

Challenge

The Parish Newsletter of Weston Colville and West Wrating

The views expressed herein are those of the contributors.

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West Wrating Café

Our next West Wrating café will be at the village hall on Saturday 2nd April from 10.30 am to 12 noon.

Kate Cleary will be running her fabulous charity stall for Granta School.

Money raised from the café is donated to local community projects, but we are also recently supporting the DEC Ukraine Crisis Appeal.

We are looking forward to catching up again over coffee and cake. Please do come and join us!

Sherry (290070) and Catherine (291307)

Weston Colville Tea and Cakes

Our next date is on Friday 22nd April, 3.30 - 5 pm in the Reading Room. We look forward to seeing you then.

Val and the Team

Weston Colville Reading Room – ‘Pub’ Quiz

We’re holding the first of our twice-yearly quizzes on Wednesday 20th April at 8 pm. Come as a fully-formed team, or make a team when you arrive. Up to five per team, entry £2 per person. Bar includes wine, cider and draft ale. All welcome.

Jacqueline (291475, jacquelinetheteacher@hotmail.com)

Spring Clear-up, St Andrew's Churchyard

The spring clear-up will take place on Saturday 9th April (the weekend before Easter) from 10 am to 12 noon. As ever, hot cross buns and coffee will be served. Looking forward to seeing you.

Colin McCall (290046)

Weston Colville Folk Evening



On Saturday 23rd April, the Reading Room welcomes back



'Camus' (pronounced 'car-mus') featuring our very own David Somerville. When they played here about two years ago, they were very well received and if you missed it, or if you'd like the chance to see them again, come along!

Lockdown prevented them getting together for many months, but they've been enjoying getting back to playing live music again in recent months and are now working as a four-piece band. They have recently appeared on BBC Radio Cambridgeshire and performed at the St Neots Folk Festival, Ely Folk Club, Saffron Hall, and the Black Fen Folk Club in Cambridge.

David Somerville – Northumbrian small pipes, keyboard

Greg Smith – fiddle, viola, vocals

Andrew Burn – melodeon,

Northumbrian small pipes, vocals

Brian Cleary – guitar, bouzouki, vocals

The four friends have been playing together in various folk bands for over 40 years and their music is an eclectic mix of material from the folk traditions of countries including England, Scotland, Ireland, USA, and Spain, as well as self-penned tunes and songs. As David says: "If we like the tune we'll play it". There's more about the band on their website at <https://camusmusic.net/>

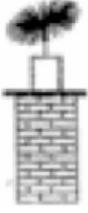
The music will begin at 7.30 pm; donations on the door; refreshments available; all welcome.

Jacqueline (291475, jacquelinetheteacher@hotmail.com)

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The Chestnut Tree

We will be celebrating being here for ten years next month. We can't quite believe how fast the time has passed, although looking at old photos I am reminded of how much we have done in that time. We couldn't let the occasion pass without celebrating, so we will be holding a Beer Festival from Friday 29th April to Monday 2nd May (Bank Holiday).

On Friday evening there will be live music from talented local singer Marc Salmon, so get your dancing shoes on! On Saturday evening Pete will be hosting his ever-popular Cheesy Quiz with £200 up for grabs for the winners to donate to their chosen charity. Teams of no more than four, and please bring along a piece of cheese. Accompaniments will be provided, and you can then all tuck in throughout the evening.

Sunday will be family day with a bouncy castle, face painting and garden games, so the grown-ups can relax in the garden whilst the children are entertained by Mr Baboon until 3 pm. He was such a hit last time that we can't wait to have Cambridge's famous Bin Busker back! Another wonderful local talent, Joe Toffs, will then be playing live in the garden for a couple of hours to round off what we hope will be a

lovely afternoon. There will be a BBQ from 12.30 until about 4 pm and then from 5 pm we will be hosting the Les Moulton Darts Trophy competition in the bar.

The festival will be rounded off with a relaxing Monday when we will be open all day and serving food from 12 until 3 pm.

We hope to be celebrating with lots of you over the weekend with some great local beers; we can't wait!

Peter and Rachel

West Wrattling Football

Forthcoming Fixtures for West Wrattling Firsts:

- 2 April (A, 3 pm) v Eaton Socon
- 9 April (A, 3 pm) v Hemingfords United
- 12 April (A, 7.45 pm) v Somersham Town
- 16 April (H, 3 pm) v Eaton Socon
- 23 April (H, 3 pm) v Over Sports
- 30 April (H, 3 pm) v Somersham Town

Blanche Miller, WWSP Secretary



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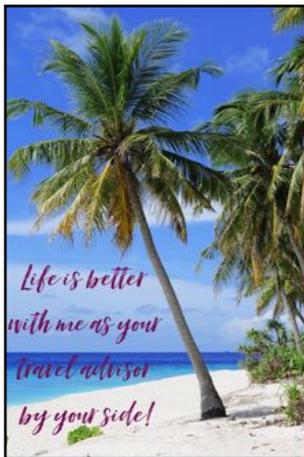


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Jubilee Celebrations

Weston Colville's jubilee celebrations will be on Sunday 5th June.

Full programme to follow, but activities will include a morning fun run, service of thanksgiving at

St Mary's, fancy dress competition for children, family dog show, and BBQ lunch and bar on the cricket field. The Reading Room will be open all day with tea and coffee and historic memorabilia from the coronation and displays of village history.

Call for Musicians – anyone willing to volunteer to entertain with their chosen instrument throughout the afternoon is encouraged to step forward. We know there are some significant talents within the village; it would be great for the jubilee celebrations to showcase these.

Call for Canvas – it's a Great British summer bank holiday weekend, so we can't rule out a downpour. If you have a gazebo, awning or similar you could make available for the Sunday celebrations, so at least part of the cricket field can be under cover, please step forward!



Call for Games – if you feel you could provide a traditional English fete activity – coconut shy, splat-the-rat, skittles – please step forward!

Full details of the **West Wrattling Queen's Platinum Jubilee** celebrations will follow, but a **Beacon Bonfire** will be lit on Thursday 2nd June, as part of the national programme for that evening. On Sunday 5th June there will be a **Street Party** in The Causeway for all of the village, plus a **Flower Festival** in St Andrew's church, and **Children's Competitions**.

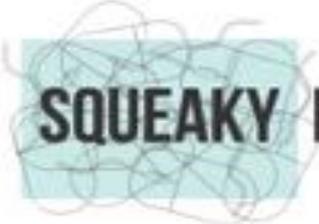
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Book Exchange at Church End

We have two notices for you this month. First is that our little visual joke, having a display copy of ‘The Telephone Box Library’ in the book exchange, has gone awry again, as for the third time it’s been taken.

This despite it having been on a string and having been marked in red marker ‘**display, please do not take**’ plus, for the most recent copy we bought, pages sellotaped to the string. So we’ve replaced it with the title you can see here:



The second notice is that happily, the book exchange is being refurbished. It will be empty from 1st April until as soon after the 8th that the paint’s dry and we can manage to refill it. You might grab a book before we get to them. Beyond that, if you do have a bag of books to clear out, that would be great for the re-opening; just leave them on one of our doorsteps, or call Joyce on 07980 404764. Happy reading!

Joyce, Jackie B, Emma Kaye and Jacqueline, Community Bookworms

Telephone Boxes in Weston Colville

As part of the Duke of Edinburgh and other award schemes, a team of young people from our village will be repairing and repainting both telephone boxes in Weston Colville. Weather depending, this will take place in the first week of the Easter holidays, from Monday 4th until Friday 8th April, when both boxes (including the book exchange) will be closed. If you would like to join us or are completing an award and would like signed off ‘volunteering hours’ please contact me.

Thank you to the Reading Room committee for funding this project.

Daniel Jackson (291258)

Green Village/Village Green Group

Is anyone interested in meeting other villagers to discuss ‘green’ issues, swap ideas, recommend ecobooks and while we are at it, eat and drink? Contact me in the first instance.

Jackie Brearley (290076, jackie.brearley@yahoo.co.uk)

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Weston Colville Circular Walk

Last month, despite the rain, we walked via Willingham Green and Carlton. One of the group found a geocache on the way.



The next walk will be on Saturday 7th May at 10 am, when we’re going on a ‘double woodland walk’ (of about five miles), hoping for spring flowers including bluebells. Meet at the Reading Room, BYO lunch and maybe something to share back in the Reading Room afterwards. Come and join us – all welcome, refreshments available.

Jacqueline (291475, jacquelinetheteacher@hotmail.com)

Save the Date

Our inaugural Saturday Supper Club in February was a success – “the food was delicious and the atmosphere friendly and informal” . . . “we very much enjoyed the whole thing – great food, good gossips, seamless organisation”. This has encouraged us to hold another evening, which will be on 14th May – see next month’s *Challenge* for details.

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West Wrattling Book Club

Our March book was 'Will She Do?' an autobiography of the actress, Eileen Atkins.

We all enjoyed this book although we were appalled by some aspects of her childhood, probably only too common amongst many of the actors growing up in that era and trying to make their way in the entertainment world. Some of us empathised with the problems she had with her family holding different values and tastes because of her education, which contrasted with concern that she speak 'properly'.

One or two thought it was a bit long with perhaps too much "then I did this".

We all enjoyed the first half most, which described her childhood and younger days including her life during World War II. However, it was interesting to hear how some of our greatest and best known actors started off and the struggles they had. One of our younger readers had not really heard of the actors and producers referred to but still enjoyed reading about her career path, and her struggle, determination, and tenacity. Scores varied from 7 – 10 out of 10.

We will not be meeting in April because of Easter holidays but will read two books for May, 'Silverview' by John le Carré and 'A Short History of the World According to Sheep' by Sally Coulthard. We will meet on Wednesday 16th May at The Chestnut Tree at 7.30 pm, and are always glad to welcome new participants.

Linda Gorman (290653)

West Wrattling Oil Syndicate

There will not be a West Wrattling oil syndicate order this month. The next order is scheduled for early May and details will be given in next month's Challenge.

Phil Tempest (westwrattlingoil@gmail.com)

The Peter & Ruth Lloyd Trust Award

We are now inviting applications for pupils starting university in September 2022. Normally one scholarship is awarded each year, to the amount of £1,000, intended to be of assistance in the purchase of books, materials, equipment etc.

Broadly speaking the degree course should be from one of the following: Architecture, Engineering, Geography, History, Law, Mathematics, Sciences, Medicine, and Veterinary Medicine.

The applicant should be living in one of the parishes bordering the old RAF Wrattling Common airfield: Great Thurlow, Little Thurlow, West Wickham, Carlton cum Willingham, West Wrattling, Weston Colville, and Withersfield.

Final decision and award will be made immediately after 'A' Level/Baccalaureate results and university offers are known.

For further information about the trust and award please contact Jonathan Drury on 01223 290968. For an application form please apply via email to: peter.ruthlloydtrust@sky.com

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Get ready for



Palm Sunday Songs of Praise

10th April 3-4 pm

West Wrattling Church

Everyone welcome
Child friendly songs
Egg hunt, bonfire and
food afterwards

Scilla and John Harvey, Amanda Goodman

the violence of those who plot against him with his sacrifice on the cross.

Easter tells us that through death, God can bring new life. It proclaims the power of God's saving love in the resurrection of Jesus. Easter also reminds us that the resurrection of the Lord is a beginning, not an end, an event which completely changes the landscape in which we live. The resurrection sets free the Holy Spirit who empowers us to forgive, to build communities of mutual trust and service, and to enter into a deeper relationship with God. We therefore can experience the power and reality of the crucifixion and the resurrection in our lives today.

As we carry forward a vision of both suffering and hope, death and risen life, let us be encouraged to speak up for the peaceable Kingdom proclaimed by Jesus. Empowered by his Spirit, we can put into practice both love for our neighbour and also, however difficult, love for our enemies. This is not an optional extra if we are to live in a world where peace prevails in our lives. In doing so, we may also experience the peace of God which surpasses all understanding, and share the good news of new life in Christ.

Revd Iain McColl

From the Rectory

Spring is a time when we can enjoy seeing new life appearing all around us. Tragically, however, this spring has also seen war brought to Ukraine, and devastating scenes of destruction and death. At the time of writing more than two and a half million refugees have fled the conflict, which the UN has called the fastest growing refugee crisis since the second world war. As we witness these tragic events, we are also called to respond in prayer and action. We join with so many people around the world in praying for peace to prevail and seek to respond to the refugee crisis by offering financial and other support.

Spring is also a time when we prepare for and celebrate Easter. Our preparations include Palm Sunday, when we remember Jesus' entry into Jerusalem from the Mount of Olives. Many had expected the Messiah to lead military resistance against the Romans and restore a kingdom by force. Jesus, however, does not meet force with force but instead proclaims the peaceable kingdom. He enters Jerusalem on a donkey, a symbol of peace, and meets



Compline Services for Holy Week will be at 7.30 pm on Monday 11th April at West Wrattling, on Tuesday 12th at Weston Colville, and on Wednesday 13th at West Wickham.

A Prayer for Ukraine

God of peace and justice, we pray for the people of Ukraine today.
We pray for peace and the laying down of weapons.
We pray for all those who fear for tomorrow,
that your Spirit of comfort would draw near to them.
We pray for those with power over war or peace,
for wisdom, discernment and compassion to guide their decisions.
Above all, we pray for all your precious children,
at risk and in fear, that you would hold and protect them.
We pray in the name of Jesus, the Prince of Peace.
Amen.

*Archbishop Justin Welby
Archbishop Stephen Cottrell*

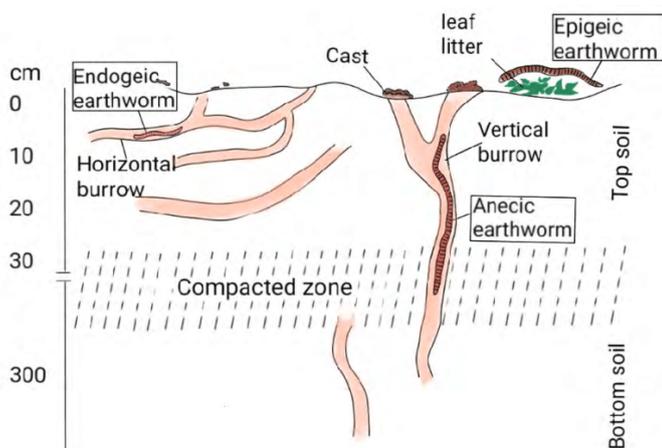
Nature Notes

Your Marsh Tits are moving into gear for breeding in May and June, so sightings are very important now, especially of breeding pairs. Let us know at cambsmarti@gmail.com and **Challenge**. Thanks!

This April we are getting down to ground level. Last June, I described the Purple or Hidden Toothwort *Lathraea clandestina*, only 3 cm high but flowering profusely by the lake in Cambridge University Botanic Garden (CUBG). Right now, the 8 cm tall white flower spikes of its lesser-known relative *Lathraea squamaria* can be seen under a lakeside Cherry tree (*Prunus pseudocerasus*) at CUBG; it's also a subterranean parasite with only its flowers visible above ground.



Going even lower, we have earthworms. There are three or four distinct types. Epigeic worms live on the soil surface, while endogeic worms move in horizontal burrows just below the surface. Compost worms live in, well, compost and similarly rich soils, but my favourites are anecic worms, the 'deep divers' which reside in vertical burrows descending up to 30 cm below the soil surface. *Lumbricus terrestris*, the big, familiar lobworm, is one of these. They are responsible for mixing organic matter deep into our soils. This diagram by Yasha Yadav and Vineeta Shukla of India nicely illustrates the different worm habits.



It's not well known that Charles Darwin wrote a second best-selling book, with the catchy title 'The formation of vegetable mould through the action of worms with observations on their habits'. It sold

3,500 copies in its first two months and is downloadable for free at <http://darwin-online.org.uk>.

In it, Darwin illustrates earthworm 'intelligence' in dragging leaves and paper triangles underground in the most efficient orientation, ie sharpest point first. It also shows how worm casts can bring up 16 tons of soil per acre per year (dry weight!) and have buried the Stonehenge stones 25 cm into the earth. To learn more, www.earthwormsoc.org.uk is a great place to start.

This month's word is **apricity** – the warmth of the sun on a cold day. Do please indulge in a bit of aprication while it's still cold!

Alex Inzani and the South Cambs Ringing Group

Parish Nurse Update

It has been a difficult year for so many in our community, but as spring arrives we are all hopeful for the future.

My first year has been busy facilitating GP appointments and helping those people who have not had access to services during the pandemic. Bereavement, loneliness, and anxiety has been challenging for so many of us, and our elderly population has complex care needs that must be addressed. Being 'proactive' and not 'reactive' to keep them as independent as possible, whilst maintaining safety and being the best advocate, has been difficult to achieve at times.

Kindness and empathy to our neighbours is something positive that the pandemic has given us all, and I believe that we have all become more aware of those in need.

The community cafes have been a 'godsend' to many of you and I would like to thank all the wonderful helpers who are inspirational and make such a difference to the lives of others.

I am so very lucky to have been given the opportunity as Parish Nurse to meet so many of you and I hope to have made even the smallest impact on your lives.

My formal commissioning service will take place on Sunday 1st May, 10.30 am at Balsham church, with refreshments after the service. All are warmly welcome to attend this service.

Kim Cox, Parish Nurse



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West Wratting Parish Council

The following is a précis of the draft minutes of the meeting held on 14th March, which will be posted on the two noticeboards.

Age UK Mobile Warden: Sisse McCall introduced Lucy Cameron, the now mobile warden. She spoke about her job, supporting older people in their homes to keep them independent, looking after their needs and visiting sometimes twice a week and doing shopping or collecting prescriptions etc. This costs one person £9/week and a couple £11. She has thirteren people needing her care over seven villages and works 15 hrs over five days. A contact number will be put on the two noticeboards.

Planning:

- a) The list of present applications is shown in full in the draft minutes posted on the noticeboards.
- b) *21/0812 – T Spicer:* the parish council will check the status of the planning.

22/00587/LNC – A Hodge: no objection but request that the Conservation Officer check the safety angle and inform the residents. Regarding 9 High St, a prior application for two garden rooms has never been approved/refused despite requesting the Planning Officer to visit and check. The chairman

will continue to pursue the lack of due diligence by S Cambs.

c) *Borehams site:* the fencing round the derelict ‘Lamb’ pub has now been re-erected but the building has been considerably weakened by the recent storms and there are safety concerns. A letter to MP Lucy Fraser will be written pointing out these concerns.

Finance: the authorised payments etc are shown fully in the minutes.

Parish Clerk’s Gratuity: this has been agreed and will be back-dated from 2003 and shown as a Reserved fund in the end-of-year accounts. It was also agreed that she should receive a 5% salary increase as from April 2022, having received no rise last year, and will do an extra 1 hr/week, making her hours 5 hrs per week.

Parish Council Elections: the present councillors are happy to continue and therefore there will be no contested election unless nominations are received.

Grass Verges & Pocket Park: considerable work has been carried out on the Pocket Park, cutting down saplings and shrubs and cutting back brambles, leaving a much clearer area. The paths will shortly be cut.

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Recreation Ground & Pavilion: Chris Hodson spoke earlier in 'Opportunity to Speak' about the new proposal for two dug-outs, sturdier and more stable. The council voted after much discussion about the viability of these dug-outs. There was majority decision to allow a trial period of a football season subject to approval of the full specification and exact location, to be monitored by the football club and the parish council.

Traffic Issues & Speed Restriction Equipment: a further SID sign has been purchased. With regard to the speed sign poles, a price of £2,500 + VAT has been received and will be purchased in the new financial year.

Play Area: the RoSPA safety inspection will be carried out in April.

Jubilee Celebrations: the parish council agreed to contribute to the cost of insurance to cover the Jubilee Tea Party in The Causeway, approximately £230.

The next parish council meeting is on 9th May at 8 pm. All are welcome to attend.

Jenny Richards, West Wrattling Parish Clerk

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Weston Colville Parish Council

At a meeting held on Monday 7th March in the Reading Room the following items were discussed. The full minutes and meeting documents can be found on <http://www.westoncolville.org.uk>

Planning: 22/00600/S73, Ivy House, The Green, Weston Colville CB21 5NT: S73 – the parish council determined to support without further comment the application for a variation of condition 2 (approved plans) of planning permission 21/00187/FUL. The application is awaiting a decision by SCDC.

Flooding: the pots and gulleys on Mill Hill had had some work done on 26th February, but four were still blocked. Cllr Batchelor was asked to enquire when they would be returning. Cllr Garrod reported that the wrong grit bin for storage had been sent, he was trying to arrange an exchange; an axle is missing from the sack barrow, so he was contacting the Environment Agency. The latest Flood Plan was on the website.

SID and LHI: Cllr Ashbridge is awaiting the results of his presentation to the LHI panel. Cllrs Ashbridge and Pagonis will be working on the road safety questionnaire. The Thurlow Estate is still willing to contribute financially towards traffic calming.

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Platinum Jubilee Event: a discussion was held about having a beacon, but it could not be placed at the war memorial. A potential timetable was discussed – Thursday night: beacon/bonfire lit, Flower Festival in the church running over the whole long weekend, Saturday evening: a concert in the church, Sunday: the main day of activities with a fun run, church service, dedication of a tree in the churchyard, a fun dog show, children's fancy dress, BBQ and bar, plus other activities. There was a £900 budget, due to money being unspent at the Jubilee in 2012. Cllrs Durham and Ashbridge would continue to coordinate with the PCC and Reading Room.

Dedication for Allen Scott: a plaque has been installed at the birch tree by the pond.

Risk Assessment/Health and Safety: the defibrillator was rescue-ready on 7th March. Road safety was being monitored.

Playground: the part for the swing at Church End has been sourced.

Matters for Next Agenda: Parish Nurse donation, new benches.

Date of Next Meeting: 11th May AGM/APM.

Jess Ashbridge, Weston Colville Parish Clerk

www.westwratting.org.uk

for information on:

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

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



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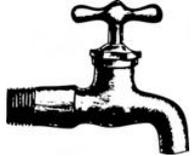
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Balsham Bowls Club

The Balsham Bowls Club is making an extra effort this year to promote the game, with the aim to get more people interested in playing. The club has been going for 75 years, and we want to keep going!

We know that many of the surrounding villages including West Wrating & Weston Colville at the moment do not have an outdoor bowls green, so we would like to spread our warm welcome to them with the same aim.

-  Bowls is easy to play, and we welcome all ages from 10 to 90+
-  Play for fun, chill out and relax , or join a team
-  It's a skilled target sport, and a strategy game that can help keep you fit
-  We have an Open Day planned for the afternoon of Saturday 30th April, with coaching provided, and a range of wood sizes will be available.
-  On Balsham Feast Day, July 2nd, we will be running events for anyone who is interested in having a go at bowls.
-  Carpet Bowls is also played at the Bowls Pavilion all year round on Tuesday and Thursday afternoons, 2 - 4.30 pm.

You can find us at the Balsham recreation ground, and we look forward to welcoming you to the club.

Bob Stigwood
(07717 535133, balshambowls@gmail.com)

Balsham Picture House

The film for April will be Nomadland (12). Saturday 9th April; doors open 7 pm and film at 7.30, in Balsham Church Institute. Guest £3, annual adult membership £12.



Spring Concert

Musical Director - John Clenaghan

Music to celebrate the Queen's Platinum Jubilee by Parry and Handel; plus a medley of James Bond themes, "Gloria Festiva", "Fields of Gold", "Tears in Heaven" and more.

Saturday 21st May 2022
Holy Trinity Church,
Balsham
7.30pm

Tickets £10 (under 16's free) available from choir members, Balsham or Great Abington Post Offices or online at www.ticketsource.co.uk/balshamsingers

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Balsham WI

For our March meeting we had a talk by Debbie Mower on 'A Hindu Wedding'. Debbie had been invited to a Hindu wedding and wore a sari, in a beautiful pale lilac colour with silver adornment. She demonstrated how to tuck and pleat the length of chiffon and hey presto a very elegant, beautiful outfit was made! She told us of the fascinating traditions of a Hindu wedding, and brought along some delicious sweets for us to sample, that were given out at the ceremony. One of our other members, Sylvia, brought along a male outfit which was worn by her son at another wedding. The outfit was very elegant, and included embroidered slippers. How colourful and glamorous these weddings must be.

For our April meeting (April 12th) we will hold a Spring Party – why not come and join us? All are very welcome. We will be celebrating with games, chocolate tasting, and prosecco. It promises to be a happy fun evening, and a chance to meet new friends and hear about all the WI has to offer. There will be a brief AGM during the evening.

West Wratting WI merged with Balsham in 2012, and newcomers to the villages may not be aware that there is a very local WI in existence in Balsham. We are now resuming face to face meetings after Covid and so this would be a good time for new people to join. Our monthly meetings are held on the second Tuesday of the month at 7.30 pm, in The Pavilion, Balsham.

Alison Clarke (894031)

2523 Linton Air Cadets

Our presentation evening was a fantastic night, where we could recognise all the achievements from during lockdown and since returning face to face. The Deputy Lord Lieutenant of Cambridgeshire was our presenting officer for certificates of achievement and the various trophies.

We are now straight back into activities. As well as leadership training, eight cadets took part in a small-bore rifle shoot, and we have now also had powered flying allocations in the Grob Tutor.

We have a stack of activities to look forward to over the coming weeks and months, so why not join us?

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



Girlguiding, Linton District

Our Founders, Lord and Lady Baden-Powell, were both born on 22nd February. On this date we celebrate Thinking Day, and think of the 152 countries around the world that have



Guiding. Every four years, at Huntingdon racecourse, Cambridgeshire Scouts host 'Cam Jam', a jamboree for Scouts, Guides, Explorers and Rangers from all over the world. At the last one in 2019 our girls met people from as far away as Sierra Leone, Pakistan and Luxemburg.

How lucky we are to have devoted leaders giving up their time to create such wonderful memories and inspiring girls to be whatever they dream of. How incredible that what was started over 112 years ago has had over 10 million girls join.

Louisa Powell-Owens
(07711 614328, lintondistrict@gmail.com)

1st Horseheath Brownies

We have been away on our Brownie holiday to the Jarman Centre in Newmarket, with ten of our twelve Brownies attending our Space-themed weekend. We were joined by four Rainbows for a sleepover on the Friday night, and during Saturday we were joined by more Rainbows who all enjoyed making bottle rockets, star wands, and moon rocks, and decorating star biscuits. We even enjoyed a picnic in the woods.

We have been working on recognising DIY tools and how to use them. After Easter we hope to start on the Camp theme Have Adventures; we will learn about tents, and how to build a fire and light it (under supervision).

Pauline and Katie (horseheathbrownies@gmail.com)

Marsh Mail

We celebrated Valentine's Day with a hugely successful 'blind date with a book' display in the library which, although restocked twice, saw every book borrowed.



The 25th anniversary of World Book Day on 3rd March provided a plethora of activities for our students to enjoy, including competitions, quizzes, a whole school read, and free books for our Year 7 students.

In addition to a whole school collection and non-uniform day for the Ukraine Humanitarian Appeal, our library prefects are making and selling charity ribbons to raise extra funds.

In such uncertain times for our young people, it has been wonderful seeing students relax and take part in our after-school and lunchtime craft sessions.



Crafting has the ability to reduce stress and anxiety but also provides a safe environment for our students to talk about how they might be feeling.

Dawn Hay, Librarian

Linton & District Historical Society

Our meetings recommenced in March, with local historian Janet Morris speaking on 'Horseheath Hall – a Vanished Country House'. Forty or so members and visitors enjoyed an interesting and informative talk about this one-time important large country house right on our doorstep.

The story of this large new hall and vast estate high up on the Cambridgeshire/ Suffolk borders, including a deer park, a menagerie housing monkeys, an orangery, and walled garden, began in 1642. At one point the fashionable architect William Kent was brought in to redesign the interior of the hall, also the gardens and parkland.

Using maps, drawings and paintings, Janet gave us an insight into the interior and exterior of the hall, and just how large the estate was, stretching towards Linton, Streetly End, and Withersfield and lying just above today's A1307.

Sadly, like numerous estates, the misuse of money by owners and subsequent heirs started its decline. In 1775 Horseheath Hall was put up for sale, but no-one came forward, and in 1777 it was demolished. Some of the large houses in the vicinity were built using brick from the hall. All that remains of the house now is a raised grass area, and an overgrown ditch which formed part of the hoha, along with two Cedar trees which were part of the garden. However, gates from the estate can be found in Cambridge at St John's College (side back gate) and Trinity College (back gate), and another at Glebe House, Cheveley.

Terry Holloway will be giving a talk at 7.30 pm on Tuesday 19th April in Linton Village Hall, on:

60 Years in Aviation



There will be refreshments and a raffle. Visitors and new members are always welcome. In May, our talk will feature the work of Marie Curie.

Margaret & Ian Creek (ldhscams@gmail.com)

Postal Deliveries

At the moment we are only receiving postal deliveries on alternate days, as the rounds have been reorganised and expanded until the postmen cannot complete their designated rounds in the allotted time. There is a 'Contact Us' form on the Royal Mail website; perhaps if enough of us complete this, our postal service may improve!



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West Wickham & District Gardening Club

At the club's February meeting, members Clive and Sue Boase gave a presentation on how we gardeners could make an impact, if small, on climate change, which resulted in much discussion. We thought this summary of the main points of the presentation was well worth circulating to a wider audience:

Climate Change and Our Gardens

Climate change (CC) is underway, with global temperatures increasing steadily since the mid 20th century. In the UK, the 10 hottest years have all been in the last 20 years. Increasing levels of greenhouse gases, such as carbon dioxide, are driving the changes.

The Royal Horticultural Society has reviewed the likely impact of CC on UK gardens in their publication, 'Gardening in a Changing Climate'. They conclude that, although the growing season will become longer, there will be wetter winters and drier summers and greater variability with later frosts, heavier rain and longer droughts.

There are a wide range of measures that gardeners could adopt in response to CC:

Accept and adapt our gardens and gardening, in order to live with CC. For example, we could:

- Use larger rainwater butts and tanks, in order to cope with longer summer droughts;
- Plant shade over our terraces and patios, to provide protection from the heat;
- Replace plants that require regular watering with those that thrive in warm, dry climates.

Improve environmental resilience – we could use our gardens to mitigate the negative impacts CC will have on UK wildlife by:

- Mowing our lawns less often, to encourage wildflowers, pollinators, and other wildlife, and to fix more carbon in plant material;
- Creating a pond which will compensate for the loss of natural ponds by providing a home for aquatic wildlife such as dragonflies and frogs, and providing water for animals such as hedgehogs.

Reduce carbon dioxide emissions, by –

- As far as possible, buying locally grown plants from nurseries, not imported plants;
- Using only peat-free compost;
- Reducing usage of petrol-driven power tools;
- Sharing plants and garden items, such as plant pots and tools, with other gardeners.

Trap carbon dioxide – the carbon content of soil has been reduced by agriculture and urbanisation. Gardeners could adopt measures that will transfer carbon dioxide from the air back into plant material and the soil, by:

- Home composting;
- Adopting a no-dig regime, or at least reducing the frequency of digging;
- Growing more longer-lived plants, shrubs and trees.

West Wickham & District Gardening Club organises talks, discussions and excursions relating to all aspects of gardening, including CC, and everyone is very welcome to come along and become involved. On Monday 25th April there will be a talk by Jay & Simon McWilliams from Hedgehog Plants, Risby, on 'Shade Lovers', at 7.30 pm in the village hall.

For further details about the club, contact: Arthur Mawby, 23 Burton End, West Wickham CB21 4SD.

(290474, arthur.mawby@mypostoffice.co.uk)

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Caring Together

Talented local artist
Betty Ellis specialises in

watercolour paintings of children and pets and landscapes of local landmarks, and is also a full-time carer to her husband John, who has a physical disability. Carers' charity 'Caring Together' has been supporting Betty for the last few years and as a thank you she will be donating 30% of the price for items purchased on her website to 'Caring Together' where the buyer mentions the charity, and 40% of the price for commissioned portrait paintings of a child or pet.

Caring can be isolating and challenging, especially as carers have faced additional difficulties over the past two years due to the pandemic. Caring Together provides information and advice, runs services in our local communities, and campaigns so that carers have choices.

Betty has benefited from attending one of the charity's carer hubs, where she has had the opportunity to meet with other carers in a similar situation. She also



receives emotional support from Caring Together to help her cope better with her caring role, which she says is "tough at times". She said, "As a carer, I think sometimes you just need to talk to someone because you feel so lonely, helpless, and isolated".

Betty's artwork is available to view and buy at www.bettyellisart.co.uk.



*Jeanette Threadgold, Communications Officer
(07843 327573, jeanette.threadgold@caringtogether.org)*

GRANTA Medical Practices

Granta Medical Practices

Recently Granta has only been able to offer urgent appointments. This has been due to sickness and staff shortages in both the clinical and administrative teams. We have had a few team members retire and move on to new jobs and we have recruited new staff who will be starting in the coming months. Unfortunately, we also have staff absent with Long Covid.

Not only is this frustrating for our patients, it is also frustrating for us. We want to offer the best possible service and we know we are not currently doing this. Sadly, our staff are experiencing a high level of verbal abuse and this is not acceptable. Please may I ask that everyone be courteous and kind to our staff.

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

April	9.00 am	10.30 am	6.00 pm
3 rd		United Service with Holy Communion – Balsham, <i>Revd Kathy Bishop/Amanda Goodman</i>	Evening Prayer – Little Abington, <i>Alistair Collen</i>
10 th	Holy Communion – Weston Colville, <i>Revd Iain McColl</i> Morning Worship – West Wickham, <i>Steven Wheeler</i>	United Service with Holy Communion – Little Abington, <i>Revd Iain McColl</i>	(3.00) Easter Songs of Praise – West Wrating, <i>John & Scilla Harvey</i>
14 th			(7.30) Holy Communion – Little Abington, <i>Revd Iain McColl</i>
15 th	(9.30) Devotional Service – Hildersham, <i>Revd Iain McColl</i>	(11.30) Stations of the Cross – Balsham, <i>Revd Kathy Bishop</i>	(2.00 - 3.00) Last Hour – West Wrating, <i>Alistair Collen</i>
17 th	Holy Communion – West Wickham, <i>Revd Iain McColl</i> Morning Worship – West Wrating, <i>Alistair Collen</i> Morning Worship – Weston Colville, <i>Steven Wheeler</i>	Holy Communion – Balsham, <i>Revd Iain McColl</i> Holy Communion – Little Abington, <i>Revd Kathy Bishop</i>	Evening Prayer – Hildersham, <i>Alistair Collen</i>
24 th	Holy Communion – West Wrating, <i>Revd Iain McColl</i> Morning Worship – West Wickham, <i>Marcus Cornish</i>	United Service with Holy Communion – Hildersham, <i>Revd Iain McColl</i>	

Revd Iain McColl
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Revd Kathy Bishop, Associate Priest
tel: 892288 email: revkathy@hotmail.co.uk
Mr Steven Wheeler, Licensed Lay Minister
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Jeanine Kennedy, Lay Pioneer Minister
email: jeaninekenedygv@gmail.com

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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: Lucy Cameron,
Lucy.Cameron@AgeUKCAP.org.uk, 07436 102865
Parish Nurse: Kim Cox,
7churches.parishnurse@gmail.com, 07498 994205

DIARY

April 2022

Sat 2 West Wrating Café
Sat 9 St Andrew's Churchyard clear-up
Balsham Picture House – film 'Nomadland'
Sun 10 Songs of Praise celebration, St Andrew's
Tue 12 Balsham WI
Tues 19 Linton & District Historical Society talk
Wed 20 Weston Colville 'Pub Quiz', Reading Room
Fri 22 Tea & Cakes, Weston Colville Reading Room
Sat 23 Folk group Camus, Weston Colville
Mon 25 West Wickham & District Gardening Club
Fri 29 Live music, The Chestnut Tree
Sat 30 Cheesy Quiz, The Chestnut Tree

May 2022

Sun 1 Parish Nurse Commissioning Service, Balsham
Family Day, The Chestnut Tree
Sat 7 Weston Colville Circular Walk
Mon 9 West Wrating Parish Council
Wed 11 Weston Colville Parish Council
Wed 16 West Wrating Book Club
Thur 17 Lunch Club, The Chestnut Tree
Sat 21 West Wickham Gardening Club Plant Sale
Balsham Singers Spring Concert

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

Mobile library: first Tuesdays – 5th April, 3rd May
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 4th & Wed 20th April,
Tues 3rd, Monday 16th & 30th May

Blue & Green bins: Mon 11th & Tues 26th April,
Monday 9th & 23rd May

Editor: Anne Bragg (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.

May issue's copy date: Wednesday 20th April