better this coming season. In the cup we were the only team that didn't lose (we will not look at the game against Puddlebrook, lol). We looked good against Linton, very promisingly.

I would also like to thank Lee for the help through the league and cup.

Kevin Farley, Reserves Manager



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West Wrating Parish Council

On Monday 10th May the following items were discussed at the meeting held in the village hall. The draft minutes can be seen on the two village noticeboards.

Election of Chairman, Vice Chairman and two Representatives to attend Sports Pavilion and Village Hall committees:

- a) Cllr Nichols was proposed to remain as Chairman, and Cllr Davey was proposed to be Vice Chairman, as Cllr Bonfield wished to stand down.
- b) It was agreed that Cllrs Roberts and Nichols should represent the council on the Sports Pavilion Committee and Cllrs Bonfield and Davey would represent the council on the Village Hall Committee.

Opportunity for Public Speaking:

- a) Sisse McCall thanked the parish council for supporting the Mobile Warden Scheme through Age UK.
- b) Jon Cliston, Chairman of WWFC, apologised for the club twice breaking Covid restrictions, the second following a match when complaints were made by the local residents to the parish council

about the noise of music and lack of social distancing amongst the players. A member of the Football Association had visited the club the following Saturday and had found everything in order. There was not time to discuss this more fully and it will be continued at the next WWSP committee.

Planning: there were no new applications but Cllr Lock has made enquiries with the Planning Dept at SCDC about a possible breach of regulations in the Conservation area, but so far had heard nothing back.

Finance:

- a) Audit documents for signature, Statement of Accounts, Bank Reconciliation and Spreadsheet had all been distributed to the council prior to the meeting and were available to those attending the meeting. It was agreed by the council that they were correct and should be signed, which was carried out by the chairman and parish clerk.
- b) Authorised payments and monies received are shown in full in the minutes.

Maintenance:

- a) *The Lamb Pub site:* pre-plan proposals had been sent to the parish council for information. A village meeting will be held to discuss any proposals made.
- b) *Wild flower verges:* it was agreed after discussion that the church scheme for a wild flower area and various other ideas for wildlife in the churchyard and also up the Causeway was excellent and there were insufficient verges owned by the village to take up this idea.
- c) *Dumping:* a considerable amount of rubbish including asbestos roofing has been uncovered whilst Cobby McCall was clearing the recreation ground bordering the housing along Six Mile

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Bottom Road. SCDC are sending someone to check on the asbestos and a skip has been ordered to remove the other rubbish. To prevent any further dumping the grass will be cut regularly on the borders, giving a clear boundary.

d) *Defibrillator*: The parish clerk was asked to write a letter to the WWFC to confirm that the parish council will cover the maintenance costs of this equipment.

Traffic Issues and Speed Restriction Equipment:

a) *LHI Update*: it seems likely that this application has been turned down. The new SID equipment will require seven new posts and costings are being sought.

b) *Highways* – gulleys and straw: it is hoped that those gulleys not yet cleared will be done shortly and Cllr Batchelor will contact Highways about this.

Cllr Batchelor was congratulated on being re-elected in the local government elections.

The next parish council meeting will be held on Monday 12th July and all are welcome.

Jenny Richards, Parish Clerk

A1307 Update

The process of upgrading the road continues, as you may well have seen, and the installation of average speed cameras between Linton and Cardinals Green has commenced. The next scheme to be implemented will be the signalised crossing at Hildersham.

The local liaison forum meetings are still occurring; they are public so please do register to attend the forthcoming ones to have an input.

*Henry Batchelor and Geoff Harvey,
District and County Councillors*



Christian Aid

An outdoor coffee morning in aid of Christian Aid will be held in

Balsham churchyard on Friday 2nd July from 10.00 am. There will be a raffle, and the crêpes/waffles van will be attending. For further details, please contact me.

Joanna Sanders (893063, sanderschimneys@uwclub.net)

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Weston Colville Parish Council

The Annual Parish Meeting was held on Wednesday 5th May at 7.30 pm via Zoom. Full minutes are on the village noticeboards. The meeting included the following:

The chairman presented his report on the council's activities over the last two years since the last meeting.

Presentation by Cllr Garrod on the **Community Flood Plan** – following a comprehensive report in December 2020 on the flooding at Weston Green, a flooding working party was established. Cllrs Garrod, Durham and Parker created a full village plan using a template from the Environmental Agency. The draft plan, including the triggers and actions to take, was discussed by the parish council in March. An article was included in *Challenge* in April, and comments to the clerk were invited. Free packs could be provided by the Environmental Agency, including signs and hydrosacks, once the plan was adopted. The Reading Room had been approached to ask if they could accommodate storage for signs and hydrosacks.

Presentation by Cllr Durham on the actions carried out by the **Wadlow wind farm community fund**.

Questions and Comments from Electors – a parishioner asked about flooding, as she will be moving into The Old Forge. She asked about riparian rights and whether she could raise the level of her back garden. The response was that the riparian acts would be shared with the Reading Room Committee and the West Wrating Estate for the ditch that runs along the recreation ground. The levels could be raised in the garden, provided that the action did not affect other properties.

The Annual Parish Meeting closed at 8.05 pm, and was followed by the **Annual General Parish Meeting**. Minutes are on the noticeboards, and include the following:

Election of Officers –

Chairman – Cllr Vidler

Vice-Chairman – Cllr Durham

Determination of Representatives –

Financial Overseer – Cllr Garrod

Footpaths Representative – Cllr Durham

Traffic Calming Working Party – Cllrs Ashbridge and Hubbard

Community Flood Plan Working Party – Cllrs Garrod, Durham and Parker

Playground Working Party – Cllr Hubbard

Flooding and Road Drainage – there had been no response from parishioners to the consultation, which was disappointing. It was proposed that the Flood Plan was adopted. It was suggested that the Flooding Working Party would act as Flood Wardens, plus two parishioners would be approached to join as wardens. Once the plan was adopted the Environment Agency could be approached to provide free hydrosacks, to be stored at the Reading Room, and at the entrance to the playground at Church End. Cllr Ashbridge said he

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believed the land was leased from West Wrating Estate, and asked when rent had last been paid.

Cllr Garrod would source suitable containers before the next meeting. The plan had been sent to Highways via Cllr Batchelor, but a response had not been received.

CSP Gypsy, Roma & Traveller Inclusion

Workshop – Cllr Parker had attended training provided by the police. A toolkit was being launched, with what to do if an unauthorised encampment appeared in the village. Weston Colville had been put forward to pilot the toolkit, and Cllr Parker would send the information to all the councillors.

Speed Indicator Device and Local Highways

Initiative – there were no updates; a parish consultation would be organised by the next meeting.

Footpaths – no response had been received about the footpath at Moat Farm. A dubious repair had been carried out on the bridge on footpath 9 going towards Carlton.

Pimp My Fish – Pimp my Fish would be visiting on 15th May, and then planned on attending on the first Friday of the month from July onwards. There had been a good reception from parishioners. It was suggested that the regular date was put in Challenge.

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Street Lighting – all the street lights had been changed to LEDs, and new Meter Point Administration Numbers reflecting the significantly lower power requirements had been requested, which should lead to a reduction in costs.

Playground – the Project Monitoring Document for the CCF has been completed. David Bracey had carried out the annual playground inspection in April. Cllr Hubbard would work through the recommendations in the report.

Finance

Internal Auditor – a new internally appointed auditor for 2020-2021 accounts onwards was proposed. On recommendation from the Clerk of West Wrating/West Wickham, Jackie Dockerill from Running Total Bookkeeping was approached. The accounts would be inspected annually at the year end, and monitored quarterly by Cllr Garrod.

The *year end accounts* were approved.

Matters for Next Agenda: Traffic Calming; Gypsy, Roma, Traveller Inclusion toolkit, Platinum Jubilee event, community led plan, review of policies, car park/oak tree naming.

Date of Next Meeting: Monday 5th July.

Jess Ashbridge, Parish Clerk

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Nature Notes and Marsh Tit Study

Some interesting things for you in June. First up is for your tum: *Claytonia perfoliata*, an unmistakable little plant in flower now. Only 20 cm tall, the stalks and white flowers grow through the centre of the

leaves (see photo, taken near Sandy).

Also called winter purslane or miner's lettuce, it is an annual from the western Americas where Gold Rush miners ate it to prevent scurvy, as it is high in vitamin C. It self-



sows extremely easily, so is found growing wild in the UK. You can buy seed to grow as a novel vegetable, but be prepared for its invasive tendencies. (I made that mistake with Sweet Woodruff, *Galium odoratum*).

Your Marsh Tits are deep in the woods, trying to produce more Marsh Tits. They are a cavity nesting species, but they don't like to excavate their own holes nor use artificial nestboxes. If you're in the woods,

listen for the high, sneezing call and look for their rapid flitting movement through the trees. They will come quite close, within 10 m, probably to check that you're harmless.

Those of you in the Weston Colville WhatsApp group will know I have to mention Purple or Hidden Toothwort, *Lathraea clandestina*, currently flowering on the ground underneath Willows on the western lake bank in Cambridge University Botanic Gardens. It's a British native plant, an underground parasite on the roots of Willow trees, only appearing above ground to flower. It's posited to be a protocarnivorous plant, as the stem is covered in fleshy, colourless, folded-over leaves which can contain trapped insects.



And lastly, a bird you'll either find adorable or downright ugly. Here is a baby Great Tit, runt of a brood of eight found in a licensed nestbox survey. This is one of the few times in a bird's life when you



can see its disproportionately long, thin neck, typical of birds and their ancestors, theropod dinosaurs like velociraptors and tyrannosaurs. Indeed, feathers evolved around 40 million years before birds: Velociraptor and the large tyrannosaur, *Tyrannosaurus rex*, are known to be feathered, probably for insulation as the feathers were ill-adapted for flight.

May your summer be warm, dry and full of long-unseen friends,

Alex Inzani and the South Cambs Ringing Group

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The Secret Garden

Save the date of 8th August, 4 pm, for 'The Secret Garden' performed by the This is My Theatre Company in St Mary's Church, Weston Colville.

You can book tickets now (www.thisismytheatre.com/secretgardenatwestoncolville) for this lovely performance for all ages by our favourite touring theatre company.

Balsham WI

Our May meeting was a Quiz Evening with a quiz compiled by Bridget Durham. Bridget gave us a fun time, with four rounds covering topics from Science and Nature to Sport and Geography, and a look at Cambridge Colleges from unusual angles. Our next meeting, via Zoom, will be on 8th June at 7.30 and will be a talk and cookery demonstration given by Carol Rose, when members can cook along with Carol. It will be an interesting evening with something to eat at the end of it!

Alison Clarke (894031)

West Wickham & District Gardening Club

Instead of June's usual garden visit, there will be an Zoom talk on Monday 21st June, starting at 7.30 pm, on 'Wonderful Weeds', by Peter Williams.

The club is offering these talks for free as a gesture to our local communities during this long lockdown. If you would like to take us up on the offer please send your email address to Sue Boase, our Zoom co-ordinator, at sueboase@hotmail.co.uk. She 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 on-line since under normal circumstances they are too far away to travel to West Wickham.

Andrew Morris



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BALSHAM SUMMER MARKET

Saturday 12th June
2pm to 4pm
Balsham Recreation Ground






Balsham Craft, Gift & Food Fair

The annual Balsham Craft, Gift & Food Fair will be back, on Saturday 16th and Sunday 17th October.

- Special gifts that will impress, or perhaps some unique, distinctive accessories not found on the High Street, at affordable prices.
- A café where you can enjoy a spot of lunch or take away some delicious homemade cakes.
- Tombola and Raffle, plus stalls for the children.

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Marsh Mail

At this stage of the academic year we say goodbye to our oldest students who, having finished their GCSE assessments, start their study leave and transition to post-16 study. Having observed this cohort during their five years at LVC, I am tremendously proud of the responsible, caring and hardworking young adults that they have developed into.

We plan to celebrate with them at their Leavers' Ball on Friday 2nd July. While it won't be possible to invite members of the community on site for their arrival as is customary, due to Covid-19 restrictions, we are looking forward to being able to mark their time at LVC with this special event.

Our primary transition plans will also have to be adapted this year to reflect the Covid-19 context. We are, however, looking forward to welcoming Year 6s to the college and to helping them acclimatise to secondary school.

While we are usually oversubscribed, a low birth rate in our locality means that we currently have spaces in Year 7 next year. If you have recently moved into the area or would like to find out more about moving to LVC please contact admissions@lvc.org. We do have some capacity in some other year groups and have transport arrangements in place for students who live outside our catchment area.

Many thanks to members of the college community who responded to the Trust's recent sports centre survey. It is great to be able to welcome all ages back to benefit from our sporting facilities at LVC. There are plans to improve the communication and opportunities for the centres that operate within Anglian Learning's secondary schools.



Our community sports centre is an important part of our remit as a village college, as well as a beneficial source of income that we are able to invest in students' educational experience. Bookings for our facilities can be made online (www.lintonsc.schoolhire.co.uk) as well as via reception (01223 890248).

We are also looking forward to the prospect of restarting our adult education programme in the autumn term. For more information see our Adult Community Learning page on the College's website (www.lvc.org).

Helena Marsh

Meadow School

I am writing to introduce myself as the new Chair of Governors of The Meadow Primary School in Balsham.



I was a teacher for 37 years before I retired in 2017 and this included 5 years at a school in Zambia and 13 years as a headteacher. I have lived in Balsham for 11 years and began my involvement with the school in 2019, including volunteering with older classes and one-to-one tuition with children in Year 3. These experiences have shown me how delightful are the children at The Meadow Primary School and how hard the staff work to help them with their development.

The role of governors is more of a strategic one, whilst the school staff and headteacher deal with day-to-day matters, so you should always contact school staff about most issues. Nevertheless, I should be happy to hear from you and you can contact me at sjordan@meadow.cambs.sch.uk.

I would be very keen to hear from any of you who might be interested in becoming a school governor. You do not need to have any great understanding of education; it is good if school governors include people from a range of backgrounds and also those who do not have children at the school. You would be asked to attend six or seven meetings a year, and it is a great way to give something back to your local community. If you would like to talk over what it involves, please do get in touch.

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2523 Linton Air Cadets

We are settling into our new accommodation at Linton Heights Junior School where we are parading face to face on Mondays and Wednesdays. To join the squadron as a cadet you just have to be a minimum of 12 years old and in year 8. Our minimum age for staff is 20, and all training is provided.



With shooting and gliding opportunities being announced this month, and with aspirations for some summer camps to go ahead too, new joiners and current cadets alike can look forward to full and varied training opportunities. It's good to be back.

Bradley Wright, Pilot Officer
(07943 873272, training.2523@rafac.mod.gov.uk)

Sawston Open Gardens

Four Sawston gardens are opening their gates to visitors on Sunday 13th June and Sunday 4th July, for the National Garden Scheme (ngs). See www.ngs.org.uk for more details. Visitors can either book and pre-pay via the website or simply turn up and pay at the gate.

Cream teas, cakes and drinks are available on both days from Sweet Tea café 1 - 5 pm in the High Street.

Mike & Ann Redshaw (01223 834511)

RNLI Cake Sale/Open Garden

On Sunday 27th June, 2.30 to 6.30 pm, there will be a cake sale and open garden at The Old Vicarage, Grantchester, by kind permission of Dame Mary Archer, in aid of the RNLI. Entry £2.50.

Geoff Heathcock

1st Horseheath Brownies

By the time you read this we should be back in the hall doing things the old-fashioned way, face-to-face Brownies (or 3D Brownies, as I heard another leader call it a while ago).

If you would like to send your daughter to Brownies, please check out the Girlguiding website (www.girlguiding.org.uk) or drop us a message on horseheathbrownies@gmail.com. Brownies is where the girls have fun learning new skills and enjoy just bring themselves.

Pauline, Katie, and Laurené

Wanted: Your Views on Health and Care

Healthwatch is the independent champion for health and care in



Cambridgeshire and it listens to local people and shares their experiences to help improve NHS and care services.

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Cancer Services at Addenbrooke's Hospital

The Addenbrooke's Cancer Patient Partnership Group (CPPG) is keen to hear from anyone with experience of cancer, whether they are a patient or carer, to help design and improve care for people living with cancer.

Your feedback will help transform the care the hospital is able to provide both now and in the future, when the proposed new Cambridge Cancer Research Hospital opens in 2025. Read more here: <https://www.cambridgecancer.org/>.

As well as contributing to plans for the new hospital, the CPPG has already been instrumental in helping plan the refurbishment of the Oncology Outpatients clinic area at Addenbrookes, and encouraging doctors to write clinic letters directly to patients, copying in the GP, rather than the other way round.

Since the start of Covid the CPPG has helped shape how the hospital communicates with patients about potential delays, getting bloods tests done locally, and changing to video or telephone appointments.

Lenja Bell, Macmillan Co-production Lead, based at Addenbrooke's, said: "Doctors and nurses are great at providing clinical expertise, but it is only by listening to people with lived experience of cancer that we can really provide a service which meets their needs."

Patients and carers can be involved as little or much as suits them at any particular time.

For more information contact Lenja Bell on cpgg@addenbrookes.nhs.uk or 07729 105550, or see: <https://www.cuh.nhs.uk/our-services/cancer-services/cancer-support-services/addenbrookes-cancer-patient-partnership-group/>.

GRANTA Medical Practices

COVID-19 Vaccinations Update

If you haven't had your first Covid vaccination yet, and you are in a cohort between 1 and 6, please contact us as soon as possible to arrange an appointment.

If you fall into one of the cohorts 7 to 12, please ring 119 or go to <https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/coronavirus-covid-19/coronavirus-vaccination/> where you can directly book your first dose appointment at a central vaccination centre.

If you need to book your second dose, NHS England guidelines state that patients should return to the venue where they had their first vaccination, as the second dose will be allocated and sent to that original venue.

As always, if any of the Covid vaccination guidelines change we will let you know via our website www.grantamedicalpractices.co.uk and our social media platforms. However, please don't hesitate to contact us direct if you do not have access to the internet.

We would like to take this opportunity to thank you all for your continued support and kind words, as well as all the biscuits, chocolates and other lovely treats. The goodwill shown to us whilst we deliver the vaccines means so much to all of us.

Sandra East, Head of Patient Services
(01223 627743, sandra.east@nhs.net)

DIARY

June 2021

Tues 8 Balsham WI
Sat 12 Balsham Summer Market
Sun 13 Sawston Open Gardens
Wed 16 West Wrating Book Club, The Chestnut Tree
Mon 21 West Wickham & District Gardening Club
Fri 25 Tea & Cakes, Weston Colville
Sun 27 RNLI Cake Sale & Open Garden, Grantchester

July 2021

Fri 2 Christian Aid coffee morning, Balsham churchyard
Pimp My Fish, Reading Room carpark
Sat 3/Sun 4 Summer Festival, St Mary's, Weston Colville
Sun 4 Sawston Open Gardens
Mon 5 Weston Colville Parish Council meeting
Sat 10 Saturday Café, West Wrating recreation ground
Mon 12 West Wrating Parish Council meeting

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

Churchwardens:

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

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

Weston Colville Parish Clerk: Jess Ashbridge,
jess@agrarian.biz, 07779 277647

West Wrating Parish Clerk: Jenny Richards,
j.richards597@btinternet.com, 01223 665260

Community Warden: Faye Parker,
Faye.Parker@AgeUKCAP.org.uk, 07436 102865

Parish Nurse: Kim Cox,
7churches.parishnurse@gmail.com, 07498 994205

Church Services

Please do keep an eye on our church website, 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, if you would like to receive a weekly newsletter by email or by hand, or find out how to log into Zoom services.

Mobile Post Office: Thursdays, Reading Room car park,
Weston Colville, 12.30 - 1.30 pm

Mobile library: first Tuesdays – 1st June, 6th July
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: Tuesday 1st, Monday 14th & 28th June,
Monday 12th & 26th July

Blue & Green bins: Monday 7th & 21st June,
Monday 5th & 19th July

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, so please resend. Some contributions may have to be edited, to fit the space available, and are published at the discretion of the editor.

July issue's copy date
Sunday 20th June