

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

A few weeks ago Jean Vanier won the Templeton Prize. This is a prize given to someone who has made an exceptional contribution to expanding our vision of 'human purpose and ultimate meaning.' This is a prize which draws our attention to the question of what really matters in life. In 1964 Jean Vanier invited two people with learning disabilities to live with him as friends. This was the start of the first 'L'Arche' community, where people with and without learning disabilities live and work together as peers. At 'L'Arche,' people are encouraged to form 'mutually transformative relationships', where those who help are changed by those they encounter. There are now 147 'L'Arche' residential communities operating in 35 countries. Archbishop Justin Welby commented on the Templeton Prize going to Vanier by saying that his work with the 'L'Arche' communities brought a sense of new horizons opening up, a new vision of what it is to be fully human, and a new opportunity to be a community.

This description of Jean Vanier's work mirrors the effect of the resurrection appearances for the disciples. For them, despair lifted as they looked ahead to a new future which suddenly opened up after the gloom of conflict and suffering. They were learning more about themselves as they formed meaningful relationships with each other and built a new kind of community where people were included and loved.

Furthermore, Vanier's vision can be considered in the context of our own communities and is a reminder that when the strong and the vulnerable share community together, both are enriched.

Come to a meeting in the Black Bull, Balsham, on 16th April and hear local GPs from Linton and Sawston tell us why they think we need a Parish Nurse and how they will work together. We will hear

how close we are to funding the Parish Nurse Project and when it is likely to start. This is also your chance to put your views to the Steering Committee and GPs.

You are welcome to come to the Annual Meeting in your parish church. You can express your views on what the local churches are doing and give us ideas of what you would like to see us doing in the future. We will meet on 23rd April in St Mary's Church, Weston Colville, at 7.30 pm, and on 27th April in St Andrew's Church, West Wrating, at 8.00 pm.

Rev Julie Norris

Christian Aid Week

Sunday 10th May to Saturday 16th May

Our four villages have a very good record of collecting well over £1,000 each year for this charity, and last year was a record of £1,601.71.

The organiser over the last twenty years has moved and it has fallen to me to mastermind this. Sheelagh, herself, did a huge amount of collecting.

I am asking you to consider helping to collect – perhaps from a few houses near to where you live. Please do think about this – it will most probably involve one to three hours of your time. A clergyman wrote in the Church Times: "I always dread house to house collections, but when I nerve myself for the fray, they're usually rather fun".

Perhaps this will inspire you too? Please help so I can give a good report to Sheelagh!

Joanna Sanders

(893063, sanderschimneys@uwclub.net)

Canon John Fellows

(291265, j.fellows321@btinternet.com)

Annual Church Meetings

St Mary's, Weston Colville: 23rd April, 7.30 pm

St Andrew's, West Wrating: 27th April, 8 pm.

All are welcome.

Services for HOLY WEEK and EASTER

❖ **29th March, Palm Sunday**

Commemoration of Jesus' triumphal entry into Jerusalem

9.15 am, St Mary's: Family Communion, with distribution of palms (Rev Kathy Bishop)

10.45 am, St Andrew's: Family Communion (Rev Canon John Fellows)

❖ **1st April, Wednesday in Holy Week**

7.30 pm Compline, a quiet and meditative service

(Address: Mr Steven Wheeler at St Mary's, Rev Dr Julie Norris at St Andrew's)

❖ **2nd April, Maundy Thursday**

Commemoration of the Institution of the Eucharist

7.30 pm The Communion of the Last Supper, followed by the Stripping of the Altar (Preacher: Rev Canon John Fellows) (at **Great Abington**)

❖ **3rd April, Good Friday (at West Wrattling)**

Commemoration of the Crucifixion

2.00 pm The Last Hour (Preacher: Rev Canon John Fellows)

❖ **5th April, Easter Day**

The joyful Celebration of the Resurrection

9.15 am, St Mary's: Family Communion (Rev Canon John Fellows)

10.45 am, St Andrew's: Family Communion (Rev Kathy Bishop)

Please bring a bell, drum or some other noisy instrument to sound an informal fanfare at the start of the service.

'Contact the Elderly' Tea Party

'Contact the Elderly' will be holding an afternoon tea party in West Wrattling Village hall from 3 - 5 pm on Sunday 19th April. This is a charity that organises monthly Sunday afternoon tea parties for people, aged 75 and over, who live alone. The afternoons are always full of fun, laughter and, of course, tea and cake! If anyone in the village is interested in joining

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us please ring me (291957) or email becky.gilley@babraham.ac.uk. I will need to know numbers in order to cater for all.

If you would like further information on the charity, either joining a group or hosting a tea party yourself, please feel free to contact me too.

Becky Gilley

West Wrattling Over 60s

We look forward to seeing all our members at our fish 'n chip lunch in the village hall at 1 pm on Wednesday 1st April. The lunch will be followed by bingo. Please note there will be a raffle only – prizes welcome – but no bring'n'buy.

Next month, on 6th May, we will have our annual visit to Scotsdale Garden Centre, to include lunch, at 12.30.

Wendy Halls

Neville Webb

The family of Neville Webb would like to thank all the friends and neighbours who have sent some lovely cards and letters of sympathy following their sad loss – you have all been so kind over the past few weeks.

Neville loved being a part of West Wrattling and he truly would have been touched by your lovely comments.

With grateful thanks,

Elsie, George, Kate and families

Churchyard Clear Up, West Wrattling

There will be a spring tidy-up of our beautiful churchyard on Easter Eve, Saturday 4th April, 10 am until 12 noon. Everyone is welcome, and coffee and hot cross buns will be served.

Colin McCall (290036)

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Tea and Cakes

Well done to all our young bakers who helped raise a whopping £125 for Comic Relief at our March gathering.

This will buy school uniforms for twelve children living on the street in Ghana, so that they can go to school.

Thank you to everyone who supported the event.

The next Tea and Cakes will be on Good Friday, 3rd April. We look forward to seeing you then.

Melanie

West Wrating Oil Syndicate

March fillup details: 25 houses in West Wrating participated in the order placed on 16th March, with deliveries made during w/c 23rd March.

This time Shelford Energy won the WW syndicate order with a price of 35.75p / litre, a saving of 1.57p / litre against the benchmark Boilerjuice quote of 37.32p / litre based on standard delivery for 1,000 litres, but a saving of only .01p against the Boilerjuice Group price of 35.76p. All prices + VAT, of course. With prices so low we can probably expect some



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pricing surprises, but if Boilerjuice continues to be so competitive we might have to rethink the syndicate's strategy.

The next fillups will be in May, July, September and October, with details in the relevant month's *Challenge*.

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

Richard Holness

Saturday Morning Café, West Wrating!

Thank you to all who were able to join us for the last West Wrating Saturday Café – it was great to catch up with so many people! The next Café will be on Saturday 4th April between 10.30 am and 12 noon in the Village Hall. Come along for tea or coffee, home-made cakes and a chat. There will also be an Easter-themed craft table for the kids. 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 or suggestions, please contact Sherry (290070) or Catherine (291307).

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West Wrating Book Club

We met at The Chestnut Tree in West Wrating, where we hold all the book club meetings, to review 'Longbourn' by Jo Baker. It is the servants' perspective of the Pride and Prejudice tale, and marries neatly with the well-known tale of the Bennett family and their social goings-on with Mr Wickham and Mr Darcy. We learn how the family gets to where it starts off in the book, (five daughters, no sons, etc) with a few very nice twists along the way. It is a fascinating insight into how maids had to clean all the clothes by hand; used the tea leaves to clean the floors; chipped sugar off the sugar loaves; killed and butchered pigs, as well as mended clothes and removed impossible stains, all without the help we have today. We also had the added bonus of a soldier's eye view of Europe as well as of England at that time.

Well written, although towards the end one felt it was all a bit rushed, but still a very enjoyable read nonetheless. The author may have been inspired by her own childhood of playing in a deserted Georgian house, which included an outside 'necessary' house. We all felt it merited 8 out of 10 as a score, and would recommend it to friends.



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The April meeting for the book club will be on Wednesday 8th at 8 pm at the pub, strictly informal – come along and meet new faces from all the local villages. We will be reviewing 'To Kill A Mocking Bird' by Lee Harper.

The May meeting will be at the same venue and time, on 5th May, to review 'The Garden of Evening Mists' by Tan Twan Eng, which is based on recollections of a Japanese prisoner of war and the consequential recreation of a pre-war garden.

We are looking for suggestions for the June reading, please; text me on 07971 671193 or email thejobs@hotmail.co.uk

Jeanette (290706)

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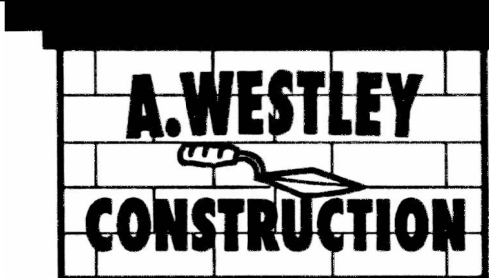
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Lower Wood Activities

Come along to a dawn chorus morning on Saturday 25th April, led by Duncan Mackay, our wildlife trust volunteer warden. Meet at 4.50 am prompt at the top of the lane into Lower Wood on Mill Hill. Dawn is at 5.40 and the dawn chorus starts half an hour before dawn, so we need to go into the wood before 5 am. The first birds will start to sing at 5.10 so we must not be late. You may need a torch. (let's hope the birds do what they are supposed to do at the right time! Do wrap up warm).

Melanie

The Music Bash

The Music Bash (in memory of Chelsey Boreham): a few bands will be playing on the evening of Friday 10th July (7 pm until 11 pm), with a bar, and then on Saturday 11th July several bands will be playing music at West Wrating recreation ground and pavilion from 2 pm until 11 pm, and there will also a bar, barbecue, tractor rides, tombola stall, bouncy castle and many more attractions.

Please come and enjoy the music and fun, and support the charity EACH and the football clubs, where the proceeds will go.

Blanche Miller, Sports Pavilion Secretary

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Defibrillator

A defibrillator demonstration will be held at the Pavilion at 7.30 pm on Monday 13th April. All from within the village, football managers, players and anyone involved in West Wrating football, are welcome.

This is a very good life-saving piece of equipment for all, so please attend. There will be key holders within the club and village, for anyone to obtain the defibrillator if it is needed in an emergency.

Blanche Miller, Sports Pavilion Secretary

Weston Colville VE Day Event

It is with regret that we have to announce that the event planned for Weston Colville on Sunday 10th May, to commemorate the seventieth anniversary of VE Day, cannot take place. The small band of volunteers willing to help organise it found the response to last month's appeal for help disappointingly limited. Confidence that the event would be supported sufficiently to make it inclusive and worthwhile was low, therefore we have had to take the decision not to proceed.

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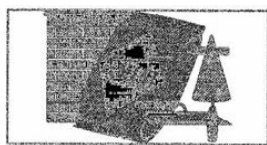


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| What's On | Directory | Parish Council |
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Please send us your contributions, events, notices, photos and comments.

Weston Colville Neighbourhood Watch (NHW)

Starting with the theft of three power tools and a chainsaw at the end of January, Weston Green has experienced several problems. In addition to the power tools, number plates and a statue were stolen in February. Number plates are stolen for criminal purposes, so if you 'lose' your number plates report it to the police immediately.

Thieves attempted to steal oil. A neighbour heard them, the police were called, and a chase involving cars and a helicopter ensued. Evidence was collected, and the police retrieved a vehicle from the woods. Drums used for removing oil were left by the thieves, and have been scrapped. This was an excellent result where our villagers worked together doing everything they could to foil the thieves. Congratulations; good neighbours are a tremendous help to us all.

Other matters involve attempted break-ins to homes. Generally these were foiled by good locks and by neighbours calling the police. Cars were entered and I believe one was stolen, without any marks being left on the cars. Perhaps Houdini is at work again – though more likely someone has found a way of

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getting around the vehicles' locking systems with magnets or electronic gadgetry.

Some of the problems that occurred do not seem to have been reported to the police. If we do not tell them what our problems are they can only assume that all's quiet on the western front.

Now an odd story from Church End: a young man came to the door, showed photo ID saying he was from Lincolnshire, and was invited in to show his products. There was nothing needed, so he was politely thanked and wished luck. He shook his head, said "it's a joke" and became quite abusive when we said it wouldn't help his cause. It seems likely that this has something to do with the www.lincolnshireecho.co.uk/Door-door-salesmen-scam/story. In this case, apart from entering the house he appeared similar to the genuine groups of young men who do visit our village from time to time. This could have been nasty and fortunately was only very upsetting. So beware.

Neighbourhood Watch have been told alternately that not enough information is being supplied, and that the information from NHW is excessive and unnecessary. We can only try to tread a middle path, making everyone aware of what is happening and making advice available to help improve our security. Also, sharing the information that Good Neighbours are a massive help to us all.

Call 999 if you need immediate assistance to resolve a crime, and 101 if you become aware of a situation or have information after the event. Both numbers connect directly to the police – 101 will see the police attending the scene of a crime but it is likely to be a bit slower than 999.

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

Richard Kenyon Master Thatcher



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Youth Football

With all the bad weather we have had over the last two months there hasn't been much football played. What little football the youth section has played away from West Wrating has been going really well.

u 7 – keep progressing nicely and have been asked to play against an Ipswich Town development squad.

u 9 – currently sitting in ninth position in a league of twelve teams, however we have only played nine games, which is the least of any team in the league, (some teams have played as many as seventeen games to date). Due to the backlog of fixtures with many age groups, I am guessing it is likely that we will not be able to complete our fixtures and in turn will end up voiding games.

We currently have fixtures every Tuesday, Thursday and Sunday through April (after Easter) and the league matches have to be completed by 3rd May.

On the downside we were knocked out of the league cup semi-final, going down 3 - 2 with 20 seconds left on the ref's watch, with 4 mins over according to mine ... that's football, as the saying goes. On the upside we did however make it to the final of the Mick North and Barry Brewer cup to be played against Cherry Hinton, date yet to be confirmed.

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u 10 – finished the first half of the season really strongly, unbeaten in seven games, but the Christmas break came at the wrong time for us and with the lack of playing time due to the weather, we lost both games we have played since Christmas. We are in a cup final on Saturday 3rd March at West Wrating.

u 13 – we played just two games in January, unfortunately losing to the top-of-the-table team Witchford and drawing with Plantation. Since then we have had two games cancelled (one home and one away) due to weather. We had no league matches scheduled for February and our quarter final league cup game, scheduled for 1st March, was postponed as Plantation could not field a team. We are currently third in the A league and have a great chance of getting to the u 13 cup final.

The u 13s have not played a home game at West Wrating since 12th October and with the way the cup draw has gone will only probably play two further league matches at home, which is obviously very disappointing.

Hopefully we will be able to arrange some friendlies to make use of the facilities.

u 14 – have had two really good cup runs, making the final in one and reaching the semifinal in the other.

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They have also played a development squad from Norwich, and by all accounts did really well and held their own. They are sitting mid-table with loads of games in hand, so things are looking good.

u 15 – they have really turned it on this year and showed everyone in the league how good they are. They are already in one cup final, and are looking good to finish the league in second place.

u 17 – Kez has had a tricky couple of months, with three players leaving and two serious injuries, ending the season early for both boys involved. They are sitting mid-table with five games to play, but struggling with only nine players over the last couple of weeks.

All the youth teams are still playing in the 'A' league for their respective age groups, and look to finish in the top half, ready to push on next year.

Youth Football Home Games

These will be played at West Wrattling Recreation Ground, and all are welcome.

u 17	22 nd & 26 th April
u 15	19 th April
u 14	19 th & 28 th April
u 13	29 th April
u 9	14 th , 16 th , 19 th , & 28 th April
u 7	11 th & 25 th April

The u 8, u 7, and u 10 teams will play the odd friendly game on a Saturday.

Nick Ager, Youth Manager

d'Abo Tennis Club

Our court tidy will be held on Saturday 11th April at 9.30 am. Our new tennis season will start on 1st May, and the Annual Supper will be held on Friday 15th May at 7.30 pm in West Wrattling Village Hall.

If you are interested in receiving a new members' pack please contact the treasurer, Mark Holme, on 07768 443223 or treasurer@westwrattlingtennis.co.uk

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Senior Football

The First Team were knocked out of the Cliff Bullen Challenge Cup but remain sixth in the league.

The Reserves are tenth, with six games in hand over the team which has played the most games in the league.

The A Team are ninth in their league, and also have six games in hand over the team which has played the most games.

West Wrattling Football Club Fixture List

APRIL	FIRST TEAM	RESERVE TEAM	A TEAM
Wed 1			Milton A (H) 18.15
Sat 4	Foxton (A) 15.00	Needingworth (H) 14.00	Foxton Res (H) 16.00
Tues 7	CUP (A) 18.15		
Wed 8		Swavesey (H) 18.15	
Sat 11	Wisbech (A) 15.00	Outwell (H) 14.00	Cavendish (H) 16.00
Tues 14	Hardwick (H) 18.15		
Thur 16			Whittlesford (H) 18.15
Sat 18	Over Sports (H) 14.00	Hemingford Utd Res (A) 15.00	Clare Town (H) 16.00
Tues 21	Linton Granta (H) 18.15		
Wed 22		Swavesey (A) 18.15	
Sat 25	Cherry Hinton (A) 15.00	Barrington (H) 14.00	Offord Utd (H) 16.00
Tues 28	Fulbourn (H) 18.15		
Wed 29			Linton Granta A (A) 18.15
Thur 30	Lakenheath (H) 18.15		
Sat 2 May	Gamlingay (H) 14.00	Doddington (H) 16.00	Cams Ambassadors (H) 15.00

C & L GARDENERS

- Local
- 10 years' experience
- References available

WEST WRATTLING
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BALSHAM QUIZ NIGHT

in aid of Save the Children

will be held at 7.30 pm on Friday 17th April

in Balsham Church Institute

Tickets cost just £8.00

To register your team's table (8 max)
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West Wrating Village Produce and Dog Show

We propose to hold this again on 1st August, with the same format as last year, and we would love to have new helpers, as some of last year's team have now discovered that their new-found skills have been snaffled by families and work projects for this summer.

We need help on the day taking entries in the produce tent and also the dog show (both have a flurry of activity at the beginning, then it is quiet); someone to be in charge of the team of BBQ helpers; and someone to help on the day run the show, with a view to taking it over next year. We would also love to have a brass band and a larger PA – any ideas?

Anyone interested, please contact me on 290706 or 07971 671193. I have broken my wrist, so I will not be able to do as much, hence the idea of getting a bigger team.

We have got bookings already for the craft tent, as well as confirmed sponsorship of the dog show by Dick and Christine White of Dick White Referrals, Six Mile Bottom. Anyone who wants to have a stall or run something on the day, please just say. There will be a teddy bear drop again, and cakes, teas, and lots of other things.

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Many thanks to those who have already committed to helping, and who have been busy preparing already.

I suggest we have an informal meeting and glass of wine for all those interested at my house, 28th April at 8 pm.

Jeanette

Keep the Date ...

Balsham Singers

The Balsham Singers' Twentieth Anniversary Concert is called 'Balsham Shall Rejoice', and will be on Saturday 16th May at 7.30 pm in Holy Trinity Church, Balsham. It will include Handel's Four Coronation Anthems and Rutter's 'The Sprig of Thyme'. Full details in next month's *Challenge*. Tickets £7 in advance from Balsham Post Office or £8 on the door; under 18s free.

Lisa Pechey

Big Balsham Sale



The sixth Big Balsham Sale will take place on Sunday 7th June. Full details in next month's *Challenge*.

Eleanor Stanley

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Weston Colville Parish Council

The following items were discussed at the meeting held on 2nd March:

County and District Councillors' Reports – it was reported that there would be a new free app available shortly called 'Fill that Hole', enabling anyone to report a pothole via a smart phone, the message going straight to Highways with its location via GPS.

The Community funding would be repeated for the next financial year at an enhanced maximum rate of £1,500 for each application. A grant of £85,000 would be made to the Citizens Advice Bureau.

Church End Playing Field – an application has been made to the Wind Farm Community Trust asking for a grant of £6,000 to enable the provision of new play equipment. A further application for £2,500 funding will be made this week to 'Awards for all'. A new gate will be fitted at the entrance over Easter.

Footpaths – the hedge between the bridleway and footpath by the woodyard has been removed. This will enable maintenance of the hedges to be easier and also the paths to dry out more readily.

Some regrading of the footpath between 14 and 62a The Green has been suggested to the Footpaths section at Highways, due to its slippery nature in wet weather.

River Stour Maintenance – upstream from No 63 The Green, the landowner has dredged out one side of the river and raised the ground level adjacent to the road.

Behind the council houses, SCDC has funded bank strimming and vegetation clearance, partially complete on the evening of the meeting. SCDC will then liaise with the West Wrating Park Estate about dredging. Alongside Clamps Lane, both landowners,



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Stewart Mayfield and the WWPE, have been sent a quote by a drainage contractor for widening the river alongside the lane.

Grass Cutting – Cllr Garrod reported the successful bids for the cutting of grass and hedges as follows:

Simon Ratford of All Green Services:

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

Neil Martell of Heron Road, Ipswich:

hedges around Church End playground (two cuts).

It was agreed to fund twelve grass cuts and two hedge cuts in the year. CK will send a formal order to each contractor.

Planning since last meeting – the following applications have been registered:

S/0166/15/FL 23 Spring Terrace, Church End

(erection of first floor extension to rear of dwelling, and internal alterations)

S/0085/15/FL Lakeside, Common Road

(erection of single storey rear extension and alterations to garage roof to form an annexe).

Full minutes are posted on both notice boards.

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

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Derbyshire Post

Now that my own office is housed in such a modern part of the school building it is far too easy to forget that LVC is nearly 80 years old. I was reminded of this fact last week by the arrival of a letter from the manager of West Road Concert Hall at Cambridge University. The



unexpected subject of the letter was a chamber organ, built by John Snetzler, that once stood in our school hall on the left-hand side of the stage. Apparently the College still owns it because it was given to West Road on a permanent loan basis back in 1967. It is a rather beautiful thing, but now very fragile and because of its condition it has not

been played for a decade. The organ has quite a history. It was once owned by Captain 'Titus' Oates, of the "I might be some time" Antarctic exploration fame. There is a plaque to this effect on the side of the organ. It was bought from the Oates family by friends of the



Village College for Mr Edwin Swannell who was Head of Music and then Warden here between the late 1930s and mid-1960s. Now that it is so delicate the University would like us to take it back. This idea has got our imaginations racing ahead: what if we could get it restored and playable for one last concert? What if that could, in some way, be tied into our eightieth birthday celebrations? I will keep you posted. Still, it has brought a whole new meaning to the phrase 'organ donor' for us.

Caroline Derbyshire, Principal

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

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Dianne on 01223 290527 or 07878 226910

The Meadow School

This month has definitely been one of providing a broad and balanced curriculum, with lots of opportunities for learning and participating outside the classroom.

The whole school's spring term topic of 'Africa' has not only engaged but united our children and community, with personal experiences, artefacts, photos and even a personal message to Dragonfly Class from a Zulu Warrior, all being shared. The topic has allowed the children to learn about a fascinating continent, and all of the amazing things it has to offer, but also given our older children the opportunity to learn about the darker side of Africa, with poverty, apartheid and the lack of education for all being studied.

With Africa and education being a huge focus, it was great to support this year's Comic Relief by wearing red and making our faces funny for money. The children fully embraced the day, and when the whole school gathered to show off their outfits and faces in the hall, the view was literally a sea of red!



Once again, children, parents and staff had been very ingenious with the costumes and face paints. We sold £120-worth of red noses and raised a further £229 in donations on the day.



We recently took 32 Y5/6 children to Linton Village College to participate in the primary cluster Tag Rugby and Quicksticks Hockey tournament. The four teams played their hearts out and showed great

sportsmanship, always shaking hands and cheering their opposition. Despite the chilly conditions the children had a fantastic time and once again were great ambassadors for our school.

We were delighted earlier in the term when we were approached by 'Outspoken', the company who in the autumn term each year deliver the Bikeability programme to our Y6 children. They asked if we would be one of six schools in Cambridgeshire to be part of a pilot supported by the Department for Transport and Cambridgeshire County Council.



We were treated to a Bikeability fun day to launch the programme, with every child and adult in school having the opportunity to try out a range of bikes including four-seat bikes, recumbent bikes, Dutch bikes and of course the age

old favourite, the chopper! After school, parents joined in the fun, reliving their childhood, racing around on bikes that brought back many fond memories. One of the highlights of the day was definitely the jukebox powered by pedal power on the static bikes.

The Bikeability crew are also running different sessions over a six week course. Our youngest children have been having a weekly lesson on using a balance bike. Children in Years 1-3 are having lessons on how to ride without stabilisers, with several children already successfully progressing from wobbling to riding with confidence, a fantastic sight! Our oldest children in Years 5/6 are having bike maintenance lessons, learning skills such as checking brakes and mending punctures, essential lifeskills for anyone.



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The project has been very successful already in raising the number of children and families connected to The Meadow riding bikes safely around our beautiful countryside.



Nichola Connor, Headteacher

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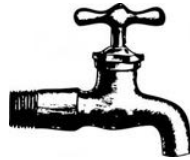
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News from the Ellesmere Centre

Easter Activities will run from 30th March through to 10th April. For details visit our website or email the office.



Pudding Club – Saturday 25th April. Tickets are £10 which includes homemade soup to start with, a sample of ten puddings, and a glass of wine.



 **Open Mic** – Saturday 9th May.

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

1st Horseheath Brownies

We have just returned from our annual Brownie Holiday to the Jarman Centre. The weather wasn't as warm as last year but we didn't have rain or even snow, which was great as we could then have some activities outside.

The Brownies completed their Cooks, Brownie Holiday and Seasons interest badges as well as the Girlguiding Cambridgeshire East Arts 4 All Challenge badge. Some Brownies who were attending their third holiday also completed their Advanced Brownie

Holiday badge. The girls also enjoyed a campfire on Friday night with Balsham Rainbows, and a picnic trail for lunch on Saturday. The Brownies and Rainbows also made a Mothering Sunday card as a joint activity together.

On Sunday the girls decorated a sponge cake to give to their mothers and even decorated the cake box too. They also made ribbon rosette badges, and popcorn bird-feeders for the garden.

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)

Balham Horticultural Society

Looking to be entertained? Forget tickets to the theatre or cinema, just go along to a talk given by Mike Petty and you will be transported to another world. His knowledge of Cambridgeshire, gleaned from over 35 years working with the Cambridgeshire Collection, is second to none and his delivery allows you to imagine the situations and events as if you were there.

Choosing his topic of 'Fen and Flood', he immediately set the scene with a map from 1604 showing Ely surrounded by tiny islands of higher ground. Using photographs from several decades we quickly saw that flooding in the fens was a regular occurrence in the 1900s. Between 1912, when harvesting had to be carried out by boat, and 1939, various areas were under water and life in this



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desolate area was made more difficult for the working families trying to make a living.

Mike then went on to look at the flood of 1947 in more detail. At one time 100 square miles of fenland were flooded. After months a track gradually appeared and the farmers were able to return and view their devastated land and property. Despite the enormous task ahead of them they were determined to rebuild their lives and an appeal raised money for rebuilding and compensation. One small consolation perhaps was that the following harvest was good thanks to the build-up of nutrients in the soil.

Mike Petty concluded his talk with the salutary thought that Nature comes back at you no matter how many pumps or ditches are built, but it is vital that we learn from these disasters and act on the knowledge gained.

Future events (details from Lyn Borrow on 890598):

- Next meeting is on Tuesday 7th April at 7.30 pm, when a local team of experts will be on hand to answer your gardening questions. Submit them to Jean Segars, 13 Queens Close, before the event, or turn up and ask on the night.
- Outing to Spencer’s Garden in Great Yeldham on Tuesday 12th May. This is an evening meeting. Cost £6.50.
- Outing to Capel Manor Gardens on Saturday 4th July, an all-day event, by coach. Cost £17.50 plus an optional £2.50 for a guided tour.

Sue Lock

Harold’s Gardening Notes for April

It has often been said that April cannot make up its mind whether to be winter or summer. Bear this in mind when undertaking outdoor sowings. Although it is time to sow many varieties of vegetables, clear still

nights bring with them the threat of a damaging frost. Fleece is invaluable for protecting vulnerable crops, but should be securely anchored if breezy conditions prevail. Always remember that even hardy plants such as cabbage or broad beans which have been greenhouse raised must be ‘hardened off’ before planting outside.

Workshop – Drypoint and Chine Collé

Saturday 18th April, 10 am - 4 pm. £80 including all printmaking materials. Contact Susie Turner, susie@susieturner.com, 01223 750280.



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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 **Balsham 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

April 2015

- Wed 1 West Wrating Over 60s
Compline, 7.30, St Mary's and St Andrew's
- Fri 3 'The Last Hour' service, St Andrew's
Tea and Cakes, Weston Colville
First Friday bridge, West Wrating
- Sat 4 Farmers' Market, Linton Village College
Churchyard clearup, St Andrew's
Saturday Café, West Wrating
- Sun 5, EASTER DAY (see page 2 for service times)
- Tues 7 Balsham Horticultural Society meeting
- Wed 8 West Wrating Book Club
- Sat 11 Tennis court tidy
- Mon 13 Defibrillator demonstration, West Wrating
- Thur 16 Parish Nurse meeting, Balsham
West Wrating Lunch Club
- Fri 17 Balsham Quiz
- Sun 19 'Contact the Elderly' tea party, West Wrating
- Thur 23 Annual Church Meeting, St Mary's
- Sat 25 Dawn Chorus, Lower Wood, Weston Colville
- Mon 27 Annual Church Meeting, St Andrew's

Revd Dr Julie Norris, Priest-in-Charge
tel: 891350; Balsham Church: 890895
(day off: Tues) email: revjulienorris@gmail.com

Revd Canon John Fellows, Assistant Parish Priest
tel: 291265 email: j.fellows321@btinternet.com

Revd Kathy Bishop, Associate Priest
tel: 892288 email: revkathy@hotmail.co.uk

Very Revd Keith Johnson, Honorary Associate Priest
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Mrs Rosemary Mead, Authorised Lay Minister
tel: 891718 email: leonardavmead@hotmail.com

Mr Keith Day, Authorised Lay Minister
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St Andrew's:	Flowers	Cleaning
5 th Apr	EASTER – all available	Jenny
12 th Apr	Louise	Pauline
19 th Apr	Louise	Fanny
26 th Apr	Linda	Sue & Maggie
3 rd May	Linda	Jenny

St Mary's:	Flowers	Cleaning
April	Gay	Jane
May	Katie	Melanie

Black bins: Wednesday 8th & Tuesday 21st April,
Wednesday 6th & Tuesday 19th May.

Green & blue bins: Tuesday 14th & 28th April,
Tuesday 12th & 26th May.

Mobile library: fourth Wednesdays (22 nd Apr, 27 th May)		
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,
wpcpc@typo.demon.co.uk, 01223 290963
West Wrating – Jenny Richards,
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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.

May issue's copy date:
Monday 20th April.