



Challenge



The Parish Newsletter of St Mary's, Weston Colville and St Andrew's, West Wrating

The views expressed herein are those of the contributors.
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From the Vicarage

At a social occasion, someone's friend told me that she played the organ. Like so many of us, the organist was shy about her gift and not best pleased at being drawn into the limelight. A few weeks later, when all the known organists were busy and there was an uncovered service, I asked her to play and she agreed. Without her we would have had no organist and no hymns. She used her gifts well and we all benefitted.

Recently, members of the six PCCs across the seven churches met together. They shared ideas and experiences. Since the meeting I notice that they have already started to adapt each other's ideas to different contexts. There are some things that we do better together than when we act on our own.

As we draw near to Christmas, we tend to think about things to give to others. However, people often underestimate the gift of their time. Vulnerable people sometimes say to me that they do not want to be a burden, without realising just how good it is to spend time with them, or how good they are at encouraging those who are able to be more active.

As I write this, there is a group of people who are working to apply for grants and draw up a job description to employ a Parish Nurse. There are other people who are working together to draw up specifications to put running water and toilets into some of the churches. Rosemary, Sharon and Kathy have been encouraging work with children and families, and there were 35 children from across the parishes at a recent service where children acted in a drama. Keith Day has begun his training to become an authorised Lay Minister in music. Steve Jordan has taught us some different songs. Richard commissioned the choir to sing a beautiful piece of music that he wrote. There is a lot of talent and energy being used in these creative ways. Hard work

is being tackled, and more is possible when people work together.

In the seven-church meeting someone suggested that perhaps we should all secretly nominate people for roles. It is the case that some of us do not recognise our own talents and need others to invite us to share them. Sometimes we only discover we are good at something when we have a go. Everyone benefits when gifts are shared.

There are Carol Services at 10.45 am at West Wrating and 6 pm at Weston Colville on 23rd December, and crib services at 4 pm at West Wrating and 4.30 pm at Weston Colville on Christmas Eve. The Midnight Mass will take place at 11.30 pm at West Wrating and the Christmas Day Family Communion will take place at 10.45 am at Weston Colville. Please join in.

I hope you have a peaceful Christmas.

Rev Julie Norris



Many thanks to everyone who contributes to and helps with *Challenge*, especially the unsung heroes who distribute it in all weathers! A very Merry Christmas to you all, and to all who read it and, I hope, find it useful.

Deadline for January issue: please let me have your contributions by **Friday 14th December** at the very latest, so that *Challenge* can be printed in time for distribution before the New Year. Thank you,

Anne

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Christmas Services 2012

St Andrew's, West Wrattling

Sunday 23rd December

10.45 am ~ Carol Service

24th December, Christmas Eve

4 pm ~ Crib Service

11.30 pm ~ Midnight Mass with Carols



St Mary's, Weston Colville

Sunday 23rd December

6 pm ~ Carol Service

24th December, Christmas Eve

4.30 pm ~ Crib Service

25th December, Christmas Day

10.45 am ~ Holy Communion and Carols



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Saturday December 1st

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Seasonal refreshments



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**SUNDAY
2nd DECEMBER
10.45 am**

**Meet at 10.00 am to make
Christingle oranges,
followed by**

*** Mini Christmas Market *
* Refreshments * Raffle ***

Over 60's Christmas Lunch, 8th December

The Christmas Lunch is for all residents of West Wrating who are over 60. If you have not received an invitation and would like to come, please contact me.

If anybody would like to help on the day, please also contact me.

Gill Holah (290378)

West Wrating Church Fundraising

Very many thanks to so many people who have helped out and supported the fundraising activities this year. And we are already planning 2013!

I would like to invite anyone interested in getting involved in village events to come along to have a glass of wine at our house, 84 High Street, CB215LU, on Monday 7th January, at 7.30 pm. We need a big team, to share the ideas out, and the more the merrier please.

Jeanette (290706)

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The Benefice/Four Parishes Choir

We would love to get more members, either with or without music reading skills. We are meeting in the winter at West Wrating Village Hall on Wednesday evenings, 8.10 for 8.15 pm start, directly after zumba so you will be well warmed up! We are going to do the Benefice services when they are held outside special services, and also Good Friday at Balsham, and other similar events, plus we are available for hire for weddings, with recordings and references available from happy customers. We have taken a break for Christmas as we all have different church commitments, but we are regrouping on 2nd January at West Wrating Village Hall to start building up our repertoire again, as we may try for two concerts in 2013: a small one in West Wrating Church, possibly around midsummer (with a picnic and black tie), and the larger one in October in Balsham.

Please speak to Richard Skinner, the organist at Balsham church, or give me a ring on 290706, or just turn up, it could be a great 'New Year New You' objective!

Jeanette Job

Carol Singing in Weston Cobville



Carol singing for the family: we will be gathering to sing carols outside the Reading Room on Monday 17th December at 6 pm, and we would welcome as many carol singers and spectators to join us as possible, to sing and then to come into the Reading Room for mince pies and a glass of mulled wine.

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Balsham Singers



The winds of change are blowing around Balsham and we are proud to announce that we have a new Musical Director – John Cle naghan – and rehearsals are going well.

John comes from Sutton Coldfield and studied piano and conducting in Colchester and London. He has conducted choirs in various parts of the UK, performing works by Mozart, Britten, Handel and Rutter. He has also accompanied right across the country and has experience in the musical theatre. Having spent twenty years teaching music in prep schools, including four years as Director of Music at St. Faith's School in Cambridge, John is now a freelance accompanist, pianist, and teacher of piano, singing and theory. He is currently Director of



Music at St James Church, Cambridge, and conducts other Cambridge choirs.

We are eagerly anticipating our first concert with John on **Saturday 15th December** at 7.30 pm in Balsham Church. The centrepiece will be 'Fantasia on Christmas Carols' by Vaughan Williams. John has chosen music that he felt would be both pleasing to the choir and enjoyable for the audience. "That said, there's so much great music around, for Christmas specifically, it was hard to leave things out! I was keen not to overdo the seasonal, but to have just enough for people to feel we were celebrating it in our own way. I was particularly pleased to be able to fulfil our outgoing chairman's wish of having an arrangement of 'White Christmas' – I hope it goes down well." We are confident that it will! Tickets are available in advance from Balsham Post Office for £7 or on the night for £8, with concessions at £7, and £20 for a family ticket.



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As we approach the end of the year...

As we approach the end of year and tidy things away for the winter, we write to thank all those who have helped maintain St Andrew's. Throughout the year the Church has been kept open during daylight hours, the rota being kindly maintained by Sisse McCall. I am sure the many visitors throughout the year have appreciated the opportunity to see how well kept the Church is; the team of cleaners have done a magnificent job. The Churchyard has been kept tidy and topped through the year, and the recent strimming and clearing by Andrew Waygood and Colin McCall is much appreciated, especially as this year it was a doubly demanding task with all the extra growth. The energy expended makes the churchyard look extremely tidy for the coming winter – thank you.

The ongoing fight against rain getting into the fabric has continued apace this year. David Wallace, Don Baker and Jim Crothall have been busy all summer fitting new drain pipes and clearing air vents, some of which may not have been cleared for many decades. Ian and Simon Boreham have been quietly assisting when required. Their expertise is much admired by those who know about fitting drainpipes on uneven stone walls, and ensures that everything is kept in keeping, and will be standing well after many other

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fitments have rotted away. Their task is not finished as buckets were required the other Sunday when the wind blew in a different direction. The building will require the constant attention of this dedicated team for the coming years – we appreciate their devotion to the practical side of maintaining the church. It goes without saying that if we did not have the continual activity of the fundraising committee and the other key organisers of specific events, we would not be able to continue with the listed works detailed in the quinquennial report. Sincere thanks to those who gave so generously at Gift Day, we raised over £800 which makes a very favourable contribution. Each and every contribution is truly appreciated.

We are very pleased to announce that the Wind Farm community Fund has awarded a grant of £2,250 for St Andrew's organ. We are truly grateful for this grant, which will be a major addition to the sum of £1,132 already raised at the recent concert organised by Mike and Linda Gorman. We are hoping to raise a total of £4,500 – we have set ourselves the goal of completing the fundraising by the end of the year – so that we can formally commission work to start May/June 2013.

On behalf of the PCC may we thank everyone who has helped keep St Andrew's in such great order.

St Andrew's PCC

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The Chestnut Tree

We have now been here for over six months, and we are pleased to report how well things are going. The introduction of food has been well received and it has been great to see the dining room full of happy customers, tucking in to some hearty pub grub. The Sunday roasts have proved to be particularly popular, with us being full most weeks, so please remember to book a table to avoid disappointment.

Our website is now live and can be found at www.chestnuttreepub.co.uk. We also have a Facebook page which is regularly updated with what's going on, and listing the beers currently being served.

We will be open our usual hours throughout the festive period, with the exception of the following changes:

Christmas Day

Open lunchtime from 12.00 – 2.30 pm for drinks only.
Closed in the evening.

Boxing Day

Open lunchtime from 12.00 – 4.00 pm for drinks.
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New Years' Day

Open lunchtime from 12.00 – 4.00 pm for drinks.
Brunch menu available from 12.00 – 2.00 pm. Closed in the evening.

Please also make a note of the following dates:

Friday 28th December

LIVE MUSIC WITH LOCAL ROCK & INDIE
BAND 'HESH' from 8.30pm onwards

Sunday 30th December

CHARITY QUIZ

from 7.30 pm. Maximum of 4 people per team, £1 entry per person. Winners will receive a cheque for their chosen charity.

Monday 31st December

NEW YEAR'S EVE PARTY

Please come and join us to see in the New Year with lots of great music, complimentary buffet and fireworks.

Tuesday 1st January

BRUNCH MENU

If you are feeling a little delicate why not join us for a Full English, or just a bacon butty and a cuppa!
Booking advisable.



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Finally, we would like to thank everyone who has made us feel so welcome and who has supported The Chestnut Tree since our arrival. We look forward to doing all we can to make 2013 a great year for your pub, and we wish you all a Merry Christmas and a peaceful and prosperous New Year.

Peter & Rachel

West Wrattling Progressive Supper

This has become a regular event, most recently taking place during January.

It is not intended as a fund raiser, more of an opportunity to meet and welcome newcomers to our village. The surprise of where we eat and who we meet provides the fun of the evening.

The supper is open to all adults living in West Wrattling. Even if you are not within easy walking distance of the High Street, we can accommodate you. Singles, couples, triples are welcome; your part in the evening can be 'tailored' to suit your needs (if you apply early enough)!

The evening begins quite early with a glass of wine in the Village Hall. Here you collect your first direction

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for the evening. We return to the Hall later to meet again our new and old friends and neighbours.

If you would like to take part, you will be asked to

provide a course (starter, main or dessert) for up to eight people in your own home, including drink. The cost to take part is just £5 per person, to cover the hire charge for the Village Hall. This will also include the first drink of the evening.

If you would like to take part, please contact me. I will then keep in touch by email or on foot.

I hope to use our new website to help me, and will try to post any extra notices there: westwrattling.org.uk

The date for the next supper will be Saturday 19th January, 7 pm onwards.

It is very helpful for me to know who will be taking part as early as possible. Please let me know before Christmas. PLEASE do not drop out! We have been very lucky so far...

Please encourage new neighbours to join us too.

Sherry O'Donovan sherry.odonovan@gmail.com



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Mathematics, Medicine, Science and Veterinary
Medicine.

The applicant must be from one of the following
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Carlton cum Willingham, Great Thurlow,
Little Thurlow, West Wickham, West Wrating,
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 Wrating Oil Syndicate

There will not be a syndicate fillup this month, because the high demand in the runup to Christmas means that supply is tight and in past years we have been unable to negotiate a significantly better price. The next fillup will be early in January (details in January's Challenge).

Richard Holness

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West Wrating Book Club

We met on 13th November to review Oscar Wilde's 'The Picture of Dorian Gray'. Set in the 1890s, it traces the life and times of Dorian, from when he has his picture painted in such a way that his subsequent misdemeanours are reflected in the portrait, leaving him with the face of eternal youth. He essentially just wanted to experience a huge range of amoral situations, enabled to do so by vast wealth and encouraged by Lord Henry.

Our reviewers felt that the style and content were 'all over the place', so as a consequence it was hard to 'get into', and one reviewer gave up reading it. But, that said, the overall comments ranged from "intriguing, hedonistic and narcissistic", to "thought provoking" and "carrying themes for today". As a classic, it has to be read, and scored 7.8 out of 10. We would all recommend it but it would depend on the person!

Interestingly, the poetry discussion took much longer, and provided a welcome mixture of modern and traditional Christmas poems, and also poems on being thankful at Thanksgiving. I had not seen 'The Father Christmas Letters' by J R R Tolkien, which were magical, with the 1929 one being written to tell the

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children how Father Christmas managed to get up to a thousand presents wrapped in a minute when his magic was at his strongest.

We also read parts of 'Christmas Day in the Workhouse', by George Sims, covering Victorian attitudes to the poor, plus 'Two for Christmas' by Alison Smith, part of which is:

*Kids all grown and have their own thing
Family too far away ...
Just two for Christmas this year
Never been just two.*

and 'Mistletoe' by Walter de la Mare, and from that we would like to share this with you:

*Tired I was; my head would go
Nodding under the mistletoe
(Pale green, fairy mistletoe),
No footsteps came, no voice, but only,
Just as I sat there, sleepy, lonely,
Stooped in the still and shadowy air
Lips unseen – and kissed me there.*

A further favourite was 'Twas the Night before Christmas' by Clement Clarke Moore.

We will review the next book, 'The Thread' by Victoria Hislop, on Wednesday 12th December, at

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The Chestnut Tree pub, at the later time of 8.15 pm to allow for zumba first. We will also cover poetry about the depths of winter.

We will then meet on 8th January, to review a very short book called 'Skipping Christmas' by John Grisham, not at all his usual style or themes, plus poetry on 'valentines over the centuries'.

Anyone can drop in to the book club, and suggest books for us to read. No special knowledge is needed, only that you have read the book, and are happy to talk or listen to others discussing it. I never fail to learn new things each time, and we all enjoy reading books outside our usual comfort zone. For more info, or to email your reviews to me, contact thejobs@hotmail.co.uk

Jeanette Job 290706



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First Round of Grants from the Wadlow Wind Farm Community Fund



At the first meeting of the Wadlow Wind Farm Community Fund panel, held in late September, over a dozen applications were considered for funding. Requests came from a wide range

of projects, requesting in total over £60,000 of support. Three grants were awarded to our parishes. St Andrew's, the Parish Church of West Watting was offered £2250 to refurbish the church organ, subject to raising the rest of the money needed. Weston Colville Cricket Club was offered £3000 to contribute towards purchasing a free standing modular changing room, subject to raising the rest of the money needed. The RAF Watting Common Memorial was awarded £948 to repaint the inscription on the Memorial. The Trustees of RAF Watting Common Memorial Trust Fund, Weston Colville Parish Council, is very grateful for this grant. The work will be carried out in the summer of 2013.

New applications for funding are invited over the coming months for consideration at the next panel meeting, which will take place in early March 2013. For information on how to apply, please visit the following webpage to review criteria and access the online grant application form: www.cambscf.org.uk/wadlow.html

Weston Colville Emergency Planning

South Cambridgeshire District Council has passed to us the request from the government that all communities should have a plan in place, to be activated in time of emergency. Examples of when it might come into use are if we are cut off by heavy snow, or if the power is out for a lengthy time. Please think if there is any way you could contribute to our overall plan by offering skills, such as first aid, or equipment, 4-wheel drive vehicles, camping stoves, sleeping bags, etc, that might help us assist and support the overall response of the emergency services. If you are happy for your name and offer to be included in our plan, please phone me, Bridget Durham on 290082, or contact any member of the Parish Council.

In addition, with the winter months fast approaching, be prepared. Where possible, keep spare batteries for a torch and radio, have some long-life food in the cupboard that can be simply prepared, maybe without electricity, and look in on your neighbours, particularly if they are elderly or live alone.

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Remembering Martin Taylor

West Wrating Football Club have lost their oldest supporter, Martin Taylor, who has sadly passed away at the age of 84.

Martin was born in West Wrating and worked at the Grange then the d'Abo estate, before being game keeper for the d'Abo family, and finishing on the Six Mile Bottom estate as one of four gamekeepers. He most recently lived at Hildersham.

Martin played both cricket and football for West Wrating, and would come over to the West Wrating Club and watch the football most Saturdays, often telling the youngsters where they were going wrong!

Martin was a lovely, well respected man, known by many, he always had a good tale to tell and would make you laugh.

He will be sadly missed.

Rest in peace, Martin

Colin Miller, West Wrating Football Club

Weston Colville Cricket Club lost one of its staunchest supporters in November when vice president Martin Taylor passed away. He had been

involved with the club for many years, latterly as a committee member, but he will be remembered by many as the loyal supporter who parked his chair every Saturday at the top of the meadow and watched proceedings, often with the help of binoculars to help see the scoreboard. He told me in September he was very happy that the club had purchased the score box because the numbers were bigger and easier to see from the area of ground known affectionately as 'Critics' Corner'.

If he was not watching a game he would generally be found going up and down the pitch on the roller. I cannot begin to work out how many hours he spent on that roller – but the flatness and quality of the pitch is testament to his efforts.

A few years ago he came up with the idea of an end of season match where he would get up a side to play the club. This developed into an annual event and although it was listed as the vice presidents match, Martin always referred to it as 'his game', and rightly so as he made a substantial contribution to the day. He will be missed by the club, and a full tribute will appear in the 2013 club handbook.

Steve Potter



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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.

Balsham Helping Hands

Balsham Helping Hands is a volunteer driving scheme for the villages of Balsham, West Wrating and West Wickham. We are available to help residents without transport with lifts to Linton Health Centre, Addenbrookes, and anything else medically connected, such as dentist, optician, other hospitals etc. We have a dedicated telephone line (291414) manned by three co-ordinators.

We do not have enough drivers for regular shopping trips or social events, but we do all we can to help. A few days' notice is very helpful, and if anyone would like to join our cheerful band of drivers please contact me!

Sara Himsworth (893975)



West Wrating Website

<http://westwratting.org.uk>

Our new website is up and running. Please have a look, think what else you would like to see there, and let us know. It will only be useful to us if it is used regularly and is kept up to date. The more input the better.

Mike is very happy to enter all our information for the time being. Just click on the link under 'Welcome' to make contact with him.

The website will never replace *Challenge* but we are sure that it can complement it nicely.

Thanks to all for your support.


Sherry



West Wrating Village Hall AGM

This will be on Tuesday 11th December at 7.30 pm in the Village Hall.

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Sue Ryder Charity Fundraising

I am running the London Marathon next April for Sue Ryder, and want to raise lots of money for this wonderful charity. My father died from cancer, and they were always there for me and my family.

I am having a garage sale on Saturday 12th January. If you have any unwanted gifts or Christmas presents you would like to donate I would be very grateful. Please drop anything you don't want to 9 High Street, West Wrating, and please support me on 12th January, from 11 am until it has all gone! Thank you in advance.

Rachel Hodge (290815)

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West Wickham and District Gardening Club

The Club met on 19th November to hear Richard Ayres talk on 'The Making of the Garden at Kirtling Tower'. Despite suffering from a damaged Achilles tendon, Richard (with his leg bound up) was still able to deliver his lecture. The gardens are stunning in spring, with acres of bulbs, and this year will also be open in the summer for charity. Richard designed the now famous Winter Gardens at Anglesey Abbey and was most entertaining when describing the work which Lord and Lady Fairhaven undertook to make their garden from what was pasture into 14 acres of herbaceous borders, rose gardens and a pinetum. It was most fortunate that Lady Fairhaven had access to JCBs and 180 tons of mushroom compost!

Our Christmas meeting on 17th December will be our usual mince pies and wine, and four of our members will put together a show of photographs from their trips to the Cotswolds, Ninfa in Italy, the Patio Gardens of Cordoba, and autumn colours at Sheffield Park, East Sussex. Please feel free to join us.

Rosemary Yallop



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West Wratting Parish Council News

Below is information on some of the items discussed at the Parish Council meeting held on Monday 12th November.

Peter & Ruth Lloyd Trust: no student this year has applied for a grant from this Trust. If you know of someone who is continuing their education and would like some financial assistance please contact the Trust.

Maintenance:

- a) Further maintenance work has been carried out at the Village Hall, replacing the back door and panels, which were rotten, with a new door with higher security. A request was made to the Parish Council for a contribution towards the cost of this, and this was agreed.
- b) Cllr Wallace is taking advice from the Tree Officer at SCDC about the condition of the ash trees.

Danger Spots:

- a) A further meeting had been held with the Chairman of West Wickham, the Safety Officer from SCDC, and Cllrs Job and Ross-Bain, to look at options to slow traffic down at the crossroads on the Common. Rumble strips seemed to be the least costly of the options and could be shared between the three parishes, but no decision has been made.
- b) Two requests for footpaths had been received, one on Honey Hill from Viking Close to the junction, and the other from The Common to the junction at The Chestnut Tree. There was concern for the safety of children and adults, with the roads becoming busier, and driving faster. The Parish Council will look into the various options, which will be discussed at the next meeting.

- c) Dist Cllr Hickford told the Parish Council that there was to be a meeting, on 27th November at 7.30 pm in Linton Village Hall, for parish councils to discuss further the safety aspects of the A1307. On 10th December there will be another meeting, to be attended by the local MP and County and District Councillors, to discuss ideas from the former meeting.

Bus Review: current services are being maintained and the Transport Department is looking at the various options. It is hoped that a Saturday service might be resumed, but money is short.

Signage to War Memorial on Common: due again to the lack of money at the Transport Department of Cambridge County Council, this will unfortunately not be carried out. However it is hoped that the Parish Council may be able to provide some signage.

Housing Survey: Mark Deas, from Acre, who put out the Housing Survey to West Wratting parishioners, will be attending the next meeting with the results of the survey. He was pleased with the response from the parish.

Gritting Volunteers: Cambridge County Council have again requested the help of volunteers to keep the roads in their village gritted, and thanked them for the help given last year. If someone out there is happy to help please let me or someone from the Parish Council know. Training, if necessary, is available.

The next meeting will be on Monday 14th January at 8 pm. All welcome.

The draft minutes are posted on both noticeboards.

HAPPY CHRISTMAS AND A PROSPEROUS NEW YEAR.

Jennifer Richards, Parish Clerk

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Weston Colville Parish Council

The Parish Council meeting of 29th October covered the following items:

Affordable/Social housing: following a presentation by Mark Deas of ACRE, it was decided that a survey should be made in Weston Colville to see if there was a need for affordable housing in the village.

Stream maintenance: the replacement of the bridge at the end of Horshoe Lane will be completed soon. The question of stream clearance is still ongoing. The Council has contacted the owners and farm contractor concerned and further investigations will be made.

Village Pond: the work by Borehams to clear the middle of the pond will begin soon. It is now the best time as wildlife is mostly dormant and the least disruption will be caused.

Street Lighting: there is to be no change to the management of street lighting in the village.

Emergency planning: Bridget Durham has undertaken a risk assessment and will produce a plan for Weston Colville. She will be asking for volunteers to add to the SCDC database.

Planning Applications: the proposal for change of use of The Lothbury Centre from shop/art gallery to residential was supported.

Speed limits: a £5000 grant with a 10% contribution from the parish has been confirmed to change the speed limits in the village. The current 40 mph limits will become 30 mph limits, and the current unrestricted limit will be 40 mph limit. For further details see the noticeboard, where there is a map showing the changes.

Bus Survey Meetings: Allen Scott has attended both the recent meetings of Cambridgeshire Future Transport held at Balsham. The new bus time tables will be based on Linton as a hub. They will probably stay in place until April next, when further changes may take place.

Wind Farm Meeting: the village had been successful in its application for Wind Farm grants for the Weston Colville Cricket Club changing room project (£3000) and for the re-lettering of the RAF Wrattling Common War Memorial (£948).

Change of Parish Clerk: the Chairman thanked Christine King on behalf of the council for her hard work during her time as Parish Clerk, and introduced Jill Smyth who will take up the post from 16th November. Christine will continue to assist in the production of a Parish Plan.

Date of next Parish Council meeting: 14th January.

Full minutes are available on the parish notice boards.

Christine King

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Merry Christmas!

Weston Colville Cricket Club



The Nat West Outstanding Service to Cricket Awards (OSCAs) are awarded annually in eight categories: NatWest Cricket Force, Contribution to Disability Cricket, Building Partnerships, Young Volunteer, Officials, Behind the Scenes, Leagues & Boards and Lifetime Achiever. Individuals are nominated by club members for the county OSCA. The winners then get invited to Lord's to be part of the national awards.

The first I knew of my involvement in the 2012 OSCAs was when a letter arrived from the Cambridgeshire Cricket Board informing me that not only had I been nominated for the Behind the Scenes award, but I had then been chosen as the county winner. This was a pleasant surprise, and with the letter was an invitation to join all other winners (around 400) and some famous names at Lord's, where the national winners would be chosen.

The day started with a tour of the ground. We took in the museum where the original ashes urn is on display, the famous Long Room and then the home dressing room. The view from the balcony is without doubt the best in the ground. From there, on to the media centre, high above the playing surface and offering a good view of the famous Lord's slope.

Then it was time for lunch. This took four hours to complete as each course was preceded by a group of national OSCA awards. The event was hosted by Jonathan Agnew from the BBC's 'Test Match Special', and every award was made by a cricketing celebrity who was interviewed by Aggers. Michael Vaughan had his lunch, presented the first award and then had to leave to practice his foxtrot for 'Strictly Come Dancing'. Other awards were presented by Jonny Bairstow, Charlotte Edwards, Mike Gatting, Richard Kettleborough (international umpire), the Minister for Sport (whose name I have already forgotten) and Andrew Strauss, who I got to meet later for an autograph.

I did not win the national award, as there were many more deserving candidates, but it really was a wonderful day out, and I feel privileged to have been given the opportunity to represent the county and Weston Colville at such a prestigious event.

Steve Potter

An extended version of this article can be found on www.westoncolvillecc.co.uk

December 2012

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Linton and District Historical Society

The Linton and District Historical Society talk for December will be a celebration of 'Christmases Past' and will have a wide range of contributions. It will be held at 7.30 pm on Tuesday 18th December in Linton Village Hall. We will be having a Christmas raffle and festive refreshments. All are very welcome.

The Society is very pleased to announce that its secretary has made a successful bid to the Heritage Lottery Fund under their 'All Our Stories' scheme, which was linked to the BBC's 'Great British Story' television series with Michael Wood in the summer. The project that will be undertaken is entitled 'Hildersham -- a Century of Change Between 1800 - 1900, a Village Transformed'.



Hildersham was the last parish in Cambridgeshire, and one of the last in the country, to have its fields enclosed in 1896. This meant that, after the way in which tithes were collected was changed in 1837 under the Tithes Commutation Act, a small 'domesday book' style survey was carried out of all the land and property in the village, which identified who lived in what houses at this time.

With the help of Hildersham's children we intend to look back at who lived in their homes in the past, and for them to help create an archive of then and now.

On behalf of the Linton and District Historical Society we greatly thank the Heritage Lottery Fund and we look forward to working on this project and sharing the results with you all in a wide variety of ways.

For more information contact info@hildersham.org.uk

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Tuneful Tots is a local children's singing group based in the Balsham Church Institute. We cater for 0-5 year olds and have lots of fun playing musical instruments and singing a variety of different songs. Tuneful Tots is split into two parts - sitting-down songs and movement songs, with a drink/snack for both adults and children in between.

The sessions are from 1.30 pm to 2.45 pm every Thursday during termtime, and cost £3.50.

If you would like further details, please contact Beverley on 07833 228958, or email us: tunefultots@rocketmail.co.uk

Derbyshire Post

Who'd have known that the under-16 population of our villages spend so much of their leisure time dressed up as cows, tigers, penguins and zebras? Well, in the privacy of their own homes, apparently they do! It seems that a very high proportion of our children own a 'onesie' and on our whole-school sponsored walk they were not afraid to show it.

If you are not acquainted with a 'onesie', it is a soft brushed cotton all-in-one suit which zips up from head to toe rather like a babygro. 'Onesies' come in many shapes and sizes, but the most popular seem to be the animal versions which have ears on the hood and animal markings on the main body of the garment. Hundreds of our students were dressed in these and other costumes as they set off around the local countryside during the sponsored walk; from a distance it must have looked as if someone had left the cages open at Linton Zoo!

They were walking for a very good cause: to help us to raise money for the restoration of our community school hall which is in a state of disrepair. The walk raised £6000 which, when added to the £17000 already committed by the school and The Friends, gets us well towards our target amount of £35000.

Following the walk, the students returned to their form groups to plan their enterprise activities for the Christmas Fayre, which we hold on the last day of the autumn term. Once more the students themselves will decide which charities they wish the money they raise will go towards. In the past we have supported Great Ormond Street, Macmillan, the Teenage Cancer Trust and our link school in South Africa. It is fantastic that, even in the midst of a recession, we are in a position to help others as well as ourselves.

Caroline Derbyshire, Principal



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Missing Cat

Please would the kind people of the villages keep a look out for my missing tabby cat. She is a classic torti-tabby with amber eyes, and with a kink at the



end of her black-tipped tail. Her stripes and rings are dark chocolate and black and the paler fur is light fawn. She is a small and pretty cat. I rescued her and her kittens in order

to get her spayed, and I fear that she may now have kittens and be in need of help. She is shy but friendly. Please call me with any sightings. *(The photograph is of her son, but the markings are very similar.)*

Margaretha (290726)

1st Horsheath Brownies

Our highlight for this term will be when we entertain fifty friends and elderly residents of Horseheath at the Christmas Luncheon. They will enjoy home-made soup: winter vegetable, stilton & broccoli, chicken & vegetable, parsnip & bacon and finally tomato. They will also enjoy cold meats with jacket potatoes followed by tifle. I'm sure I will see a couple of them undoing their skirt and trouser buttons.

The Brownies will also entertain our guests with campfire songs and their own individual pieces; Emily will be playing her violin and Holly will give

us another fantastic puppet show. There will also be piano playing and dancing. What a talented bunch of Brownies I've got.

Thanks as always to Mother and Pat for all their help, as well as Sarah, Toni-Ann and Joyce in the kitchen; to Gloria and Audrie for providing soups but especially to the Brownies for being such angels – if only they could be like that every week!

During the rest of the term we completed the last part of the 'On Your Marks' challenge, when we joined with 2nd Linton Brownies and 1st Linton Guides at the Infant School in Linton. The girls made their own mascots and mosaics, tried circus skills and learned a simple form of zumba. They all enjoyed themselves and have said they'd like to do another joint event in the future.

At the end of term we will be saying 'goodbye' to Georgie as she will be moving up to Guides in January. It will be sad to see her go but I know we will be seeing her at District events in the future. We will be welcoming Eowyn and Morgan in January from Rainbows, and will then start work on our Holiday to the Jaman Centre. We also hope to have a visit from a Paralympian, but more on than next time.

If your daughter would like to try Brownies please drop me an email for more details.

Pauline, aka Barney (brownies@horseheath.info)

Headteacher Appointment

For those who remember our son Robin, it gives us much pleasure to report his appointment as Head at The Thomas Coram School in Hertfordshire. Congratulations, Robin!

Wendy & Les Halls

Merry Christmas!

Crime Prevention at Christmas

Christmas is a busy time of the year for everyone, including the criminal. However, a high percentage of crime is opportunist in nature. This Christmas we are seeking your assistance in preventing this type of crime.

Your car

- keep presents and other possessions out of sight – if they can be seen they can be stolen.
- always close car windows, engage steering lock and lock all doors.
- never leave keys in the ignition, even for a short period of time, especially if defrosting your car on a morning.
- take all valuables with you (bank cards, mobile phones, Sat Nav systems in glove compartment, etc). These items are on a car thief's shopping list.
- park in a well lit area or in an attended car park.

Your home

- ensure all doors and windows are locked.
- presents should be kept out of view, rather than displayed under the Christmas tree.
- dispose of packaging as this will advertise you have new goods inside.
- never leave car keys and handbags lying around on display.
- The unoccupied look – out for the evening, or going on holiday? Make it look as if someone is at home: use timer switches, ask a neighbour to keep an eye on your house, join Neighbourhood Watch.

Your property

- mark your property using an ultra violet pen or forensic marking solutions. Register any property with a serial number free on www.immobilise.com.
- do not carry large amounts of cash. Be alert and make sure your purse/wallet is secure and hidden from view.
- never keep your chequebook and card together. Keep your pin number confidential.
- make sure you are insured for the value of goods in your home.
- if you are offered a quality product at a bargain price, ensure the source is genuine.

If you see anybody acting suspiciously in your area please do not hesitate to report it to the police:

101 for non emergencies and 999 for emergencies.

We wish you all a very Merry Christmas.

*PCSOs Leanne Fisher and Chris Pulley,
part of the Linton Safer Neighbourhood Team*

December 2012



*Weston Colville
Cricket Club*



present a

QUIZ NIGHT

**Saturday December 1st
in the Reading Room**

Doors open 7.00 pm, first question 7.30

Entry Fee £3 per person

Maximum 5 members in each team

Come along and show your knowledge of a wide range of subjects including Sport, Entertainment, Food & Drink, and many more.

Try the following questions as a taster:

Who presents the X Factor?

Where does Postman Pat live?

In 'Romeo & Juliet', which one is a Montague?

Simon Le Bon was the lead singer with which band?

What was the second book in the Harry Potter series?

What is the largest city in South Africa?

If you can answer any (or all) of the above, then please get a team together and join us for the evening. We'd love to see you.

Licensed bar and light refreshments
Donations for the raffle would be greatly appreciated



Merry Christmas!

St Mary's Church, 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 Wrating

Family Communion at 10.45 am (third Sunday most months) and Communion at 10.45 am on other Sundays.

Contact Sebastian Bain (882960)

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

Methodist Chapel, Weston Colville

Minister: Rev Nigel Bishop (01440 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 6.30 pm, Sundays at 10 am, Haverhill (St Felix Roman Catholic Church)

DIARY

December 2012

- | | |
|---------|---|
| Sat 1 | St Mary's Christmas Bazaar, Reading Room
Farmers' Market, Linton Village College
Quiz, Weston Colville Reading Room |
| Sun 2 | Christingle Service, Balsam |
| Fri 7 | First Friday Bridge, West Wrating Village Hall |
| Sat 8 | Over 60s Christmas Lunch, West Wrating |
| Sun 9 | Family Service, St Mary's |
| Tues 11 | WW Village Hall AGM, 7.30 pm |
| Wed 12 | West Wrating Book Club, The Chestnut Tree |
| Fri 14 | Deadline for January Challenge contributions |
| Sat 15 | Balsam Singers' Concert |
| Sun 16 | Family Service, St Andrew's |
| Mon 17 | Carol singing, Weston Colville Reading Room |
| Tues 18 | Linton Historical Society talk |
| Thur 20 | West Wrating Lunch Club, The Chestnut Tree |
| Sun 23 | Carols at St Andrew's, 10.45 am
Carols at St Mary's, 6 pm |
| Mon 24 | Crib Service, 4.00 pm St Andrew's
Crib Service, 4.30 pm St Mary's
11.30 pm, Midnight Mass, St Andrew's |
| Tues 25 | Family Communion, St Mary's, 10.45 am |
| Fri 28 | Live music at The Chestnut Tree |
| Sun 30 | Joint service, at Balsam only (10.45 am)
Charity quiz at The Chestnut Tree |
| Mon 31 | New Year's Eve party at The Chestnut Tree |

January 2013

- | | |
|---------|---|
| Fri 4 | First Friday Bridge, West Wrating Village Hall |
| Tues 8 | West Wrating Book Club, The Chestnut Tree |
| Sat 12 | Garage Sale, West Wrating, for Sue Ryder |
| Mon 14 | Weston Colville Parish Council meeting
West Wrating Parish Council meeting |
| Thur 17 | West Wrating Lunch Club, The Chestnut Tree |
| Sat 19 | West Wrating Progressive Supper |
| Sun 27 | Weston Colville Village Lunch |

Black bins: Tues 11 & Thurs 27 Dec, Thurs 10 January.
Green & blue bins: Tues 4 & 18 Dec, Thurs 3 January.

December 2012

Ministry Team

Rev'd Dr Julie Norris, Priest-in-Charge

tel: 891350; Balsam Church: 890895

(day off: Tues) julienorris1323@aol.com

Rev'd Canon John Fellows, Assistant Parish Priest

tel: 291265 email: j.fellows321@btinternet.com

Rev'd 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

The Very Rev'd Keith Johnson, Retired Priest

tel: 890835 email: keith1412@hotmail.com

St Andrew's:	Flowers	Cleaning
Dec 2 nd	Advent	Jenny
Dec 9 th	Advent	Sebastian
Nov 16 th	Advent	Pauline
Dec 23 rd		Jenny
Could those who can, please help with decorating the Church on 22 nd December.		

St Mary's:	Flowers	Cleaning
December	Maureen & Steven	Gay

Winter Sunday Lunch, Weston Colville

Why not bring your friends to this popular event, which is being held on Sunday, 27th January?

We will be meeting in the Reading Room at 12.45

before serving lunch at 1.15.

In this time it will be possible for you to arrange where you would like to sit and what you would like to drink –

there will be soft drinks, and wine by the bottle or glass. The cost will be

£12 per adult, £6 per child (between the ages of 5 and 10), and children under 5 free.

If you or your family would like to attend, please telephone either Tim Cockrill (290439) or Perdita Swift (290207); at the same time let them know if you have any special dietary requirements.



Editor: Anne Bragg (290550) or email:

editor@westwrating-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.

January issue's copy date:

Friday 14th December.