Chassenge

The Parish Newsletter of St Mary's, Weston Colville and St Andrew's, West Wratting The views expressed herein are those of the contributors. Printed by E & E Plumridge Ltd, Linton (Cambridge S91407)

From the Vicarage

So how was it for you, John?

The period immediately following the arrival of a new priest is often known as a honeymoon period. It lasts perhaps six months and in it the new priest can rarely do anything wrong. It is nearly always followed by a similar period when he or she can rarely do anything right. So as my first six months draws peacefully to its close, the opening question seems appropriate.

And the answer is blissful, as any good hone ymoon should be, even though they aren't always. A friend of mine accidentally gave his wife a black eye on his wedding night and I myself was violently sick. Nothing so far has caused me to be sick violently nor, as far as I am aware, have I given anyone a black eye, literally or figuratively. I have been welcomed by Julie and the Ministry Team with grace, kindness and understanding.

Everywhere I have gone people, church goers and non church goers alike, have been welcoming and hospitable. I have been impressed by the devotion of those who keep the churches going, often in very difficult circumstances. There is also a great deal going on, both in the villages themselves and in a lot of the churches. It's a lively place. And the Parish Nurse initiative is very exciting and very challenging. On a personal level lots and lots of family and friends have been to visit what I now call Hotel Causeway. And that has been a real source of pleasure. So as I say it has been blissful. One is certainly realism about money, a problem that is not confined to these parishes. The trouble when you talk or write about money is that the people who need to take it on board don't and the people who are already giving sacrificially feel burdened. But my well grounded suspicion is that most people haven't a clue about how much it costs to run a church and therefore what an appropriate level of giving might be.

Another aim is to achieve a greater willingness of people to serve on PCCs. Churches do not run themselves and a huge burden is being born bravely by too few people. Certainly the two PCCs I attend regularly are below the legal minimum. I would like to see that put right soon.

But for the moment it has been blissful. Thank you for asking!

I know it can't last at that sort of level. Even the happiest of marriages have difficult periods. But it is also the case that the optimum level of conflict within any organisation is not zero. Pearls are only produced when a piece of grit enters an oyster. So what grit do I think could be introduced into our churches?

RAF Wratting Common – Remembrance Sunday, 11th November

There will be a short service at the memorial on Sunday 11th November at 12 noon. The memorial is situated at Weston Woods Farm. A few of the Veterans will be attending, and Cadets from 1451 (Haverhill) Squadron of the Air Training Corps will be on parade. Wreaths will be laid in memory of all those who served here and throughout the world, especially those who gave their lives in the cause of freedom. WE WILL REMEMBER THEM. All are welcome to attend.

Dan Heath (07736 737174, guideofec1@msn.com) Friends of Wratting Common





Harvest Supper – West Wratting

A huge thank you to everyone who helped make this an enjoyable evening. Thank you to setter uppers, platers of food, bakers of delicious apple pies and crumbles, washer uppers, those who cleared up, etc etc. Also thank you to all who attended, and helped us raise £735 for the St Andrew's Church Restoration Fund.

Hopefully, we shall do it all over again next year. See you then.

Sisse Mc Call

Autumn Concert

On behalf of the WW PCC and all the organising committee, we would like to thank everyone who supported our concert on 6th October at Holy Trinity Church, Balsham, either as members of the audience, by the giving of donations or raffle prizes, or helping in any way before or on the day.

St Andrew's, West Wratting Patronal Festival

We shall be celebrating our Patron Saint, St Andrew, on Sunday 25th November. There will be a celebration, note the word, of Parish Communion at 10.45 followed by drinks and nibbles in church. This will be an opportunity for us to mark and enjoy our common life toge ther as the Body of Christ in West Wratting. Do come and join us.



It was a success both artistically and financially, and we are delighted to say that we raised £1132 (before allowing for Gift Aid and possible late donations which will increase the total) towards the cost of the upkeep of our ancient and beautiful church building, in particular, the organ. This will go a long way to making it possible to hold a concert in StAndrew's itself.

We would personally like to thank our fellow organisers for all their help, support and useful suggestions, and for all the kind comments we have received from those who attended.

Linda and Michael Gorman

Sound appeal

I have been asked about the outcome of the peal attempt at St Andrew's on 7th October. It was successful! Of particular interest to us was the youngest ringer in the band, a young lady from Linton who regularly joins in our practice nights here. Now a college student, she started bell ringing whilst at school, less than four years ago, for her Duke of



Edinburgh Bronze Award. Enjoying her new hobby, she went on to convert this to a Silver. And now her first full peal!

We are always keen to encourage new ringers here, of whatever age. It is the only way to ensure that we can keep the beautiful St Andrew's bells ringing for our own services and special events. Please call me if you might like to try this challenging but rewarding hobby.

Mike Rowland (290788)

CHRISTMAS POULTRY TRADITIONALLY REARED BRONZE TURKEYS



Macmillan Bridge-Coffee Morning

Many thanks to all who supported this coffee morning. A total of £320 was raised for Macmillan Cancer Care.

Sherry O'Donovan

St Mary's Christmas Bazaar

Saturday December 1st

The Reading Room 230 - 4.30 pm

with very special visitor...

Father Christmas will be flying in at 2.30

Lots of unique gift ideas homemade and home grown in Weston Colville, including:

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Balsham Singers Christmas Concert

Saturday 15th December 7.30 pm, Holy Trinity Church, Bakham We are fast approaching the season of goodwill and of course the Balsham Singers' Christmas Concert – our first with our new MD John Clenaghan. There will be the usual blend of carols and anthems, plus some surprises specially chosen (and indeed written) by John. Buy tickets early at the recession busting price of £7 from Balsham Post Office. Tickets will be available on the night priced £8, with concessions at £7 and £20 for a family ticket.

For further information phone Valerie (890544).

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The Causeway, West Wratting



St Mary's Christmas Bazaar

Calling all bakers, creatives and cooks!

If you would like to help with making items for the stalls please contact Jane on 01223 290643. We also need donations of good quality toys, homemade jams and chutneys, artistic contributions in the form of Christmas cards, gift tags, and cakes for our great British cake stall. Please let us know if you can help on the day with decorating the hall, manning stalls, or serving refreshments.

Cambridgeshire Celebrates Age

A big thank you to Suan Rowland, Melanie Murdoch of Age UK and all those who made the events of Cambridgeshire Celebrates Age possible. At least four people from West Wratting attended a most informative and interesting guided visit to the University Botanical Garden on 11th October. The weather was kind to us and we had the opportunity to find out about the history of the Garden, which houses over S000 species within its 40 acres and its glasshouses. There are some eight teams to keep the gardens tidy and rear the plants, and we saw some rare plants and trees, not to be found generally in this island. We finished with a very welcome hot drink and a biscuit.

Then on 16th October we were entertained in West Wratting Village Hall by the choir from Meadow School, Balsham. They sang superbly for such a young group (6 to 11 years old) and with quizzes organised by Melanie and tea and cakes galore (many thanks to the brilliant cooks) we all had a most enjoyable afternoon.

Mic hae l Hampton

West Wratting Over 60s Club

As another year draws to a close, our final Club meeting of the year will be luncheon at The Chestnut Tree, West Wratting, on Wednesday 7th November at 1 pm, to include our raffle. Please remember to bring along your prize.

I take this opportunity to thank the cooks among us, who during the year have kindly made us a selection of delicious cakes for our enjoyment - much appreciated.

Wéndy

Cambridge Arts & Crafts Group

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Balsham Helping Hands

Some recent facts: during the last 6 months (from April to September) drivers made 224 journeys, driving a total of 2616 miles. 157 of these journeys were to Linton, and 44 to Addenbrookes. Other destinations included Sawston, Saffron Walden, Newmarket, Have rhill and Chesterton Hospital. Although Linton Health Centre was the most common destination, people also visited the optician, the dentist, the vet, the chiropodist and the physiotherapist.

I hope you are impressed! We are always looking for more drivers. If you would like to join, please contact me. We serve the villages of Balsham, West Wratting and West Wickham.

Sara Himsworth (893975)

Christmas Postage Stamps at 2011 Prices

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Coffee Morning, Soup Kitchen, Tea & Cake

at West Wratting Sports Pavilion on 2nd November

in aid of EACH (Milton Children's Hospice)

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Raffle / Cake Stall / Tombola Christmas Cards / Jewellery

If you receive Pension Credit, Employment and Support Allowance or Incapacity Benefit, you can buy up to 36 stamps at Christmas 2011 prices. For vouchers to take up this offer, visit www.royalmail.com/stampoffer or call Royal Mail Customer Services on 08456 016 248.



Soaps / Bookstall Any donations gratefully received. Contact: Sara Boreham (290259) or Kate Cleary (290220)

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Litter

It would be nice to say that litter picking is over for the year, but regrettably there is no close season. In fact the offenders are dedicated and at it 24/7. Approximately 90% of the litter within our parish boundaries is jettisoned from passing cars, vans and lorries. Most of the rest results from sloppily packed blue bins. I pick up about one bin liner's worth on the West Wratting to Balsham road every two months, so taking all other roads within our parish boundaries into consideration somewhere be tween 30 and 40 bin liners of rubbish are collected every year.

A huge thank you to the litter picking teams in both villages, who are doing a great job: in Weston Colville the Swifts, Jenny Whitehead, Chloe Cockerill, the Jacksons, Colin Franklin, and the Coates; and in West Wratting the Attewells, Jenny Knowleden, Tessa Brereton, Louise Chandler, Alex Walsham and Caroline Bolton-Smith, Brian Langford, and of course the many who pick up on an 'ad hoc' basis.

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PS If anyone knows the person who drinks Marstons Empire Brew out of the bottle, I would to have a friendly chat with him or her.

Colin McCall

Dog Fouling

Dog fouling is a continuing problem, particularly on the footpath beside the Methodist Chapel and on the recreation ground and cricket field. At least three people have been seen allowing their dogs to foul the field, where dogs should be kept on a lead; their names are known, and if this continues, higher authorities will be approached.

Under the Dogs (Fouling of Land) Act 1996 it is generally an offence for anyone in charge of a dog to allow it to foul unless they clear it up. If there is a persistent problem with dog fouling in your area, the district council can investigate, and issue warnings, fixed penalty notices or even prosecute persons in charge who fail to clear up after their dog.

Very sadly Peter Lewis has had to resign from the Weston Colville team for health reasons. Thank you, Peter, for all you did over the past years and I hope you have a happy retirement. Dog fouling can lead to a fixed penalty of £75 or a fine of up to £1000.

There is a bin for poop bags opposite the Post Office and another next to the pond. Please be responsible!





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The Trust, which was set up in 2008 to give an award of £800 to a student attending University for the first time, is now ready to receive applications for the Academic year 2013-2014.

The degree course must be from one of the following:-Architecture, Engineering, Geography, History, Law, Mathematics, Medicine, Science and Veterinary Medicine.

The applicant must be from one of the following parishes:-

Carlton cum Willingham, Great Thurlow, Little Thurlow, West Wickham, West Wratting, Weston Colville and Withersfield.

Further information and application form may be obtained from:- peterandruthlloydtrust@yahoo.co.uk

Closing date for applications will be the 31st March 2013.

West Wickham & District Gardening Chib

pick and how to store fruit. We all came away determined to do better next year.

Next month, on November 19th, we are pleased to have Richard Ayres as our speaker. Richard was instrumental in laying out the gardens at Kirtling Tower, the home of Lord and Lady Fairhaven, who open the gardens to the public in spring.

We welcome visitors to our meetings so if one of our talks is of interest to you please feel free to join us, 7.30 in West Wickham Village Hall.

> Rosemary Yallop, Speakers' Secretary (01799584262)

West Wratting Oil Syndicate

32 syndicate members filled up at the beginning of October with Butler Fuels at 57.95p per litre plus VAT, and Butler gave us Glowmax (which they tell me is very good) at no extra cost. Normally, things go fairly smoothly but on this occasion I missed Carol Denny's order off the list, so humble and grovelling apologies to her. It wasn't personal, Carol. I am not going to organise a fill up in November or December, because over the last couple of years I have found that in the run up to Christmas the supply

On Monday 15th October, Nigel Start gave us a most informative talk on 'Self Sufficiency in your Garden', demonstrating how to provide fruit and vegetables for the family all year round. This year has been one of the most difficult for vegetable growers and he was able to give us tips on how to get the best from our crops, when to sow and plant vegetables, and when to



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tightens and prices harden to the extent that the syndicate doesn't drive any improvement in price, or if it does, it's fractions of a penny, which hardly seems worthwhile.

The next fill up will therefore be in January, so can I be the first to wish all syndicate members a Happy Christmas!

With best regards,

Richard Holness

Oil Co-operative, Weston Colville

Deadline for ordering: noon, Sunday 18th November

Church End to the bottom of Mill Hill: Anne Fairey (290326 or anne@fairey.myzen.co.uk)

Chapel Road, Common Road, Horseshoe Lane: Anne Vidler (290010, or *anne.vidler@talk21.com*) change these. The minimum delivery is 500 litres; this is a Trading Standards ruling because of the accuracy of lorry gauges. To get the minimum ask for 500 litres; do not ask for a 'top up' because you might get a 'fill up'.

Orders will be collated and placed shortly after the order deadline and deliveries may or may not begin the same week. If you are close to running out, tell your contact. The price will not be known until the order is placed, and the supplier may ring for payment before delivery (failure to reply to this call may put your order in jeopardy) or bill you direct after delivery.

Please be aware that most suppliers now add 2% to the invoice for credit card payment. Debit cards and cheques attract no surcharge.

PLEASE ENSURE WE HAVE YOUR CORRECT ADDRESS AND POST CODE because some deliveries have been delayed due to the lack of correct information.

Replacement footbridge at Horseshoe Lane, Weston Green

Some of you will be aware of the impending replacement of the five-arched concrete footbridge at Horseshoe Lane ford. The County Council Bridges Department are to install a new single span bridge with hand rails for pedestrians, at the end of October/ early November. This will mean a safer route for pedestrians when water levels are high, less maintenance to keep the arches clear of debris, and less obstruction to water flow in the river. During replacement it is intended to provide a pumping system for the river water to enable the foot access to be maintained.

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 S 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

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Do your bit to bring better broadband for all

Have you registered for the Connecting Cambridgeshire campaign to bring better broadband access for everyone across the county? Time is running out and we need as many people as possible to register before December 2012, when a supplier will be selected and planning for the big broadband rollout begins.

It only takes a minute to go online at www.connectingcombridgeshire.co.uk or fill in a Free post reply form in the leaflet at your local library or council offices. All we need is your postcode and a landline phone number, and whether you are a home or business user - and we will only use this information for the campaign.

The more registrations we get, the more likely we are to get the investment needed to install better broadband connections for all (2 Mbps minimum) with superfast speeds (25 Mbps minimum) for at least 90% of premises by 2015.



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Much of the support is being generated through the fantastic efforts of more than SO Broadband Champions, who are busy piomoting the campaign locally through leaflets, posters, events, and community websites. Many parish councils and local councillors are also backing the campaign because good broadband connections are vital for our businesses and communities to thrive, particularly in rural areas, with benefits for health and education too.

To find out more, visit www.connectingcambridgeshire.co.uk, email contact@connectingcambridgeshire.co.uk or call 0345 045 5200.

West Wratting Parish Council

The following are some of the items discussed at the Parish Council meeting held on Monday 10th September.

Latest figures show that over 18,000 homes and businesses across Cambridgeshire and Peterborough have already registered their demand for better broadband, making our campaign one of the fastest growing in the country.



adverts and photos! email: webmaster@westwratting.org Any fonds raised go to St Andrew's Church. a) Speeding Traffic: there was serious concern regarding speeding lorries through the village and surrounding area, and two parishioners came to the meeting to raise their concerns of a possible serious accident. This was discussed at some length and the Chairman said a letter would be

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sent to Thurlow Estates, County Council Highways and the District Council concerning routes and speed of grain lorries. Cllr Ross-Bain said he would check on the speeding and accident figures for the area and the implications and cost of changing the speed limit to 20 mph.

- b) Finance: the external audit had been carried out satisfactorily by Moore Stephens. Council had been notified that the external auditors for the next five years will be Littlejohns LLP.
- c) Maintenance:
- The new goal & goal posts had been erected on the recreation field.
- ii. There had been complaints about the manner of grass cutting, which the Parish Clerk will take up with the contractors, although it must be said that it has been a difficult year weatherwise.

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- Cllr McCall spoke by invitation at a seminar organised by RES in June, outlining the experiences the parish had had with RES over the years.
- ii Mr Colin McCall will be attending with other parish representatives a Community Funding meeting on 25th September. There were various problems he hoped would be aired and dealt with at this meeting.
- f) Danger Spots:

i.

- The Chairman will be having a meeting with Highways Dept. and the Chairman of West Wickham with regard to the safety aspects of the Common crossroads.
- ii. The problem of speeding traffic at Six Mile Bottom was discussed. 'Slow Down Concealed Entrances' signs could be put up but as they are outside the speed limit area
- d) Code of Conduct: following adoption of the new Code of Conduct, the forms have been completed and signed and will be sent to the Monitoring Officer in Cambridge.
- e) Wind Farm Update:

nothing else was possible.

The next meeting will be on Monday 12th November and all are welcome to attend.

Jennifer Richards, Parish Clerk







West Wratting Book Club

We met on 16th October at The Chestnut Tree, and reviewed 'The Hunger Games' by Suzanne Collins. Set in the future, after devastation of the world causes a dramatic reorganisation of law and order, there is an annual televised killing game, where the competitors have to fight each other for survival. They are all children, some as young as 13. A teenager's book, and the first in a trilogy, it scored 57 out of 90, and some would not recommend it to an adult as being too disturbing reading, about children killing each other. But the reader gets hooked; some could not put it down, just to see who died and how! Comments ranged from:

> a gripping story ... he roine is good role model ... didn't want to miss any of the bits ... a moral in there for younger people ... like reality TV ...

We felt it was suitable for children aged 13 and over, and could be a good Christmas present.

The poetry review was interesting. Some people had brought along favourite poems, including those by W B Yeats 'He Wishes for the Cloths of Heaven' (printed below), 'Leisure' by W H Davies (What is this life if, full of care, We have no time to stand and stare?.....), 'The Hangman' by P B Shelley, and 'Skimbleshanks: the Railway Cat' from T S Eliot's 'Old Possum's Book of Practical Cats'.

The last two lines of 'Invictus' by WE Henley will stick with me:

I am the master of my fate: I am the captain of my soul.

The book for the next meeting, on 13th November, is "The Picture of Dorian Gray" by Oscar Wilde. We will also discuss Christmas poetry, perhaps including some of the war poetry

to:

didn't like totalitarian regime ... games like 'Gladiators' ... a rip off of 'Battle Royale' c1996, or 'Rollerball' ... like 'Lord of the Flies' ... hated all the murders...

We will then meet on 11th December, again at Spm, to review Victoria Hislop's 'The Thread'.

Jeanette Job (290706)



Had I the heavens' embroidered cloths, Enwrought with golden and silver light, The blue and the dim and the dark cloths Of night and light and the half-light, I would spread the cloths under your feet: But I, being poor, have only my dreams; I have spread my dreams under your feet; Tread softly because you tread on my dreams. WBYeats

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Derbyshire Post

As I write we have just come to the end of two days of Open Mornings. The first was for prospective parents considering a place at LVC for their children. Close to 500 people came to see the school on what was an ordinary school day. Clearly we couldn't let parents just wander around for child protection reasons so our Year 11 prefects took them out and about on tours around the site. It enabled parents to see what children experience in their lessons on a day to day basis, the kinds of activities that happen in a modern comprehensive, and the active learning that is part of the way that we teach. People reported back that they very much liked what they saw: children were engaged, the atmosphere was calm but purposeful and they were particularly impressed with the good manners of our young people. We only have 165 places available in September 2013 and I imagine, however, that once more we will have many more applications for a place.



in action on a normal day. This time, the Senior Leadership Team were the tour leaders and we took questions at the end.

Some of our parents had been to the school as children themselves so were fascinated by how the spaces had changed. We gave tours to around 50 parents and I think it is something that we should repeat every year from now onwards.

Caroline Derbyshire, Principal



The second Open Morning was a new event for us and I believe that everyone thoroughly enjoyed it. It was a chance for our current parents to see the school

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References to Weston Colville in the poems of James Reynolds Withers

J R. Withers published three volumes of poetry between 1856 and 1861.

In volume 1, in the poem called '**Changes**', he refers to playing on the village green in his boyhood at Weston Colville.

In '**The Days When We Were Young**', lines addressed to 'my friend and play-fellow RB of Weston Colville', the poet recounts how they:

> Chased the sportive butterfly, Or on the old gate swung Oh, these were happy, happy days – The days when we were young.

In **'The Old Lane**' he describes what can only be Mill Hill as he speaks of the hill and 'the sails of the mill' and the canopy of trees over his head.



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He goes on to speak of the squire of Weston Colville, John Hall, who died in 1860 in his nineties, who pursued the ancient sport of falconry:

> Pleased have I stood and thought the sight quite grand,

To see him pass with hawk upon his hand; For well he loved this ancient princely sport.....

I praise him for it but I thank him more For all his kindness to the village poor.

This unsolicited praise for the squire, who owned almost all the land in Weston Colville and employed nearly all its able bodied workers, is an interesting social comment from one whose early life in the village was surrounded by hardship and poverty. This long poem ends on a nostalgic note as he remembers his childhood in Weston Colville,

> But changes come to all – are come to me, I am not now what once I used to be; Still the same feelings in my heart do dwell. Home of my childhood fare thee well!

Volume 2 (1860) is dedicated to Miss Hall of Weston Colville (sister of General John Hall and co-founder with him of the village school in 1868).

Page 1 begins with 'My Native Village', a poem running to 13 pages and full of references to Weston Colville. It describes his home, 'the straw roofed cot, the village green, the bowling green, the annual fair, the songs they sang such as 'Lord Bateman' and. 'Black eyed Sue', and the stream and rustic bridge. He recounts how his mother first taught him to read and write and "told me in my books to take delight".

Although the young Withers loved to ramble across the fields and through the woods he also appreciated the main lanes through the village,

> How pleasant is the lane up to the mill, That leads to the small church below the hill;

Volume 3 (1861) contains no poems directly about his happy childhood in the village, but it tells us two things.

Firstly, in his Preface, he gives a short biographical sketch of his childhood in the village,

I have been a shepherd boy, a pig-keeping boy, a bird-scaring boy and a stone-picking boy; I have been a tiller of the ground and a reaper of the crops thereof; but in all these occupations......I found scattered some lines of poetry.

Secondly, the end of the book reveals a long list of patrons including the Prince of Wales, Charles

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Dickens and two local figures, Miss Hall of The Park, Six Mile Bottom and the Rector of Weston Colville, the Rev'd William Acton.

J R Withers left Weston Colville in 1824, when he was twelve, living mostly the reafter at Fordham, near Newmarket, where he died in 1892. There is a stained glass window to his memory in Fordham Church and a number of his descendants still live in the village.

Tim Cockerill

West Wratting Village Hall

Following protracted negotiations with South Cambridgeshire District Council we have succeeded in obtaining an annual Premises Licence which covers the following:

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- entertainment facilities for making music
- entertainment facilities for dancing
- entertainment of a similar description to that falling within entertainment facilities for making music or dancing
- provision of late night refreshment
- sale by retail of alcohol

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The Linton and District Historical Society

The Society talk for November will be on the Whittlesey Straw Bear, with Brain Kell, the man who revived the tradition. The talk will be held at 7.30 pm on Tuesday 20th November in Linton Village Hall. We will be reintroducing the monthly raffle and refreshments. All are very welcome.



In Whittlesey, from when no one quite knows, it was the custom on the Tuesday following Plough Monday (the first Monday after Twelfth Night) to dress one of the confraternity of the plough in straw and call him a 'Straw Bear'. A newspaper of 1882 reports that '... he was then taken around the town to entertain by his frantic and clumsy gestures the good folk who had on the previous day subscribed to the rustics, a spread of beer, tobacco and beef'. Come along and find out much more...

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events and extended articles relating to Local, Social and Family History we are setting up for our villages a history e-news email distribution list. With the high cost of postage, this is the only really viable way of keeping everyone informed. If you would like to be kept up to date about news and events from the Linton and District Historical Society, Linton WEA and surrounding village history groups, please send your email address to *info@lintonwea.org.uk* and we will add you to the distribution list.

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To keep everyone who lives locally in Linton and the surrounding villages informed on all the news, issues,



Norfolk Coast: Victorian Cottage to let 1^{1/2} hour drive from West Wratting, 3 minute walk to Overstrand beaches, 1 mile from Royal Gromer Golf Club, and 15 miles from Norfolk Broads. 2 large bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, fabulous period interior, fully equipped. Sleeps 6 easily. Garden and outhouses for surf boards and bieyeles. For more details, tel 01223 290706. Photos and references available.



Do you love to sing? Do you enjoy interacting with children? Do you have a spare couple of hours on a Thursday? If so,

Tuneful Tots needs YOU!

Tuneful Tots is a local children's singing group based in Balsham. We cater for 0-5 year olds and have lots of fun playing musical instruments and singing a variety of different songs. We are looking for a singer to lead the session, along with our trusty piano player. The session is from 1.30 pm to 2.45 pm every Thursday during term time, and as the backbone of the group, the singer will receive £10 a session for their efforts!

If you would like further details about the session or the role of singer, please contact Beverley on 07833 228958.

The Invasion of Great Britain in 1910

A century ago, in September 1912, King George V spent a week in Linton and the surrounding villages witnessing the War Manoeuvres that took place across the glacial gravel-topped esker ridge that stretches from the Gog Magog Hills all the way to Horseheath and Royston. During this period he stayed at Trinity College, Cambridge.

As a result of this speech author William Le Queux wrote a fictitious account entitled 'The Invasion of 1910'. This novel, written in the summer of 1905, bears many uncanny similarities to the scenario set by the umpires in the 1912 War Manoeuvres. In it, the German surprise invasion begins on the East Coast between Cromer and Sheringham on sleepy Sunday 2nd September 1905 at the break of dawn, with the German forces ultimate aim being to sweep towards London and take control. What ensued in the story is sheer chaos and pandemonium, the collapse of the country's financial institutions, the closing down of manufacturing and coal mining, and most of the population starving. The Army is in complete disarray and the Royal Navy almost completely destroyed in the first few days. One of the battles took place on our local hill tops, in chapter XIV about the battle at Royston.

This book became very popular and extremely influential, and was widely read by the general public,

parliamentarians, and the military hierarchy. It was the catalyst for the start of major changes and reforms to the preparedness of the British Army and Royal Navy, and led to the foundation of the Royal Flying Corps in April 1912. All of these led to these major War Manoeuvres in September THE INVASION OF 1910 1912. This is all



From as early as 1900 leading politicians and senior military figures fiercely debated the unpreparedness of Great Britain's Home Defence, and how it falsely depended on the superiority of the Royal Navy, which had led to the British Army becoming extremely depleted, with moral at rock bottom.

In a keynote speech at the House of Lords on the 10th July 1905, Field Marshall Earl Roberts stated: "I sometimes de spair of the country ever becoming alive to the danger of the unpreparedness of our present position until it is too late to prevent some fatal catastrophe."

William LeQueux

catalogued in a wonderful souvenir booklet now kept at the Cambridgeshire Collection. Read more about this fascinating story, especially the King's visit to our villages, in the coming months.



Priest in charge: Rev Julie Norris

St Mary's Cluirch, Weston Colville

Sung Eucharist each Sunday at 9.15 am. Family service at 9.15 am on the second Sunday of the month.

Contact Rosemary Westley (290277) *St Andrew's Church, West Wratting*

Family Communion at 10.45 am (third Sunday most months) and Communion at 10.45 am on other Sundays. Contact Sebastian Bain (\$\$2960)

Every Thursday there will be a celebration of Holy Communion at 10 am in Bals ham Church.

Methodist Chapel, Weston Colville

Minister: Rev Nigel Bishop (01 440 702422)

Roman Catholic Mass

Every Saturday at 5:30 pm, Sundays at 10 am and noon, at St Philip Howard Church, Cherry Hinton

Every Saturday at 630 pm, Sundays at 10 am, Haverhill (St Felix Roman Catholic Church)

DIARY

November 2012

- Fri 2 Coffee morning/soup kitchen etc, West Wratting First Friday Budge, West Wratting Village Hall
- Sat 3 Farmers' Market, LVC
- Sun 4 Festival of Light service, Balsham
- Tues 6 Bals ham Horticultural Society AGM
- Wed 7 West Wratting Over 60s, The Chestnut Tree
- Sun 11 Remembrance Sunday, service at RAF Memorial
- Mon 12 West Wratting Parish Council meeting
- Tues 13 West Wratting Book Club, The Chestnut Tree
- Thurs 15 West Wratting Lunch Club, The Chestnut Tree
- Sun 18 Deadline for ordening oil, Weston Colville co-op
- Mon 19 West Wickham Gardening Chib
- Tues 20 Linton & District Horticultural Society meeting

Ministry Team

Revd Dr Julie Norris, Priest-in-Charge tel: 891350; Balsham Church: 890895 (day off: Tues) julienorris1323@aol.com Revd Canon John Fellows, Assistant Parish Priest tel: 291265 email: jfellows321@btinternet.com Revd Kathy Bishop, Associate Priest tel: 892288 email: revkathy@hotmail.co.uk Mr Steven Wheeler, Licensed Lay Minister tel: 290643 email: steven@juicyfruitsuk.com Mrs Sharon Clark, Licensed Lay Minister tel: 893043 email: juliannor@yahoo.co.uk Mrs Rosemary Mead, Authorised Lay Minister tel: 891718 email: rmead@sjcs.co.uk

St Andrew's:	Flowers	Cleaning
Nov 4 th	Jenny	Jerny
Nov 11th	Jenny	Pauline
Nov 18 th	Fanny	Sebastian
Nov 25 th	Fauty	Sue & Maggie
St Mary 's :	Flowers	Cleaning
November	Lesley	Ruth

St Andrew's Church Tidy up

Since re thanks to Andrew Waygood and Colin McCall for tidying the church yard – a demanding task this year with all the extra growth. The energy expended makes the church yard look extremely tidy for the coming winter – thank you.

On behalf of West Wratting PCC

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Sun 25 StAndrew's Patronal Festival

December 2012

- S at 1 St Mary's Christmas Bazaar, Reading Room Farmers' Market, Linton Village College
- Fri 7 First Friday Bridge, West Wratting Village Hall
- Tues 11 West Wratting Book Club, The Chestnut Tree
- Sat 15 Balsham Singers' Concert
- Thur 20 West Wratting Lunch Club, The Chestnut Tree
- Sun 23 Carols at St Mary's, Weston Colville, at 6 pm
- Mon 24 Crib Service, 4.30 pm
 - 11.30 pm, Midnight Mass, St Andrew's
- Tues 25 Family Communion, St Mary's, at 10.45 am Sun 30 Joint service at Balsham
- Blackbins: Tues 13 & 27 November, Tues 11 & Thurs 27 December, then Thurs 3 January.
- Creen & blue bins: Tues 6 & 20 November, Tues 4 & 18 December, then Wednesd ay 9 January.

Mobile library: every 4th Wednesday,

High Street, West Wratting 12.10 to 12.55 Post Office, Weston Green 2.05 to 2.25 Mill Hill, Weston Colville 2.30 to 3.05.



Dr TONY WATLING

Tutor - BSc, PhD

Religious Studies, Philosophy/Ethics, Social Sciences, Humanities Phone: 01223 290 635 *email:t.watling@talk21.com*

Editor: Anne Bragg (2905:50) or email: editor@westwratting-westoncolville-challenge.co.uk

Thank you for all your articles, news, etc. If these are sent by email, they are always acknowledged; if you don't get a reply, your items haven't been received. Contributions can also be left at Weston Colville Post Office. Some may have to be edited, to fit the space available, and are published at the discretion of the editor; anonymous contributions will not be published.

December issue's copydate: Tuesday 20th November.