

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

Well, no sooner had I written that “the trouble with Easter is that it’s never on time. It’s always early this year, or late this year” than lo and behold, the leaders of the Christian churches announce a move towards a fixed Easter. To be fair I think they had probably been talking about it before reading the January *Challenge*, but perhaps my words were what we now call a tipping point. But there again, perhaps not. Of course it won’t happen immediately. I am not going to say “watch this space”, because that would be a waste of time. So for the foreseeable future (and I suspect a bit beyond that) we are left with a variable Easter which this year is early, 27th March to be precise. And so Lent will start early. Ash Wednesday, the first day of Lent, is 10th February.

Last month I wrote about the use of money. This month it’s fasting. A few years ago my sister in law and her husband came to stay the night. Lent was approaching and we were talking about fasting, though as we tucked into roast pheasant, not practising it. David was a life-long Baptist and said that his church would count itself as being biblically based. But although they read about fasting in the bible time and time again, they never got a sermon on it, and they were never encouraged to practise it. As he observed: surprisingly unbiblical.

Fasting is an almost universal religious phenomenon. All societies, all cultures, all faiths have done it. Why, I wonder?

- To impress God? No, because we can’t and it doesn’t.
- To impress our neighbour? No, because we shouldn’t try, especially when it comes to religious matters.
- To impress ourselves? No, because that is a form of pride.

It might, however, show us something about ourselves, teach us something about who we are. How much control do I really have over myself? What am I prepared to do as a sign of my faith to show me that it is in earnest?

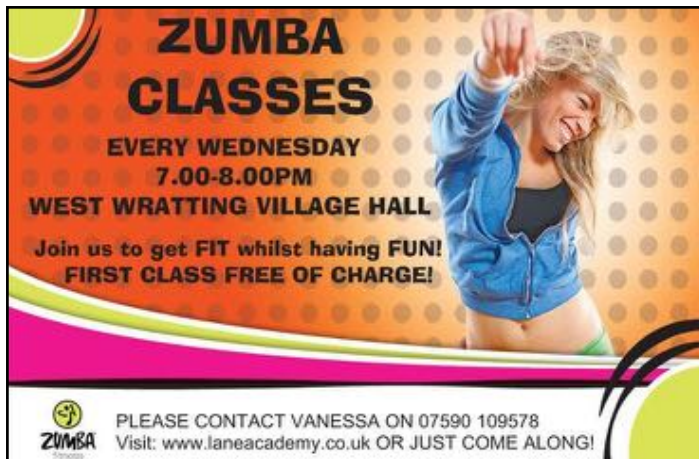
Unless we are a child, or sick or elderly, most of us could easily give up one meal a week. It wouldn’t harm our health, it wouldn’t harm our life. But it would free up some money to give to a good cause. It would show us that as a person we are not entirely dependent upon material things. We can have some control over our lives. And it might also increase our sensitivity. Permanent hunger, occasional starvation, are realities in the lives of millions upon millions of other people in the world. If an act of fasting, giving up one meal, made us a little more sympathetic, a little more generous, a little more alive to others, then surely the temporary discomfort is worth it.

So this Lent, a little more self control, a little more self awareness, a little more sensitivity, in short a little more discipleship. And with no sense of irony, a very happy Lent to you all,



From the Vicarage

The Ely Diocese strategy is using what it calls ‘appreciative inquiry’, which works on the basis that asking questions about what is good and true, telling stories about things that work well, and working with others in a spirit of being cooperative and generous, can be fertile soil for inspiring new ideas and bringing new meaning. This can enable us to refashion what we think is possible for the future. I can see how this could be seen as wishful thinking which avoids addressing real problems, yet this approach has arisen from dissatisfaction with the model of developing strategy by way of problem solving, which often doesn’t succeed. This new model gives us a choice to



focus attention and activity, with other people, to look for things that might make a difference for the common good.

Can Lent bring an opportunity in our own lives and in the wider world to engage in appreciative inquiry? Can we think about things that work well rather than focus on all that is wrong, or set ourselves up for failure? I have been inspired in thinking about this by the writing of the French saint Thérèse of Lisieux, who puts forward the idea that Lent could be about appreciative gratitude rather than gruelling and impossible-to-achieve self-sacrifice.

Giving things up, making a Lent fast, was an integral part of Lent for our forbears. It began with Shrove Tuesday, better known as Pancake Day. Cupboards were cleared in preparation for the Lent fast and people began to think about what needed to be 'shriven', or 'absolved' in their own lives. However, this may be less embedded in our life and culture today. If we weigh up the possible benefits and consider the costs, the act of self-sacrifice often feels like a heavy load. We may begin by preparing ourselves for inevitable failure because we know from experience we are likely to give way to temptation. We may decide not to bother.

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Thérèse of Lisieux develops the idea that the purpose of the Lent sacrifice is to try to appreciate more fully the sacrifice made by Christ, so that the act of self-emptying, when we give something up, increases our sense of gratitude for what we have. The point is not the thing that we sacrifice, but the offering of ourselves, and the sense of gratitude that grows. In other words, instead of giving up one thing for the whole of Lent, instead of going 'cold turkey', or setting ourselves up for failure, we could think of giving up something different each day but doing it each time with an appreciative gratitude. This could be fun rather than something to dread.

I am reminded of the feeling of coming home after a camping holiday and appreciating the warmth and comfort, but also being aware that the experience of giving these things up for a while brought the gift of hearing the sounds of night through the canvas, and the smell of early morning dew. Maybe giving up a variety of different things could give us more scope to appreciate what we have and make us more attentive to the needs of others.

Easter is very early this year. I expect we will all be enjoying our pancakes on Tuesday 9th February, and there will be an **Ash Wednesday service** on 10th February at 10.30 am in Balsham Church.

Our **Lent study** in the churches this year will focus on the debate between science and religion, whilst exploring mystery and suffering. We will be using the book by Hilary Brand called 'The Mystery of Everything'. It focuses on the film about Stephen Hawking called 'The Theory of Everything', which we will be showing at 3 pm on Sunday 7th February at Hildersham Church. Discussions, with clips from the film, will take place on Wednesdays at 7.30 pm, on 24th February at Hildersham Church, 2nd March at the Black Bull in Balsham, 9th March at Hildersham Church, and 14th March at the Black Bull in Balsham.

The Presentation of Christ, also known as **Candlemas**, is on 2nd February. This is the time when the churches put away the nativity crib and we look ahead to Lent. In some churches candles that are to be used in the following year are blessed. We will be celebrating this occasion in Balsham Church on 31st January, where we will also celebrate the commissioning of our **Parish Nurse** at a united 10 am service with Bishop David Thomson.

Rev Julie Norris

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Broadband in Weston Colville

Although *Challenge* is a wonderful resource for residents, if events arise between press date and publication, by the time *Challenge* is printed the event has been and gone. In an attempt to help out with circumstances such as these I have set up a Weston Colville Facebook page

www.facebook.com/westoncolville

and I would urge all residents who are interested to 'Like' the page. It can be used for rapid response and alerts of anything of interest to residents.

I have been engaged in an on-going dialogue with Connecting Cambridgeshire over the mis-information that they had been spreading about broadband provision on Mill Hill and Church End, and I have documented the latest information on the page.

The good news is that the BT Project Manager has confirmed to me that FTTP is scheduled to go live in the week commencing 15th February, and orders will be able to be placed with your provider of choice from around that date.

Gordon Riley

Lunch Club

As The Chestnut Tree is having work done to the cellar, kitchen and dining room during the week commencing 15th February, we will meet for lunch on 25th February instead of the usual third Thursday.

Lunch in March will be on the third Thursday (17th) of the month as usual.

For those who would like to join us, The Chestnut Tree does a two course set menu lunch for us for £7.50 (coffee extra). We meet monthly, on the third Thursday of each month, at 12.30 until about 2.00 pm. It is a simple way of meeting up, enjoying

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a wonderful lunch and still having the afternoon to do whatever suits you. All ages welcome.

You do need to book. If you would like to come or have any questions, please get in touch with me.

Suan Rowland

(290788, suanrowland@btinternet.com)

Mysterious Christmas Surprise

We would like to say many thanks to the anonymous Christmas Elf who left the excellent bottle of wine and box of Heroes chocolates with unsigned card in a very pretty bag on our doorstep just before Christmas. The wine was much enjoyed and we are still munching our way through the chocolates. Happy New Year!

Linda and Michael Gorman

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Tea and Cakes, Weston Colville

There was another fantastic turn out for Tea and Cakes in January.

Our next gathering will be on Friday 5th February, 3.30 - 5.00 pm in the Reading Room. If you've not been before please do join us for tea, cake and a chat.

Many thanks to everyone who helps and comes along, making this such a successful event.

We look forward to seeing you.

Melanie (291319)

Knitting Bee!

Calling all knitters and would-be knitters! I would like to start a Knitting Bee for people who may be interested in meeting up every now and again to chat, knit, nibble, and exchange ideas and techniques.

To start the ball (of wool!) rolling, please come to my house on Wednesday 24th February at 7.30 pm to knit, share ideas and have a good chat! People who crochet are also welcome.

Please ring me if you would like to come so I can organise refreshments.

Jan Ogden (291401)

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Saturday Morning Café, West Wrattling

The Saturday morning café will run as usual on Saturday 6th February between 10.30 am and noon in the village hall. There is always a play corner and arts/crafts table set up for kids. Please come and join us for a catch-up over tea/coffee and delicious cake!

£20 was raised towards the British Legion charity at the January 'Bargain Book Stall' The book stall will be there again in February.

Sherry (290070) and Catherine (291307)

Weston Colville Cinema Club

Bring your own wine, or wine and refreshments will be available.

Enjoy a great film on the big screen in the Reading Room, with an introduction! Admission by voluntary donation (guide: £1.50/£2) to cover costs.



The Club will be run by Jacqueline Douglas and Jeremy Newton from March, due to our imminent – though protracted – departure. Good luck and thanks for the continued support. I have suggested a list of titles for the rest of the year, but please note that I will no longer be the Club contact from March.



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'Once Upon A Time in the West' – Sergio Leone
Wednesday 3rd February, 7.00 pm (note earlier start)

ONCE UPON A TIME IN THE WEST is an epic Italian Western about the old American West, with outstanding performances from Henry Fonda, Jason Robards, and Claudia Cardinale. I think this is the greatest film I have ever seen (and I am not alone); certainly the greatest Western, it was directed by Sergio Leone ('The Good the Bad and the Ugly') with a memorable film score by Ennio Morricone. The film premiered in Paris in the 1960s, appearing for a scheduled two nights at an Art Cinema House, but ran for ten years, influencing Paris fashion and becoming established as a masterpiece.

Please note this is three hours long, but there is an intermission for refreshments.



'A Mighty Wind' – Christopher Guest
Wednesday 2nd March, 7.30 pm

A MIGHTY WIND is a comedy gem, the best and probably the funniest of Christopher Guest's spoof documentaries, a film about a folk music reunion concert in which three folk bands reunite for a television performance for the first time in decades. The film is thought to reference the 2003 tribute concert to folk music which producer Harold Leventhal organised, that reunited several of the folk groups that he had managed. More broadly, the film is a parody of the American folk music revival of the early 1960s and its personalities. You may never listen to folk



music again in the same way after seeing this. 'A Mighty Wind' bravely goes where other mockumentary films don't. It achieves touching, real emotion. It has been rated as one of the best films about the music industry ever made (here I go again). Make certain you wear open toed sandals and sport appropriate beards for the screening.

Laurence Staig
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West Wrating Book Club

At our first meeting of 2016 we had a very good turnout of seven people to review Agatha Christie's 'The Murder of Roger Ackroyd'.

This was published in 1926, at a dark time in Christie's life when her first marriage was breaking down and just before her divorce, and the death of her mother and subsequent breakdown and disappearance, which brings what is described by her biographer, Laura Thompson, as an 'odd bleakness' to the book. We find Poirot in retirement, which caused some of those present to suggest that later Poirot stories could be considered some of the first 'prequels'.

All agreed that it was a real page turner and quite beautifully done. At first it seems to follow a well recognised pattern with the usual 'types', only to produce a totally unexpected dénouement. Dr Sheppard's sister thinks she knows everything but does not and is, in fact, manipulated by Poirot as much as any of the others, and there are the usual red herrings. The ending was described by one of our number as astonishing and upsetting on first reading. As is often the case, the timing of events is everything in the resolution of the crime and we wondered if

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people would remember such things so precisely. The characterisation of the women is somewhat derogatory but perhaps this is true to the time. All agreed on a score of 9 out of 10 and that we would recommend it to others.

We will next meet on Tuesday 16th February to discuss 'The Rosie Project' by Graeme Simsion. The date for March is Tuesday 15th when the book will be 'All the Light We Cannot See' by Anthony Doerr. Future suggestions are 'A God in Ruins' by Kate Atkinson and 'The Big Lie' by Julie Mayhew

Linda Gorman

Litter – Weston Colville and West Wrating

Firstly, a big thank you to all litter pickers, both official and unofficial, for the fantastic work done last year. The villages are in good shape. I kept a log of my personal haul last year, and the tally was 39 bin liners of litter on my patch (mostly Six Mile Bottom Road) plus bits of car, concrete, bricks, tyres etc. I think we can safely assume that at least 70 bin liners of rubbish were collected from both villages during the year. At least six cars came off the road in 2015 within our parish boundaries, leaving the usual trail of debris.

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Secondly, you may have heard that Country Life Magazine is spearheading a 'Clean for the Queen' weekend on 4th - 6th March in anticipation of the Queen's 90th birthday. This puts me in a slight quandary, because of the rat-run nature of our litter. We collect litter throughout the year rather than having one big clear-up. This being said, perhaps we should all have a special 'push' in the week prior to and including that weekend? It would be good to be seen doing our bit at the same time as everyone else.

I also thought it would be fun if all the litter pickers (both official and ad hoc) from the villages got together (I am slightly losing touch with all participants myself!). Accordingly I would like to invite all participants, official and ad hoc and potential, along with their spouses, to The Chestnut Tree pub on Sunday 6th March from 12 noon - 2 pm so we can all get to know each other. The first drink will be on me.

If anyone has any other ideas about how to tackle our litter problem, or indeed would like to volunteer (plenty of fresh air and walking) please contact Christine King on 290963 (Weston Colville) or me on 290036 (West Wrattting).

Colin McCall



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Flooding – Weston Colville

Following the recent flooding on The Green and Common Road, a site meeting has been held with both County and District Council officials to look at what can be done to alleviate the problem. A report on progress will be included in a subsequent issue of Challenge once the course of action has been agreed with the local landowners and other bodies responsible for the maintenance of the watercourse.

Bridget Durham, Weston Colville Parish Council

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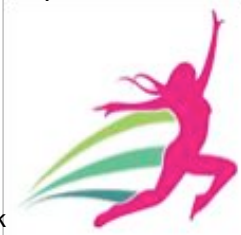
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West Wrating Oil Syndicate

33 houses in West Wrating participated in the order placed on 8th January, with deliveries being made during the week commencing 15th January.

Certas Energy (previously Pace/Butler) won the WW Syndicate order again, with a price of 24.75p per litre (for the record, 34.90p in July 2015, 31.65p in September 2015 and 30.30p in October 2015), which was a saving of 1.50p against my benchmark Boilerjuice 'Bulk' price of 26.25p. All prices + VAT, of course. This order was placed at the lowest price we've had since (I think) 1999, putting a post-Christmas smile on everybody's faces.

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Actually, it's so cheap now that I'm splashing it on as aftershave and the present Mrs Holness has taken to dabbing it behind her ears (children – don't try this at home!).

The next fill up will be in March, with a delivery cutoff time and date of 6 pm on 8th March. Please don't place your orders before 1st March as they may get lost in the usual confusion that reigns at Holness Towers. A reminder will be in the March Challenge, which I always find useful

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

Richard Holness

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Vacancies for Parish Councillors:

West Wratting Parish Council

There is a vacancy on West Wratting Parish Council, caused by the resignation of Cllr Nigel Job, which will be filled by co-option. The Parish Clerk will be pleased to give details of what being a Councillor involves to anybody who might be interested in being co-opted on to the Parish Council. The six present Parish Councillors would also be glad to explain the role of the Parish Council. Contact the Clerk, Jenny Richards, on: jrichards007@talktalk.net or 01223 665260.

Jennifer Richards, 11 Fox Road, Balsham, CB21 4EZ

Weston Colville Parish Council

Following the resignation of Brian Cushion, there is a vacancy for a councillor at Weston Colville.

If you would like to be considered for the position, which will be filled by co-option, please contact the Parish Clerk, Christine King (wcpc@typo.demon.co.uk; 01223 290963; Tudor Cottage, The Green, Weston Colville, CB21 5NT).

Christine King, Parish Clerk

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**Weston Colville
Cricket Club**



Here are the answers to the anagrams quiz from last month, on the theme of British television sitcoms. See also the club website, www.westoncolvillecc

1	PORRIDGE	21	GEORGE AND MILDRED
2	FAWLTY TOWERS	22	THE NEW STATESMAN
3	DAD'S ARMY	23	DOCTOR IN THE HOUSE
4	CITIZEN KHAN	24	BIRDS OF A FEATHER
5	THE GOOD LIFE	25	BUTTERFLIES
6	THE OFFICE	26	ONLY FOOLS AND HORSES
7	THE ROYLE FAMILY	27	ONE FOOT IN THE GRAVE
8	THE VICAR OF DIBLEY	28	STEPTOE AND SON
9	TO THE MANOR BORN	29	PHOENIX NIGHTS
10	LAST OF THE SUMMER WINE	30	THE IT CROWD
11	BLACKADDER	31	FATHER TED
12	UP POMPEII	32	THE LIVER BIRDS
13	ABSOLUTELY FABULOUS	33	YOU RANG M'LORD
14	MEN BEHAVING BADLY	34	DROP THE DEAD DONKEY
15	SOME MOTHERS DO AVE EM	35	RISING DAMP
16	PLEASE SIR	36	YES MINISTER
17	ON THE BUSES	37	DINNERLADIES
18	STILL OPEN ALL HOURS	38	WAITING FOR GOD
19	AS TIME GOES BY	39	GIVE BEYOND ERASURE
20	BLESS THIS HOUSE	40	GOODNIGHT SWEETHEART

Christmas Raffle, Weston Colville Post Office

The Christmas raffle has raised a total of £130. Added to the Easter raffle (£78) plus £67.85 from the charity tin, a cheque has been sent to Leukaemia Research for £275.85. Many thanks for all your donations and ticket purchases.

I would like to wish you all a Happy and Healthy New Year.

Chris

Weston Colville Neighbourhood Watch (NHW)

I received a report from a resident in West Wrattling high street who called 999 after a man knocked on the door pleading to be let in because he was being chased by someone wanting to stab him. The man looked to be in his early forties and was frightened and agitated, but not aggressive. He stayed near the door until the police arrived, when he walked over to them and was taken away in their van.

Also in West Wrattling, the police report that three tyres were slashed while a vehicle was parked in Six Mile Bottom Road during the late evening of 8th January.

A ladies handbag was found beside the road from Weston Colville to Six Mile Bottom. It contained a number of cards and other personal items, which made it possible to reunite the handbag with the owner. The bag had been stolen from her locked car while she was walking her dog, and only cash had been taken. Please make sure that anything you leave in your car is locked in the boot out of sight.

There have been problems in the bigger villages closer to Cambridge. A number of vehicles have had windows broken and tools were stolen from a locked Transit van. There are reported thefts from

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outbuildings, garages, sheds and stores. At one house a window was forced and a safe containing valuable jewellery was stolen, and at another the house keys were pulled out through the letter box.

Try The Bad Wolf Test to see how safe your home is: www.tinyurl.com/bad-wolf-test. Smart Water has been referred to before, but Immobilise has not; register your valuables on Immobilize! Most consumer electricals have a unique identification code such as a serial number, and mobile phones have an IMEI number (which can be found by pressing these keys: *#06#). Marking kits are available from the Immobilise store, allowing the police to easily identify the owners of recovered items; try: www.immobilise.com

I referred last month to the film 'The Wrong Arm of the Law'. Laurence (Staig) says that he and his father appear in the film – his father ran the Motor Bike Globe of Death sideshow at the Battersea Fun Fair, while Laurence was an extra.

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



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High Street, West Wickham



Weston Colville Parish Council

The following items were discussed at the meeting held on 4th January:

County and District Matters – Councillor Hickford reported that the 1307 report previously scheduled for October will now be presented in February. There will be a drive to reduce landfill, currently costing £8m per annum.

Councillor Fraser reported for the district. The Boundary Commission review continues until February. The number of councillors will be reduced by 10%. The new planning system offering a Planning Duty Officer available for planning queries is being trialled. Ermine Street Housing is buying houses to be let out at market rates in order to raise revenue for the council.

Speed limit change – Cllr John Garrod will attend the Highways Improvement Grant evaluation panel on 25th January. The possible provision of a footpath on Mill Hill was discussed and estimates will be sought. Cllr Garrod will contact the Highways Department for their views.

Church End Play Area – the name plate has been redesigned and will be fitted shortly. The proposed

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bench and picnic table will be purchased. A new bench has been installed at the top of Mill Hill.

Speedwatch – no further surveys have been made in the last two months. Unfortunately no additional volunteers have come forward.

Grass Cutting – the existing contractor cutting the playgrounds and the war memorial will be retained for the upcoming year. Quotes will be sought for the verges and spraying of weed vegetation.

Planning Applications – there were no applications that needed input from the council.

Budget – the Chairman presented his budget for the year 2016-17. It was unanimously approved by the council.

Precept – a vote was taken on the proposed increase in precept for the coming year. The increase is in line with inflation, and was approved.

Payment of Accounts – payment of a donation for the production of Challenge of £75 was approved and the cheque was raised. An invoice is awaited for the cost of replacement swing seats at Weston Green play area.

Bank Reconciliation – the spreadsheet was reconciled with the bank statement, showing a balance of £19515.50, mainly due to 106 payments.

No further 106 grants are anticipated for the upcoming year. 106 grants cannot be used for general expenses. There are strict rules as to which expenses can be paid via these funds.

Reading Room Transfer – responsibility for the Reading Room has been moved from the Parish Council to a newly created Reading Room CIO. Written and signed confirmation was given to Cllr Scott for the Reading Room Committee minutes.

The question of ownership of the car park opposite the Reading Room is still in abeyance.

Appointment of Vice Chairman and Vacancy – the appointment of a Vice Chairman was deferred to the next meeting, as one councillor was not present. No applications for the councillor vacancy have been received, so this will be readvertised in Challenge.

Dates of next meetings – 7th March, 9th May, 4th July, 5th September, 7th November.

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West Wrattling Parish Council

At the Parish Council meeting held on Monday 11th January the following items came under discussion:

Opportunity for Public Statement:

a) Colin McCall requested that the trees and shrubs in the footpath off the high street running up the side of 53 High Street are cut back and asked if the Parish Clerk could contact Garrod Family Tree to ask for a quote.

b) Sisse McCall expressed concern about the delay in returning a planning application by its due date and stressed how important it was for the Parish Council to ensure that all applications are dealt with quickly. The application S/2842/15 had been refused but the decision is being looked into.

Budget & Precept: the budget sheet prepared by Cllr Okkenhaug was discussed, after checking the accounts spreadsheet for 2015/16 which showed last year's budget worked satisfactorily. It was therefore agreed to approve the proposed budget. The precept was then discussed and the Chairman proposed a 2% increase should be asked for; this was seconded by Cllr Causton and agreed by the Councillors.

Maintenance:

a) *Deeds & Land Registration:* Cllr Holness returned the file of Land Registration to the Parish Clerk, the originals being held by the solicitors. There were three lots of Awarded Land which had not been registered and it is necessary to find out what the land is being used for and by whom.

b) *Village Hall Refurbishment:* Michael Rowland reported that the work was now complete at a total cost of £68,000. He stressed the importance of the support of the Parish Council through their donation of £3,000 which helped in getting grants. It was agreed that a sum of money for maintenance of the

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assets owned by the village would be included in the budget.

c) *Bowls area:* Cllr Holness has offered his help to the Sports Pavilion Committee to apply for funding to help refurbish the bowls area, which the WWFC would like to use for the Junior section. However their prime concern was security and they suggested having a chain link fence and a lockable gate. This idea was discussed but turned down by the Parish Council.

d) *Playground maintenance:* it was agreed to ask Wicksteed, who had quoted £655 + VAT to repair the log traverse, if they would quote for a replacement and also a quote for resurfacing with a non-slip surface.

Correspondence: SCDC had confirmed receipt of Nomination to include land/buildings on the list of Assets of Community Value – The Chestnut Tree Public House.

West Wrattling Football Club:

- a) *Dug outs* – no progress.
- b) *Code of access* to tennis court is now in place for a three month trial.
- c) *Hedges:* CGM had quoted £480 + VAT to cut the hedges and it was agreed to accept this.

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d) The *defibrillator* is still not fully commissioned and can only be used by the football club at present. This equipment should be available to anyone who needed it and it must be dealt with immediately.

Traffic issues:

- a) *Rondels:* a site meeting is being arranged to check the exact locations by Highways.
- b) *Potholes:* the Parish Council had been asked to complain officially about the potholes along West Wrattling/Withersfield Road. This was agreed.

Report by County Cllr Hickford:

- a) The County budget increase has been set at 1.9%.
- b) The A1307 survey should be out by February.

Report by Dist Cllr Turner:

- a) The *Local Plan Examination* will go out for public consultation in December 2016.
- b) The *Boundary Review* final recommendations will be published on 6th September 2016.

Vacancy for a Parish Councillor: please see page 9.

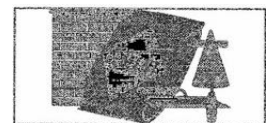
The next Parish Council meeting will be held on Monday 14th March, and all are welcome. The draft minutes for 11th January are posted on the noticeboards.

Jenny Richards, Parish Clerk

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Linton Health Centre News

Just a couple of months now until Linton and Sawston merge to form one large partnership, to be known as Granta Medical Practices.

It has been an incredibly busy year and there has certainly been no winding down into retirement for me. I set my retirement date as March 2016 such a long time ago, back in January last year, and this last year has simply flown by. The merger work has certainly ensured that I have been kept busy right to the end.

Granta Medical Practices will move forward with a new management structure. Gerard Newnham, the current Business Practice Manager at Sawston, will be the senior manager across both sites, providing strategic direction and overview for the newly formed partnership.

Another senior role in the management structure is that of IT Manager, and Haley Suttle is already in post, working across both sites. Haley has years of experience in general practice IT systems, and her knowledge and skills will be invaluable as we merge our computer systems in mid April.

Instead of a Practice Manager at Linton we would like to welcome Tracy Ho, who has been appointed as

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Practice Operations Manager with responsibility for HR and Finance across both sites. Tracy will join us on 1st March and will be based primarily at Linton. She will be ably supported by Carol Thexton, our Office Manager, and the rest of the practice team.

This is an exciting new chapter in the history of both Sawston and Linton Practices. As a merged practice, we feel that we will be well prepared to take on the challenges and the opportunities that the NHS environment will present us with over the next few years.

Sheila Griffiths, Practice Manager and Partner

The Peter & Ruth Lloyd Trust Award

For further information about the trust and award please contact Jonathan Drury (01223 290968). For an application form please apply via email to peterandruthlloydtrust@yahoo.co.uk. The application form and supporting documents must be received by 31st March at the latest.

Rights of Way

Spring will be here soon, and the muddy tracks will slowly dry out. Hoofmarks and tyre tracks on soft ground can cause lasting and hidden uneven surfaces, which can lead to runners and walkers falling or spraining ankles.

Footpaths are meant for **pedestrians** only, not horses or cyclists. Prams, pushchairs and wheelchairs can be used.

Bridleways are meant for **walkers, horseriders and cyclists** (who are expected to give way to walkers and horseriders).

Source of legal status of footpaths and bridleways – www.environmentlaw.org.uk

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The Meadow School

At the end of last academic year we asked the children what they wanted the teachers and staff to do for the school in 2015/16. One of the most popular requests was to have exciting, new and interesting topics that let the children go on lots of trips! The teachers worked hard over the summer to plan three new topics that would meet the children's tough requirements.

The Infants have launched 'Footsteps through Time', studying different periods of time from dinosaurs to the ice age. The children had an amazing day at the Natural History Museum to start their topic. I don't think I have ever heard "Wow!" said so many times in such a short space of time. The children were in awe of everything they saw. The grandeur and size of the museum on its own inspired them to look carefully at everything they saw, noticing all of the little details. The dinosaur skeletons were a huge hit, as was the giant escalator that led to the volcanoes and earthquakes section. Being surrounded by fossils, skeletons, animals, birds, crystals, and creepy crawlies ensured that the children were kept busy.



Years 3/4/5 have started 'Eureka', examining inventions and studying famous inventors. The children spent a day at the Science Museum in London to inspire their learning, explored how forces worked in building bridges, and tested how



strong eggs were! The workshop leaders even got Miss Copare to be the meat in the human sandwich to test how spreading force over a large area lessened the impact. After investigating the galleries to see how technology has developed over time, the children visited the Imax and watched a 3D film about the development in robotics technology, and saw many different amazing robots. It really was an inspiring start to their new topic.



Year 5/6 have begun 'Keen to be Green', a topic with a focus on the world we live in, climate, pollution, recycling and other ecological issues. They launched their topic with a split trip. Despite the jokes in school about visiting the 'dump', they had an incredibly interesting and thought provoking day, which started at Amey Waste Management Park with



the children being kitted out in wellies, hard hats and hi-vis jackets. The visit involved sorting household rubbish according to the bin colour it should be disposed in, and finding out some interesting, yet alarming, facts. Did you know that it

only takes us eighteen months to fill a landfill site? In 20 years, we will run out of landfill sites unless we recycle more! Afterwards, the children went on a tour of the Recycling Park and visited the Material Recovery Facility, where all of the rubbish is sorted. After lunch they visited Denny Abbey to find out how people were less wasteful in the past. They made a rag rug, visited a village shop from 100 years ago, and learnt how archaeologists found out about life in the past by looking at rubbish. The children certainly learnt lots about the importance of re-use and recycling and they even saw a rat!



We share photos and news of everything that happens at The Meadow on our twitter page, @Meadow_Balsham. Take a peek!

Nichola Connor, Headteacher

Marsh Mail

(news from Linton Village College)

Thursday 9th February marks Safer Internet Day 2016 – a date specifically calendared to promote safe, responsible and positive use of digital technology by children and young people.

Highlighting and teaching e-safety practice is an important part of safeguarding at Linton Village College. We make use of the PSHE (Personal, Social and Health Education) curriculum, assemblies and tutor time to discuss the opportunities and risks posed by greater access to digital technology. E-safety also features prominently in our Year 6 parent induction evening, our school behaviour code, and parent handbook.

The key principles of our e-safety user protocol are:



On the whole, our students are internet savvy. They know about age restrictions and understand what steps they should take to maintain their privacy and safety online. Nevertheless, we continue to promote these behaviours with students and parents to raise awareness and to tackle unsafe practices.

Another two ‘Cs’ that I have been discussing with students at the start of this year are Connection and Consumption. I also want to address the impact that access to digital technologies may have on students’ lifestyle and wellbeing.

The Connected Kids report claimed that children aged 5 - 16 in the UK are spending on average 6.5 hours a day using a screen; this increases to 7 - 8 hours for teenagers, including multi-screening. While the increase in the accessibility and functionality of digital technologies creates a greater number of opportunities for education and personal development, it also presents a number of challenges.



The NSPCC have recently warned of the creation of a nation of deeply unhappy children due to the pressure to keep up with friends and have the perfect life online. Studies have also made links between excessive screen time and gaming, and underachievement in GCSE examinations.

Meanwhile the charity Action for Children has claimed that one in four parents struggle to control their children’s screen time, and the Department for Education has commissioned an advisory group to create recommendations to prevent phone and mobile devices disrupting learning in schools.

From speaking to teenagers, it is clear that their consumption of digital technology can have an adverse effect on their lifestyle. Time spent exercising, reading books, being with family, completing homework, socialising and playing face-to-face, and sleeping, can be compromised by their digital habits.

At Linton Village College, we are one of only 30% of secondary schools nationally which permit students to bring their devices into school. We recognise the potential that they have to support learning and personal safety, but we are also wary of the possible risks and are keen to minimise these with students. We have clear expectations about the use of devices in school and a confiscation policy for those who do not follow our code. We want technology to enhance, not detract from, students’ learning and wellbeing.

While the school plays a crucial role in educating students about safe and responsible use of digital technologies, it is parents, friends and the wider community that will shape their attitudes and habits. How long children spend plugged into devices, staring at screens, engaging in virtual conversations and investing in their online presence is only partly influenced by the rules and usage that we permit and promote at school.

As adults, our role is not to shun, ban or demonise digital technologies for the negative impact that they can facilitate; we need to help the next generations to be responsible and safe users to create moderate and healthy consumption and to help them to connect, virtually and physically, with the world around them.

Helena Marsh

The Ellesmere Centre, Stetchworth

Unbearable Pleasures of Being a Woman – this play is headed for the Edinburgh Festival but will be at the Ellesmere Centre, for one night only, on Friday 12th February. Great fun – bring along a party of friends (recommended 18yrs+). Brilliant girls' night out, or dare to bring your partner! Tickets £12.50. Licensed bar.



Half Term Activities – February

Date	Activity	Time	Age	Contact/Cost
Mon 15 th	1 ST STEP SPORTS FUN DAY	All day	4 - 11yrs	alex@1 st step sports.co.uk
Tues 16 th	GYMNASTICS DAY	9 am - 4 pm	4 - 11yrs	abc_gymnastics@yahoo.co.uk.
Wed 17 th	OPPORTUNITY GROUP special needs.	1 - 3 pm	preschool	Free
Thurs 19 th	JOLLY TOTS play session	9.30 - 12.30 pm	Preschool	£2 per adult, £1 per child
	ROLLER SKATING	2 - 4 pm	All ages	£2 to skate, £1 skate hire
Fri 21 st	Craft Day For details contact Ellen Merry 01638 731348			

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Bookings for teams of 8 people also available. Places are limited.
*Vegetarian option: Veggie burger

West Wickham & District Gardening Club

On 18th January Alex Summers, Glasshouse Supervisor at Cambridge Botanic Gardens, gave us a comprehensive talk on South African 'Fynbos'. Alex is an excellent speaker and gave a fascinating talk, accompanied by beautiful photos, on the native vegetation which thrives on almost pure sand which holds no nutrients, so the occasional fire is needed to provide potash, and the fires are also necessary for the seeds of some plants to germinate.

Our next meeting, on 15th February, will be by David Coop from Westlands Compost, about 'Feeding, Weeding, and other Gardening Secrets'. At a time when we begin to think about the garden once again this will give us all a prod in the right direction. If you are reading this and think perhaps you might come along to one of our meetings – please do. We will give you a warm welcome. For more information, please ring me.

Rosemary Yallop (01799 584262)

In Memory of Greg Mackenzie

1st October 1976 to 21st December 2015

It is with a heavy heart that I write this: many but not all have heard the tragic news that our dear friend Greg Mackenzie died in the very late hours of Monday 21st December, in Addenbrookes Hospital, at the age of 39.

Greg's mother, Rosemary, and his closest friends are so grateful for all the caring messages and the wonderful support that we have received.

It was Rosemary's wish for Greg to have a small, intimate funeral in his home town of Bangor and this took place on 4th January; it was simple and very beautiful, and suited to the private side of the man that Greg was. However, Greg was also a performer who was known and loved by many. He was full of life, humour and colour, and was an incredibly talented musician.

He grew up in North Wales and was a chorister at Bangor Cathedral through most of his childhood and

teenage years. He had a talent for the piano from a very young age and then became a gifted organ scholar. After school, he studied music in Cambridge, where he developed his organ and conducting skills, and Cambridge became his second home.

Over the years, Greg has been involved in a number of musical pursuits, including a choral group in Chesterton in the late 90s, and the Shelford Singers, but notably, he was the Musical Director and

Conductor for the Balsham Singers from 2002 to 2012. Many local folks will recall his enthusiasm and vibrant conducting at the Balsham Singers' concerts, and one could not fail to notice his unique and eccentric dress 'sense', and his messy hair.



To celebrate his life and to allow everyone to say goodbye, you are all invited to a Memorial Service for Greg in Balsham Church, on Saturday 6th February at 11 am.

There will be refreshments in the Church Institute (Hall) afterwards, and we would love it if everyone could wear bright colours, as Greg used to.

Nina Holden

Balsham Gardening Club

The next meeting of the Balsham Gardening Club will be at 7.30 pm on Tuesday 2nd February, at the Meadow School, when Sue Robinson will present a talk on 'The Gardens of Jekyll and Lutyens'.

Come along and join us if you can. Annual fees remain at £9 per year, but you could come along as a visitor for £3 per meeting.

Jennie Tipler



Found in Weston Colville

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Balsham Horticultural Society



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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

February 2016

- Tue 2 Balsham Gardening Club
- Wed 3 Weston Colville Cinema Club, Reading Room
- Fri 5 Farmers' Market, Linton Village College
Tea and Cakes, Weston Colville
First Friday bridge, West Wrating
- Sat 6 Memorial service for Greg Mackenzie, Balsham
Saturday morning café, West Wrating
- Sun 7 Weston Colville Oil Cooperative order deadline
- Tue 9 Shrove Tuesday/Pancake Day
- Mon 15 West Wickham & District Gardening Club
- Tue 16 West Wrating Book Club
- Thur 18 West Wrating Lunch Club
- Wed 24 Wine tasting, Reading Room, Weston Colville
Knitting Bee, Weston Colville
- Thur 25 Lunch Club, The Chestnut Tree

March 2016

- Wed 2 Weston Colville Cinema Club, Reading Room
- Sat 5 Granta Deanery Spring Fair, Gt Shelford
- Sun 6 Litter Pickers' gathering, The Chestnut Tree
- Mon 7 Weston Colville Parish Council meeting
- Tue 8 West Wrating Oil Cooperative order deadline
- Mon 14 West Wrating Parish Council meeting
- Tue 15 West Wrating Book Club
- Thur 17 Lunch Club, The Chestnut Tree
- Thur 31 Deadline for applications, P & R Lloyd Trust
- Sun 27 Easter Day

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

Revd Dr Julie Norris, Priest-in-Charge
tel: 891350; Balsham Church: 890895
(day off: Tues) email: revjulienorris@gmail.com
Revd Canon John Fellows, Assistant Parish Priest
tel: 291265 email: j.fellows321@btinternet.com
Revd Kathy Bishop, Associate Priest
tel: 892288 email: revkathy@hotmail.co.uk
Very Revd Keith Johnson, Honorary Associate Priest
tel: 890835 email: jkeith1412@gmail.com
Mr Steven Wheeler, Licensed Lay Minister
tel: 290643 email: steven@juicyfruitsuk.com
Mrs Rosemary Mead, Authorised Lay Minister
tel: 891718 email: leonardavmead@hotmail.com
Mr Keith Day, Authorised Lay Minister
tel: 891527 email: keithdday@btinternet.com

St Andrew's:	Flowers	Cleaning
7 th Feb	Jenny	Fanny
14 th Feb	LENT	Pauline
21 st Feb	LENT	Maggie
28 th Feb	LENT	Jenny

St Mary's:	Flowers	Cleaning
February	Jane W	Ruth
March	Jane R	Gay

Black bins:	Tuesday 9 th & 23 rd February, Tuesday 8 th & 22 nd March
Blue bins & paper caddy:	Tuesday 2 nd & 16 th February, Tuesday 1 st & 15 th March
Green bins:	Tuesday 2 nd February, Tuesday 1 st & 15 th March

Mobile library: fourth Wednesdays (24 th Feb, 23 rd Mar)	
High Street, West Wrating	12.10 - 12.55
Post Office, Weston Green	2.05 - 2.25
Mill Hill, Weston Colville	2.30 - 3.05

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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Saturday 20th February.**