

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 West Wrattling Vicarage

"Been there, done that, got the tee shirt."

I first heard this phrase on the lips of a churchwarden in (where else?) my previous parish. Gwilym, who has just died, was very fond of these short phrases and aphorisms, especially those which came from his background in management consultancy. But of them all, the one that made the most impression on me was, in a church setting, slightly counter cultural. *"The optimum level of conflict in any organisation is not zero."* I will admit to being slightly shocked when I first heard this. Like most people I do not like conflict and will try to avoid it. It seemed especially out of place in a Christian church. But, as I came to realise, unless people are clones or robots they are going to have differences, sometimes over important matters. But differences leading to conflict are not a sign of being dysfunctional. They are a sign of being alive.

The problem arises, not in there being conflict, that is inevitable, rather it is in the way the conflict is handled and resolved. The Moravian church, which is avowedly pacifist in its doctrine, has dedicated itself, very effectively, to helping people resolve conflicts particularly within a Christian context. They always point out that right from the start there were conflicts within the Christian church, for example the disputes between Peter and the Jewish Christians on the one hand and Paul and the Gentile Christians on the other. And in some of the controversies about doctrine a few centuries later we are told of bishops pulling at the beards of those with whom they disagreed. Well, I think we have managed to avoid that in our two parishes nestling un-controversially in the Cambridgeshire highlands. But there are matters over which there are clear differences of opinion. Thank goodness, for as I say, such differences are a sign of life.

The Parish Nurse project has not been without its doubters and opponents. I have had one or two quite unpleasant emails about it. But the money is now in and an appointment made, so I hope that soon the parish Nurse's ministry will be up and running. And I hope that all of us will accept that ministry with grace and openness during the initial three-year period..

To pew or not to pew is of course the question of the moment at Weston Colville. So far I think we have managed the difference of opinion – a perfectly legitimate one – with understanding and forbearance. Or is my inner Pollyanna coming out of the closet? But when the final decision comes to be made it will inevitably be more fraught and controversial. Please be prepared to accept a decision we may not like. And please accept the sincerity of both sides and also accept that we are all on the same side. The things that unite us are far more important than the things that divide.

St Paul talks about speaking the truth in love. Christians are not always very good at that. We can easily speak the truth, but not in love; or speak in love but not the truth. For me at any rate accepting that there will be conflict in a living and lively church was the first step in understanding what St Paul meant.



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Parish Nurse

This is news just in ... a Parish Nurse has been appointed, to start on 1st December. There will be an article to introduce her in next month's *Challenge*.

Will the nurse try to convert people? No. But she will treat you as a whole person and have the time to listen.

Will she be stepping on the toes of other NHS nurses? No, people will go to the surgery to have their usual appointments. But she will be there in the community with her professional experience and can take some of the pressure off the GP surgeries by using her expertise to navigate people to the services and treatments that they most need.

Is this the church meddling in something that is beyond its remit? No, because the church has a long tradition of encouraging healing and wholeness. From the time of Jesus, the church has been interested in transforming the lives of people who are sick or broken. The earliest hospitals and medical treatment centres were often planned by the church and sited close to church buildings. Hospices which provided guest houses for the sick and disabled were promoted

and funded by churches. Of course the church today should also want to promote healing and wholeness for the wider community. The new nurse is a highly skilled professional with a great deal of experience of many areas of nursing, who will work for the good of the patient.

This is an extra resource to complement what already exists. She will be there for you.

And what does the church get out of this? Nothing, except the satisfaction of knowing that people will be helped, and this is what Christ did.

On Saturday 7th November from 10 am - 3 pm, we will be holding a Quiet Day on the theme of Mindfulness, led by Dr Alistair Collen. Alistair is a Consultant Clinical Psychologist with a great deal of experience in exploring the mind. On this occasion he will be teaching techniques to quieten the mind and find inner peace. He tells me that this is something that can make a real difference to the way we live. This is taking place at Ferrar House, Little Gidding, near Huntingdon. The cost is £21 which includes lunch. If you are interested in coming you need to book a place (891350 or revjulienorris@gmail.com).

On Monday 2nd November we hold the All Souls' Service when we remember those who have died. Please write the name of the person you would like us to remember on the sheets of paper at the back of your local church and these names will be read at the service at 7 pm at Balsham.

On 8th November there will be a Remembrance Day Service at 10.45 am at Weston Colville, and a service on Wrattling Common at 12 noon.

On 29th November there will be a Joint Service hosted by St Andrew's Church, West Wrattling, at 10 am. This is the beginning of Advent as well as the Feast of St Andrew.

Rev Julie Norris

St Andrew's Church, West Wrattling Autumn Churchyard Clear-up

The autumn clear-up of the churchyard will take place on Saturday 14th November, 10.00 - 12 noon.

Everyone welcome. Doughnuts, coffee and tea will be provided and a small prize will be given to the first person to eat a doughnut without licking their lips (Eloise excluded).

Colin McCall

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Autumn Concert at Balsham

On behalf of the WW PCC and all the organisers, we would like to thank everyone who supported our Fifth Autumn Concert either as members of the audience, by the giving of donations or raffle prizes, or by helping in any way before or on the day.

Once again, it seems to have been an artistic success, as well as raising a useful sum of £780 towards the St Andrew's Restoration Fund.

We would personally like to thank all our helpers, as well as those who attended, for the kind comments we have received, and the Holy Trinity PCC for allowing us once again to take advantage of their facilities, and particularly churchwarden Gill Parry-Brown for all her assistance, support and patience.

Linda & Michael Gorman

West Wrating Over 60s

We will meet in the village hall on Wednesday 4th November at 2.30 pm, with our usual bring'n'buy and raffle.

Our final meeting for 2015 will be luncheon at The Chestnut Tree at 1 pm on Wednesday 2nd December (with raffle only, no bring'n'buy).

Wendy Halls

St Mary's Christmas Fair
Saturday 5th December

Do put this date in your diary! Solve your present purchasing in an instant at this year's Weston Colville Christmas Fair, to be held in the Reading Room at the new time of 1.30 pm. With locally-made crafts and decorations, as well as a magnificent array of gifts, both traditional and innovative, you are bound to find those inspiring Christmas presents for friends and family.



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We will have stalls to suit all ages as well as Father Christmas visiting with his elves. Join us for teas and home made cakes too.

A crafts group meets most Thursday evenings and we're having great fun making items together. Others are working independently at home. We'd be grateful for donations of cakes for the cake sale and other homemade edible goodies. Follow our FaceBook page at *Weston Colville Christmas Fair* for the latest news and pictures.

Philippa Coates (290842)

***RAF Wrating Common –
Remembrance Sunday, 8th November***

There will be a short service at the Memorial, at Weston Woods Farm, on Sunday 8th November at 12 noon. A few of the veterans will be attending, and Cadets from 1451 (Haverhill) Squadron of the Air Training Corps will be on parade. Wreaths and personal tributes will be laid in memory of all those who served here and throughout the world, especially those who gave their lives in the cause of freedom. All are welcome to attend.

WE WILL REMEMBER THEM.

Dan Heath, Friends of Wrating Common
(07736 737174, rafwratingcommon@outlook.com)

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West Wrating Progressive Supper 2016

All residents of West Wrating are invited to join our 2016 Progressive Supper.

This will take place on Saturday 23rd January, and follow a similar format to previous suppers. This involves providing one course (could be starter, main or dessert) for six or more people including yourselves in your own home. In return you will visit other homes for the remaining courses. I plan and advise everyone but no one knows (until very close to the time) where they will be going to eat.

Each host provides and serves food and drink for their course. The fee to take part is £5 per person. The supper is not a fundraiser but in paying this £5 I feel I have your commitment. Commitment is essential as the supper cannot work without it! The money taken is used largely to provide you with a drink at The Chestnut Tree at the end of the evening.

Please consider joining us if you have not done so before. It is fun to meet different neighbours. Numbers are not limited. You do not need to be a couple – singles or threesomes are happily accommodated.

The sooner I know, the earlier I can begin my planning! This helps me to consider any special requests. The deadline for that £5 commitment fee is Christmas. I need to get the final plans made during the Christmas break. Please don't delay!

I look forward to hearing from you. In recent years this has been almost completely managed by email but you are welcome to phone me to find out more. I deliver messages by hand where necessary.

Sherry O'Donovan
(290070, sherry.odonovan@gmail.com)



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Weston Colville Circular Walk

A note of thanks to Jacqueline and Alastair Douglas and Brian Cushion for a great walk on Saturday 17th October. On a lovely autumn day, it was much enjoyed by three interlopers from Balsham, who found it friendly, fun, and informative. We all thought the icing on the cake was having lunch together in the Reading Room afterwards, where again we were made very welcome. So congratulations, and here's to many more!

Annie, Brenda, & Sue (from Balsham)



Our mid-October walk and lunch was enjoyed by all who came (we've put up a little display in the Reading Room), and the BYO lunch combo seemed to work well. So we're ready to invite you to join us for the next one – on New Year's Day. As a concession to those of us who will have had a glass of bubbly too many the night before, we'll start at 11 am just this once! Wear walking boots, bring lunch and something to share? Meet at the Reading Room, put your lunch in the fridge if you wish, and we'll aim for about 5 miles again, as this seemed to go down well. Refreshments will be available.

Jacqueline and Alastair Douglas
(291475, jacquelinetheteacher@hotmail.com)

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Tea and Cakes, Weston Colville

Another fantastic turnout for Tea and Cakes in October. Tea and Cakes has been running a year and a half now and I am still astonished by its popularity. Long may it last.! Thank you, yet again, to everybody who helped, made cakes and came along. If you've not been before, please do come along and join us for a cuppa, a cake and a chat.

Our next gathering will be on Friday 6th November, 3:30 - 5 pm at the Reading Room.

If you know of someone who might like to come along but needs assistance to get to the Reading Room please contact Rosemary who has offered to provide transport (290755, rosemarydaveport@yahoo.co.uk).

Melanie (291319)

West Wrattling Saturday Morning Café

The Saturday morning café will run as usual on Saturday 7th November between 10.30 am and 12 noon in the village hall. The café is set up for the benefit of our local community and we are so pleased it is getting lots of support and proving a great way to catch up with so many people! The café works by different volunteers offering to donate and serve cakes

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every month (including at least one dairy and gluten-free offering).

At the October café, Eloise and Becky Gilley ran a 'bargain books stall'. Half the proceeds went to the Alzheimer's Research charity (£30 in total!) and the other half was returned to the donor. Eloise and Becky plan to run this book stall again in November so please bring along any books you think might sell. Any suggestions for how to improve, or for future charities to support, please email becky.gilley@babraham.ac.uk.

At this next café, Kate Cleary will also run a jewellery stall – time to get ready for Christmas!!

We wonder whether we might make our December café a Christmas cafe. Would you like to run a stall on this day? The Brownies have already booked a table and it would be good to have others too. There will be no charge to book a table if the proceeds are for charity, otherwise a donation to the café please.

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

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Weston Colville Cinema Club

A great film on the big screen with an introduction! Bring your own wine, or wine and refreshments will be available. Voluntary donations for first screenings to get us started (guide: £1.50/£2).



A big thank you to everyone who attended the first night. We could not have got any more people into the Reading Room, and everyone had a great time too, confirmed by all of the positive feedback. We are addressing issues concerning the ability to read subtitles at the bottom of the screen due to location, however our next two films are without any subs.

‘Vertigo’ – Alfred Hitchcock
Wednesday 4th November, 7.30



‘Vertigo’ is currently rated in polls as THE greatest film of all time, toppling Citizen Kane from the top position a few years back. Dismissed when first released, later heralded as one of director Alfred Hitchcock's finest films (and, according to Hitchcock, his most personal one), this adaptation of the French novel ‘d'Entre les Morts’ weaves an intricate web of obsession and deceit. Tense edge of seat stuff with twists and turns.

www.westwratting.org.uk

for information on:

What's On	Directory	Parish Council
Parish History	Local Sports	Village Hall Events
Church News	Parish Matters	Village Calendar

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

‘The Innocents’ – Jack Clayton
Wednesday 2nd December, 7.30

December is a good month for drawing the curtains and experiencing a good ghost story. Let us bring you a ‘classic’. This superb ghost story was the first big screen adaptation of Henry James' novella ‘The Turn of the Screw’, a pioneering work of ambiguous,



psychoanalytical horror which inspired countless subsequent works, most prominently Shirley Jackson's ‘The Haunting of Hill House’ (which in turn was filmed two years after this as ‘The Haunting’, against which ‘The Innocents’ is usually measured in debates as to which is the best 60s ghost story on film). ‘The Innocents’ stars Deborah Kerr, Michael Redgrave and Peter Wyngarde and surprisingly was adapted by Truman Capote and John Mortimer.

Laurence Staig
(291212, laurence.staig@onetel.net)

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Weston Colville Reading Room 'Hub'

To pick up on an idea that was raised in the Community Led Plan, I am inviting those of you who live in Weston Colville and work from home to let us at the Reading Room Trust know what the Reading Room could provide to help you in your working week. It's a village asset which means it's there for us all. Expressions of interest in, say, a weekly gathering with good coffee and good company would be welcome, along with IT support, possible use of our wonderful new projector and screen, the fast Broadband connection which we are in the process of organising, a rent-a-desk arrangement or a place to meet contacts and clients? Or perhaps there's something that you could see the Reading Room providing you with that we haven't thought of? Please get in touch if you work from home (or are thinking you might) and any of these ideas could make your week better.

Jacqueline Douglas
(291475, jacquelinetheteacher@hotmail.com)

Work at West Wrattling Village Hall

A major refurbishment of the toilet block at our village hall has been planned to start in the last week in October, and is expected to take about six weeks. Happily, our regular classes are continuing during this period. Our contractors will try to minimise inconvenience as far as possible, but there will be some loss of kitchen facilities and a single portable toilet will be located outside the double fire-doors in the main hall. If users experience problems that seem avoidable, please inform me or another committee member.

My apologies again to those of you who, with hindsight, could have held larger events during the

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past month or so. Work might have started weeks ago, and we judged it better to decline bookings well in advance rather than risk last-minute cancellations.

By the year-end expect to see substantial improvements throughout the facility, the most notable being to the disabled toilet; this will include a baby (meaning nappy) change unit – yuk!

Mike Rowland
Chairman, Village Hall Management Committee

West Wrattling Sports Pavilion

There will be a private event in the pavilion on Saturday 28th November, from 7 pm until midnight.



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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).

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Orders will be collated and placed shortly after the order deadline and deliveries may or may not begin the same week. If you are close to running out, tell your contact. The price will not be known until the order is placed, and the supplier may ring for payment before delivery (failure to reply to this call may put your order in jeopardy) or bill you direct after delivery.

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West Wrattling Oil Syndicate

Only fifteen houses in West Wrattling participated in the order that was placed on 6th October, with deliveries being made on 15th. The price was even lower than in September, so prices are running counter to our usual experience at this time of year! Anyway, Certas Energy (previously Pace / Butler) won the WW Syndicate order with a price of 30.30p per litre (for the record, 34.90p in July then 31.65p in September), which was a saving of 0.74p against the Boilerjuice 'Bulk' (Syndicate) price of 31.04p. All prices + VAT, of course. As the price goes down, the cash value of the saving goes down as well, but as usual it was a great price for anybody taking less than 1000 litres.

Because it is almost impossible to get a sensible discount in the run up to Christmas, the next fillup will be in January 2016, with details in the December and January *Challenge*.

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

Richard Holness

Apology from a contrite editor – Richard sent me an oil syndicate notice for the October issue of Challenge, but for some reason it didn't appear in print. I will treble-check in future!



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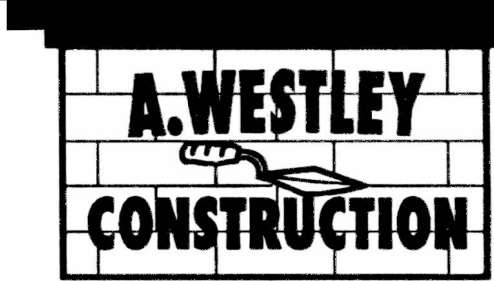
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West Wratting Village Hall AGM

The AGM of the Village Hall Management Committee is scheduled for Monday 9th December at 7.30 pm, when the report and accounts for the last financial year will be presented. All interested residents of our village are welcome to attend. New committee members must be elected at the AGM. If you might like to join the VHMC we would like to hear from you in advance of the meeting.

Mike Rowland (290788), Anne Catchpole (290967)

Urgent – Carers Required

We are looking for persons to join our team of carers who support a young man with complex care/health needs. The support is to cover all aspects of personal care in the mornings and/or evenings, Monday to Saturday – times and days flexible.

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Mr & Mrs Warren

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Weston Colville Neighbourhood Watch (NHW)

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If you want to contact our local police station in Sawston, you will find it has restricted opening hours. I called 101 to discuss this matter and was told that “you’ll be lucky to find a manned police station or policeman”. Not surprisingly the reduced funding leads to reduced services. I feel that we are lucky to have a share in ‘our’ PCSO Chris Wiseman. So don’t hesitate – call 101 or 999.

This also means that we need to take more care about our own security. We need to lock up and be aware of strange activities and unusual actions which cause us concern. If you feel uneasy, report using the 101 service. You may prevent a crime and you may help the police to solve a crime.

No crimes have been reported this past month relating to Weston Colville or West Wratting. West Wickham experienced an attempted break-in last month, and there have been car crime problems in Balsham and more car crimes and burglaries in Linton. There is criminal activity in larger villages away from here and closer to Cambridge, including burglaries, break-ins, theft, car crime, stolen number plates, contents theft and cycle theft. The police are also concerned about modern day slavery here in South Cambs.

Allen Scott

(290837, allen.scott70@googlemail.com)

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West Wratting Book Club

On 14th October we reviewed 'Go Set a Watchman' by Harper Lee. This was Harper Lee's first book but remained unpublished until this year, having been put aside in favour of 'To Kill a Mockingbird'.

It was agreed that it was well-written and structured. Other comments were: the idea that Jean Louise (Scout) had been 'born colour-blind' was not really credible because of the social context in which white and black people interacted; Calpurnia's behaviour after leaving the family following the death of Jem (Jean Louise's brother) and towards Jean Louise didn't really ring true, considering she had been like a replacement mother to them when they were growing up; Jean Louise appeared surprisingly compliant, allowing such things as the coffee morning. However, her later behaviour is understandable in the light of seemingly having had the foundation of her life cut away.

One member said: "I loved the book, and took a different message from the one reported in the popular press, and I felt that Atticus had always been a wise man, and had seen the way forward, but his honesty

initially distracted Scout from the real message, at the point she attended the town meeting and thereafter."

Another said: "I absolutely loved it! Maybe because we have only recently read 'To Kill a Mocking Bird', from the first page I felt at home with the characters and felt I knew where they were coming from. Really interesting to learn of the racial tensions of the time. Interesting also to learn of Atticus' feelings and his reasons for working the way he did."

Everyone agreed that they would recommend it, and scores varied between 8 and 9 out of 10.

The next meeting will be on Tuesday 17th November when we will review 'The Little Stranger' by Sarah Waters. 'The Miniaturist' by Jessie Burton will be the book for December, possibly combined with a Christmas meal.

Linda Gorman

The Weston Colville Parish Plan

The meeting on 12th October was well attended by ten members of the Parish Plan Group, and reviewed progress with the various actions raised in the plan presented to the parish in May this year. The good news was that progress had been made with most actions.

The keys points on the actions were:-

1. Mobile Phone Signal – the new mast at Carlton has been operational since June but currently is only being used by EE so is only benefiting their customers. It is planned that all providers will use the mast which will eventually solve the village mobile phone problem but the dates for the other providers are still awaited. For more information see the Carlton phone mast website.

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2. **Broadband Speed** – BT have now provided fast broadband for the WestonGreen end of the village which can be accessed on payment of the appropriate fee. A member of the group is going to chase up BT about when they plan to connect Church End.
3. **Maintenance of Roads and Verges** – the gullies on Mill Hill were all cleared by the county council on 24th September. The parish council implemented its usual verge cutting programme this year.
4. **Speeding Through the Village** – the group agreed to support the local Speedwatch group as the main method of reducing speeding in the village. It recognised that the current group is short of volunteers so plans to draft a large advertisement in *Challenge* to appeal for new volunteers to keep this vital work going. In parallel with this the parish council is to look at sourcing its own Speedwatch equipment so that a greater flexibility of use times can be created.
5. **Social Events** – again good progress has been made on this with the successful start-up of film nights in the Reading Room, and a parish walk. There are plans for a New Year’s Eve party in the Reading Room and its committee plans to publish a diary of events monthly in *Challenge*.

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6. **Rural Nature of the Village** – as part of the action to improve information on planning applications it is planned to put copies of all village planning applications on both the parish council notice boards. The parish council has also carried out an enhanced programme of hedge trimming and grass cutting at the war memorial, the Church End playing field and the play area on the Green.
 7. **Church End Playing Field** – this is probably the greatest success for the village and the group have been pleased to be able to support it. The installation of the new play equipment went very smoothly and it is well used. The parish council also plans to provide a bench and picnic table for this area.
 8. **Public Transport** – the group is still looking for a volunteer to coordinate a car share scheme for the village. An email will be sent to all those who expressed an interest to see if anyone is interested in fulfilling this role. If this fails a list of existing car sharing apps will be sent out to all as a reminder of what is already available.
- The option of doing another bus survey was discussed but it was agreed to pursue the car sharing option first.
9. **Housing** – although the group recognises that there is still a need for affordable housing in the village no suitable land has become available so this action remains in abeyance.
 10. **Footpaths** – a quote is to be obtained for providing a hard core footpath between Church End and The Green but the cost may well prove prohibitive.
- As you will see the group has made good progress with most of the Plan actions and plans to continue to meet regularly to keep things moving.
- Ray Vidler, Chairman of Parish Plan Group**

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West Wrattling Parish Council

At the Parish Council meeting held on Monday 14th September the following items were discussed:

Footpaths: Colin McCall explained why the footpaths were cut in August, much later than normal. This was due to the job having to go out to tender to every country in Europe. JMP have the new contract for the next three years.

Planning: S/0890/15 – proposed cart lodge received permission from SCDC.

Finance: this information is to be seen on the draft minutes placed on the village hall noticeboard. Authorisation was given for the purchase of a new computer for the Parish Clerk, the cost to be shared with West Wickham Parish Council. It was also agreed to pay £75 to **Challenge** as last year, to cover the extra cost of printing the annual reports.

Maintenance:

1. The Parish Clerk had checked the Land Registration and the boundaries of the recreation ground are correct.
2. Mike Rowland reported on the repairs to the village hall which were now complete, but asked the Parish Council if the £1,026 remaining from the £3,000 given by the Council could be used to

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go towards refurbishing the toilets. This was agreed. A further grant had been applied for from Amey Cespa.

3. Quotes are being sought from Wicksteeds with regard to children’s play area equipment and surfacing.

West Wrattling Football Club: Cllrs Snow and Holness had attended a meeting on 6th September. With regard to the required repairs nothing had been done and no quotes obtained or application made for grant money. A decision regarding using money from the Sinking Fund would not be made until a justification for the need, costings and building up of the Sinking Fund was made.

The defibrillator now has a combi lock and the Parish Council needs to decide who should have custody of this code.

Traffic issues:

1. The Chairman had received a quote of £691.71 for the five rondels.
2. Regarding moving the 30 mph signs further out, the Chairman had received forms to be completed with a payment of a non-returnable fee of £250. Cost would be £1,250 plus cost of the movement of the signs. No decision was made.



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Report by Cllrs Fraser/Turner: Cllr Turner would like an opinion from the Parish Council regarding the consultation to change the elections to every four years, rather than three.

Report by Cllr. Hickford: before he spoke, the Chairman thanked him and CCC for the new junction at the crossroads and for their efforts in getting this off the ground. Cllr Hickford reported that changes are being made at CCC with a possible link up with Peterborough. The budget has not yet been balanced. Cambridgeshire is fourth from the bottom of all the Shire counties charging a low council tax, and fourth from the bottom in money received from the government.

Any other business: Cllr Causton had the necessary form to complete to place The Chestnuts public house on the County Council Village Assets list.

The draft minutes are to be seen on the village hall noticeboard. The next Parish Council meeting will be held on Monday 9th November. All are welcome to attend.

Jenny Richards, Parish Clerk

Cambridgeshire Fire & Rescue Service

Fireworks and bonfires can be plenty of fun for all the family to enjoy. The fire service recommends going to an organised firework display instead of holding one at home; however, if you do use fireworks or light a bonfire at home, we would ask residents to take on board our safety advice to ensure it is just their fireworks that go off with a bang:

- Keep fireworks in a closed box and always follow the instructions.
- Light them at arms length using a taper and stand well back.
- Never go back to a lit firework.

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- Never put fireworks in your pocket or throw them.
- Don't light bonfires in unsuitable weather, particularly in windy conditions.
- Don't leave bonfires unattended.
- Build bonfires well clear of buildings, fences and hedges.
- Never use flammable liquids to start the fire, and never burn dangerous rubbish such as aerosols, paint, foam furniture, rubber tyres, or batteries.
- Before you light the bonfire, check that children and animals are not hiding inside and are a safe distance away.



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Tuneful Tots

Love young children and babies? Have three hours a week to spare? Enjoy having fun, and can sing 'Old McDonnell Had a Farm'?

Tuneful Tots in Balsham needs a new singing leader from the beginning of January, as the current singing leader is moving on after four years. It doesn't matter how well you sing ... as long as you enjoy it, the children will enjoy it too!

The group is really popular and has been running in Balsham for around twenty years. It runs in term time and attracts 15 - 30 pre-school children, babies and their families every week. It could be run on a volunteer basis or as an earning business. It involves making families welcome, leading the singing, and managing the clean up. Training will be given.

If you, a friend, or relative would like to find out more, or come along and see the group in action, please contact Karen Hall on 291206.

Macmillan Coffee Morning

Once again what a wonderful morning of laughter, with coffee, cakes and a raffle, at Fourwinds, Burrough Green.

A BIG thank you to all who came and contributed so generously to this worthwhile cause, and a special thanks to Heather Carpenter for donating the proceeds from her flower class. The grand total collected was an amazing £500.

Congratulations and thanks to everyone.

Bena and Helen

Burrough Green Baby & Toddler Group

Calling all babies and toddlers: come and play at the Reading Room in Burrough Green on Wednesday mornings, while mum/dad/grandparent/etc enjoy a cuppa and a bit of cake. There's a variety of toys to play with including ride ons, books, puzzles and a playmat, and if you use all your energy playing with your new friends, there will be healthy snacks to munch on.

Every term time Wednesday, from 9 am onwards, £2 per family. Find us on Facebook for more information and updates.

Vicki Brand (07877 675286, babyethan@btinternet.com)

Advent Concert – An evening of song for Advent and Christmas, in aid of the John Chaplin Open Church Project.

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Buttercups Community Pre-school

It has been a hectic few months at the Pre-school, but we are pleased to say that all our new children have settled in nicely, and have enjoyed learning about traditional tales this half term, including 'The Gingerbread Man' and 'The Three Little Pigs'. They have been learning to count, making houses and baking biscuits. The autumn sunshine has also meant that the children have been able to enjoy the outside areas for longer, including the mud kitchen area.

On Friday 6th November we are having an old clothes recycling day, so if you have any old clothes, paired shoes, towels, curtains or soft toys you want to get rid of please get in touch and we will come and collect them. On Saturday 7th November we will have a cake stall outside Balsham Post Office. Please do come and support us. All money we raise goes to buying equipment and resources for the children in the setting. If you have a request for a particular type of cake let us know, on 894608 or buttercupspreschool@yahoo.com

Cal Wilson

Christmas Lights

Burrough Green Playgroup would like to invite you to join us for some festive fun on 1st December at our annual Christmas lights switch on, from 3.30 pm onwards. Join us for mince pies, mulled wine, BBQ, cakes and biscuits. Elsa from the Disney hit 'Frozen' will also be there, as will the big man in red himself, Father Christmas. Face painting, stalls, raffle and lots more. Please come along and join the fun.

Vicki Brand
Secretary, Burrough Green Playgroup



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The Meadow School

The children are all now fully settled into school and our whole school topic of 'Best of British' is well under way. The first hurdle of the topic has been to ensure the children know which countries make up the UK. Once we had established that the Netherlands, Portugal and Greece were not part of the UK, we were up and running!

The topic has enabled us to celebrate the many amazing British artists, writers, musicians and Royals we have; something that we can so easily forget. The children have been engrossed in their learning and this is reflected in the many fantastic displays that adorn the walls of the classrooms and corridors of school.

I am relishing my role as 'Queen of School', having already been invited to attend a street party, a garden party, and a very British poetry slam! Watch this space next month for news of our very own British Bake Off, with hopefully a very special judge!

As has become tradition over the last few years, we kick started our fundraising with our Meadow Mile. On a Friday in October, the weather was perfect for the whole school to don a costume and walk one mile to raise money for the school Parent Teacher Association (PTA). The array of costumes was amazing as always, with everyone getting into the spirit. The children skipped, danced and walked around the recreation ground in record time.

Escorted by staff and parents dressed up too, it was a brilliant sight. It is, after all,



not every day you see Batman walk through the churchyard. The mile completed, the children all made their way back to the school field for a much needed drink, and to collect their wristband to celebrate completing the mile. Thank you to everyone who has sponsored a child. The money we raise goes straight back to providing equipment and resources our school budget does not allow for.

Another annual October event was the Craft Fair. This year the classrooms and hall were once again filled with visitors coming to buy gifts and food from over fifty stalls. The comments from first time visitors are always lovely to hear, with people surprised at the range of products on offer and with just how much we can fit in. The Craft Fair team and the PTA once again put on a brilliant weekend – thank you all.

We received some very good news recently. After submitting a bid to buy a class set of iPads, cases and storage boxes we were delighted to receive a grant from the Wadlow Wind Farm for £9,200. A huge thanks to the panel for such a generous contribution and to one of our grandparents, Mr Chatten, for writing the bid. What a great result!

You may remember in June this year a much loved member of staff passed away suddenly. Whilst the staff had the opportunity to say goodbye at Maria's funeral, the children didn't. We asked the children what we could do as a school to remember her, and they chose a picnic. So that is what we did! On 15th October we held our 'remembering Maria' special picnic lunch. The children were served a lunch full of smiles (and their favourite foods), with homemade pizza, smiley face potatoes and salad, with a smiley face biscuit for pudding. The children sang her favourite song and we were really delighted to be joined by Maria's family and friends.



With the money so kindly donated by members of our community in memory of Maria, we plan to have a bespoke bench made with a lunchtime theme so that we can continue to remember a special person for many more years to come.

Nichola Connor, Headteacher

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Derbyshire Post

Our new College Principal was appointed in September and I am delighted that Helena Marsh has been the choice of the Trustees. I have known Helena for three years, have worked with her since 2014, and have had the pleasure of witnessing an intelligent, caring and very energetic leader going about her current role as Deputy Principal in charge of teaching and learning at LVC. It's a great choice for the school and the community and it means that I can leave at the end of term knowing that both the College and the Meadow School are in safe hands.

Since September I have found it difficult to take my eye off my emails in the hope that I would see another one from Jenny Pullin. Jenny is our Examinations Officer, a job which she does with her usual vigour and efficiency, and since the beginning of term she has been returning exam paper after exam paper to the Boards because our staff have been most unhappy with the standard of marking we have seen. In total we have sent back 111 papers – an unprecedented number – and over a third of those we have returned have been marked up; when this happens, Jenny sends me an email. I think you will agree that the number of errors is a little shocking and I have made my thoughts on this known.

The upgrades, particularly those in English, have had a significant impact on our headline figure of 5 A* - C, taking it up to 75% which is a figure that is not bettered by our local schools, and much more in line with what we expected. It is disappointing for the class of 2015 that so many hardworking students were kept on tenterhooks for so long, and their places on chosen courses were in jeopardy. However, it has all come right in the end and we can celebrate (a little belatedly) the results as a tremendous success.

Caroline Derbyshire, Principal

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West Wickham & District Gardening Club

The Club was delighted to welcome Joanna Crosby from Trumpington Orchard Project who gave us a most entertaining and instructive talk on the history of the apple, the care of apple trees, and how to fight pests and diseases. Joanna has an extensive knowledge of her subject (she's now in her second year of a PhD) and set up the Orchard Project on an acre of land at Trumpington community allotments, planting many old varieties native to our area such as Histon Seedling, Sturmer Pippin, and Cambridge Seedling. We brought in our own apples, some to be identified by Joanna and others to be cut up and tasted. Owners of ancient, gnarled old trees were thrilled to have the opportunity of identifying the apples.

This was the first of our series of talks from October till April, always on the third Monday of the month, at 7.30 in West Wickham Village Hall. Next month Richard and Sheena Drane from Green Lawns Nursery at Sudbury will talk on 'Cacti and Succulents'. Visitors to our meetings are always welcome, so if a subject interests you please come along.

Rosemary Yallop (01799 584262)



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Balsham Horticultural Society



We started our new season with a spring in our step after the successful show last month. New members joined us and we were quickly immersed in finding out about one of the most important jobs in any garden – pruning. Our speaker, Nigel Start, was able to explain the thinking behind when and how much to prune in order to gain the best from any plant.

Plants never stop growing but their rate of growth is influenced by factors such as the climate, soil, surrounding plants, grazing animals and human factors. With this in mind, pruning is undertaken for a range of reasons. Ask yourself, do I need to control the overall size, form a particular shape, encourage flowers, stimulate fruiting or promote leaves and stems? Once you have your objective it's important to choose the correct tools for the job. A good pair of secateurs and loppers should be adequate and then you are ready to begin. Always make a clean, sloping cut just above a bud and into healthy wood. Keep branches well spaced and cut any suckers right back to the base. Ensure that you remove all dead and diseased wood, and prune in frost free environments.

It was clear from the talk that many plants have specific pruning issues and some time was spent highlighting the importance of understanding whether a spring or autumn prune was preferable. Getting it right can make all the difference.

Our next meeting will be at The Meadow School on Tuesday 3rd November, beginning at 7.30 pm, when the AGM will precede a talk on grasses in all their glory. Please join us.

Sue Lock

Green bin collection changes this winter



Don't forget, green bin collections change to monthly during winter when far less garden waste is put out for collection.

Monthly collections will start at the end of November and will return to fortnightly in March for the rest of the year.

Collection dates can be found on page 24 of the autumn South Cambs Magazine or online at www.scambs.gov.uk/bins-by-parish

For more information visit www.scambs.gov.uk/content/changes-green-bin-collections-over-winter

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★ Wed 27th Jan	6.30pm	£7.50
Thu 28th Jan	7.30pm	£8.00
Fri 29th Jan	7.30pm	£8.00
Sat 30th Jan	2.00pm	£8.00
Sat 30th Jan	7.30pm	£9.00

The Ellesmere Centre, Stetchworth

For full details about classes at the Centre this term please see our website.

Sixties Dance, Saturday 14th November, in aid of Alzheimer's Society and the Ellesmere Centre; dancing to the great 6T's Band. Fancy dress optional but fun! Tickets £8 from the office.



Open Mic Night on Saturday 21st November. Fully booked for acts but please come along for a great night of music.

Put in your diaries, mark on your calendars! **'The Unbearable Pleasure of Being a Woman'**, a show destined for the Brighton Fringe and the Edinburgh Festival next year, is coming to the Ellesmere Centre on Friday, 12th February, 2016! Look out for further announcements and information!

www.ellesmerecentre.org.uk, **01638 508212**,
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Get ready for an arrow-shooting, tights-wearing extravaganza! Come and join in with the fun – boo the baddies, cheer the heroes, sing along with the chorus and PLEASE ... laugh at the jokes!

Tickets are available from www.ticketsource.co.uk/edps or can be bought from the Ellesmere Centre at Stetchworth (01638 508212 or our ticket hotline 07513 346381).

Visit www.ellesmeredevilspantomimesociety.co.uk/ for more information and find us on Facebook and Twitter for all the backstage news.

Amy Metcalfe

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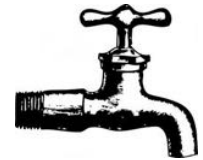
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Coppicing in Weston Colville, Lower Wood

Coppicing work parties will take place in Lower Wood on the last Saturday of each month (28th Nov, 2nd Jan, 30th Jan, and 27th Feb. We will meet by the pond at 10 am on each occasion. Duncan will be driving into the wood from Weston Green to save carrying all the tools into the wood.

Melanie (on behalf of Duncan Mackay, Warden)



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For further information, please see our website:
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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

November 2015

- Mon 2 All Souls' service, Balsham
- Tue 3 Balsham Horticultural Society meeting
- Wed 4 West Wrating Over 60s
Weston Colville Cinema Club – 'Vertigo'
- Fri 6 Tea and Cakes, Weston Colville
First Friday bridge, West Wrating
- Sat 7 Farmers' Market, Linton Village College
Saturday Café, West Wrating
Mindfulness Quiet Day, Huntingdon
- Sun 8 Remembrance Day service, 10.45 St Mary's
Remembrance Service at war memorial, 12 noon
- Mon 9 West Wrating Parish Council meeting
Weston Colville Parish Council meeting
- Sat 14 St Andrews Churchyard clearup
- Mon 16 West Wickham & District Gardening Club
- Tue 17 West Wrating Book Club
- Thur 19 West Wrating Lunch Club
- Sun 22 Ordering deadline, Weston Colville oil co-op
- Sat 28 Coppicing, Lower Wood
- Sun 29 Joint service, St Andrew's

December 2015

- Tue 1 Christmas lights, Burrough Green
- Wed 2 West Wrating Over 60s lunch, The Chestnut Tree
Weston Colville Cinema Club – 'The Innocents'
- Sat 5 Christmas Fair, Weston Colville Reading Room
Advent Concert, Abington
- Mon 9 West Wrating Village Hall AGM

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

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

Rev'd Kathy Bishop, Associate Priest
tel: 892288 email: revkathy@hotmail.co.uk

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

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

Mrs Rosemary Mead, Authorised Lay Minister
tel: 891718 email: leonardavmead@hotmail.com

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

St Andrew's:	Flowers	Cleaning
1 st Nov	Linda	Pauline
8 th Nov	Louise	Fanny
15 th Nov	Linda	Sue & Maggie
22 nd Nov	Alex	Fanny
29 th Nov	(WEDDING)	Jenny

St Mary's:	Flowers	Cleaning
November	Gay	Ruth

Black bins: Tuesday 3rd & 17th November,
Tuesday 1st & 15th, & **Wednesday 30th December**

Blue bin & paper caddy: Tuesday 10th & 24th Nov,
Tuesday 8th & 22nd December

Green bins: Tuesday 10th & 24th November,
Tuesday 8th December

Mobile library: fourth Wednesdays (25th Nov)

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,
wcp@typo.demon.co.uk, 01223 290963
West Wrating – Jenny Richards,
jrichards007@talktalk.net, 01223 665260

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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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Friday 20th November.