

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 West Wrating Vicarage

I suspect that most of you do not have a detailed knowledge of modes of clerical dress, which is undoubtedly a good thing. So just take it from me that my mode of clerical dress is pretty old fashioned. In fact my wife warned me at a 2005 VE Day celebration that I was in danger of winning first prize in the 1945 fancy dress competition. Temperamentally I am not often ahead of the curve. So I am sticking my neck out a bit when I offer this prediction: I suspect that relations between the present Government and the churches will not be a good one, and at times quite abrasive.

The other Sunday I preached about Lord Runcie's difficult relationship with Mrs Thatcher's 1980's government – the one about drunken bishops, for those of you who heard it. And it struck me afterwards that although Mrs Thatcher and David Cameron are two very different prime ministers, the parlous state of the official opposition is something they have in common. Both then and now the Labour party suffered a bruising defeat. There is an enormous amount of soul searching and introspection going on – and rightly so. But the task of actually opposing the government inevitably suffers. And politics, like nature, abhors a vacuum. In the mid 80s much of the opposition to the government came from the church and the House of Lords. I think we might be in for a repeat performance.

One of the great defenders of democracy was a philosopher called Karl Popper. One of his arguments was that, however benign or well intentioned a ruler,

there was always the law of unintended consequences. Because we can't know everything, no one can be certain of all the consequences of an individual law. Therefore it must be open to those who have been penalised by a law to be able to campaign to have it changed, particularly for those who were not meant to be penalised. All government legislation will have losers, people who are put at a disadvantage by it. Such people are entitled to be heard (the value of democracy) and if the opposition cannot articulate their voice, then others will.

There is supposed to be a report gathering dust in the KGB files in the Kremlin saying that if the communists take over, they should get control of the Church of England, because it has a representative in every town and village in England. And it is this national spread which makes the bishops rather more aware of what is going on in the country as a whole than you or I are. South Cambridgeshire is a very comfortable part of England. Other places, particularly but not only in the North, are not. It is absolutely right that we are made aware of these differences. Otherwise we are in danger of being like the butterfly in Kipling's poem 'Pagett, MP':

*The toad beneath the harrow knows
Exactly where each tooth-point goes.
The butterfly upon the road
Preaches contentment to that toad.*

The Book of Proverbs in the Old Testament tells us that we must speak out on behalf of the voiceless, and for the rights of all who are vulnerable. That is precisely what Christ did and it is precisely what the church is called to do. I am not saying that all government policy is wrong, or that the bishops are always right. I am simply making a prediction about what might happen and trying to explain why it will happen. And if it does happen, remember that you read it here first.



St Andrew's, West Wrating
Saturday 1st August, 4.30 pm
SONGS of PRAISE
another of our very popular services to
mark the end of the Village Show

Fifth Sunday Service

On the fifth Sunday of this month, 30th August, we will hold a United Service at 10 am at Great Abington Church. This will be a gathering of all seven churches together and there will be no service at St Mary's, Weston Colville, or St Andrew's, West Wratting. There will be a seven church choir which includes people from each of the villages. On this occasion we will be highlighting important information about the Parish Nurse Project. The preacher is going to be Professor Alastair Coles, the Bishop's Adviser on health and healing, and a chaplain at Addenbrooke's hospital, as well as being a neurologist in the hospital. The theme of the service is 'Being Healing Communities'.

Harriet, a schoolgirl who is part of the Children's Church Council at Hildersham, has had an idea worth sharing. She heard a lecture about a school in Huntingdon where many children do not have books to read in their own homes. She loves reading because it helps her to 'get away'. Her idea is that people could donate a loved children's book to their school for these children to enjoy. In return, children in the school will be invited to make a bookmark. This is then not just one group being benefactors to another group, but each contributing to the other's enjoyment of reading. In the churches we thought this was such a good idea that we want to join in. We invite people to think carefully about a loved children's book to bring along to that service on 30th August.

Rev Julie Norris

West Wratting Harvest Supper

This year's event will take place on Saturday 26th September, 7 pm until midnight.

The format will be the same as previous years: we will be serving a simple supper of cheese and ham ploughman's, followed by apple pies/crumbles. There will be a raffle, produce auction and bar.

Tickets: adults £10, children £5, available from myself and at the next village Saturday morning café (5th September).

As this is a community event I am looking for people to help with the supper. If you are free and can help please email me, or telephone and leave a message.

Karen Baker (291229, karen@karenbakerdesign.co.uk)

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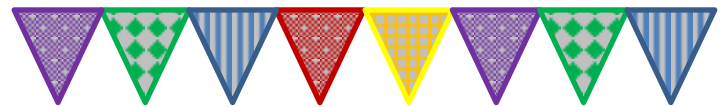
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Reminders for Events in Early August

West Wratting Village Show & Dog Show



Sunday 1st August, from 12 noon. Full details in last month's *Challenge*; also from Mira or John Nichols (291433, miranich@hotmail.co.uk) or Jeanette Job (290706, thejobs@hotmail.co.uk).



Jazz for Lifeboats, Carlton



Sunday 1st August, from 7.30 pm. Tickets £8.50 from Peter Day (01638 507651).

Children's Summer Tennis Coaching

Monday 3rd, Tuesday 4th, Wednesday 5th and Thursday 6th August, in West Wratting.

Again, full details in last month's *Challenge*, or from Cally Wilson (290179, cally.wilson@hotmail.co.uk).



VJ Day

To commemorate the 70th anniversary of the Japanese unconditional surrender to the Allied Forces, there will be a Benefice Service in Balsham Church (and possibly also at the War Memorial) at 10 am on Saturday 15th August.

Joanna Saunders

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West Wrattling Over 60s

This month, with thanks to Janet, we look forward to holding our August garden meeting at Emsom's Close, Linton, at 2.30 pm on Wednesday 5th, to include bring'n'buy and raffle.

Many thanks to Elsie and all her helpers for a lovely meeting in her truly fantastic garden, the cream tea and a splendid variety of cakes from Jo, Beryl and Ann, and the quizzes from Muriel. Also to Mark (Gethin) for providing us with obligatory sunshades for the sizzling afternoon.

The next meeting, on 2nd September, will be held in the village hall.

Wendy Halls

Tea & Cakes

Our next gathering will be on Friday 7th August, 3.30 - 5 pm at the Reading Room.

Please come along to catch up with old friends and meet new ones, and of course for a cuppa and a generous helping of delicious cake, all made and donated by our helpers.

We look forward to seeing you.

Melanie

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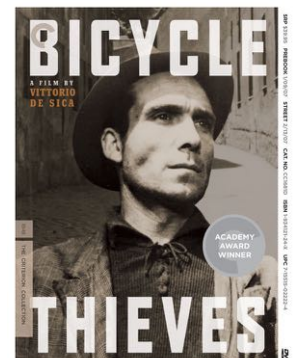
West Wrattling Saturday Morning Café

A quick reminder that there will be no café on Saturday 1st August as this clashes with the West Wrattling Village Show. The next café will therefore be on Saturday 5th September between 10.30 am and 12 noon. We hope to see you there!

Sherry (290070) and Catherine (291307)

Weston Colville Cinema Club

Further to my announcement in last month's *Challenge*, I have had a fair few expressions of support for this monthly film club at the Reading Room (thanks!), but to be viable we need a few more supporters to cover costs, so please get in touch if you think you'd like to see this club run. Again, format



is a short introduction to a great classic film and a screening, first Wednesday of each month, commencing October. Open to neighbouring villages, not just Weston Colville, so do spread the word.

Laurence Staig

(291212, laurence.staig@onetel.net)

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West Wrating Clay Day



We are again delighted to offer this exclusive chance to shoot at Six Mile Bottom, on simulated

game drives of clays, organised by Richard Clarke. The drives are varied, and this is ideal pre-season training for experienced game and clay shots.

Proceeds from this driven clay day, on Saturday 29th August, will go towards the restoration of St Andrew's church in West Wrating. For those who have done nothing like this before, it is the closest thing to proper driven shooting, only with thousands of targets; it is nothing like 'normal' clay shooting with someone keeping score! You would be likely to shoot around 300 to 400 rounds, so light loads needed, and fibre wad cartridges please.

We are charging £170 per head (held now for four years). For those with youngsters (or even adults!) who want to share a gun the price can be split. Last year there were three young guns sharing with parents. Food for any extra people will be charged at a nominal £10.

The morning will consist of meeting for a coffee and bacon butty at The Green Man at Six Mile Bottom at



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about 9 am, then shooting, and then a buffet lunch afterwards. All food and clays are included, but not cartridges or bar drinks. You may stay on at the pub afterwards for as long as you want, in the private room (complete with train on table!) at the back of the pub.

Hope you can join us. Also if you know anyone else (will need to be an experienced shot) who is interested please let me know. We can manage up to about 28 guns.

Contact Jeanette (290706, thejobs@hotmail.co.uk) or Simon (290461, simon.sampson@btinternet.com), but do confirm on the phone first so the email does not end up in the 'junk'.

West Wrating Book Club

On 8th July we reviewed 'Eleanor Marx: a Life' by Rachel Holmes.

This was a substantial book about the life of, and influences on, Eleanor Marx, the youngest daughter of Karl Marx. She lived an unconventional and socially significant life, being a major force behind many campaigns for better working conditions for all in Britain, Europe and the USA, and sexual equality for



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women, as well as helping with the formation of many trade unions so vital in the mid to late 19th century.

This was not only a book about her life but was also an eye-opening window into the socialist movement and those involved, from her father to such figures as Friedrich Engels (the social scientist who worked with Marx), George Bernard Shaw, William Morris, and Olive Schreiner. It gave a whole new view of the work of Karl Marx and his family life. Eleanor acted as her father's secretary and assistant for many years, going on to do a huge amount of research, writing and lecturing on her own behalf.

One of her main tenets was that change had to come from the working classes themselves rather than those no doubt well-meaning members of the middle classes who supported her aims. She was a very compassionate person, not only campaigning for change but also giving material support where she could, despite her own, often straitened, circumstances.

Despite her amazing intellect (she was reading authors such as James Fennimore Cooper by the age of six) and strength of mind, she could not protect herself from the heartbreak and tragedy caused by her love for 'a faithless and dishonest man'.

We agreed that this book was a real education.

However, there was so much detail about the people and events that had an impact on her life that it could have perhaps been split into two books, one about her life and another about the history of the social movements to which she was so important and all the other people involved in these.

A later comment from one reader was that it is still topical; she now understands the stir from the recent news headlines, about the gender pay gap. She had not seen it from this perspective before, with women, as they are cheaper, getting men's jobs.

Those present agreed that it was a good read and would recommend it to others, with the proviso that it was not a light read and it needed commitment to get the best from it. The average score was 9.

We are now having a summer break, meeting again on Tuesday 15th September at 8 pm in The Chestnut Tree. It has been suggested that we read two books over the intervening time: 'H is for Hawk' by Helen MacDonal, and the latest Victoria Hislop book, 'The Sunrise'. We will then read 'Go Set a Watchman', the recently published 'follow-up' to 'To Kill a Mockingbird' by Harper Lee, for October.

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

West Wratting Oil Syndicate

As most people are still awash with heating oil, only seven houses in West Wratting participated in the order that was placed on 8th July, with deliveries being made on 9th July.

Goff Petroleum won the WW Syndicate order with a price of 34.90 p per litre, a saving of 1.67 p per litre against the benchmark Boilerjuice price of 35.57 p for standard delivery of 1000 litres, and a saving of 0.5 p against the Boilerjuice 'bulk' (syndicate) price of 35.40 p. All prices + VAT, of course. Just for interest, those of you who filled up in May paid 37.10 p (including us at Holness Towers) and July will probably be the lowest price for the year.

The next fillups will be in September and October this year and then January 2016, 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

Weston Colville Oil Co-operative

Deadline for ordering: noon **Sunday 6th September**

PLEASE NOTE NEW CONTACT DETAILS FOR CHURCH END

Many thanks to Anne Fairey for all her hard work with the oil syndicate, and best wishes to her and her family for their move.

Alastair Douglas (291475) will be taking over Anne's role as the contact for Church End.

Church End to the bottom of Mill Hill:

Alastair Douglas (291475 or salguoda@hotmail.co.uk)

Chapel Road, Common Road, Horseshoe Lane:

Anne Vidler (290010, or anne.vidler@talk21.com)

Any orders left by email will always be acknowledged; if you do not get a reply, we haven't received your order. Please don't phone before 8 am or after 10 pm (leave a message during the day).

We keep a note of any special requirements, such as needing a phone call the day before delivery to arrange access; please let us know if you wish to change these. The minimum delivery is 500 litres; this is a Trading Standards ruling because of the accuracy of lorry gauges. To get the minimum ask for 500 litres; do not ask for a 'top up' because you might get a 'fill up'.

Orders will be collated and placed shortly after the order deadline and deliveries may or may not begin the same week. If you are close to running out, tell your contact. The price will not be known until the order is placed, and the supplier may ring for payment before delivery 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.

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Weston Colville Neighbourhood Watch (NHW)

The past month has seen only one reported incident in our village, involving a “knocker”. The house holder became suspicious of the odd way the knocker behaved, and he was promptly dispatched.

Recently several Ford cars have been stolen from the Whittlesford Station area. The police see this as a very serious spate of thefts. You might use Audley End station as a temporary alternative.

The Camps, Linton, and Four Went Ways are the nearest places to us where problems have been reported recently. These involve bicycle thefts, heating oil, a stolen safe, a power saw, a series of catalytic converter thefts from Mercedes Sprinter vans, and caravan thefts. Though these do not have a direct effect on our village we should be aware that there are problems near to us.

The national fraud and intelligence bureau continues to advise us about frauds, scams, and trickery. Most involve the internet, with some by post. Please apply the rule ‘if it looks too good to be true then it probably is’. Some fraudsters pretend to be representing British Gas, the Ministry of Justice, your bank, or

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Take care, stay safe and please remain vigilant. Report any suspicious activity to the police on 101 and ongoing crime on 999.

**Allen Scott (290837, allen.scott70@googlemail.com)
NHW - Weston Colville Neighbourhood Watch**

Found – Dead Cat

The body of a tortoiseshell and white cat was found on Friday 17th July near the stables (old dairy) in West Wrating. As we did not know who it belonged to, we asked around, but when no one came forward we gave it a burial in our garden. The cat had not been attacked and appeared uninjured so perhaps died of natural causes.

Colin Manning (290216)



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Richard's Story

In 2014 my husband Richard made a photographic record of St Mary's amazing flower festival, with some of the photographs published in *Challenge*.

During July and August he became increasingly ill. It took until late September to get the diagnosis of Lymphoma. In the following months I found out just how caring and endlessly helpful my friends and neighbours in Weston could be; I can't thank you enough for all your kindness and support when times were grim. We both believed that the months of intensive treatment would prove successful but just before the flower festival this year Richard unexpectedly died.

I would like to thank everyone who came to the funeral, and a special thank you to John Fellows for conducting such a memorable service. I think that Richard would have enjoyed it.

Christine King (and Henry)

Richard Southall, 1937 - 2015

"All of humanity's problems", said the 17th century philosopher Blaise Pascal, "All of humanity's problems stem from man's inability to sit quietly in a room alone." I wonder if he would have said that if he had met Richard. I can't claim to have known him well – I certainly wish I had, but he always seemed to me to show a great repose, a great restfulness, certainly an outward calm.

With the quiet and the calm, Richard had a rather austere approach to life, a dislike of show, or boastfulness, or trivial things, a generally serious approach to life, a private man. He had a great interest in all things technical, mechanical and so on, and was intensely practical. He had a lifetime's love

affair with motor bikes, which he could happily take apart, service and reassemble. And if Richard said something could not be repaired, well it couldn't. End of discussion.

He had an illustrious career in typography, but especially in the growing field of digitalisation, the coming of the computer and its implications for printing, acted as consultant to numerous organisations, was the author of a standard work on the manufacturing and design methods of 20th century printers' type, and was a contributor to others. He was one of the great names in the transition from metal type to the digital age.

On the 'I love typography' website (there is one, I assure you) there is an article about typeface design. The writer complains most texts are too specific rather than about general principles, the notable exception being Richard Southall. I think Richard would have liked that. A notable exception. He was certainly notable and he was certainly exceptional. A notable exception.

John Fellows

Tribute to Mark Russell

As many of you know, my predecessor as Chairman of West Wrattling Parish Council, Mark Russell, passed away on 29th June. Mark was tragically diagnosed with lung cancer in October of last year.

Mark was a most excellent Chairman and friend to this village. He applied the common sense, order and professionalism that he had also clearly used to good effect as a Major in the Army and in his civilian professional life.

He persuaded me to stand for the parish council, and to become his successor. I often reminded him of it and called him a word that is not repeatable here; this would normally be met with his characteristic grin and chuckle. Mark had an excellent sense of humour and was tremendous company. I am sure I will not be the only one who misses him greatly. I am also sure you will all join me in passing our condolences to his wife Jacqui and the rest of Mark's family.

Nigel Job

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Linton Health Centre

The partners of Linton and Sawston practices have taken the decision to work towards merging the two partnerships in April 2016.



Both Sawston and Linton are strong practices, very well respected in the local health community, and the merger will build on that strength and ensure that both sites can continue to provide the best possible service for patients in the future. The spotlight was certainly focused on the NHS and GP services during the recent general election campaign. There is no doubt that the pressure on general practice has increased over recent years and, with an ageing population and more care to be delivered in the community, the pressure on GP services will continue to grow. General practice needs to be prepared to evolve to meet that challenge. Sawston and Linton are the two largest practices in South Cambridgeshire, delivering services to around 14,500 patients and 11,500 patients respectively. We have been in discussions together for the last two years, discussing how we can meet the challenge of 8 am - 8 pm working, how we can meet the challenge of looking after our ageing population in the community, and how we can meet the challenge of training doctors and nurses to work in general practice. We are convinced that merging the two partnerships will enable us to meet such challenges better.

This is not a cost saving exercise: there will be no reduction in staffing levels on either site, and all partners are investing in this merger as a means of building on the services we provide to our patients and securing a strong future for general practice in South Cambs.

Initially, we suspect that patients will notice very little difference! Although patients could choose to attend either site, we suspect that the majority of Linton patients will continue to see the Linton doctors and nurses at Linton, and Sawston patients will continue to see the Sawston doctors and nurses at Sawston. Each site will continue to provide all the current services for patients and, over time, we hope to be able to provide more services shared between the sites. An example would be extended 8 - 8 opening hours: neither practice could comfortably offer such extended hours alone, but together that becomes more feasible and is certainly a better option than travelling to Chesterton for out-of-hours care. There are many opportunities for the future, but in the very short term the aim is to secure a sustainable future for delivering GP services to both Sawston and Linton patients.

We have had meetings with our respective Patient Reference Groups who are very supportive of this project and we aim to keep them updated as we move forward. As always, we appreciate the support and interest of our patients, and both Practice Managers are very happy to take your comments.

Sheila Griffiths (linton.healthcentre@nhs.net)
Gerard Newnham,
(admin.sawstonmedicalpractice@nhs.net)

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Weston Colville Parish Council

The following items were discussed at the meeting held on 6th July:

County Councillor's Report: Councillor Hickford reported on the works being undertaken by Cambridgeshire County Council to improve safety at Skippers Lane/Common Road/Burton End and The Common at West Wratting. The contractor will have completed the work on the new junction by 10th July. On 12th July Burton End is to be partly resurfaced. The work should be completed on the day, with the diversion lifted and the new junction fully open for 13th July.

Church End Playing Field: the new play equipment has been delivered and is in the process of being installed. The nettles have been sprayed. The hedges are scheduled to be trimmed in late July, prior to the opening party. The banks on the left hand side are overgrown and will be cut in time for the opening.

Footpaths: the work on the footpath between 14 and 62A The Green has been delayed but will be completed soon. A new wider and double hand-railed footbridge has been installed by the County Council on footpath 19, adjacent to 63 The Green.

The County Council Highways Department, who are now dealing with footpath maintenance, are late this year with their work, and so the paths which they maintain are not in a good state. The work should be undertaken soon.

Highways: the new Highways Manager for this area has made a visit to Cllr Cushion.

The drains on Mill Hill were discussed, but it was felt that normal maintenance should solve any problems. However this had not been very suitable in the past. Contractors will be asked to look again.

The Church End flooding problem was pointed out and this is now a matter for the d'Abo Estate and Highways to resolve. Some hand digging was undertaken to ease the problem, but a broader cut would allow water to get off the road more easily. This is to be considered if funding can be found.

Verges: there was some concern as to the recent verge cutting. Some requests had not been taken into account. If further instruction is necessary it will be given by Cllr Cushion to the contractor.

River Management: dredging the Stour behind the council houses has been provisionally approved by

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Lee Tubby, the farm manager, but funding confirmation is awaited. He will liaise with the District Council on timing for this, almost certainly after harvest.

No further news is available about widening the length of river alongside Clamps Lane.

Maintenance work has been undertaken by residents at 62 and 63 The Green.

Seat at top of Mill Hill: quotes have been obtained for the provision of a five seater bench. It was decided to accept the quote specified by Cllr Pagonis, who will arrange for delivery. The clerk will liaise with Philip Sutton to arrange for a concrete base and chains to be installed, making it less vulnerable to theft.

Reading Room defibrillator: Cllr Pagonis will find out the supplier of the defibrillator purchased by West Wickham. It has been agreed that the defibrillator will be sited in the Reading Room. The next step is to find suitable volunteers to provide help if needed.

Full minutes will be posted on both noticeboards.

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



**Weston Colville
 Cricket Club**



Forthcoming Senior Fixtures

	1st XI	2nd XI
1st Aug	Blunham (H)	Burrough Green II (A)
8th Aug	Abington (A)	Burrough Green II (H)
15th Aug	Newborough (H)	
22nd Aug	Eaton Socon (A)	Great Shelford (H)
29th Aug	Huntingdon & District (A)	Cokenach II (H)

For more information about the Cricket Club, please visit our website at www.westoncolvillecc.co.uk

John Garrod


Ellesmere Devils Panto Society

If you would like to help out either on-stage or backstage helping with props, costumes, and backdrops, or front of house, then please come along to the meeting on Thursday 17th September at 8 pm. Further details in next month's Challenge.

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**WEST WRATTING
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**Saturday
1st August**

2.30 pm

Please join us at the village show for the teddy bear parachute off St Andrews Church tower.

Bring your teddy bear and home-made parachute to join in.

There will be a certificate and medal awarded to each bear, plus prizes for the best parachute, best dressed bear and bravest bear.

50p per jump

PLEASE REGISTER AND LEAVE YOUR BEAR AT THE TEDDY PARACHUTE STAND BY 2 pm AT THE LATEST

(Please note this will be weather permitting as it would not be safe for bears to jump in wind or rain. All bears jump at their own risk.)

New Girl in the Country

It's coming up for a year since Alastair and I moved to Weston Colville, on 18th July, and I've been looking back on that first week.

Move day – our neighbour to the left comes to our gate as we're carrying boxes from the removal van and introduces herself: "I'm Yvonne, if there's anything you need ...". By 6 o'clock we're ready for our first sit down in our back garden, positioning our chairs in a sunny spot. I love the trees and the green everywhere, and when a fritillary butterfly lands on the arch I feel surrounded by nature. The scent of honeysuckle reaches me on the evening breeze and London already seems a distant memory. One day a few weeks ago, we were both busy running round, me getting ready for my new job in Cambridge and Alastair preparing for a busy day on the course he was running in London. That day we both hoped that living in Cambridgeshire, we'd have a quieter life – and we've made it.

Day 2, 19th July – we walk to the village shop and back, just because ... and take it all in, the tunnel of trees, the smell after the overnight rain, the pheasant and partridge, and the thatched Coven Wood Cottage. People walking dogs say hello and there's open countryside 200 yards from Spring Terrace. I feel 'light' in spite of my exhaustion, I love where we've moved to, and it's been long overdue.

We go to the supermarket in Haverhill and see the thatched White Horse pub at Withersfield halfway. On the way back, we stop for a pint, and feeling blissed out with well-kept real ale, looking at cottages opposite and the field on the bend in the lane next to us, all in the early evening sun, I catch myself thinking 'a great weekend in the country, shame to have to go back to London'. No, our home's now two miles down the road, I can come whenever I want, I am here, I live here!

Day 3, 20th July – we head out in the car a different way to yesterday, and it seems there's countryside in every direction. Our little corner of England, the bit of South Cambridgeshire next to the Suffolk boundary; it's brilliant that it's not famous or known by estate agents as 'desirable', so we've been able to buy a place we're really happy with and that's within our budget.

Day 4, 21st July – early evening, I hear a knock at the front door, and it sounds just right, like a country cottage door should. It's our neighbours to the right, Tom and Jo, come to introduce themselves – and to invite us for drinks on Saturday. We feel more and more welcome as each day goes by, we've moved to the right village.

Day 5, 22nd July – on an early drive to the station, we see rabbits hopping into hedges and the countryside looks stunning, every day it's a novelty. This evening two porters from Lacy Scott and Knight in Bury St Edmunds are delivering a chest of drawers for my dressing room and a pine dresser for our dining room. They arrive a little late and a little frustrated, saying they've been driving round and round. I'm glad it's not just me, it seems you can arrive in Weston Colville from three or four directions and the network of lanes leaves me unsure whether I'm going north, south, east or west at any point. Satnav doesn't seem to help anyone, either, the postcodes were apparently changed a few years back. Anyway, our furniture's here and the dresser looks the perfect partner to our

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pine corner cupboard. Sadly, the chest of drawers fares less well, and having gone through the door from dining room to the stairs, for want of ¼“ more in the L-shaped stairwell, it won't go up.

Day 6, 23rd July – my brother and sister-in-law are coming from Norfolk for lunch so I go to Gog Magog Farm shop for provisions. When they arrive, having come via Newmarket, my sister in law says she was amused to see a sign on the way, as she often hears on the traffic news ‘tailbacks at Six Mile Bottom’. She also says she's seen a grate reduced in price in her hardware shop, and thinks it would be perfect for our fireplace, as a housewarming present.

Day 7, 24th July – Alastair goes to collect our hired van and pick up more stuff from storage. Meantime, I've got two sofas, a chaise longue, a bed and a mattress being delivered, with three different companies and I hope they don't all arrive together, 'cos they'll cause chaos in Church End! They each come half an hour apart and I feel like the lady of the manor. One's convinced his sofa will come through the low front door, but is thwarted: “this sofa is the same length as me, I can fit through, but it can't”, so he re-parks his van and comes along the back. The

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pink chaise fares better than the chest of drawers, and just makes it up the [windy] cottage staircase to my dressing room, so Alastair will be pleased we don't have to have this in the living room.

When he arrives with the hired van, he parks in the layby opposite, and to unload it we make more than twenty trips back and forth in the summer heat. Midway through all this, a neighbour near the layby comes out and I wince, wondering if he's quite rightly upset we've put this unsightly vehicle right outside. It's lovely when people surprise you: a more careful look and I see he's carrying two cans of Coke straight from the fridge. “You must be in need of this”, he says. Wonderful Weston Colville.

It's soon time for drinks next door, and we walk up the path thinking how good it will be to socialise in the village, a two-minute walk and we can both have a drink. We go to sleep thinking how quiet it is here, even though we're on the B1052; it must be one of England's quietest B roads, hardly a sound.

I'm starting a blog: www.newgirlinthecountry.com – I'll post words and photos at the end of each month.

Jacqueline Douglas, Spring Terrace



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The Meadow School

As always, the last few weeks of the school year are never dull!

We were recently treated to a spectacular performance of 'Joseph and the Amazing Technicolour Dreamcoat' by our Year 5 and 6



children, who sang their hearts out (and there were a lot of songs!) acted superbly and danced their socks off. On the hottest days of the year, and with the school hall full, the children performed with real energy, and put on a real show.

We also had another reason to celebrate this month after our end of year results were published. We are once again delighted with our Year 6 SATs results. The children's achievements are incredible, with results well above the national average being recorded for a second year in a row. The good news doesn't stop there though. For the second year in a row we also scored 100% of children achieving the required score in the Year 1 phonics check. Our Early Years results are the best ever, with 81% of our children achieving the required level; last year the national average was 62%, so we are considerably above. To round off a fantastic year of achievements, our Year 2 children's SATs results put us strongly above national expectations too, with these results being some of our best ever. Huge congratulations to everyone.

With lots to celebrate, it was great to see the children participate in the move-up day. The children are always excited as they meet their new teachers, spend time with their new classes, and locate their new classroom. This is no different for Year 6 who recently spent two full days at Linton Village College, finding their way around, negotiating a new style timetable, and of course meeting many new people. Everyone had a fantastic time, with lots of new friendships already being formed.

You may remember from the last edition we had decided to take the whole school to the beach for a day. Some thought we were mad, while others thought it was a fantastic opportunity. The trip was planned with military precision, tide times checked, ice creams booked, and extra buckets and spades purchased. The children all arrived at school early with the biggest backpacks you have ever seen, and

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the convoy of coaches was quite a sight. As we walked down the promenade at Hunstanton we caused quite a stir – seeing 270 people arrive en masse and set up camp on the beach is clearly not an everyday sight.

The Y5/6 children quickly left us on the beach and went off to visit the fair to celebrate the end of their 'thrills and spills' topic. The looks of excitement and enjoyment on their faces were fantastic to see and they enjoyed declaring war on the teachers who went



on the dodgems. There certainly wasn't too much dodging going on!



The children and adults all enjoyed an ice cream, and of course plenty of time to create the most sensational sandcastle creations. They spent hours designing, digging, creating and moulding. We were absolutely astounded with the results. Lots of traditional beach games were also played. Of course it wouldn't have been a complete day without a paddle in the sea, which everyone thoroughly enjoyed. Luckily the children had all taken spare clothes – they were much needed! We shared the whole day as it happened on Twitter (@Meadow_Balsham), which allowed all those at work to be part of our amazing day. The children were



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impeccably behaved and the feedback from parents was incredible.

The summer holidays are now here, and everyone certainly deserves the well earned break. I would like to take this opportunity to thank the local community for their continued support this year; your help has helped us to make rapid progress and attain fantastic results once again. The Meadow is definitely back on the up. Bring on Ofsted!

Happy holidays from all at The Meadow.

Nichola Connor, Headteacher

Derbyshire Post

We have really enjoyed a terrific summer at the College. For many, the highlight of the year is the Year 11 Ball. For the last few years we have held this event at the College. Some years we have hired a marquee, but in the last couple, the venue has been the main hall, which has been magically transformed into a sparkling venue through silk, lights, balloons and fancy furniture by the very inventive duo of Charlotte Foster and Tracy Coston. The students arrive along the drive in a variety of vehicles and proceed down the red carpet to a reception of drinks, and music provided by Linton Jazz.

Once inside, the students encounter mocktails (alcohol free fruit concoctions), sweet trees, a casino, a magician, and a thumping disco. The time flies and by 11 pm, the Ball comes to a close and the young people disappear to private ‘after parties’, the details of which I never want divulged to me: “what goes on at the after party, stays at the after party.”

Newcomers to our villages and the College have seen much of this before at the Leavers’ Proms held by other schools, but what is quite charming and peculiar to Linton is the arrival of the community spectators. Come rain or shine, from 6.30 pm onwards people

come to take their spots behind the strategically placed barriers, ready to watch the arrivals. Literally hundreds of people do this. Many people do not even have children in Year 11 but come to enjoy the spectacle or to consider the outfits that their own children might wear in the future. In some cases, this is a matter of the **exact** outfit – eBay does rather well at the end of the College Ball season!

This year I watched with a particular feeling of sadness. This was my last Ball as College Principal; my last leavers’ season. Next year, I join the crowd of spectators, this time as a parent to watch my son’s entrance. I will get there early.

Caroline Derbyshire, Principal

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West Wickham & District Gardening Club Annual Show

Saturday 15th August, West Wickham Village Hall

The Club will be holding its Annual Show in August. We hope you can be challenged into entering some exhibits, or will come and see how well your friends and neighbours have done. There is a wide variety of classes we hope will interest you – vegetables & fruit, cut flowers & pot plants, classes just for children, cooking & jam making. There is prize money and cups to be won and once again a special feature in the domestic classes will be the WEST WICKHAM BAKE OFF, with an award for the STAR BAKER. Anyone from villages neighbouring West Wickham without Horticultural Societies of their own can enter, so we would welcome exhibits from people living in Weston Colville and West Wrating.

The Show will open at 2.00 pm, with the prize giving at 3.00 pm, followed by an auction of produce. Exhibits can be brought to the hall between 9.30 and 11.30 am.

Show schedules and entry forms are available from Andrew Morris, 21 High St, West Wickham, Cambridge CB21 4RY
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Balsham Horticultural Society

On a lovely hot summer's day, a coach with twentyfive members travelled to Enfield, home of Capel Manor College and gardens.



The Georgian manor house and Victorian stables are set in a thirty-acre estate, with sixty different gardens offering everything from a Japanese garden to a garden created from recycled products. Beyond the themed gardens lies a large lake with Koi carp. Families can enjoy picnics in the vast open spaces under the trees, and some members went to the animal stockyard to view the alpacas, Shetland ponies, and meerkats. The walled garden was a special delight with its lavender borders and prolific roses, a real picture postcard. We took some respite from the sun in the restaurant for lunch and some members made purchases in the plant and gift shop. On behalf of the members I would like to thank Lyn Bobrow for organising the day out.

The Annual Show this year is in the Church Institute on Saturday 12th September. Show schedules will be available shortly from Balsham post office or from secretary Alice Warley (893194).

Hazel Leeson

Celebrating Ten Years of Linton Netball Club

Linton Netball Club celebrate their 10th anniversary this year, and have recently held a presentation evening to give thanks to their founder, Bridget Savill., who was presented with an engraved vase and a bouquet of flowers in appreciation of everything she has done for the club over the last ten years.

The club started in 2005 following a 'back to netball' course, which Bridget attended and enjoyed so much she decided to set up her very own club! We have a great bunch of ladies and a qualified coach. The ladies' team enters both summer and winter leagues, although there is no obligation for anyone to play competitively. This year we have set up a youth section to our club for school years 9 - 11. A local business has generously donated balls, bibs and pump to help get our youth section started.

We train every Monday evening, on Linton Village College outside courts, youth section 6.30 - 7.30, and adults 7.30 - 8.30 pm.

For further information, please contact Bridget Savill on 07972 598668 or Angela Bridgeman on 07729 879300, or complete an enquiry form on our website www.lintonnetballclub.weebly.com

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1st Horseheath Brownies

We have now finished for the summer term, but what an action-packed term it was. We held a Promise Ceremony for Ella and India, and at the same time we also said goodbye to Mollie, Natasha, Sorrel, Susanna, Lily and Hermione, who are ten years old and will hopefully be starting Guides in September. We also said goodbye to Helena and to Ellie.

During this term we continued with our Agility badge by mastering ball skills, in different ways so the girls had fun. We had a great time at the Brownie Fun Day where all the activities were based on America, as the day was held on Independence Day. The activities varied from cooking pancakes on a campfire, to baseball, and from making funky foam badges, to dream catchers. They also had to look for items in the wooded area whilst making animal noises. It was funny hearing the Brownies getting more and more excited.

We also had a great Campfire with 1st Linton Guides. The girls all arrived with either an animal mask or their faces painted as an animal from Nepal. The girls all paid a donation and £80 has been sent to the Nepal Disaster Relief fund.

We start back on 9th September for another exciting year, with at least three new Brownies starting. 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, Sophie, Katie, and Hera
brownies@horseheath.info

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Cambridgeshire Fire and Rescue Service

What lovely weather we have seen across Cambridgeshire – and long may it continue!

Cambridgeshire Fire and Rescue Service hopes you have all been staying fire safe with your latest outdoor activities, but just in case, here are our firefighters' top tips:

- When out camping or using a tent, never use candles inside or nearby and always discourage smoking nearby. Never cook inside a tent.
- If cooking outdoors, keep barbeques on level ground, never pour accelerant on, and use them well away from fences, sheds and foliage.
- If you have a bonfire, build it well away from buildings, tents or other flammable objects and make sure it is properly out when you leave.
- When out in the countryside, extinguish cigarettes properly and dispose of them responsibly – never throw a lit cigarette into a field or wooded area.

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Working together to improve community safety

Road Verges

Britain's road verges are home to over 700 species of wild plants, more than in any other part of our landscape, and 87 of them are either threatened with extinction or heading that way. In addition, 88% of these wild plants provide nectar and pollen for bees and other insects, making road verges essential refuges for insect life; bird's-foot trefoil alone is a food plant for 132 species of insect.

But in much of Britain road verges are still being needlessly cut down in full flower, threatening the wildflowers and the wildlife that depend on them. Many councils have already started cutting verges – much too early in the year for flowers to be able to set seed, and greatly reducing one of the most important food banks for our ailing bees and other pollinators.



Speaking up for the nation's wild plants

Plantlife is an organisation which carries out practical

conservation work across the UK. Dr Trevor Dines, Plantlife's botanical specialist, explains, "Over 97% of meadows have been destroyed in England since the 1930s. In many areas, rural road verges are the last remaining stretches of natural habitat for our wildlife. Road safety is the absolute priority, but we know that verges can be managed better for wildlife whilst remaining safe for motorists. This means adopting some simple changes to management – like a delay in cutting to allow seed to be set – so that wildflowers can thrive".

Plantlife has produced new management guidelines and is urging the public to sign a petition asking local councils to adopt them. Dr Dines adds, "If we just give them a chance, wildflowers can return".

Visit www.plantlife.org.uk/roadvergecampaign for more information, and to sign the petition.

'Bee Scene' is a simple and effective way to encourage children and their families into their local parks or countryside, to enjoy them together away from the television screen, computer games and other pressures of modern life. By using a simple flower key, they are able to count different flower shapes and colours and look out for bumblebees.



Families can discover whether their local area is good for bumblebees by looking for bee-friendly wild flowers such as foxgloves, dandelions and clovers. The results are then uploaded onto a virtual meadow map of the UK.

Full details and bee scene resources are available online at www.plantlife.org.uk/beescene

Help to Stay Independent

Many of us don't think about care and support until we or someone we know needs it. A new online resource provides information about continuing to live independently and safely at home; making life easier, getting support after a stay in hospital, or finding out about care home and housing options and paying for care and support. You can find out more by visiting www.cambridgeshire.gov.uk/careandsupport If you do not have access to the internet, can't find what you need online, or want more information, phone 0345 045 5202 or visit any Cambridgeshire Library (also known as community hubs).



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 Wrattling

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

August 2015

- Sat 1 Farmers' Market, Linton Village College
West Wrattling Village Show
Jazz for Lifeboats, Carlton
- Mon 3/Thur 6 Tennis Coaching, West Wrattling
- Wed 5 West Wrattling Over 60s garden meeting
- Fri 7 Tea and Cakes, Weston Colville
First Friday Bridge, West Wrattling
- Sat 15 VJ Day service, Balsham
West Wickham & District Gardening Club Show
- Thur 20 West Wrattling Lunch Club
- Sat 22 Private party in West Wrattling Sports Pavilion
- Sat 29 West Wrattling Clay Day, Six Mile Bottom
- Sun 30 United service, Great Abington

September 2015

- Wed 2 West Wrattling Over 60s meeting, village hall
- Fri 4 Tea and Cakes, Weston Colville
First Friday bridge, West Wrattling
- Sat 5 Farmers' Market, Linton Village College
Saturday Café, West Wrattling
- Sun 6 Balsham Boundary Walk
Order deadline, Weston Colville oil cooperative
- Sat 12 Balsham Horticultural Society Annual Show
- Tues 15 West Wrattling Book Club, The Chestnut Tree
- Thur 17 West Wrattling Lunch Club, The Chestnut Tree
Ellesmere Devils panto initial meeting
- Sat 26 West Wrattling Harvest Supper

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: leonardavmead@hotmail.com

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

St Andrew's:	Flowers	Cleaning
2 nd August	All – Show	All – after Show
9 th August	Alex	Jenny
16 th August	Alex	Fanny
23 rd August	Linda	Pauline
30 th August	Linda	Sue & Maggie

St Mary's:	Flowers	Cleaning
August	Tim & Chloe	Erica
September	Jane	Philippa

Black bins: Tuesday 14th & 28th July,
Tuesday 11th & 25th August

Green & blue bins: Tuesday 7th & 21st July,
Tuesday 4th & 18th August

Mobile library: fourth Wednesdays (22nd July, 26th Aug)

High Street, West Wrattling	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,
wpcp@typo.demon.co.uk, 01223 290963
West Wrattling – 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.

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