

Challenge

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

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

On a recent trip to Siena, I visited the crypt of the Cathedral and saw the frescos on the wall, thought to have been painted in 1285, possibly by the influential Siennese artist, Duccio di Buoninsegna. These paintings were discovered a few years ago after having lain forgotten underground for 700 years. The frescos were buried within 30 years of being completed, when the crypt was filled with rubble to form the foundations of a planned new cathedral, which was intended to be the largest in the world. The Black Death which swept through Siena in the early 14th century, killing a third of the residents, put paid to the building of the larger cathedral. The crypt and the frescos were protected from damp and light and so are beautifully preserved.

We will be using some reproductions of Duccio's paintings as the Stations of the Cross at a joint service on Good Friday at Balsham Church at 11am as we meditate on the Passion of Christ.

Occasionally we find some hidden treasure in one of our churches, such as the old white and gold altar frontal which has just been restored at West Wickham. It will be used on Easter Day. Maybe there are treasures that we have overlooked because they are always there and we have not recognized their age or significance.

Lent is traditionally a time to reconnect with hidden depths in our lives through prayer, fasting (self denial) and almsgiving (generous sharing). There are lots of events in the churches to help us towards this. The Lent Course this year is exploring Prayer. It is fascinating to reflect on why people pray, and what we are doing in our brains when we pray. Is prayer all in the mind? Is silence prayer? Are there ways of praying that we haven't tried but might enjoy? And are there tips suggesting what we can do when prayer

seems impossible? Around the churches there are Lent lunches when we will eat a simple lunch together and give to charity. Rather than giving up something for the whole six weeks, these lunches (or an equivalent simple lunch in another context and a donation to your own charity) could be an achievable goal for us that makes a difference to someone else.

Rev Julie Norris

Lent Lunches

Monday 16th March 12.30 pm, at 9 Chimney's Lane, Balsham, (893063)

Wednesday 18th March 12.15 pm, at Great Abington Village Institute.

There will be just one Lent Lunch in West Wrattling this year. It will be held in the Village Hall on **Saturday 14th March** from 12 until 2 pm. Please come along and enjoy a bowl of delicious homemade soup, fresh bread and cheese, for a suggested donation of £5 per person.

For years there have been four lunches held in houses in the village on Fridays during Lent. This year we hope that by choosing a Saturday we will enable many more people to come along. Proceeds will be shared between the restoration funds of St Andrew's Church and of West Wrattling Village Hall.

Sherry

Reflective Services in Holy Week

Monday 30th March, 7.30 pm, Compline, West Wickham

Tuesday 31st March, 7.30 pm, Compline, Weston Colville

Wednesday 1st April 7.30 pm, Compline, West Wrattling

Maundy Thursday, 2nd April, 7.30 pm, Holy Communion, Great Abington

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Lent Talks – Prayer Without Limits

Please join us for these fascinating discussions:

Prayer – is it all in the mind?

Rev Prof Alasdair Coles, Neuroscientist

Thurs 5th March, 7.30 pm, Balsham Bull



Leading Addenbrookes neuroscientist and Anglican Priest, the Rev Prof Alasdair Coles, will give a fascinating insight into what is going on in our brains when we pray, drawing on recent scientific research. Can we trust the experience of prayer or is it all in the mind?

Can silence be prayer?

Madeleine O'Callaghan, spiritual guide, retreat/workshop facilitator and trainer

Thursday 12th March, 7.30 pm, Hildersham Church

What's the value of silent meditation? Is it a form of prayer and what benefits does it bring? Madeleine O'Callaghan brings a wealth of experience in helping people to develop their spiritual life through group and individual spiritual direction. Her focus is on inner freedom and fullness of life. She not only understands silent prayer, she lives it.

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Problems with Prayer

Rev Jane Keiller, Diocesan Officer for Spirituality

Thurs 26th March, 7.30 pm, Balsham Bull

What's going on when prayer becomes difficult or Impossible? Spiritual Director Rev Jane Keiller, whose main role is to help others to pray, will lead this reflection on problems with prayer and how they can be approached.

Annual Women's World Day of Prayer

Friday 6th March at 11 am in Balsham Church, followed by a Bring & Share lunch. All genders welcome!

Joanna Sanders

Granta Deanery Spring Fair

The Fair helps support the churches' work for village communities in South Cambridgeshire, and our parishes traditionally help the Fair by running the Toy Stall. We need any toys that you, or your children, or your grandchildren, no longer need. Please place them in the box at the back of church. We also need help running the stall; four people offering just two hours each should be enough.

Offers, please, to Canon John Fellows (291265).

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Mothering Sunday Family Services

Do come and join us for our

**Mothering Sunday
Family Services
on 15th March**



9.30 am at St Mary's, Weston Colville,
(after the Teddy Bears' Sleepover) and
10.45 am at St Andrew's, West Wrattling.

They will be short, informal, and very family-friendly.

Teddy Bears' Sleepover

Where: St Mary's Church, Weston Colville

When: Saturday 14th March to Sunday 15th March

Time: from 4.00 pm to 5.00 pm on Saturday, until pickup from 9.30 am to 10.30 am on Sunday.

We are planning a Teddy Bears' Sleepover across the evening of Saturday/Sunday 14th/15th March. Who can tell what adventures the bears might have when left alone in the church overnight? So, young and old, do bring your bears on Saturday afternoon any time between 4 and 5 pm. Pack all they will need for an exiting night away from home: pyjamas, toothbrush, torch, favourite book to share with the other bears, an overnight bear bag, and perhaps even a photo of their family. Don't forget your bear will also need a sleeping bag or blanket to snuggle into after the night's entertainment. Please label your bear and his bag.



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On arrival you will be asked to provide your bear's details, supply anything that is important for the hosts to know: their age; are they afraid of the dark? do they like to sleep on their back or side? plus other very 'beary' facts.

Sunday morning at 9.30 am is pickup time and the children's service. Come and learn all about the night's events, hear the story they have been told, see photos of their escapades, be reunited with your bears and join together in the special family service.

How can you not be part of this unusual event?!

Philippa Coates (290842)

Granta Deanery

Spring Fair

Saturday 14 March

10.00–12.00 noon

Great Shelford Memorial Hall

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Weston Colville Winter Lunch

This very successful annual event took place on Sunday 25th January in the Reading Room, which was filled to capacity with sixty people who enjoyed a traditional Sunday roast with all the trimmings, followed by pudding, cheese and biscuits and then coffee, at half the price you would have to pay at a restaurant. A raffle added to the profit of just over £1,000. Many thanks to our stalwart helpers, generous givers and those of you who supported the event from inside the village and without.

Those of you who have not been to this event missed a friendly, informal get together and might like to come along next year to give it a try. It is not a church event, but the proceeds go to help structural repairs to our ancient church.

Tim Cockerill, Friends of St Mary's Church

Churchyard Clear Up, West Wrating

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

Colin McCall (290036)

West Wrating Over 60s

The Club will resume its monthly meetings in West Wrating Village Hall on Wednesday 4th March at 2.30 pm. There will be a brief financial report, subscriptions will be collected, and there will be the usual bring'n'buy and raffle.

The following meeting will be in the Village Hall on 1st April.

We were all saddened to hear that Neville had recently passed away. Neville gave his support to the club over many years, especially with their garden meetings, and was always happy to help in the garden and in the kitchen. Our thoughts are with Elsie and her family at this time.

Wendy Halls

The Bake Off Comes to Tea and Cakes

Friday 6th March, the Reading Room, 3.30 - 5 pm

This month at Tea and Cakes we will be raising money for Comic Relief with a children's Bake Off competition. Entries can be any bake on the theme of Red Nose Day. Paul and Mary will be judging. Cakes will then be sold in aid of Comic Relief.

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'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 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

Church Bell Ringing

The band at St Andrew's is numerically stronger than it has been for years. As a result we can often cover all six bells for pre-service ringing. Still, we would welcome new ringers. If you would like to learn to ring in a friendly and supportive environment, or even have a taster session with no commitment to continue, now, with the lengthening days, would be a good time

to start. Our practice sessions are on a Thursday evening. If you think you might be interested please contact me sooner rather than later.

Mike Rowland (290788)

Woodwork Project

A donor has kindly provided West Wrattling Village Hall with a well-used table-tennis table. Unfortunately the playing surfaces are damaged beyond repair. Manufacturers' replacements cost almost as much as a new table. What we need is two half-sections, 5' x 4'6" x 1" of wood, chipboard or ply-covered chipboard. Then there is the matter of painting. Is this a feasible project for a handy resident or two? Obviously they would not be expected to pay for materials.

Mike Rowland (290788)

d'Abo Tennis Club, West Wrattling
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 Wrattling (01223 290036). All existing members welcome.

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West Wratting Oil Syndicate

There will be a fillup this month, with the cutoff for orders being Sunday 15th March at 6.00 pm. As this is a mid-month cutoff, please don't start placing orders until Saturday 7th; after that date, order either by email to me at richardholness023@btinternet.com or by phoning the pub during licensing hours (not too late, please) on 290384. Price and delivery will be on the West Wratting website once the group order has been placed.

Just a point, don't treat the syndicate like a normal oil supplier as it takes a couple of weeks for the orders to be received, collated and brokered. However, if you take the minimum of 500 litres every time there's a fillup, you'll always buy at the best possible price and improve your cashflow to boot!

Richard Holness

Saturday Morning Café, West Wratting!

Thank you to all who were able to join us for the first West Wratting Saturday Café – it was great to catch up with so many people! The next Café will be on Saturday 7th March between 10.30 am and 12 noon, in the Village Hall. Come along for tea or coffee, home-made cakes and a chat. Everyone welcome, young

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

and old! Any proceeds will be used to organise future events as part of the Café, such as arts and 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).

Easter Hunt, Activities, Tea & Cakes

Saturday 28th March, 3 - 5 pm, at the Reading Room, Weston Colville. All welcome.

The event is in aid of the Church End Recreation Ground project, and we are hoping to raise some funds to contribute to replacing the play/exercise equipment.

Kate (katharine.hiles@btinternet.com)

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***Village VE Day Commemoration,
Weston Colville***

Plans for the village VE Day Commemoration in Weston Colville are well underway. We intend to hold a bring your own picnic 'street party', centred around the Reading Room and Recreation Ground, on Sunday 10th May from 2 - 6 pm. We hope to have a fancy dress competition, games, a longer-term activity involving our young people collecting memories of WWII from the older generations, and mount an exhibition of wartime memorabilia. However, we need volunteers to help organise and run the 1940s themed party, or it will not happen. Your village needs you!

The survey returns for the Community Led Parish Plan indicated that many wanted a village fete, and some even said they were willing to help organise it. Now is the time to step forward and do your bit.

We have the structure for the party in place: specific tasks we want help with include setting up and running games for youngsters on the recreation ground, setting up and running a bar, and arranging a barbeque. We need a coordinator to look after the collection and display of wartime memories. We

would like to offer some traditional games – bowling for a pig, splat the rat, crockery smash etc, but these cannot happen without more volunteers. Please get involved and make this a memorable event, and a fun day for all, not forgetting the theme. Volunteers can contact me. Further ideas welcome; those offering suggestions are likely to be asked to carry them forward to May! Join up today.

Bridget Durham (290082)

The Peter & Ruth Lloyd Trust Award

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

If you are attending university for the first time in September 2015 and wish to apply for this year's award of £800, the deadline for completed applications is 31st March.

Please contact Jonathan Drury (01223 290968) for details, or email to peterandruthlloydtrust@yahoo.co.uk for an application form.

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During March and April, I will be running classes in the Village Hall on the following Saturdays:

7th March, 9.15 am (followed by coffee and cake at the West Wrattling Cafe)

28th March, 9.30 am

4th April, 9.15 am (followed by coffee and cake at the West Wrattling Cafe)

11th April, 9.30 am

25th April, 9.30 am

and every Saturday thereafter.

I also teach FitSteps® at the Whittlesford Memorial Hall on Wednesdays at 6.30 pm (low impact) and 7.45 pm, and at the Balsham Institute on Thursdays at 7.30pm. No partner required. New dancers always welcome. Price £5. First class FREE.

For more information, please contact me on fitsteps.annec@gmail.com or 290967 or 07799 644053.

Anne Catchpole

West Wrattling Sports Pavilion

A defibrillator demonstration will be held in April (date to be arranged). Everyone in the village and clubs will be welcome as this is an important skill to learn for a life saving situation.

The defibrillator will be kept in a secure lockup on the outside of the pavilion, with known key holders, so it can be used by anyone in the village as well as anyone associated with the football clubs.

Anybody interested is welcome to come along to train for the football teams, or to watch the matches. They can enquire for further details at the Pavilion on Saturdays.

As a fundraiser for charity and West Wrattling Senior Football Club, a **Gentlemen's Evening** will be held at the West Wrattling Sports Pavilion on Friday 13th March, including comedians and dancers. £20 per ticket (including chicken and chips), available from the Sports Pavilion. The charity offers help and support to those affected by brain tumours, and funds research (www.thebraintumourcharity.org.uk).

Blanche Miller, West Wrattling Pavilion Secretary

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West Wrating Book Club

The book club met on 17th February to review 'A Time of Gifts' by Patrick Leigh Fermor, the first part of a trilogy completed posthumously from his manuscript. It described his walk as a young man in the 1930s, across Europe from the Hook of Holland to Constantinople. This book took him as far as the border between Czechoslovakia and Hungary.

We had a good turn-out of seven people, including two newcomers. All had enjoyed the book, although some found the descriptions of architecture such as cathedrals and the cultural history rather long and pretentious. Others, who were particularly interested in these subjects, thoroughly enjoyed such passages especially when it touched on places they had themselves visited. It gave an introduction to the development of Europe which made one want to know more. It was agreed that it was a wonderful evocation of a world that was to be shattered and lost soon afterwards in the Second World War, a presentiment of which is seen in his descriptions of the 'Brown Shirts', the discussions of National Socialism, the swastikas, and pictures of Hitler.

The descriptions of his interactions with the local people at all social levels, and evocation of the

changing landscape, were much enjoyed. As this was written some time after the events, although with much recourse to notes made at the time, the accuracy of Fermor's recollection was questioned. Was it really that easy to travel through such winter weather, how much was exaggerated or mis-remembered? Did his style, and assumption that his readers had a particular level of education in the Classics, make him a relic of that world himself?

Scores varied from 6 to 10, giving an average of 8, and all would recommend it to others.

We will meet on 17th March at 8 pm in The Chestnut Tree to discuss 'Longbourn' by Jo Baker, a below-stairs account of the world of 'Pride and Prejudice'.

Linda Gorman

Weston Colville Neighbourhood Watch (NHW)

Since last month's article we have experienced one break-in and two attempted break-ins in Weston Colville. We also had an excellent evening with Rachel Carr and our two PCSO's. Rachel made us think about security and we were told about various ways of protecting our possessions. One way is to use Smart Water kits* (£10) and shed alarms (£8), which

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On the wider front the police have advised us about scams and confidence tricks. I know of no one knocking on our doors here but the internet is used by many of us. Action Fraud has seen an increase in the number of victims signing up for free trials for unapproved or misleading pharmaceuticals or supplements. If you feel that such products might help you, speak to your GP or a local pharmacist before parting with any money or card details. Call 0300 123 2040 for help and further advice.

Police are warning motorists to beware of a potential scam involving men claiming to have broken down, who say they need money for fuel. I must admit that I tend to help people in this situation, but at present this is another scam – so to protect yourself take care, keep your windows closed and drive on.

Information posted on social media sites is available for criminals who use the internet and social media sites to find details about you, where you live, what you like to do and even when you are going on

holiday. Think about who may be able to view your media site before you actually post on it.

PCSO 7239 Leanne Fisher has moved on. She thanks us for our help and support while she was here. It should be us who thank her for the service she has provided – Leanne, you will be missed.

This is a digest of information; much more is available by signing up to eCops.

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



**Smart Water is a unique coding system which has been used by police forces for a number of years, to tackle both commercial and domestic burglary. Its use has reduced burglary by 85% in some areas. Once dry, under normal light it is not detectable, but in UV light it glows bright yellow. Even the smallest of traces can be analysed to prove ownership of a marked item. Quite a number of us ordered a kit during the evening with Rachel Carr.*

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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

In aid of St. Mary's Church Weston Colville



Indoor Car Boot Sale

at
Weston Colville Reading Room

Saturday 28th of March
10am to 2pm
Refreshments available

contact Alan Ogden on 01223 291401

Please see page 13 of Challenge for an application form to book your place. Cheques should be made payable to St Mary's Church, Weston Colville.



West Wrattling Arts Collective
2015 Autumn Exhibition
10th and 11th October

Image: Smokebush by Susie Turner

Following last year's success, we are delighted to announce our 2015 Autumn exhibition featuring artists working in a range of media including watercolour, oils, charcoal, acrylics, linocut, fine art photography and solar plate printmaking.

Saturday 10th October: 10.30am - 4pm
Sunday 11th October: 11am - 4pm

If you are interested in exhibiting with us or need more information, please contact Jan Cassidy Tel: 01 223 893818 email: jc@jancassidy.co.uk or Colin McCall Tel: 01 223 290046 email: sisse.mccall@googlemail.com.

Venue: West Wrattling Village Hall 79 High Street West Wrattling CB21 5LU

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Indoor Car Boot Sale

(with a few outdoor places available)

at **Weston Colville Reading Room**

Saturday 28th of March 2015

10am to 2pm

Open at 9am to set up, with refreshments available throughout.

Enquiries on 01223 291401

If you would like to hire a place, please fill in below and send to
Alan Ogden, 18,Church End, Weston Colville CB215PB.

Cut here and retain above for reference.....

Name.....

Address.....

.....

Telephone.....

I would like . . . (please strike out as appropriate)

- a) **an indoor table @ £15** (with table and elecricity as required -and heating !!!!!)
- b) **an outdoor space @ £10** (suitable for plant sales and traders with their own outdoor rig) **Brrrrr !! Hot drinks available !**

I enclose my full payment of £15 /£10 (strike out as required)

and note that I am responsible for clearing away any rubbish I may have accrued at the end of the sale and that I understand the Trustees of the Reading Room, Weston Colville take no responsibility for any loss or damage which may occur,

Signed.....

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Meadow Matters

Blink and you will have missed this half term, although judging by the amount of Calpol being given, and the number of boxes of tissues that the classes are getting through, half term could not have come soon enough!

As usual we seem to have packed a huge amount into a relatively short space of time. The whole school topic of Africa is continuing to engage, inspire and amaze the children. We have welcomed a number of visitors into school to share their own stories, experiences and of course many photographs and artefacts.

Both Year 3/4 and Year 5/6 are studying African books or topics that make reference to apartheid; to the vast majority of our pupils this is something completely alien to them and to see the disgust and hear the cries of "that is so not fair, you can't treat people in that way", shows what wonderful morals and values our children have. The infants have had slightly lighter reading material. They have been reading Tinga Tinga Tales, which are all stories related to how animals became, such as how giraffe got his long neck. Listening to some of the younger children talk about how they think certain animals evolved in that way, has been very amusing!

At the end of half term we hosted a two day African Dance workshop. Oumar Sagna, originally from Senegal, taught the children authentic African dances. The children did not stop talking about their sessions, and we even had our very own flash mob on the KS2 playground at lunchtime, with children from different



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Meadow School PTA: 01223 894 400

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classes coming together to strut their stuff! At the end of day two, the whole school came together in the hall to put on a final performance.



The smiles on the children's faces were bright enough to light up the whole of Balsham. When the teachers were called up to perform on their own, the encouragement (and then the laughter) was fantastic. It was definitely one of the best workshops we have ever hosted

and I don't think there is one family who is not talking about it!

Peer massage is now fully embedded into our daily routine. At the beginning there was a real mix of positivity and scepticism, although the latter did not last too long. The children have taken to it like ducks to water. Kindness, understanding, tolerance, respect and calmness are just some of the values that the project is enabling children to show on a daily basis. Visitors who have been in school during the sessions have commented



on the calmness of the children, the positive attitudes they have, and the relationships and conversations happening between children who otherwise would not normally choose to work together. A recent parent and child coffee morning to showcase peer massage was a huge success. The penguin, seal and peacock moves remain the children's favourites!

I know many people from our community often check the school website to see what else is going on in school. Those of you who are regulars to the site will know it is rather old fashioned and a little bit clunky! We are currently having a brand new website designed, which will make finding things a lot easier. This should be ready to launch at Easter; in the meantime to keep up to date, why not follow us on twitter? We can be found at https://twitter.com/meadow_balsham or our name is @Meadow_Balsham.

Finally, a huge thank you to everyone from the local community who attended the school jumble sale. We raised a whopping £1485, which we couldn't have done without all of the people who queued around the block to get in. I never ceased to be amazed at the bargains people can find! Community spirit is very much alive in our part of the world.

Nichola Connor, Headteacher

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Scouting

Traditional Scouting is returning to Taylor Hall, Dullingham, for Dullingham and the surrounding villages. The full programme and activities you would expect from an enthusiastic Scouting organisation will be operated (term time only):



Beaver Scouts (6 - 8 yrs) – Fridays, 6 - 7 pm

Wolf Cubs (8-11 yrs) – Wednesdays, 6.30 - 7.45 pm

Scouts (11 - 15 yrs) / **Senior Scouts** (15 - 18 yrs) – Fridays, 7.15 - 9.00 pm.

For more information, visit our website by searching for 'Dullingham Scouts' or contact the Group Scout Master, Mark Burton, on maburton@hotmail.co.uk or 07513 408137.

West Wickham & District Gardening Club

Our speaker on Monday 16th February was Nigel Start, who gave us much needed advice on 'Pruning'. His talk took us through the correct procedures for pruning shrubs, trees, hedges, and fruit, including different types of clematis. Nigel's talk was both entertaining and instructive, and now we can put his advice to good use in the coming weeks. The talks for our Club meetings are often chosen to give our members new ideas and to demonstrate how to carry these out. With this in mind our next talk, at 7.30 pm in West Wickham Village Hall on Monday 16th March, will be 'Being Creative with Sempervivums' by Angela Whiting from D'Arcy and Everest Alpine Nursery. Why not join us and learn how to plant up a trough or crevice garden?

Rosemary Yallop (01799 584262)

The Ellesmere Centre

Little Kickers for children from 18 mths to 5 years is on Monday mornings. Call Ashley on 07928765121.



Dog Training: don't forget that we have dog training classes here on Wednesday evenings.

Open Mic Night is on 7th March. Doors open at 7.30 pm, first act at 8 pm. Entry £2. If you would like to perform, call Rob on 01638 507997 to book a slot.

Sixties Dance: 28th March, 7.30pm. Come and dance to the great band 'The 6T's'; fancy dress is optional. Tickets £7, available now. Door and raffle money to go to St Nicholas Hospice.

Pudding Club: the next meeting will be on 25th April (note change of date).

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

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

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

Derbyshire Post

It is now nearly two years since we received confirmation that Linton Village College had become the leader of a Teaching School. At the time, few people in the community understood what that would mean for us, so I used the analogy of a ‘Teaching Hospital’ to explain its role.



In these two years things have developed very positively. Our teaching school has a name – CASSA



(Cambridge and Suffolk Schools Alliance), a purpose (to improve teaching and learning in Cambridgeshire and Suffolk schools), a website

(www.cassateaching.co.uk) and a series of partners and strategic partners (22 primary schools, 5 secondary schools, a sixth form college and a special school). We work very much as an alliance and we are involved in training new teachers, training existing teachers, supporting schools in their own

improvement journeys, carrying out educational research, and developing school leadership. LVC now buzzes with this kind of activity every day, as we run conferences and training activities, and recruit the teaching mentors and coaches that the improvement system needs.

Schools in Suffolk, in particular, have come under attack from Ofsted over standards of education in recent months, and Teaching Schools Alliances are a real solution to this problem. They are also good news for the students in our school because the work that CASSA does is unrelentingly focused on teaching and learning. We improve our own practice as we support and coach others.

Caroline Derbyshire, Principal



Buttercups Pre-School



Saturday 7th March, 2-4pm

At the Meadow School, High Street, Balsham

£1 Entrance Fee for Shoppers

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Come along and find some terrific bargains!

Pamper Evening

The date is still to be confirmed; details available as soon as possible.



Balsham Horticultural Society

Ian Loe our speaker on a bitterly cold evening warmed our hearts with his passion for butterflies. He peppered his talk with readings and quotes about these beautiful creatures and how he came to have a life long interest in them. He then showed us his own paintings and his photographs of many species.

Our next meeting will be on Tuesday 3rd March in The Meadow school hall at 7.30 for 7.45 pm. The speaker will be Mike Petty, a Cambridgeshire historian, researcher and lecturer, who will talk on 'Fen & Flood'. All welcome.

Hazel Leeson

Harold's Garden Notes

'March brings breezes loud and shrill' goes the old saying. Hopefully these will not be from the east, a cold direction in the spring. If conditions allow it is time to prune autumn fruiting raspberries, and to cut down ornamental grasses.

Any sowings of vegetables should be done with caution, as later sowings catch up, and early sowing in cold ground often leads to disappointment.

Cambridgeshire Fire and Rescue Service

How many times have you tested your smoke alarm since the start of 2015? If the answer is zero, please go and do it now! We're asking residents to test their smoke alarms every month – mark it in your diary and make sure you press the button. If you have young children, then why not devise a fun game to get them involved in testing the smoke alarms in the household? If you can't quite reach it, then use a broom handle to press the test button.

Don't forget to also test the smoke alarms of those you love. If you have an elderly or vulnerable relative, friend or neighbour, pop by and make sure they have a working smoke alarm. If you think someone is vulnerable and could be at a higher risk if a fire broke out in their home, then please call us on 0800 917 9994 and we can provide advice and support.

Log on to www.cambsfire.gov.uk for the latest incidents, news and safety advice.

Leanne Ehren



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St Nicholas Hospice Care

Are you looking for a rewarding volunteering opportunity in Haverhill?

We are a local charity providing care and support to people and their families in Haverhill and West Suffolk who are living with life-shortening illnesses.

We have lots of flexible voluntary work that is rewarding and worthwhile. If you would like to find out more please contact us on 01284 715596 or pop in to the Burton Centre to see the team.

You can also email us if you wish at volunteersdept@stnh.org.uk or through our Facebook page, www.facebook.com/stnicholashospicecare

Emma Izod

How to Create a Strong Password

This is an ever-increasing problem.

It is best to try to use what is best for you; there is no point having a complicated password if you cannot remember it or have to write it down and carry it around with you.

It is good advice to change your existing password by adding a capital letter in the middle and substituting some of the letters for a number or punctuation mark, as long as can still remember it. If odd numbers are difficult, change a letter for a number it would correspond to in the alphabet – that way you can always find it again – so a 'C' would be a 3 or 'H' would be an 8....

Be inventive, but do not outfox yourself!

Andrew Westwood Bate

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Drypoint and Chine Collé



Drypoint is the simplest and most direct form of intaglio printmaking. 'Intaglio' means to cut below the surface and, by tradition, it describes a figure or design engraved into stone or metal. As a printing technique it lends itself to drawing and mark making. What characterizes a drypoint print is the soft velvet quality of its line achieved by directly scratching the surface of a plastic or metal plate with a sharp pointed needle. Chine collé describes the technique of attaching fine papers to the print.

Susie Turner is an established artist and experienced tutor who regularly delivers talks and demonstrations about traditional and contemporary methods of fine art printmaking. This one-day workshop will allow participants to work closely with Susie in her studio and learn a simple but effective technique of fine art printmaking. The technique is easy to learn – suitable for beginners and those with previous experience of printmaking or drawing.



Introductory workshops to Drypoint and Chine Collé

Saturday 7th March, Saturday 18th April 2015

Time: 10am – 4.00pm Max participants: 4

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Tel: 01223 750280

www.susieturner.com

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

March 2015

- Tues 3 Balsham Horticultural Society
 Wed 4 West Wrating Over 60s
 Thur 5 Lent talk, Balsham
 Fri 6 Tea and Cakes, Weston Colville, with Bake Off
 Women's World Day of Prayer, Balsham
 First Friday bridge, West Wrating
 Bingo, Burrough Green
 Sat 7 Farmers' Market, Linton Village College
 West Wrating Saturday Café
 Drypoint/Chine Collé workshop
 Nearly New Sale, Balsham
 Beetle Drive, West Wrating
 Thur 12 Lent talk, Hildersham
 Tennis club AGM
 Fri 13 Gentlemen's Evening, West Wrating
 Sat 14 Granta Deanery Spring Fair, Great Shelford
 Lent lunch, West Wrating
 Teddy bears' sleepover, Weston Colville
 Sun 15 Mothering Sunday, family services
 Cutoff for West Wrating Oil Syndicate orders
 Mon 16 Lent lunch, Balsham
 West Wickham & District Gardening Club
 Tues 17 West Wrating Book Club
 Wed 18 Lent lunch, Great Abington
 Thur 19 West Wrating Lunch Club
 Thur 26 Lent talk, Balsham
 Fri 27 Quiz, Meadow School
 Sat 28 Indoor Car Boot Sale, Weston Colville
 Easter activities, Weston Colville
 Tea Dance, Ellesmere Centre
 Thur 31 Applications deadline, Peter & Ruth Lloyd Trust
 Compline, 7.30, Weston Colville

April 2015

- Wed 1 West Wrating Over 60s
 Compline, 7.30, West Wrating
 Sat 4 Churchyard cleanup, St Andrew's
 Sun 19 'Contact the Elderly' tea party, West Wrating
 Sat 25 Pudding Club, Ellesmere Centre

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
 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: rmead@sjcs.co.uk

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

| St Andrew's: | Flowers | Cleaning |
|---|----------------|-----------------|
| 1 st Mar | LENT | Sue & Maggie |
| 8 th Mar | LENT | Jenny |
| 15 th Mar | LENT | Pauline |
| 22 nd Mar (Mothering Sunday) | LENT | Sue & Maggie |
| 29 th Mar (Palm Sunday) | LENT | Jenny |

| St Mary's: | Flowers | Cleaning |
|-------------------|----------------|-----------------|
| March | LENT | Jill |
| April | Gay | Jane |

Black bins: Tuesday 10th & 24th March,
Wednesday 8th & Tuesday 21st April.
Green & blue bins: Tuesday 3rd, 17th & 31st March,
 Tuesday 14th & 28th April.

Mobile library: fourth Wednesdays (25th Mar, 22nd Apr)
 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.

April issue's copy date:
Friday 20th March.