

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.

Printed by E & E Plumridge Ltd, Linton (Cambridge 891407)

From West Wrattling Vicarage

"You live here all on your own?" asked my wonderful Nigerian nurse on a home visit. "Yes", I replied. "My, I'd be frightened, it's such a big house."

When I first came to West Wrattling Vicarage I had consciously to hold my tongue when people said what a big house it was. I had just moved from an eighteen room rectory in my previous parish, so West Wrattling felt pretty small to me. For most people a house with three reception rooms of generous size, plus four bedrooms, all of which will take a double bed, is large. As I am coming to realise, while I look at where I might live after my retirement next year. I got rid of a lot of furniture to fit into West Wrattling. I am going to have to repeat the process, but with even more rigour. I thought of my nurse's comments as the horror of the refugee crisis facing Europe unfolded. I have no idea what the position will be when you read this. It may not be on the front pages or the main item on the TV news, but it will still be there. Now I try desperately not to be a hypocrite in my preaching. I know I don't always succeed, but I try not to urge anything I don't believe or put into practice. So in urging us to be generous in our response to the crisis I am very conscious that I have three empty bedrooms. Shouldn't I offer a bedroom or two?

Well, it is not without a degree of relief that the official answer appears to be no. There are all kinds of argument against; it is such a huge and very specific commitment that just having spare rooms is among the least of the requirements. The rather prosaic answer appears to be that for most of us the best response is to give money to the various agencies who will be dealing with the refugees. I know it has become an orthodoxy that just throwing money at a problem won't solve it, but it certainly will help. So I hope that you will have done just that, that is thrown money at the problem. It will be of enormous help and it is the rational thing to do. And there's the rub.

In the face of such human suffering anyone with any feeling, let alone a follower of Jesus Christ, will feel an immediate wish and need to do something big, to be generous and open on a scale that doesn't feel pinched or calculating. But for a response to be effective, actually to achieve the sort of relief we want, just having a generous heart isn't enough. On its own it can be no more than an emotional spasm. We need to be able to calculate how our help can be effective. Part of the problem lies in the fact that the word 'calculating' has a pejorative feel to it. But without calculation, actually looking at the practical nitty gritty, our generosity can be dissipated and run into the sand. Christians of all people have a duty to be generous. Generosity is one of the main strands of the Gospel. But it's not just a matter of the heart. The head is also involved. Indeed actually sitting down and bothering to work out what is the best and most effective way of being generous is as much a part of discipleship as the actual generosity. So a question for all of us, starting with me: when did we last sit down and seriously think about the best way of being generous – with our time, our energy, our wealth?

Hmm.



Gareth Davies, a student from Westcott House, joins us again, and we are offering a placement to a Licensed Lay Minister in Training, Alistair Collen, who will be leading a Quiet Day on 7th November on 'Mindfulness'.

On 25th October at 5 pm at St Mary's, West Wickham, there is to be an evening service called 'Thy Kingdom Come', to commemorate the Magna Carta. The seven-church choir will sing, the story of the Magna Carta will be retold, and the issue of justice today will be considered. This is something that will be of interest to young and old as we remember such an important part of our political history.

Rev Julie Norris

St Andrew's Church, West Wrattling

Songs of Praise for all the Family

Sunday afternoon 18th October
4.00 - 5.00

Lots of child-friendly songs and
music - and with a Harvest theme

All ages welcome

Drinks and cakes afterwards




Scilla & John Harvey (290199)
Bev & Darren Mercer (290333)
Rev John Fellows (291265)

Harvest Celebrations at St Mary's, Weston Colville

Saturday 3rd October, 10 am - 12 noon

HARVEST DECORATIONS

 Family activity – come and
help decorate the church for
our harvest celebration on Sunday.

Collect and pick produce from your
garden and bring it to church to make
harvest baskets and table decorations
(baskets provided)

Sunday 4th October, 11 am

HARVEST SERVICE

Bring gifts for the Haverhill Food Bank
followed by

HARVEST BRUNCH

from 11.30 am **FREE!**

St Mary's tradition continues
this year with our
splendid bacon butties,
croissants and coffee – bring
your friends!



Children, have fun afterwards at the
new playground.

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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West Wrating Harvest Supper

This year's harvest supper has had to be cancelled!

Unfortunately the event has coincided with the refurbishment of the toilets at the hall, and it was decided it would not be appropriate to hold the event with Portaloos and no kitchen.

We will continue the traditional event next year on the first Saturday in October 2016.

For next year's harvest supper I would like to get together a group of us to manage organising and running it. If you feel you can be part of this group, please let me know via email, karen@karenbakerdesign.co.uk.

Thank you all for your understanding.

Karen

West Wrating Saturday Morning Café

The Saturday morning café will run as usual on Saturday 3rd October between 10-30 am and 12 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 serve and donate cakes every month (including at least one dairy and gluten-free offering). We look forward to seeing you there. If you have any questions or suggestions, please contact Sherry (290070) or Catherine (291307)

At this next café, Eloise and Becky Gilley (291957) will be running a 'Bargain Books Stall'. Books will be sold at bargain prices with half the proceeds going to a charity (this month: Alzheimer's Research) and the other half being returned to the donor. Please bring along any books you think might sell. We



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would like to limit it to five books to sell per person this time, just so we aren't inundated first go. We'll see how well this works, and hope to continue to sell each month. Any suggestions for how to improve this, or for future charities to support, please email becky.gilley@babraham.ac.uk. If you would like to drop your books prior to the day that would be a great help. Please leave them in a plastic bag on the porch of Old Orchard Cottage, Six Mile Bottom Rd, including a note of the amounts you would like to sell the books for and your contact details so we can make sure we pay you if we do sell them.

Sherry & Catherine

Tea and Cakes, Weston Colville

We had a fantastic turnout in September. Thank you to everybody who helped, made cakes and came along.

Our next gathering will be on Friday 2nd October, 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)

Save the Children
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Weston Colville Cinema Club

At the Reading Room, Weston Colville. Bring your own wine, or wine and refreshments will be available.

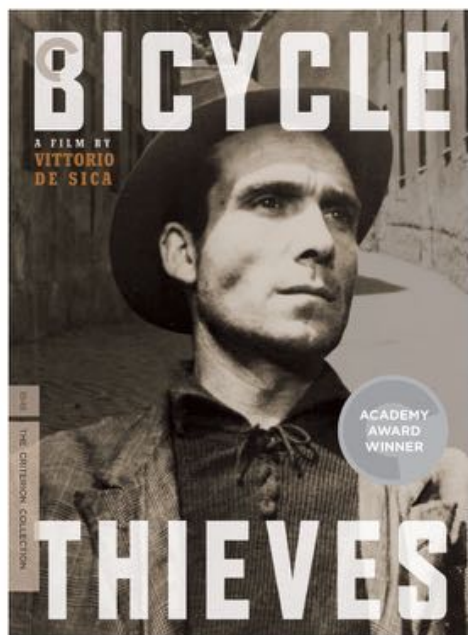
A great film on the big screen, with an introduction!

Voluntary donations for first two screenings to get us started (guide: £1.50/£2).

Coming up: 'The Bicycle Thieves', and next month: 'Vertigo' directed by Alfred Hitchcock.

Wednesday 7th October, 7.30 pm

We are starting off with one of the greatest Italian Neo-realist films of all time: **'The Bicycle Thieves'**.



If you have never seen it you really should; for a long time this was hailed as one of the greatest films ever made, and received an Academy Oscar. Directed by Vittorio De Sica. Short introductory talk. A film

everyone should have seen by the age of 14. Note – Italian with sub-titles.





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Wednesday 4th November, 7.30 pm



Currently rated in polls as THE greatest film of all time, toppling Citizen Kane from the top position a few years back, **'Vertigo'** was dismissed when first released, but 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.

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

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What's On	Directory	Parish Council
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Church News	Parish Matters	Village Calendar

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

Weston Colville Circular Walk

Join us on a guided walk on Saturday 17th October - it'll be about 5 miles. We're meeting at the Reading Room in Weston Colville at 10 am and will have lunch inside on our return. All are welcome, and our guide will be local footpaths expert Brian Cushion. Wear walking boots, bring what you'd like for lunch, and maybe a little something to share? We can put our food in the fridge in the Reading Room before we set off. Refreshments will be available. If the walk proves popular, it could become an occasional Weston Colville event.

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

West Wratting Sports Pavilion

There will be a private celebration at the pavilion on Sunday 18th October from 12 noon until 7.30 pm.

Blanche Miller, Sports Pavilion Secretary

Abandoned Bicycle



The ladies' bicycle mentioned in last month's Challenge as abandoned in West Wratting has still not been claimed. If you know who it belongs to, please contact me.

Richard Holness
(290404, richardholness023@btinternet.com)

West Wratting Over 60s

The club will meet in the village hall on Wednesday 7th October at 2.30 pm, with bring'n'buy and raffle.

The meeting after that will be held in the village hall on 4th November.

Wendy Halls

Parish Paths Partnership (P3) – I

Walkers will have noticed the first cut was late this year, in early August. This was because of a new procurement procedure which took from January until July. The procedure is tedious and bureaucratic and includes – wait for it – putting the tender out to all EU countries! Approximately one quarter of the Council's grass-cutting budget is taken up on this before a lawnmower is put into action.

The good news is that the contract has been awarded to J & P Plant for two years with an option for a further year so hopefully all will be well for the next three years.

P3 - II

In early September I received a call to say that the local landowner's gamekeeper had shot a dog and left it on the doorstep of a resident in West Wickham. Although the caller told me this in good faith, it turned out to be completely untrue. At the same time dog walkers (including me) were being told to put their dogs on a lead, irrespective of the circumstances, and allegedly sometimes threatened. I have had a meeting with the gamekeeper and the farm manager, and, to cut a long story short and looking to the future, the situation is as follows:-

**RICHARD KENYON
MASTER THATCHER
of Bluntisham, Cambridgeshire**



**Home: 01487 843377
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email: richardkenyon_1@hotmail.com**

The gamekeeper will in no circumstances shoot or threaten to shoot a dog, even if it strays into the poults (young pheasants) even though he is entitled to do so. He and the farm manager point out that they are both dog lovers and have dogs themselves. BUT there are certain areas where they insist that dogs are under absolute control – the whole of the concrete path from Mill Road behind West Wrattling Park, all the way through the Grove, Bannisters Wood and beyond, and the wooded path behind West Wrattling Park. This is particularly important from the end of July (when the young pheasants are put in situ) until 1st February (the end of the shooting season). Between 1st February and 1st July there is a more relaxed attitude about dogs on leads, but common sense applies – don't damage crops, be aware that there are wild ground-nesting birds, and stick to the public footpaths at all times.

I know that some dog walkers, who had their dogs under close control, were getting agitated about being told to put their dogs on a lead. This was the result of an over-zealous apprentice gamekeeper. He has been told to curb his enthusiasm, and this should not happen again.

One further point. Some dog walkers continue along the concrete path beyond the livery stables into the

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farmyard at Weston Colville. This is not a byway and is strictly forbidden as there are health and safety issues in the farmyard.

I could use the whole of Challenge and go into more detail, but in summary, no dogs will be shot or threatened to be shot but at the same time the gamekeeper asks that dog walkers use their common sense (most do anyway, I know) and then things should settle down.

If anyone wants further clarification they are more than welcome to call me or come round for a chat. I have walked over 5,000 trouble-free miles on the paths round West Wrattling with Molly and Daisy in the past ten years, enjoying every stride, and it would be good if we were all in the same position.

Colin McCall (290036)

West Wrattling Speedwatch

The Speedwatch team is planning its autumn/winter sessions and would very much like to involve as many people as possible. This is likely to mean committing to two sessions between now and Christmas. If you can spare an hour or so, or would like to find out more, please get in touch: csw.westwrattling@gmail.com

Jayshree, Speedwatch Co-ordinator

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Weston Colville Parish Council

The following items were discussed at the meeting held on 14th September.

County Councillor's Report: Cllr Hickford reported that the Chief Executive, Mark Lloyd, had resigned. It may be possible to share the Chief Executive of Peterborough.

Church End Playing Field: the area has been formally opened and continues to be used regularly. The only remaining work is the installation of notice boards, delayed due to absence of appropriate logos, and some tidying up. A request has been received for the provision of a bench for adults while watching children playing. It was agreed to provide this and also a picnic table with benches. Cllr Pagonis will progress this.

Footpaths: the work on the footpath between numbers 14 and 62A has been completed. Planings have been installed and the surface will compact. The holly hedge has been removed and has been replaced by yew by the adjoining householders.

Highways and Verges: the final verge cut has been done. A decision on the verge cutting plan for next year will be decided at the January council meeting.

The question of speed limits was raised following data received from the Speedwatch initiative. The establishment of 40 mph buffer zones up to 400 m before the 30 mph sections was discussed. New village signs may be necessary, possibly combining with the speed limit sign. Derek Crosby, the Police Traffic Manager, will be consulted.

River Management: Cllr Cushion has had a site meeting with Brian Heffernan, the County Council Flood Risk Officer, Debbie Edwards from SCDC, Andrew Fraser the District Councillor, and Lee Tubby, the West Wrattling Park Estate Farm Manager.

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Despite assurances from SCDC, no communication had occurred with Lee Tubby on cleaning the river behind the council houses, and it was now too late to undertake the work this year, as a crop had been planted. It is intended to undertake the work next year after harvest when there will be a greater slot between crops.

Seat at top of Mill Hill: the seat will be installed at 45 degrees to the road to give a good view of the countryside. Cllr Pagonis kindly agreed to donate the seat. This was gratefully received by all the council.

Car Park: there is no progress regarding the legal transfer of ownership to the parish council. Further attempts will be made to contact the current legal department in SCDC, which has undergone many changes. Our solicitor needs the name of the person holding the documents in order to re-open negotiations.

Weston Green Play Area: some refurbishment of the fencing and gates is necessary. This is under way. Nettles and brambles have been sprayed.

One swing has had to be removed due to the top bolt shearing. It was agreed that the swings would be replaced.

Reading Room Defibrillator: Cllr Pagonis has made some enquiries as to types available, using advice from the British Heart Foundation. It is possible some contribution might be available from the ECB via the cricket club. This will be pursued by Cllr Garrod.

Full minutes will be posted on both noticeboards.

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

Weston Colville Neighbourhood Watch (NHW)

The situation this month has remained peaceful in our village although the problems discussed in previous months have continued just a few miles away. Some matters have been brought to our attention:

Slavery has been mentioned in the media recently. I felt that this couldn't be happening here but Chief Inspector Sutherland, our commander of local policing, tells us that there are many types of crime in South Cambs but none as shocking as human trafficking and slavery. He advises us that slavery and exploitation are happening right here, under our noses. Modern day slavers' methods are far more insidious than in olden times and slavery passes almost unnoticed. To raise awareness about modern slavery and how it manifests itself he and his partners have arranged an anti-slavery day on Saturday 17th October, 10 am until 1 pm in the council chamber at SCDC. To become a delegate and/or learn more, contact our PCSO Chris Wiseman (Sawston Police station, or christopher.wiseman@cambs.pnn.police.uk).

Last month we looked at a fraud aimed at cheating students who were looking for flats. This month Action Fraud has mentioned a rise in people looking for pets online and particularly puppies, which are advertised using online auction websites. The fraudsters claim to have moved abroad and need to re-home some puppies. The puppies do not exist and any money sent to pay for them is lost.

Another website fraud offers flat screen televisions for sale at below market value. Payment is requested via bank transfer, which offers no protection to the consumer when the television does not arrive.

So remain vigilant. Report suspicious behaviour to the Police on 101, or 999 for immediate help.

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

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West Wrattling Book Club

We met in The Chestnut Tree pub in West Wrattling to review two books:

'The Sunrise' by Victoria Hislop – historically accurate, it highlighted the plight of the Greek and Turkish Cypriots on the partition of Cyprus in the 1970s, and the resulting huge division of families, with abandonment and displacement on a scale seen all too often at present in Syria and other countries. The fictional characters covered the real contrast of tourists at that time expecting their holidays to continue in grand style regardless, compared to the fighting and hardship of the locals. An easy read, especially for summer, but some found it a little too implausible. Some would recommend it, and voted an average of 7/10.

'H is for Hawk' by Helen Macdonald – everyone loved it, and unanimously considered it beautifully written. It tells the story of a troubled young woman academic in Cambridge who loses her father, and decides to train a hawk, based on fields around Brandon, as well as Barton near Cambridge, and further afield. Whilst some did not find it easy to engage with, it gave us all a fascinating insight into

the psychology of training a wild bird, with the parallel real-life story of T H White who did the same. White is the author of the Arthurian tales / Merlin books, and we will consider perhaps in the future some of his works for book club reading, having now seen the 'raw' side of the author, which was an unexpected bonus from this book on hawks. It covered dealing with demons on many levels well, and is a unique book. Well worth reading, the scores were three at 9, and then a 7.5.

The October book is 'Go set a Watchman' by Harper Lee, and we will meet on Wednesday 14th October at 8 pm at the pub.

We will be reading the ghost story of 'The Little Stranger' by Sarah Waters, for November, and we also discussed reading 'The Miniaturist' and 'The Ragged Trousered Philanthropists', which cover similar issues to the Eleanor Marx book we read in June; also 'Small Island'.

Jeanette Job (thejobs@hotmail.co.uk)



**Weston Colville
Cricket Club
End of Season Report**



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The final match of the season, at home to Cambs NCI on 12th September, sealed survival in the Tucker League for the 1st XI with a convincing victory over the bottom side. Needing the victory and for Khalsa or Abington to lose, it was a nervous Saturday but things worked out well for Weston with both the other teams losing their final matches. This meant that NCI and Abington are relegated to the Cambs Senior League, and Weston and Khalsa survive for another campaign in Tucker Division 2.

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The victory against NCI was due to some fine batting and leadership by captain Joe Robins (96) and Adam Curtis (92), ensuring that Weston reached the challenging total of 274 for 4. NCI were then bowled out for 128, with Matt Daniels taking 4 for 25, a victory for Weston by 146 runs.

The week before, away to Fordham on 5th September, was a different story and the situation looked dire going into the last game. Weston 1st XI restricted Fordham to 164 for 7 thanks to some fine bowling by Alex Meddle (4 for 51) but only one Weston batsman managed to get into decent double figures (Chris Scott 29) as they tumbled to 75 all out. This left Weston in the relegation places but all was well in the end.

A contrasting season for the 2nd XI saw them achieve promotion, along with Great Shelford, to Division 5 of the Cambs Junior League. These two sides were vying for top spot in the division from day one and the final game of the season, fittingly, was the away fixture to Gt Shelford, although the match was played at Horseheath's ground. The winner of this match would most likely win the division and in the event Shelford triumphed on the day. Great Shelford reached 168 for 5, with Carl Thompson taking 3 for 35 with his leg breaks. Unfortunately, Weston lost

quick wickets and fell well short of the required total at 85 all out, with only Michael Franks making any decent runs with 41.

Overall, a season of ups and almost downs for the senior Weston sides. We look forward to the 2nd team making further progress next season under the sound guidance of captain Craig Williams, and to the 1st XI improving on the season gone, perhaps with some new players on board.

The club held its annual end-of season event on Sunday 20th September. After some fun and games with junior and senior players involved in kwik-cricket matches, awards were made to players for best performances in the 2015 season. The fine weather made it an enjoyable occasion for everyone.

The Cricket Club AGM will be held on Monday 19th October at 7.30 in the Reading Room. All, especially new players, are welcome to join us and take part in the discussion.

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

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The Meadow School

The summer was a time for change and more new things at The Meadow. Firstly we welcomed two superb new teachers, both of whom spent many an hour organising and creating wonderful learning environments for their new classes to come back to.

Then we welcomed the arrival of the new woodland in the Infant outdoor area. This was created by a stalwart group of parents

who battled the elements at the beginning of the holidays digging, painting, planting and shovelling. I even learned to lay a path!



Not content with that, two fantastic gentlemen from our community (with no children at our school) offered to come and build an outdoor stage for the children to perform on. This is no ordinary stage; it is something rather wonderful and would rival The Globe Theatre for size and acoustics! The children absolutely love it and already we have been treated to many a show or song. Ours really is a community that keeps on giving and certainly one to be proud of – thank you Tom and co.

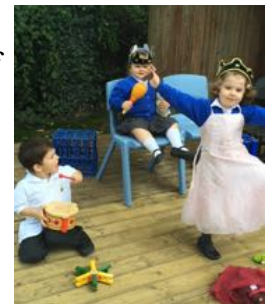
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If you have driven past the front of school recently you may have noticed that we are having some fantastic new windows fitted. The blue panels at the bottom match the school colour, and the most exciting thing is that the windows actually open and close as windows should, without falling out! With the energy efficient solar heat saving glass the project will hopefully be finished by the beginning of November, just as the cold weather begins.

Finally, our last change has been the new children who have joined our school. Our new Foundation Stage children all skipped in happily on 3rd September, full of energy and enthusiasm about starting their journey. Within minutes some had dressing-up



clothes on, others had playdough, whilst a small group threaded beads on strings. It

wasn't the children who looked teary-eyed as the bell rang and it was time for the parents to leave and let the real learning begin. Tissues were issued to parents and last kisses and cuddles shared, then the children readily embarked on their first day at school.

Welcome to all of our new families, whether you have recently moved to our community or if your first child is starting school.

Although many things have once again changed, we are determined to maintain the high standards we have set in recent years and are committed to providing an inspiring, interesting, challenging, enjoyable and thematic education to each and every one of our children, ensuring they all leave our school with a passion for life long learning and dreams they are capable of achieving. If you feel you can offer any support to the school, by hearing readers, joining our helping hands team, or coming to the many events that we host throughout the year, such as our upcoming Craft Fair, then please do pop in to see us.

We are urgently seeking a paid lunchtime supervisor to join our team for one hour per day. Please contact the office if this interests you.

Nichola Connor, Headteacher



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Well, we are back in business at LVC after the summer break and once more enjoying successful examination results. Overall the class of 2015 achieved a headline figure of 71% A* - C grades ... a figure which is set to go up, we think, following some very erratic and unexpected grades in English, Spanish and Drama. Requests for remarks have gone in and we have already seen some grade uplifts. The whole matter of poor exam marking creates stress and frustration for teachers and students alike, but demanding remarks is now just seen as part of the normal process – like a level of ‘acceptable system failure’. It is no fun, and is not acceptable to us, when college places depend on particular grades.

By the time you read this, the College Trustees and Governors will have interviewed for the position of Executive Principal. The interviews are on 17th and 18th September and will involve staff, governor and student panels and a stretching set of tasks and challenges. A special place like LVC deserves a special kind of person to lead it and I have complete faith that the Trustees will choose wisely and that both the College and The Meadow School will continue to go from strength to strength.

Caroline Derbyshire, Executive Principal

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Linton Health Centre

I am writing this update just the day before the Cambridge Dragon Boat Race – a fun charity event in aid of the Addenbrooke’s Charitable Trust. The Health Centre has entered a team – ‘Linton Quacks’ – and we are hoping for a dry day for our supporters, who will be picnicking by the side of the river. We have a funny feeling that the crew may get wet anyway so won’t mind quite so much if it rains!

We have a busy month ahead with our four Saturday flu clinics in October. We have 2,600 flu jabs to give to adults, nasal spray vaccine to give to children aged 2, 3 and 4, shingles vaccine for those aged 70 - 72 and 78 - 79 year olds, and the one-off pneumococcal vaccine for those aged 65 and over.

Work has been going on behind the scenes towards our merger with Sawston Practice next year. We asked the staff on both sites for their suggestions for the name of the new partnership. The winner was ‘Granta Medical Practices’ – thank you to Judith Davey at Linton and Barbara Carroll at Sawston who both came up with that suggestion; both to receive a bottle of bubbly.

Dr Wheeler & Partners, www.linton.gpsurgery.net

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October 2015

West Wickham & District Gardening Club

The club AGM was held at the village hall on Monday 21st September. Our 2015 gardening year was successful despite difficult growing conditions at times – a cold spring, dry start to summer and then rain and more rain. The membership saw a small rise in numbers. Our talks from Oct to April were well received and attended; unfortunately we had to cancel the summer outing to the Savil Gardens (not enough people to fill the coach); one of our evening visits had to be cancelled due to thunderstorms; the plant sale raised a record £679; and the Horticultural Show in August attracted many new exhibitors. Our new programme of talks can be accessed on our website and we will welcome anyone who would like to come to our apple tasting and identification evening on 19th October at 7.30 in the village hall. Our fees remain at £7 individual and £13 family membership, which I am sure you must agree is terrific value; you have six talks on a variety of gardening subjects, a plant sale, two evening visits to local gardens, a coach outing, a summer show, and to round that all off, up to 60% off Mr Fothergills seed orders! For more information you can ring me on 01799 584262.

Rosemary Yallop, Programme Secretary



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PTA**

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Balsham Horticultural Society

With a certain amount of trepidation we planned our show for a new date and a new venue. We certainly needn't have worried as the day was a great success. The sun shone and the Institute was just the place to display the best fruit and vegetables in the area, whilst the Church provided the perfect backdrop for some stunning floral arrangements. Add to this examples of photography and domestic skills and super refreshments provided by the WI and we had a great afternoon of entertainment. Many thanks to everybody who contributed, helped on the day, or came along and supported us.

If you feel you would like to find out more about aspects of gardening, why not join us at the first meeting of the new season? We will be at The Meadow School on Tuesday 6th October from 7.30 pm and our speaker will be giving us some practical and topical tips on pruning. We would love to see you!

Sue Lock



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Cambridgeshire Fire & Rescue Service

Winter is coming and after seeing a rise in chimney fires last year, Cambridgeshire Fire and Rescue Service is encouraging all residents to get their chimney professionally swept before the cold sets in.

Top tips to enjoy an open fire safely:

- Sweep your chimney at least once a year and get brickwork inspected, especially the chimney breast and roof space.
- Do not bank fires too high or overload the grate, and remember to let them burn down well and check the hearth before going to bed.
- Use a fire or spark guard to prevent accidental fires.
- Do not place objects on or over the mantle-piece which may cause you to stand too close to the fire to reach or use them.
- Burn only suitable fuels and avoid burning resinous woods as soot builds up quickly.

Above all, ensure you have a working smoke alarm fitted on each floor of your home.

Leanne Ehren

(01480 444558, 07747 113255)



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1st Horseheath Brownies

Since our return at the start of September we have been joined by Leah from Horseheath, and Hollie and Evelyn from Balsham, and have said goodbye to Daisy, Rosie, Sophia and Bethan who are all ten and hopefully moving up to Guides, and

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also to another Daisy. We wish them well on their new ventures.

With all the departures and new starters our unit is now reduced to seventeen members. We are still supported by Katie and Hera, our Young Leaders who are both working on their adult leadership qualification, and Christine, Pat and Judith. I know that Sophie and I wouldn't be able to do as much as we do without them.

This term we are hoping to have a moonlit walk around the village, create harvest pictures to decorate the church for the Thanksgiving Service, make Christmas cards for our Christmas luncheon, rehearse and then perform our entertainment for the luncheon, plus much more. We also hope to hold a fundraising campfire for Pudsey with 1st Linton Guides.

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 & Hera
(brownies@horseheath.info)

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The Ellesmere Centre, Stetchworth



October half term will see more children's activities, with full day care if required, on Monday, Tuesday and Friday. For a full programme of events visit our website or contact the office.

The **Sixties Dance** is on 14th November with the 6 T's band. Tickets (£8) are now starting to sell quickly so call to buy yours now. This was a great night last time and is expected to be a sell out again. Fancy Dress is optional but good fun and helps to create an authentic atmosphere.

The **Carpet Bowls Club** (alternate Monday evenings) would welcome more members; call for details.

Fitsteps on Wednesday mornings, 9.30 - 10.30 am, starts with a FREE TASTER on 23rd September. To book contact Anne at fitsteps.annec@gmail.com (Fitsteps is like 'Strictly Come Dancing' with no partner – dance yourself fit to the Cha Cha etc.)

Dog Training is on Wednesday nights, 6 - 10 pm (three classes). Call Lucy on 01440 821043 / 07881 933547.

www.ellesmerecentre.org.uk, **01638 508212**,
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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 (31st Oct, 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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St Mary's Church, Weston Colville

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

Contact Roger Whitehead (290524)

St Andrew's Church, West Wrating

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

Contact Sebastian Bain (882960)

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

Methodist Chapel, Weston Colville

Minister: Rev Nigel Bishop (01440 702422)

Roman Catholic Mass

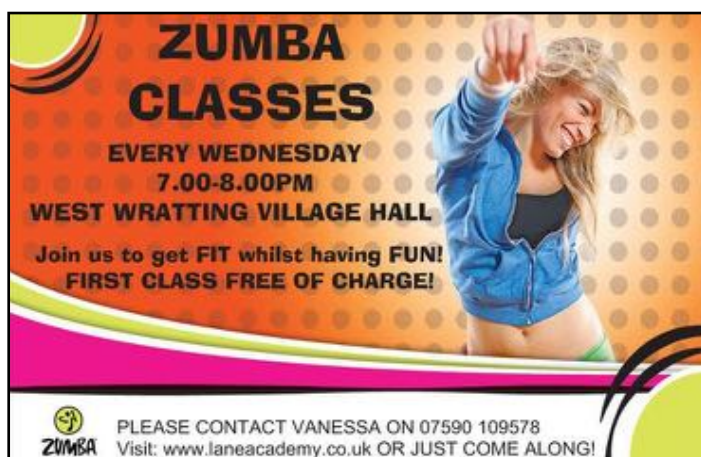
Every Saturday at 5.30 pm, Sundays at 10 am and noon, at St Philip Howard Church, Cherry Hinton.

Every Saturday at 6.30 pm, Sundays at 10 am, Haverhill (St Felix Roman Catholic Church)

DIARY

October 2015

- Fri 2 Tea and Cakes, Weston Colville
First Friday bridge, West Wrating
- Sat 3 Farmers' Market, Linton Village College
Saturday Café, West Wrating
Harvest decorations, St Mary's
Barn dance, Weston Colville Reading Room
- Sun 4 Harvest Service & brunch, St Mary's
- Tues 6 Balsham Horticultural Society meeting
- Wed 7 Weston Colville Cinema Club, Reading Room
West Wrating Over 60s
- Sat 10 Autumn Concert, Balsham
- Sat 10 - Sun 11 Autumn Craft & Gift Fair, Balsham
- Wed 14 West Wrating Book Club
- Thur 15 West Wrating Lunch Club
- Sat 17 Circular walk, Weston Colville
- Sun 18 Songs of Praise, St Andrew's
- Mon 19 West Wickham Gardening Club
- Sun 25 'Thy Kingdom Come' service
- Fri 30 Scouts' Hallowe'en fundraiser, Balsham
- Sat 31 Coppicing, Lower Wood



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Revd Kathy Bishop, Associate Priest
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Very Revd Keith Johnson, Honorary Associate Priest
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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
4 th Oct	Jenny	Fanny
11 th Oct	Jenny	Sue & Maggie
18 th Oct	Fanny	Jenny
25 th Oct	Fanny	Pauline

St Mary's:	Flowers	Cleaning
October	Perdita	Jenny
November	Gay	Ruth

Black bins: Tuesday 6th & 20th October,
Tuesday 3rd & 17th November

Green & blue bins: Tuesday 13th & 27th October,
Tuesday 10th & 24th November

Mobile library: fourth Wednesdays (28th Oct, 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,
wcpc@typo.demon.co.uk, 01223 290963
West Wrating – Jenny Richards,
jrichards007@talktalk.net, 01223 665260

Seven Churches Administrator:
Caroline (Cazzy) Walshe,
7churches.seven@gmail.com, 01223 891350

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.

November issue's copy date:
Tuesday 20th October.