

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

Clothes for Iraq – the local churches have a link with Canon Andrew White's Foundation for Relief and Reconciliation in the Middle East (FRRME). Last week we heard via Keith Johnson of an urgent appeal for warm winter clothes and blankets, to be sent to Iraq for people who are struggling in the face of winter storms. Many homeless and destitute people have fled unrest, and are now facing the snow and cold without adequate clothing. Over one weekend,



from the six local parishes, we collected 400 bags of clothes, blankets and boots. Keith Day and Keith Johnson then drove a van, packed to the roof, to a collection point in Brighton, to be loaded onto an articulated lorry bound for Iraq.

Archdeacons' visit – in February, your Parish Church Councils will be meeting the Archdeacons to discuss future strategies in the Ely Diocese. The number of active clergy is falling, the pattern of churchgoing has changed, and the fundraising needed to finance clergy and buildings falls on an ever smaller number of people. On the other hand, this region has a fast-growing population and there are many large new housing developments. The Diocese of Ely is trying to devise a strategy which will respond to this reality. We cannot take for granted that things will continue as they have always done. What aspects of the church's presence in your village are important to you? Let us know, so we can tell the Archdeacons.

Lent Course – on Thursday 26th February, 7.30 pm at Hildersham Church, we will begin the joint parishes' Lent Course. This is the first of four evenings when we will look at why people pray, what is going on in the brain when we pray, can silence be prayer, and what can we do when prayer is difficult? We begin with the Archdeacon of Cambridge, who will tell us about different ways that we can pray and why people do it at all. Please feel welcome to come along and discuss this fascinating aspect of human experience.

Confirmation Classes have just begun. If you would like to join in then please let me know.

Rev Julie Norris

West Wrating Saturday Morning Café

The first West Wrating Saturday Café will be held on Saturday 7th February, and the following one on Saturday 7th March, between 10 am and 11.30 am in the Village Hall. Come along for tea or coffee, home-made cakes and a chat. Everyone welcome, young and old! Any proceeds will be used to organise future events as part of the Café, such as arts & crafts, talks and any suggestions you have.

We look forward to seeing you there. If you have any questions, please contact Sherry (290070) or Catherine (291307).

Tea and Cakes, Weston Colville

It was lovely to see everyone again at Tea and Cakes in January.

We meet next on Friday 6th February in the Reading Room, Weston Colville, 3.30 - 5 pm.

Tea and Cakes is open to all. Come along and catch up with old friends and make new ones.

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Wine Tasting in West Wrattling

The wine tasting on 20th February has been cancelled,
but I would love to arrange another wine tasting
evening with Gil (from Comey and Barrow) later in
the year. I have been listening to you and hope that I
have a better idea of wines and timings that will suit
everyone! Please let me know if you are interested in
taking part in the future.

Gil is very understanding and will be happy to return
at a later date, TBA.

Sherry (sherry.odonovan@gmail.com)

Are You a Caring Person?

We are looking for someone to join our team of
carers who support a young man who has complex
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for more information.

West Wrattling Lunch Club

We will meet at The Chestnut Tree in February on
Thursday 12th, **not** the 19th. Peter and Rachel are on
holiday in the middle of February, and during this
time Phil Cole will be managing the pub, which will
remain open as usual, but he will not be serving food,
so we have brought the lunch forward a week (just for
February).

We are not really a club. We are just a group of
people who meet every third Thursday of the month at
12.30 at The Chestnut Tree and have lunch together.
All are welcome. You do not have to be retired – we
have had babies attend with their mums! – and you do
not have to commit to come every month. If you are
around during the day and would like to share a meal
and a chit chat with others, please contact me.

Suan Rowland
(290788 or suanrowland@btinternet.com)

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West Wrattling Book Club

On 20th January we reviewed 'The Chimp Paradox' by Prof Steve Peters, about a 'Mind Management Programme for Confidence, Success and Happiness'.

Of those who had read a large proportion of the entire book, most had found it interesting and enjoyable, recognising some 'chimp' behaviour in themselves and others around them. They had started to try to apply some of the things learnt from the book to their own lives, although it was felt that it would be rather difficult to put the whole programme into effect. One person, who had some knowledge and training in this subject, was not so impressed and felt that it 'fell between two stools', being too generalised. Other comments were 'interesting as an overview and introduction to those not familiar with such models', and 'good for teachers/managers/people motivators'.

We would be inclined to recommend it to certain people only. The average score for those who enjoyed it was 7 but this was brought down to 6 when all scores were included.

We will meet next on 17th February at 8 pm at The Chestnut Tree to discuss 'A Time of Gifts' by Sir Patrick Leigh Fermor. This is the first in a trilogy of

books describing his walk as a young man across Europe in the 1930s, from the Hook of Holland to Constantinople. As well as being a well-known travel writer, he is famous for leading the band of resistance fighters on Crete who kidnapped the German commander, General Kreipe, an event immortalised in the film 'Ill Met by Moonlight'. We hope that this is a book that will appeal to both sexes, who would then enjoy coming to discuss it. It is always a relaxed and enjoyable evening, with the book under discussion often acting as a springboard to wider discussion.

One book suggested for March is 'Eleanor Marx: A Life' by Rachel Holmes.

Linda Gorman

The Chestnut Tree

We will be taking a holiday in February, as this is our quietest month of the year.

The pub will remain open as usual, but there will be NO FOOD SERVED from 17th to 26th February, inclusive. The menu may be slightly reduced on Friday 27th, whilst everything is prepped up from scratch, but everything will be back to normal from that weekend. This will mean that Lunch Club will be a week earlier, on Thursday 12th February.

For music fans amongst you, there will be a live band playing on Saturday 21st February, so please come along.

Finally, thank you to everyone who kindly donated books to our library. It is now very well stocked, so please come and take a look if you need some reading material. Also, thank you to everyone who contributed to our gifts at Lunch Club. It was very much appreciated by us all!

Best wishes,

Peter & Rachel



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Indulgence Evening – Advance Notice

WCCC is planning to host a party offering Neal's Yard Remedies, a range of natural health and beauty products.

The products range from aromatherapy oils, hand creams, and moisturisers, to herbal teas and men's grooming, so there should be something for everyone! This will take place this spring, but the date has yet to be confirmed. Please look out for further details in the March issue of *Challenge*. All enquiries to Bridget Durham (290082).



A date for your diary:



Saturday 28th March
10 am to 2 pm

Clear out your attics, sort out your sheds, get ready to sell those unwanted Christmas presents and that picture you've never liked or wanted!

'INDOOR CAR BOOT SALE'

at the Reading Room, Weston Colville,
in aid of St Mary's Church.

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West Wrattling Progressive Supper

We had an enjoyable evening, finishing with drinks at The Chestnut Tree.

Thanks to all who took part to make it a fun evening. Although not a fund-raiser, the balance of money from the evening (£140) will be donated to our village hall roof fund.

Sherry

FitSteps® - FREE Taster Class

Thanks to those of you who expressed an interest in coming to FitSteps® if I started a weekly class in West Wrattling.

There will be a FREE taster session on Saturday 21st February at 9.30 am in the village hall, so come along and dance away the winter blues. No partner or previous dance experience required, but as numbers are limited you will need to book your place: email fitsteps.annec@gmail.com or telephone me on 290967.

Anne Catchpole

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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.

West Wrattling Oil Syndicate

January fillup details – 39 houses in West Wrattling participated in the order that was placed on 13th January, with deliveries week commencing 19th January.

As you know, I always benchmark the Boilerjuice price before phoning the other suppliers and this time Goff Petroleum won the WW Syndicate order with a price of 35.25 p per litre, a saving of 0.71 p per litre against the Boilerjuice quote of 35.96 p per litre (based on Standard Delivery 1000 litre qty). All prices + VAT, of course. I've grown used to beating the Boilerjuice price by 1 – 2 p, but the price is now so low I suppose that I'll have to be happy with a saving of just under a penny.

Still, this means that meat is back on the menu at Holness Towers and the present Mrs H has even been dropping hints about buying a new hat.

The **next fillup** will be in March; details in that month's Challenge.

The village website, www.westwrattling.org.uk, has an explanatory page about how the oil syndicate works.

Richard Holness

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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.

Barn Dance – Advance Notice

Please note in your diaries that WCCC will be once again holding their very popular Barn Dance on Saturday 3rd October, in the Reading Room, Weston Colville. The music will be provided by Wide Glide, and tickets (on sale soon) will include a light supper. All enquiries, and any advance bookings, to Bridget Durham (290032).

Community-led Parish Plan – Update

The Community Led Parish Plan for Weston Colville is coming together. It is taking a little longer than we envisaged due to the huge response we got to the original survey. We received 89 of our forms back, and with most of those responses covering more than one person, we have a lot of data to collate and opinions to analyse.

We would like to say a big thank you to all those who took part. The winner of the draw for the winning entry, from those who included their names, will receive a voucher to spend in the village shop.

The results of the survey and our parish plan for the future shape of Weston Colville will be presented at the Annual Parish Meeting, to be held in the Reading Room on Monday 11th May at 7 pm. We urge you all to continue with this programme of community involvement, and hope you can attend.

Bridget Durham, Parish Plan group member

d'Abo Tennis Club, West Wrating Annual General Meeting

The Annual General Meeting of the Club will take place at 7.30 pm on Thursday 12th March at the home of Colin and Sissie McCall, The Old Vicarage, West Wrating (01223 290036). All existing members welcome.



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On the Buses

I moved to Weston Colville only last July and I love living in our rural idyll. As a 'newby', and from London, I was curious about what lay behind the 'one bus a day' promise, and fascinated that after so many rounds of 'cuts', there would be a service from Cambridge to the village. When Alastair needed the car one day, early that summer morning, I waited under the tunnel of trees at the bottom of Mill Hill. At 7.19 a double-decker came trundling round the corner. I had a choice of seats as the second passenger on, and of course sat top front, with the Cambridgeshire countryside set out below me and all around, ripe corn glowing in the sun. The 16A timetable had shown me it takes an hour and ten minutes to Cambridge, and I wondered how. I soon found out: it took us 20 minutes to reach West Wrating and then I saw a pattern – each time there was a T-junction with a sign to Cambridge, we'd go the other way. On the way home, it can take an hour in Hills Road traffic just to get to Addenbrookes. But this isn't a moan or a rant – in the right season it's a stunning tour, it requires patience but is usually somehow entertaining, it's always a transport option appreciated when needed – and it does get you there. There are a couple of little stories

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I can tell, the first showing the entertainment value and the second how the service will work even when it apparently doesn't.

Coming back from work on a September afternoon, after the Sixth Formers had all got off in Balsham and West Wrating, there were only two of us left. Where the driver would normally turn left into West Wickham High Street, he couldn't because of road works. A young man in hi-viz relayed to his supervisor our driver's request to go carefully alongside the wet tarmac, but came back shaking his head. We started reversing, and took a different direction. 200 yards later, we stopped and the other lady on the bus asked me: "Do you know where we are? I think that last village was West Wickham, but I don't think the driver knows another way". We could see his reflection in the rear-view mirror and he appeared to be studying something intently on his lap. Sure enough, a minute later, he turned round and asked if we could get to Weston Colville by going straight on. After only 6 weeks living here, I was proud to be able to suggest going back to West Wrating. He laughed: "I've been driving buses for 20 years, and this is the first time I've had to look at a map!" It turned out the lady lives in Brinkley and

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coincidentally I was going to the Red Lion that evening, so we had a little chat later and I've since met 'the lady from the bus' for a drink and been invited for dinner. All part of settling into Cambridgeshire and all thanks to the 16A. Wonderful.

My second story starts at Drummer Street bus station. I was at Bay 9 for the 16.30, as usual 10 minutes early 'just in case' – you don't want to miss your bus when there's one a day to your village, do you? The no 13 came and went on time and it got to 16.28 and still no 16A. 16.29. 16.30. 16.31. There it is! I see the side of it, whizzing past from another bay. I run as fast as my shopping bags will allow but he pulls away into Parker Street. I look for the station manager but a driver tells me there isn't one. "I'm tempted just to go to the rank and get a taxi, the bus company can pay." The driver agrees: "If he's going to change bays, he should shout out at Bay 9". Alastair's amazed that I walk through the door earlier than the bus would have got me to Addenbrookes. I email a photo of my £29 receipt to Stagecoach and a lovely lady at Customer Services assures me my taxi fare will be refunded and that as I should be able to rely on the service, they would make sure it didn't happen again. I banked my cheque and haven't had a problem since. Fantastic.

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WEST WRATTING

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If I can just beg your attention for one more paragraph: I've recently discovered the 19, a community service in every way. When the young and old get on, not needing to buy a ticket, the driver just says things like "Balsham today, Charlie?" and then "you made it today, then, your mum gave me so much grief on Facebook, saying I came through early, but it was 19 minutes past. Did you oversleep?" "No, I was playing FIFA." After a walk to Balsham on Christmas Eve and a long lunch in the Black Bull, we decide to have another pint and wait for the 19 at 4.30. We can't believe our eyes – the driver's dressed as The Grinch, prosthetic nose and all. Superb.

Jacqueline Douglas, Spring Terrace



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Weston Colville Parish Council

The following items were discussed at the meeting held on 5th January (full minutes will be posted on both notice boards):

Speed Limit Changes: it may be possible to organise a 40 mph buffer in Common Road and Chapel Road. An application for funds to cover the cost of additional signs will be made to the Community Chest.

Church End Playing Field: estimates are being obtained for the play equipment. The PC will contribute £2K and applications for further contributions will be made to the Community Chest and Wadlow Windfarm.

Footpaths and Stream Maintenance: the footbridge at the end of Clamps Lane has been repaired. Regarding stream maintenance, a visit has been made by the flood risk officer, who was concerned at the build-up at Horseshoe Lane by the ford. He will write to all the landowners along the stream requesting action be taken to clear blockages. South Cambs have agreed that a contractor could cut the obstructing vegetation. A further meeting will be held with another contractor to discuss possible dredging.

Community-led Parish Plan: the uploading of the completed questionnaires is ongoing. There will be another meeting of the group on 9th February when the analysis of results will be discussed.

Grass Cutting: Cllr Garrod has obtained four quotes for the cutting of grass and hedges, as follows:

- Grass around the War Memorial
- Grass and hedge at the children's playground adjoining the cricket ground.
- Grass and hedge at Church End recreation ground.

It was agreed to fund twelve grass cuts and two hedge cuts in the year.

Authorisation of Payments: a cheque for £14.39 was authorised and signed. The bank balance now stands at £10,844.57.

Precept for 2015/16: it was agreed that a precept of £8,100 would be requested, this giving an increase of 2.7% over the current year.

VE Day: Cllr Durham has recruited a volunteer to assist with the organisation of the VE Day celebrations on 10th May. It was agreed that the residue of funds collected at the Diamond Jubilee could be given to this celebration. It was hoped that a silver band could be funded, to play 1940s music.

Christine King, Parish Clerk
(290963, wcpc@typo.demon.co.uk)

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DAY - 01223 894082
AFTER 9 pm - 07886411138

Weston Colville Neighbourhood Watch (NHW)

Nothing really worrying has occurred locally this month, but some activities from the wider area are worth noting. Some houses have been broken into specifically to steal the keys to high-powered cars like Mercedes, Audi, and BMW. Police advice is to take precautions, make sure any vehicle keys are not within easy reach of doors or windows, and keep them somewhere secure.

Garage Required

Garage or reasonably secure covered space required to rent for a small classic car.



No work will be carried out on the vehicle, the space is only needed for storage.

If required, I can request access to the vehicle in advance, and in any case visits will not be frequent.

If you have anything that might fit the bill, please ring Richard Holness on 01223 290404, or email richardholness023@btinternet.com

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gb@burchill.co.uk

There was an attempted burglary at High Street, West Wickham, where intruders tried to force both a rear kitchen and bathroom window, damaging the glass.

Lastly, a matter for joy. Many of you will have seen the appeal 'for the public's help in tracing a missing teenage girl, Jasmine Wells aged 14, who has not been seen since yesterday evening'. She actually wound up unharmed at our front door, and was looked after. It took a long time for us to find out who she was. The police arrived shortly afterwards, due to good police work, which saw her reunited with her father.

Allen Scott (290837, allen.scott70@googlemail.com)

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The Peter & Ruth Lloyd Trust Award

We are pleased to report that a good number of entrants, of very high standard, were received for the 2014 Peter & Ruth Lloyd Trust award.

It was a difficult decision, but the award was presented to Anya Heath from West Wrattling.

Anya is studying Architecture at Nottingham University. She was presented with a cheque from the Trust for £800 to help with course materials, in front of the RAF Memorial stone at Weston Woods Farm.

Congratulations to Anya; we wish her every success in the future.



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CONTACT R DANIELS
01223 290570 / 07773 682676

We are now inviting applications for pupils starting university in September 2015. A scholarship is awarded each year and the amount is approximately £800. Broadly speaking the degree course should be from one of the following: Architecture, Engineering, Geography, History, Law, Mathematics, Medical Science, and Veterinary Medicine.

Background Peter Lloyd, who was born in North Wales, served as a Wireless Operator with No 105 Squadron at RAF Wrattling Common during 1944 and 1945. He flew 25 missions over Germany and was with the first crew that dropped food to the starving Dutch who were still controlled by the German military forces.

Ruth Lloyd, who was born in Broughty Ferry near Dundee, joined the ATS and eventually ended up at RAF Wrattling Common as a Radar Plotter for the anti aircraft guns as well as Bombing Trials at the end of World War 2.

Peter and Ruth met at RAF Wrattling Common and were married in 1946. After being demobbed from the armed services they lived in Hull and London until retirement, upon which they moved to Peter's home town of Ruabon, near Wrexham.

They both had fond memories of the Wrattling area and returned many times over the years. During these return visits they made many friends among the locals and regarded the area as their second home. They were both involved with the reunions and twice yearly services which are held at the airfield memorial.

Unfortunately, Ruth passed away in 2001 and Peter passed away in July 2008. Due to their love of the area, their surviving children decided to set up an Educational Trust in their name with the aim of helping deserving young people to start University life.

Linton Community Sports Centre

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Tel: 01223 750028



Buttercups Pre-School



Saturday 7th March, 2-4pm

At the Meadow School, High Street, Balsham

£1 Entrance Fee for Shoppers

TO REGISTER AS A SELLER PLEASE
CONTACT VTUNNICLIFF@GMAIL.COM
OR ON 01223 898318

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Domestic Help for You

I have over 30 years of experience in domestic, personal and child care. If you need help with any of the following, please give me a call:

- House Keeping
- Light Gardening
- Shopping
- School Runs
- Pet Care/Dog Walking
- Personal Care

My rates are very competitive and I can provide excellent references from previous employers.

Dianne on 01223 290527 or 07878 226910

Buttercups Community Pre-school

It has been a very busy start to the new term and we have had 12 new children join us. Our topic this half term is 'Winter' and we will look at wintry weather and how specific animals deal with winter, and also look at how we can make things hot and cold. There will be lots of winter-inspired craft and educational activities for the children to take part in.

We have a number of fundraising activities lined up this term to help support our ongoing running costs. If you can support us in any of these activities, please do.

Contact the Buttercups Team on 01223 894608 or buttercupspreschool@yahoo.com

Clothes and textiles recycling day – on Monday 2nd February we will be collecting old clothes, shoes, bedding, towels, curtains etc. If you want a bag to fill or have some clothes we can collect, please contact Vanessa on 01223 890318 or email vtunnicliff@gmail.com before 2nd February.

Cake stall – 14th February from 8 am, outside the Post Office in Balsham – come and pick up your valentine-inspired cakes and biscuits. There will be lots of lovely cakes, biscuits and chocolates.

Grand Nearly New Sale – Saturday 7th March.

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Meadow Matters

2015 has started well at The Meadow. The children returned to school excited about our first ever whole school topic relating to 'Africa'. Our youngest children (4 - 7) are covering 'Africa Alive', focussing on the animals you would find on safari, and people and their lives. The children recently enjoyed a trip to Woburn Safari Park to take part in their very own safari; great fun was had by all, including the monkeys that enjoyed climbing on the roof of the coach!

Our Year 3/4 children are going on a 'Journey Down the Nile', looking at a range of African artefacts brought in by our families, and at traditional African stories. Finally Year 5/6 are investigating 'A Journey to Freedom', looking at the history of apartheid, and the landscape and geographical features of South Africa.

The Meadow is still very much a community school. The number of volunteers we have to hear children read, file work, put displays up and to help in the classrooms is great! Many of our 'helpers' no longer have children in our school, and some have never had, but still they come and join us once a week. Without all of this help, we would struggle to offer the children the rich, inspiring curriculum and learning



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opportunities we do. If you have some time to spare and would be interested in helping, then please do get in touch. We are particularly interested in starting up our chess club again at lunchtime, so if you know anybody who knows their way around a chess board, please point them in our direction!

We were very surprised, but also delighted, to hear recently that Mr Idzi Cyrankowski, the former owner of Hunters Moon, had bequeathed a small amount of money to our school. After consulting with the children and staff we have decided to honour this extremely kind gesture by using the money to install some friendship stops in both of our playgrounds.

Friendships, emotional well-being, and considering the whole child is a focus for The Meadow this year. I am sure you will all be aware from recent press coverage that there are national concerns regarding child and adolescent mental health. The numbers of children as young as 5 who feel anxious, self-harm, become withdrawn over friendship or family issues, worry about pressures of school, or have low self-esteem, are on the increase. I believe as a school we have a duty to incorporate work within our curriculum to prevent this. At the end of last year I applied for The Meadow to be the champion school of a Peer Massage pilot scheme. Staff are currently being fully trained and the project is being rolled out into the classes. Already the children are commenting how they are feeling less anxious, and are being taught techniques to help them relax and not feel so pressured. Teachers are also noticing a difference in the attitudes and behaviour of the children after completing the daily 10 minute programme. We are watching and waiting with great excitement to see how the programme develops, and we will of course be sharing the results with you all!

Nichola Connor, Headteacher

Derbyshire Post

Those of you who have visited the College or driven past in the last few weeks may well be wondering why it is that we have wrapped up the 1930's listed building like a parcel. Well, it is a long story, but I will try to give you a brief account.

For years the windows in the listed building have been a headache. In 1937 they were beautiful: made by Crittall with the most up-to-date technology, they looked shiny, operated with precision, and folded out in a French-window style to allow the children of rural Linton to sit outside, close to their classrooms, on sunny days. For the first 30 years of their life they performed like this but in the 1970s, 80s and 90s they began to rust, hinges broke, fasteners dropped off, and they fell into disrepair. Attempts were made to paint them and this resulted in windows that were fused with rust and gloss. Eventually most became unusable. Unfortunately by this time the building and the windows had gained 'Listed' status, and using standard education funding it was not possible to replace them. Last year, the Academy gained a large grant to enable us to replace the windows with Crittall

units that looked virtually identical to the existing ones. Twice, however, South Cambs refused to approve the replacements. It was infuriating; we finally had the money to fix a 50 year old problem and we were not being allowed to put the solution in place! What we have been allowed to do, however, is to strip them right down, repair the originals, and then repaint them. This is a timely and costly business. The money we have been awarded has to be used by April, so the work needs to happen now in the coldest part of the year. To enable this to happen a plastic tent is covering the building to keep the windows free from wet and frost while the work takes place. All of this sounds idiotic, doesn't it but it is as it is. By April we will, at least, have windows that work and also look back to their shiny best.

Caroline Derbyshire, Principal

Balsham Gardening Club

With the lighter evenings, snowdrops and daffodils are just peeking through the soil, and our thoughts turn to this year's gardening tasks and plans. Our Club's new season begins at The Meadow School on Tuesday 3rd February at 7.30 pm for 7.45 pm, when we welcome Ian Lowe, whose talk is entitled 'For The Love Of Butterflies'. Images of these beautiful insects will help to brighten the dark winter evenings. We welcome guests and new members, so do come along and meet us. Refreshments are available during the meeting.

Future plans – we will be reinstating our annual plant sale at the end of May, and look forward to an evening outing at the beginning of May, to Spencers Garden in Great Yeldham. An autumn show is being planned for early September.

Hazel Leeson

Harold's Garden Notes

'As the days lengthen so the cold strengthens' is an old saying that is very often true. Indeed, the coldest weather of the year often arrives in February and an easterly wind brings with it 'continental cold'. With this in mind, protect outdoor taps and pipework, and also any stored fruit or vegetables.

If you have seed potatoes to hand for planting, sit them up to sprout in a cool, light, but frost-free place. Sturdy shoots should develop in readiness for planting from mid-March onwards.



QUIZ NIGHT

In support of Daisy Chains Pre-School
Registered Charity No. 1035278

**Saturday
28th February**

West Wickham Village Hall
Bar 7.30pm - Quiz 8pm
£3.00 per person - Team of up to 6

Raffle Bar

Please Join us for Bingo!
Burrough Green Reading Room

Friday 6th March

Doors open 7.30 pm;

Eyes Down at 8 pm

Bring along your own drinks and nibbles
Raffle

Raising funds for Burrough Green Playgroup

West Wickham and District Gardening Club

The speaker for the January meeting of the Club was David White, from Endeavour Travel and Training in Chatteris. His talk was all about Kew Gardens and he had many anecdotes of his time there. It was a very enjoyable talk and we were also delighted to find that he and his wife Lynn had brought some unusual plants and bulbs for sale from the nursery which they have recently sold. They now concentrate on talks and organising gardening tours, and David is a judge for Anglia in Bloom.

On 16th February, Nigel Start will give us advice on 'Pruning'. Always informative and knowledgeable, Nigel's talk is one not to miss.

The Club has benefitted from a bulk order of seeds from Mr Fothergill's. Our Trading Secretary, Jean Martin, reported that our seed orders were big enough to qualify for 60% discount. This is just one of the many advantages of membership of our Club.

We are busy planning our summer outing to the Savill Garden at Windsor, with its beautiful borders and wonderful rose garden, and also our evening visits to some stunning local gardens. It's not too late to join us; give me a ring on 01799 584262.

Rosemary Yallop

1st Horseheath Brownies

Our Over 60s Luncheon was a great success again this year. The Brownies excelled at their entertainment – clarinet and violin solos, magic tricks, dancing, carol singing, plus 'The Twelve Days of Christmas' sung at breakneck speed. I'd like to thank Audrie and Gloria for their soups; Pat for her soup, ham and the fabulous table decorations; Mother for cooking the other meats and making the pickles; Sarah, Grace, Tony and

Emma for all their work in the kitchen; Stella for being in the right place at the right time to sort out whatever needed sorting; and Paul who also helped out where needed either in the kitchen or being the 'technical one' when I needed the help. I'd finally like to thank all the guests and Brownies for being there, for without you there wouldn't have been a party.

We have started the Spring term all 'bright eyed and bushy tailed' and have lots of events planned – we will be attending our District Thinking Day celebrations on 22nd February, when we think of our guiding sisters in other countries less fortunate than ours. We will be celebrating Chinese New Year, and getting ready for our annual Brownie Holiday to the Jarman Centre in March. We also hope to make Mother's Day gifts, and something for Easter too.

If you would like to put your daughter on our waiting list, as we will still be very full in September, please register her at www.girlguiding.org.uk/interested. If you would like more information on what we do or would like to help us with a special skill you may have, then please drop us an email.

Pauline and Sophie (brownies@horseheath.info)

The Ellesmere Centre

The Centre is now in the process of renovating the ceiling and floor in the Small Hall and putting in new doors leading to the outside area, which is being converted into a sensory garden. This will leave us with a wonderful venue for all your parties, weddings and family gatherings.



The **Table Tennis Club** which meets on Tuesday evenings would welcome new members

(8 yrs +). Please call the office if interested.

Quiz Night, 28th February, £12 per team (max 6). Food available on request.

60s Tea Dance, 28th March, 7.30 pm. Come and dance to this great 60s band; fancy dress optional. Tickets £7. Door and raffle money to St Nicholas Hospice.

There will be a fully licensed bar at all of the above. Tickets are available from the office; please call us for further information.

The Ellesmere Centre, Stetchworth, CB8 9TS
www.ellesmerecentre.org.uk, 01638 508212
office@ellesmerecentre.org.uk

News from Healthwatch Cambridgeshire

Our job is to make sure you have a say when important decisions are made



about local health and care services. We are interested in any recent experiences you have of local health or care services that you are happy to share with us.

The big health story in the news this New Year is about pressures on our local hospitals. We know that these are linked to other issues like getting to see a GP when you need to, and getting care in place when you are coming home from hospital. We have two new projects that will look at some of these issues from a different view point.

In our 'First Steps to Health' project we want to find out about the first thing you would do to solve different health issues. Would you work it out yourself, see a pharmacist, call NHS 111, or see your GP? We all solve things in different ways. Knowing what you do can help our local GP practices and the people who make decisions about local health services to plan better care. Please do take part in our survey, either on our website or by contacting our office.

We also need you to help us develop our local 'Care Home' project. We want to use our statutory 'Duty to Enter and View' for local care homes. This means we have a legal right to visit places that provide public health or care services, to see what kind of care they are providing.

We need to recruit volunteers to be Authorised Representatives, whose role would be to go into local care homes and talk to the people there about the care being provided. This might include talking to residents, their relatives, friends and care home staff. The volunteers would get lots of training and support.

Do you have any recent experience of a local care home, or do you know someone who has? Please tell us about it. We will use what you tell us to plan which homes we will visit and what to look at. We are also talking to the County Council and the Care Quality Commission, to help us plan where we should visit. To find out more, call us on 01480 420628 or visit www.healthwatchcambridgeshire.co.uk

Cambridgeshire Fire and Rescue Service

Think the fire service is all about putting out fires and rescuing people from road crashes? Think again.

At Cambridgeshire Fire and Rescue Service, the men and women on our frontline deliver important fire safety advice to dozens of different communities; from schools to care homes, mother and toddler groups to community fetes, our fire fighters play an integral role in keeping YOUR community safe.



And we'd like you to think about joining us. The role of a firefighter is varied and exciting but most

importantly, it can make a real difference to people's lives. It is a profession that provides development from the start, with opportunities to grow into management or specialist roles for those who want to.

The next recruitment process for whole time fire fighters opens this month (February). To find out more, log on to



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Leanne Ehren (01480 444558, 07747 113255)

The Cantilena Singers Lamentations and Hope

Saturday 28th March, 7.30 p.m.
Church of St Cyriac and St Julitta,
Swaffham Prior, CB25 0LD

Music for Lent and Easter; Programme includes Duruflé's Quatre motets sur des thèmes grégoriens (Op. 10) and Tallis's Lamentations of Jeremiah

Daniel Spreadbury (director)

Refreshments available.

Tickets £10. Children free.

Contact David Holton
(01638 743947; dwh11@cam.ac.uk)

www.cantilenasingers.org

St Mary's Church, Weston Colville

Holy Communion each Sunday at 9.15 am
(except on fifth Sunday of the month).

Contact Roger Whitehead (290524)

St Andrew's Church, West Wrating

Holy Communion at 10.45 am each Sunday (except on fifth Sunday of the month).

Contact Sebastian Bain (882960)

There will be a celebration of Holy Communion in **Balsam Church** at 10.30 am on the first Wednesday of each month, and at 9.15 am on subsequent Mondays.

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

February 2015

- Mon 2 Clothes & textiles recycling, Balsam
- Tue 3 Balsam Gardening Club
- Wed 4 - Sat 7 Ellesmere Centre pantomime
- Fri 6 Tea and Cakes, Weston Colville
First Friday bridge, West Wrating
- Sat 7 Farmers' Market, Linton Village College
West Wrating Saturday Cafe
- Thur 12 West Wrating Lunch Club
- Sat 14 Cake stall, Balsam
- Mon 16 West Wickham & District Gardening Club
- Tues 17 West Wrating Book Club
- Sat 21 Free taster session, FitSteps®, West Wrating
Live band, The Chestnut Tree
- Sun 22 Deadline for Weston Colville oil co-operative
- Thur 26 Lent course begins, Hildersham
- Sat 28 Quiz Night, West Wickham
Quiz Night, Ellesmere Centre

March 2015

- Fri 6 Tea and Cakes, Weston Colville
First Friday bridge, West Wrating
Bingo, Burnough Green
- Sat 7 Farmers' Market, Linton Village College
West Wrating Saturday Cafe
Nearly New Sale, Balsam
Beetle Drive, West Wrating
- Thur 19 West Wrating Lunch Club
- Sat 28 Indoor Car Boot Sale, Reading Room
Tea Dance, Ellesmere Centre
Cantilena Singers concert, Swaffham Prior

Please note that, with rare exceptions, all the activities and events mentioned in Challenge are open to anybody who is interested, not just the residents of the village where they are taking place; obvious exceptions include progressive suppers, which are restricted to a particular area. If in any doubt, contact the organisers.

Rev'd Dr Julie Norris, Priest-in-Charge
tel: 891350; Balsam Church: 890895
(day off: Tues) email: revjulienorris@gmail.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

Very Rev'd Keith Johnson, Honorary Associate Priest
tel: 890835 email: jkeith1412@gmail.com

Mr Steven Wheeler, Licensed Lay Minister
tel: 290643 email: steven@juicyfruitsuk.com

Mrs Rosemary Mead, Authorised Lay Minister
tel: 891718 email: mead@sjcs.co.uk

Mr Keith Day, Authorised Lay Minister
tel: 891527 email: keithdday@btinternet.com

St Andrew's:	Flowers	Cleaning
1 st Feb	Louise	Jenny
8 th Feb	Louise	Fanny
15 th Feb	Linda	Pauline
22 nd Feb	LENT	Sue & Maggie

St Mary's:	Flowers	Cleaning
February	Ruth	
March	Gay	Jill

Black bins:	Tuesday 10 th & 24 th February, Tuesday 10 th & 24 th March
Green bins:	Tuesday 3 rd February, Tuesday 3 rd & 17 th March
Blue bins, paper caddy:	Tuesday 3 rd & 17 th February, Tuesday 3 rd & 17 th March.

Mobile library: fourth Wednesdays (25 th Feb, 25 th Mar)	
High Street, West Wrating	12.10 - 12.55
Post Office, Weston Green	2.05 - 2.25
Mill Hill, Weston Colville	2.30 - 3.05

Parish Council Clerks:
Weston Colville – Christine King,
wcpc@typo.demon.co.uk, 01223 290963
West Wrating – Jenny Richards,
jrichards007@talktalk.net, 01223 665260

Editor: Anne Bragg (290550) or email:
editor@challengemag.co.uk

Thank you for all your articles, news, etc. If these are sent by email, they are always acknowledged; if you don't get a reply, your items haven't been received. 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.

March issue's copy date:
Tuesday 20th February.