

Challenge

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

The views expressed herein are those of the contributors.

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From the Vicarage

When an archaeological survey was carried out recently in Hildersham churchyard, a Saxon family grave was unearthed just outside the north door of the church. This included a chiselled-out chalk cradle for a child. A replica of this can now be seen in the prayer corner of that church. It is moving to see the care taken by our ancestors 1,100 years ago. This little replica reminds us today of the sadness of death, and it also speaks to us of the love and tenderness of our ancestors when a child died. A painting by Albrecht Durer will be shown on Good Friday during the Stations of the Cross, at Balsham, in which we see the friends of Jesus tenderly massaging his hands with oils after his death. The horror of death is redeemed by love. The Easter story extends this further. New life can come unexpectedly from the most tragic circumstances. Love can triumph even over death.

Rev Julie Norris

Mrs Teresa Letimier was commissioned by Bishop David as Parish Nurse last month. She has already been visiting various groups in the villages, as well as being linked to the GP surgeries at Linton and Sawston. She is now available to be contacted, on 07949 8994205 or 7churches.parishnurse@gmail.com.



Please note that this is not an emergency number, and Teresa works part-time.

The Lent talks are using the film 'The Theory of Everything' about the lives of Jane and Stephen Hawking. We will meet for discussion at 7.30 pm in the Black Bull, Balsham, on Wednesday 2nd March, at Hildersham Church on Wednesday 9th March, and in the Black Bull again on Wednesday 16th March.

In Holy Week there are compline services taking place at 7.30 pm on Monday 21st March at West Wickham Church, on Tuesday 22nd March at Weston Colville Church, and on Wednesday 23rd March at West Wrating Church.

There is a Maundy Thursday service on 24th March at Great Abington Church at 7.30 pm. There will be a Good Friday service on 25th March at 2 pm in St Andrew's Church, West Wrating, and a meditative service of reflection on the Stations of the Cross with the Seven Churches Choir at Balsham at 11 am. On Easter Day there will be family communion services at 9.15 am at St Mary's, Weston Colville, and at 10.45 am at St Andrew's, West Wrating.

Annual Parochial Church Meetings

The Annual Parochial Church Meeting (APCM) for St Andrew's, West Wrating, will take place on Monday 11th April at 7.30 pm in St Andrew's Church.

The Annual Parochial Church Meeting (APCM) for St Mary's, Weston Colville, will take place on Sunday 24th April at 6 pm in St Mary's Church.

Churchyard Clear-up, St Andrew's

The spring West Wrating churchyard clear-up will be on Saturday 26th March between 10 am and 12 noon. Everybody welcome. Coffee and hot cross buns will be provided.

Colin McCall

Letter from The Ven Alex Hughes, Archdeacon of Cambridge

Canon John Fellows will soon retire from his house-for-duty post within the seven churches of Great and Little Abington, Balsham, Hildersham, West Wickham, West Wrating and Weston Colville. In due course we will want an opportunity to celebrate his ministry, thank him for his service, and wish him every blessing for the future. We also need to think about the future.

Before John's appointment there was some discussion about where the house-for-duty priest should live. The options were to use the existing vicarages either at Balsham or West Wrating. It was agreed to opt for the West Wrating house and to let the Balsham property with a view to bringing it back into service at the next appointment. After further reflection, it has been decided to move the priest-in-charge, Julie Norris, to Balsham, and to seek a house-for-duty priest who will live in Little Abington. A number of factors point to this solution, most significantly the fact that Balsham and the Abingtons are by far the largest of the six parishes, with Balsham being the most central.

The decision to move the house-for-duty priest will be disappointing for the people of West Wrating in particular. There is a long history of expectation that parishes will be served by a local priest, and John has been a prominent figure in the community. In today's rural church, however, a more typical pattern is for priests to cover several villages, which of course means that many parishes do not have a resident parson. This change is partly for financial reasons, but mainly because there are far fewer clergy available these days. Five of the seven churches in the group have already become used to the new working model, but it will be something of a learning experience for some. My job as archdeacon is to support the priest-in-charge, the ministry team and the churchwardens as they seek to provide ministry across all the parishes. My aim is to promote sustainable church life and growth everywhere; there is certainly no hidden agenda to close any churches.

As a next step in the process I have asked Julie Norris to work with the ministry team and churchwardens to devise a ministry plan for the six parishes, from which to draw up a job description of the new house-for-duty appointment. Members of each congregation and

parish are encouraged to share their hopes and dreams – and their concerns – with churchwardens and PCC members, who will be part of a consultation process. The appointment is strictly the bishop's prerogative, with the priest-in-charge, but our usual practice and clear intention is to draw in a wider group of people, representing all the churches. It is impossible to say how long it will take to appoint a new house-for-duty priest. The average length of a vacancy in the Diocese of Ely is around nine months, but we will move as quickly as we can.

I have already received some correspondence about the future of the house-for-duty post. While I am happy for people to write to me I would rather encourage you to share your thoughts locally, though those who are eligible in the parishes of Weston Colville or West Wrating may wish to come to their Annual Parochial Church Meeting, which I plan to attend in order to listen and answer questions.

Times of transition always produce mixed feelings and challenges, as well as opportunities. Please be assured of my prayers and support. May God bless you, and may his Kingdom come on earth as it is in heaven.



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West Wratting Progressive Supper

It was lovely to have so many people join in for the supper on 23rd January. It seems a very popular way to meet / catch up with village friends. Many have been taking part since the first supper back in 1991 (25 years!).

Many of this year's group will have no recollection of those days; it is great to have such a huge range of ages taking part. The small charge for taking part enabled us to finish with a drink at The Chestnut Tree. This was a lovely end to the evening – thank you all. The remaining funds will benefit the village hall and the forthcoming village party to celebrate the Queen's 90th birthday in June.

Please consider joining us next time, probably next January.

Sherry

Weston Colville Walks

Many thanks to everyone who turned out on New Year's Day, a good number, as you can see. The rain stayed away and we all enjoyed a blast of fresh air on a five-mile walk to West Wratting and back. As Roger Whitehead (far right) said, we ranged in age "between 6 and 82, and everyone completed the course!"



Our next circular walk will be on Saturday, 5th March: Meet at the Reading Room at 10 o'clock, BYO lunch, and maybe something to share. You can put your lunch in the fridge before we set off, if you'd like, and refreshments will be available.

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

Tea and Cakes, Weston Colville

Thank you to everyone who attended and helped with our last gathering.

We will meet again on Friday 4th March, 3.30 - 5 pm, in the Reading Room. Come along for a cuppa, cake and a chat.

If you know anyone who would like to come along but needs help to get there, please contact Rosemary Davenport (290755, rosemarydavenport@yahoo.co.uk).

Melanie (291319)

Saturday Morning Café, West Wratting

The Saturday morning café will run as usual on Saturday 5th March between 10.30 am and noon in the village hall. The café works by different volunteers offering to serve and donate cakes every month (including at least one dairy and gluten-free offering). There is always a play corner set up for kids. Please come and join us for a catch up over tea / coffee and delicious cake!

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! We will be using proceeds from the café to contribute towards the upcoming street party for the Queen's birthday celebration on 11th June.

Our March café will be themed for Mothers' Day and Easter with an arts & crafts table for the children. Kate Cleary will have a stall there to sell woodwork items produced by Sixth Form Enterprise students at the Granta School, who are raising funds for an activities week in the summer. The 'Bargain Book Stall' will also be there again. We look forward to seeing you there.

Sherry (290070) and Catherine (291307)

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West Wrating Over 60s

The club will resume its monthly meetings in the village hall on Wednesday 2nd March at 2.30 pm. There will be a brief financial report, subscriptions will be collected, and the usual bring'n'buy and raffle. We look forward to meeting our recently appointed parish nurse ,Teresa Letimier, during the afternoon.

The following meeting will be held on 6th April.

Wendy Halls

Litter – Weston Colville & West Wrating

A reminder to all litter pickers, official and ad hoc, to meet, if they are able, in The Chestnut Tree on Sunday 6th March, 12 noon - 2 pm (see last month's Challenge). The first drink is on me.

Colin McCall (290036)

Bright Lights and Water Features

We are delighted with the results of the major refurbishment of the toilets at West Wrating Village Hall, completed just before Christmas 2015.

We gratefully acknowledge the grant of £40,000 we have received from the Amey Community Fund (part of the Landfill Communities Fund), which has contributed substantially towards the cost of this project.



We are particularly grateful to Dr Phil & Mrs Sherry O'Donovan for their very generous donation, covering the required 11% Contributing Third Party component of this grant.

Our architect, Ian Catchpole, provided the excellent design, ensuring best possible use of available space and much improved disabled facilities.

Our contractors, Godfrey & Hicks, successfully completed the work to a high standard, despite severe time constraints, and with minimum disruption of our normal activities.

*Mike Rowland, Chairman
Village Hall Management Committee*

Functions, West Wrating Pavilion

There will be private functions in the pavilion on Saturday 5th March from 7 pm until 11.45 pm, and on 19th March from 6 pm until 11 pm.

'Ray Parlour, an evening with an Arsenal Legend' on Saturday 16th April, 7 pm until 11.45 pm. Dress code: smart casual. Chicken/sausage & chips. Tickets £30, available from within the club on a Saturday afternoon. All are welcome.

Blanche Miller, Pavilion Secretary

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British Thyroid Foundation Cambridge Support Group Meeting

If you would like to find out more about your thyroid and your local support group, please come along to Weston Colville Reading Room on Saturday 19th March, 10 am - 1 pm.

Meet for coffee at 10 am, then listen to our two speakers: Professor Chatterjee from the Endocrine Department at Addenbrooke's Hospital, Cambridge, talking about thyroid disorders generally and current research at Addenbrooke's, and Lucy Malby, patient and researcher, talking about 'me and my thyroid'.

To book a place call me on 290263 or email butterflyecho@hotmail.com Suggested minimum donation: £4. See www.btf-thyroid.org for more information.

Mary Newton

West Wrating Oil Syndicate

There will be a fillup this month, with the cutoff for orders being **Tuesday 8th March** at 6 pm.

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Details of the supplier, price and delivery dates will be placed on the West Wrating website about three days after the order cutoff day.

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

Richard Holness

Parish Councillor Vacancy, Weston Colville

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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West Wrating Book Club

Nine of us met on 16th February at The Chestnut Tree and reviewed 'The Rosie Project' by Graeme Simsion.

It is billed as being based on Aspergers Syndrome, but it is more about an hilarious test to find a wife. Meet Don, a thirty-something eccentric Aussie academic, excellent chef and DNA analyst, and his wish to get a bigger circle of friends, and ultimately a wife. His process of drawing up a list of attributes, and then implementing it is fun enough, but then enter Rosie. Rosie does not fit most of the criteria, and proceeds to cause Don to throw all his strict routines out of his city balcony window. Her wish to find her father becomes a new Don project, and causes so many faux pas and classic lines it is a real laugh out loud, feel good, read.

It is such a clever book on many levels: engaging us, sensitive at times, but also making us see the world in a different way. In reality, people like Don don't see why others don't relate to them, and there is the accompanying ultimate sadness that results in not being able to 'connect' and have normal relationships. You end up liking the characters who weren't even that likeable, including Don's best (and only) friend

Gene, who is aiming to sleep with a different woman from a different country each time, and Gene's long suffering wife Claudia, who coaches Don in life skills.

The book turns on its head the idea that we all must conform, and in our group it made some of us think of people in our own families behaving in ways that perhaps aren't so odd. One person even thought it reminded them of their spouse, and it made another person go in to the kitchen and re organise their cupboard contents: ie mess things up more!

The episodes in the cocktail bar, on the dance floor, and at the airport in New York, as well as the various techniques employed to collect DNA, are just such fun. And we can all be inspired to become experts in American football after 90 minutes of intense online research! The review group gave this book 79 out of 90, I think an all time high score!

At our next meeting, 15th March at 8 pm at the pub, we will cover 'All the Light We Cannot See' by Anthony Doerr, on 19th April we will review 'The Five People You Meet in Heaven' by Mitch Albom, and then on 17th May 'The Slap' by Christos Tsiolkas, which will be controversial.

Happy reading in these windy wet evenings, and just turn up to share some thoughts!

Jeanette Job

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 to cover costs.



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



**Home: 01487 843377
Mobile: 07873 549872
email: richardkenyon_1@hotmail.com**

‘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, which 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. Make certain you wear open toed sandals and sport appropriate beards for the screening.

With Laurence Staig’s imminent departure, we’re delighted to be continuing with the monthly club he’s established, and to do it on the same basis, the two of us taking it in turns month by month to introduce the film. To help get the club going, the Reading Room trust initially made no hire charge and it is now expected to pay its way. Entry will still be by donation, suggested amount £3 (slightly higher to cover Reading Room hire, use of the projector, and the cost of purchasing the film).

Our April film, on Wednesday, 6th April, 7.30 pm, will be ‘**The Third Man**’, film noir made in Britain, set in Vienna, and starring Orson Welles.



To pass on the baton, Laurence has kindly passed on a list of suggested titles to keep see us through the year and the choice of ‘The Third Man’ continues his chief criterion when choosing films for our Cinema Club – it’s one of the greatest films of all time. It’s celebrated for its acting, musical score and atmospheric cinematography and if that’s not enough, it’s all based on the screenplay written by Graham Greene, one of our greatest novelists.

Refreshments will be served, and all are welcome.

*Jeremy Newton (newtonjed@gmail.com) and
Jacqueline Douglas (291475,
jacquelinetheteacher@hotmail.com).*

d’Abo Tennis Club Annual General Meeting

The Annual General Meeting of the Club will take place at 7.30 pm on Tuesday 1st March at the home of Colin and Sisse McCall, The Old Vicarage, West Wrattling (01223 290036). All existing members welcome.

Kirsty Frost

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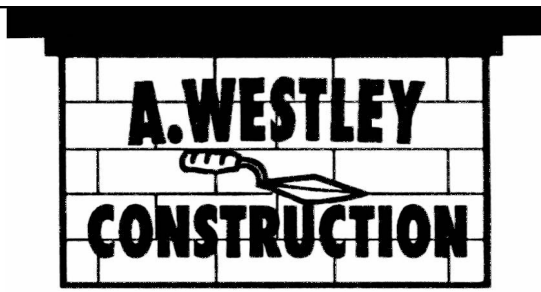
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The Queen's 90th Birthday Celebrations

This year will be celebrating the Queen's 90th birthday.

The first event starts in the early evening of Thursday 21st April, which is the Queen's actual birthday, when beacons will be lit throughout the United Kingdom. Everyone from West Wrating and Weston Colville is invited to the lighting of our own traditional bonfire beacon, which will be in a field at the edge of West Wrating on the road to Balsham. From this vantage point at the top of Honey Hill we'll have a great view of the beacons in our neighbouring villages. If you'd like to help build the bonfire (on the previous weekend) then please contact Simon Chandler on 291969.

Once the beacon has been lit, celebrations will continue at The Chestnut Tree pub, which will be hosting a British Cheese night. To start things off they will be providing six different cheeses, together with accompaniments. If you would like to take part, all you need do is take along a piece of cheese – British of course – and then enjoy tasting all of the other cheeses provided. There will be seven real ales



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on for the weekend, together with two real ciders, so a great weekend to visit our pub for ale lovers.

There will also be an all British quiz, with question sheets available throughout the evening. Just hand your completed sheet back in at the bar. If you manage to answer all of the questions correctly you'll win a drink on the house.

The following evening, Friday 22nd April, the pub will be serving homemade pies from 7 to 9 pm. If you would like pie and mash please give them a call to reserve a table. From 9 pm onwards a live band, 'The Dinosaurs', will be playing some great sing along classics, including plenty with a British flavour, to keep us all entertained.

On Saturday 23rd April we will be celebrating St George's Day when our very own Mummers, 'The Unrehearsed Taverners', will be performing 'The Slaying of King George' at The Chestnut Tree. The first performance will be at 1 pm, then again at 4.30 pm. If you have seen them before then you will, I am sure, want to see them again. For those of you who haven't, you won't want to miss this traditional and very entertaining way of celebrating our National Day!



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The Queen's official birthday on Saturday 11th June will be marked by a street party in The Causeway and the churchyard, from 1 pm until 6 pm. Villagers and friends from West Wrating and Weston Colville are all welcome. Hot food will be available for sale (or bring your own picnic). The Chestnut Tree will provide a bar in The Causeway, and there will be serve-yourself tea, coffee and cake. Cake contributions very welcome! Entertainment will be provided by our live band 'Makossa' and there will be traditional games. There'll be a competition for the best crown, and teddy bears will again be flying off the church tower. Wear fancy dress if you wish. There will be take-home souvenirs for the children to remember the event, a professional photographer, and lots more. Further details to follow.

Simon Chandler (291969)

Scilla Harvey (290199), Sherry O'Donovan (290070)

***Linton & Sawston GP Practices –
Update on the Merger***

The two partnerships will merge on 1st April to form Granta Medical Practices. Our computer systems will then merge on 20th/21st April. This is a huge piece of work, for which we have been preparing for quite some time.

Both Sawston and Linton sites will be closed from 1 pm on 20th April until mid-day on 21st April. All calls will be diverted to the out-of-hours service which will provide emergency medical cover during this period.

Both practices will close their computer systems down by mid-afternoon on 20th April, with all electronic lab results and hospital letters having to be

checked and filed – quite a task for the GPs. The merge will then run overnight. Any forward bookings for appointments at the Linton site will not transfer and Linton will aim to minimise forward bookings as much as possible in the run up to the merge. On the morning of 21st April we will need some time to check that everything is working as it should, and our reception staff will manually input all the pre-booked appointments for Linton. By mid-day we hope to have this work completed and we will be ready to resume normal service.

As always, we appreciate the support of all our staff and also the support and understanding of our patients as we prepare for the future. The next update will come from Granta Medical Practices – the culmination of several years of hard work and collaboration between the GPs and practice staff.

**Sheila Griffiths, Practice Manager and Partner,
Linton Health Centre**

**Gerard Newnham, Business Practice Manager,
Sawston Medical Practice**

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Weston Colville Neighbourhood Watch (NHW)

Are you a parent, a person who works with young people or just someone who would like to know more about child sexual exploitation? 'Chelsea's Choice' is a theatre production being rolled out to schools and community venues in the South Cambs area, dealing with child sexual exploitation and how to spot the signs, and to make you aware of what help and support is out there. If you wish to attend a free evening at Sawston on 3rd March, please contact Leanne on leanne.fisher@cambs.pnn.police.uk.

There have been no reported problems in our villages this past month, but there are police warnings to help us avoid future problems. Most burglaries are committed by opportunist criminals who happen to see insecure premises where they can help themselves to the property inside. Amazingly, 74% of all burglaries in England and Wales are committed through either the front or back door. In most cases the burglary could have been prevented by following a few simple precautions:

Close it – Lock it – Check it.

There have been thefts in nearby villages including Wilbraham. Cash, cards, documents, an iPhone, a handbag, and power tools have been stolen from buildings and cars.

The reason the police share this information is to give us an idea of where and what is happening, so when you park your car take valuables with you or, at least, keep them out of sight!

Fraudsters are sending out virus infected emails apparently from Royal Mail that claim a package has been seized by HM Revenue & Customs. The email contains a link which will install malicious software on your computer to steal credentials like account names, email addresses and passwords.

Police forces have become aware of a fraud which targets elderly and vulnerable members of the community. Some older people have received telephone calls from a caller who claims to be from their GP surgery. The caller asks for an appointment to discuss the person's mobility needs. During the appointment, the older person is persuaded to buy mobility aids which are either unnecessary or inappropriate and always expensive. Please protect yourself. If you receive a call like this, check with your GP surgery before doing anything else.

Advice from the police:

- Never respond to unsolicited phone calls – if in doubt, hang up.
- Always check that the details of the organisation or company contacting you are correct and don't be fooled by a professional looking website.
- Be wary of any firms or individuals asking for advanced fees.
- Consider seeking independent legal and/or financial advice before making a decision.

If you believe that you have been a victim of fraud you can report it by telephone (0300 123 2040) or online (www.actionfraud.police.uk/report_fraud).

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

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Cambridgeshire Fire & Rescue Service

Did you know that being a smoker or living with someone who smokes puts you at higher risk of having a fire in your home?



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Working together to improve community safety

Throughout March we're raising awareness of the fire risks associated with smoking.

We often find smoking is one of many factors making someone more at risk of fire. For example, when combined with poor mobility, health problems or being elderly, it increases someone's chance of having a fire.

Here are some tips to take on board or give to friends and family who smoke:

- Never leave a lit cigarette or pipe unattended.
- Always use a proper ashtray and make sure the contents are cold before you tip it in the bin
- Never smoke in bed, and avoid smoking in a chair if you are likely to fall asleep

Most importantly, fit a working smoke alarm and test it regularly. Don't forget to also test the smoke alarms of those you love. If you have an elderly or



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vulnerable relative, friend or neighbour, pop by and make sure they have a working smoke alarm.

If you think someone is vulnerable and could be at a higher risk if a fire broke out in their home, then please call us on 0800 917 9994 and we can provide advice and support.

Leanne Ehren

(01480 444500, www.cambsfire.gov.uk)

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.

Parish Council Meetings

The next meeting of Weston Colville Parish Council will be on Monday 7th March, and for West Wrating Parish Council it will be Monday 14th March.

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The Meadow School

Whatever the weather outside, the inside of school is thankfully always bright and cheerful, with the walls full of interesting and exciting displays linked to learning. Just like the snowdrop and daffodil bulbs around school that have begun to 'spring' up, lots of new work has been shooting up around school too.



The calibre of writing, the detail in the artwork and the ingenuity of the link to the topic have definitely made a talking point when visitors come round.

Another recent talking point has been the wood burning stoves we borrowed from the Local Authority. What started off as a stimulus for a piece of

instruction writing for Y3/4/5, grew into a whole school phenomenon, with many of the classes keen to take a turn. On what was one of the coldest days of the year, Heron Class braved the elements, collected their sticks and tried to light their fires so they could make hot chocolate. After much perseverance (and a lot of matches) the fires were lit, the kettles were boiled and hot chocolate was finally served. After Heron Class shared their wisdom with their peers, the other six classes that had a go were naturals!



Always keen to try out new things, our school kiln has never been used so much. With all the amazing clay creations we have seen in recent weeks, we have now begun a new project during enrichment, with three classes: glass fusing. Don't worry, I had to Google it too! The process involves the children designing a glass tile by overlaying coloured glass, beads etc, and then the whole thing being fired in the kiln, which causes a chemical reaction and voila, at the end of the process, you have a glass tile with the design fused (melted) into it. They really are fantastic!

All of the experiences we offer our children at The Meadow are carefully planned and not just on a whim. The staff are committed to developing life long learners and we want to ignite and keep the passion for learning going well after they have left our school. The displays, the writing, the clay and glass work undertaken in the kiln, the topics and the activities such as learning to light fires, which encompass risk assessment, safety, co-operation, perseverance, science and maths (to count all the matches we used) are all done to inspire, promote interest and curiosity and a thirst for learning and broadening knowledge. Sadly this year I feel that this is not any more what we are being asked to do by the Government. I am



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deeply concerned that the time given over to things such as the wood stoves, learning about the topic of peace in RE through being outside in our beautiful grounds, or offering regular sessions where every child in the school chooses to listen to a story being read for 30 minutes by an adult in school, purely for pleasure, will in time have to stop. There may no longer be time in an already jam packed curriculum for things such as this. Instead we need to work harder on modal verbs, subjunctive verb forms and the use of commas after fronted adverbials – all of which are tested in the Year 6 writing task and spelling, punctuation and grammar test, along with 47 other grammatical terms.

The highly anticipated new end of year standards for Years 2 and 6 have finally been published by the Department for Education. These show that for children in Year 2 and Year 6 to now be working at the new expected standard, they will have to be working at almost an entire level higher than the children who took the tests last year. These new standards have shocked teachers across the country and disheartened everyone, particularly as they are based upon a new curriculum that these children have only been taught for one year. The standards are so much higher than we expected and were promised.

There is already a concern that all schools are going to perform significantly worse than in previous years, as these new tests are pitched incorrectly.

The staff at The Meadow are working incredibly hard, as are the children, and we will not be putting additional pressures on them to try and achieve these. What we will do is what we do all of the time: teach our children well, set high standards and expectations, encourage, support, give high quality feedback and ensure they achieve to the best of their ability, whilst also having a well rounded curriculum, ready to leave The Meadow having had a balanced education and developed a passion for life long learning.

As you will be aware from all of my articles since taking over at The Meadow, I am all for improving and not resting on laurels. We set high standards and expect the best from our children, with our results in the past two years reflecting that. But I find myself asking, with these new tests and standards being a whole level higher than the acceptable level from last year, are we improving children's education or damaging it?

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

Nichola Connor, Headteacher

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Marsh Mail (news from Linton Village College)

One of the messages that I shared with parents at my first Parent Forum in January was: It takes a village to raise a child.



Originating from a traditional African proverb, and since used in many different guises and contexts, I firmly believe in the substance of its message: the whole community around a child influences the child's values, upbringing and maturation.

As a school, we have a significant influence on the lives of children. The ability to make a difference is what motivates teachers and other staff to work at LVC. And yet, in reality, we play a fairly minor role in comparison with the sway and direction that parents, wider family and friends will have on a student's life choices, attitudes and decisions.

I take the community aspect of the school's ethos very seriously, particularly as the Principal of a Village College. I believe that the joint efforts of home, school and the wider community can play a far more significant role together than any of these one elements can individually.

The Friends of Linton Village College is one example of how support and parental involvement can be harnessed to benefit young people and the local

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community. The Friends of LVC consist of a group of volunteers, mainly parents of current and former students, who organise events to raise additional funds for the school. They not only enrich and enhance students' experience at school but also provide facilities for use by the local community.

The sponsored walk, quiz night and Year 11 ball are among the annual events that they arrange. The Friends raise significant amounts of money to improve the facilities at school and, perhaps more importantly, they create opportunities that bring students and/or villagers together for a shared purpose and celebration.

The Friends of LVC are recruiting for new committee members to support and continue the great work that they do. If you would like to find out more about what's involved and how you could contribute, please come along to a Friends' Open Evening at 7 pm on Thursday 21st April at the Village College, or contact Steve Kiddy, the Chair of the Friends Committee, on friends@lvc.org.

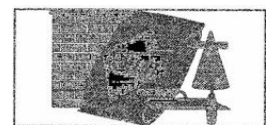
We also have vacancies on our Governing Body. If you are keen to make an active contribution to the life of the school please contact the Clerk to the Governors (tracy.coston@lvc.org).

Helena Marsh

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MEADOW SCHOOL PTA Quiz NIGHT

FRIDAY 11.03.16
DOORS: 7:00 PM
START: 7:30 PM

BAR
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TICKETS £10

FISH & CHIP SUPPER*
FIRST DRINK INCLUDED

Tickets available from Meadow School office: **01223 894 400** > Bookings for teams of 8 people also available. Places are limited.
Sarah Green: 07932 667 895 | Caroline Lock: 07961 914 144
Karen Hall: 07974 706612 | Perla Arteaga: 07712 669 337
Meadow School PTA Registered Charity: 114829
www.meadowschoolptabalsham.co.uk *Vegetarian option: Veggie burger

Buttercups Community Pre-School **TABLE TOP SALE**

Sunday 20th March

10.00 am - 2.00 pm

The Church Institute, Balsham
(access via the lane behind the bandstand)

Grab some bargains or sell your children's used toys, equipment and clothing

£15 per table for sellers

Entry on the day £1 for shoppers

If you are interested in becoming a seller, or for further information, please contact

Kate on 07811 268 983

or kate.langford@hotmail.co.uk

All proceeds to Buttercups Community Pre-School

Cambridge Gliding Centre Open Day

Sunday 10th April, 10 am - 4 pm

Come and visit Gransden Lodge Airfield to find out about the sport of gliding. All welcome. Trial flights with our qualified instructors available on a first-come, first-fly basis. Refreshments, free admission, free lessons in a realistic gliding simulator, free talks about gliding and the airfield's wartime history.

The airfield entrance is on the B1046 between Little Gransden & Longstowe, opposite Gransden Lodge Farm (enter SG19 3EB into your SatNav). More information online, at www.camgliding.uk/ or via Facebook.

Andrew Watson, Cambridge Gliding Centre

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West Wickham & District Gardening Club

Our talk on Monday 15th February was ‘Feeding, Weeding and other Gardening Secrets’ by David Coop, the Technical Director of Westlands Horticultural Ltd. David showed us slides, there were questions and answers from the floor, and a written quiz, which in a very informal way gave us all the information we need to keep our plants healthy and growing strongly. It was obvious from the laughter and comments from the audience that this was a very enjoyable evening, rounded off by gifts of sweet pea seeds and plant food. David's hope is that he will encourage gardeners of all levels of competence to give their plants the proper care and attention they need to thrive so that we can all be proud of our gardens. On such a cold evening it was most encouraging to see so many of our members there, and thanks go to Linda for baking us cakes to have with our tea and coffee afterwards.

Next month, on 21st March, we have John Hewson from Great Barton Plants coming to talk to us on ‘Sweet Peas and Dwarf Pinks’. Then spring will be in the offing and the sap will be rising, and hey-ho, off we go on another year, battling the elements, pests and diseases, still optimistically assuming that this is the year we will successfully grow wonderful vegetables and flowers.

Rosemary Yallop (01799 584262)

Balsham Gardening Club

The talk and presentation by Sue Robinson, on ‘The gardens of Jekyll and Lutyens’, was prefaced by an introduction, with samples, of some scented flowering shrubs that are at their best in the winter months.

Gertrude Jekyll (1843 - 1932) was an influential British horticulturist, garden designer, artist and writer who created over 400 gardens in the United Kingdom, Europe and the United States. She studied art and photography and had embroidery designs published. Her signature style included hard landscaping with soft planting, raised beds, box balls and yew hedges. She collaborated with Edwin Lutyens, whom she met in 1889, providing garden schemes for a number of the houses that he designed, including her own home at Munsted Wood, Hestercombe, and Castle Drogo. She wrote 13 books and created around 2,000 garden



designs, many for gardens that she never visited. Her original designs are now in the collection of the University of California, Berkeley.

Edwin Lutyens (1869 – 1944) didn’t attend public school due to ill health in his childhood. He studied architecture and was responsible for a wide range of private and public commissions. His style was influenced by Jekyll and the arts and crafts movement and his career took off after Munsted Wood, with Jekyll finding him many commissions for county houses. In addition to designing houses he also designed extensions to existing houses, including Great Dixter. The pair also collaborated on the alterations to Lindisfarne Castle for Edward Hudson, founder of Country Life Magazine, where the National Trust maintain the gardens as Jekyll designed them.

Forthcoming events:

March 1st at 19.45 at The Meadow School – a practical talk on greenhouse and indoor gardening

April 5th – Talk on begonias

May 3rd – Visit to Fullers Mill Garden

Saturday May 21st – Plant sale.

Jennie Tipler

Granta Deanery

Spring Fair

Saturday 5th March
10 - 12 noon

Great Shelford Memorial Hall

Cakes	Produce	White Elephant	Toys	Raffle
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Entrance: Adults 30p, Children free

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The Ellesmere Centre, Stetchworth



Open Mic is on Saturday 12th March, with a
full varied line up performing as usual,
finishing with 'The Where's Spot Band'.

This month is fully booked but if you would
like to perform in May please call Rob on
01638 507997. All welcome; fully licensed bar and
refreshments available.



Easter Activities – a full list of Easter and
summer activities will be on our website.
Alternatively email the office for a copy.

RAISING THE ROOF

Jesus Lane Friends Meeting Appeal,
for improvements to the Meeting House

Saturday Supper Concert

at the Friends Meeting House,
12 Jesus Lane, Cambridge CB5 8BA

Saturday 5th March, 6.00 – 7.00 pm

Music for Recorder – solo and consort

Free entry, with retiring collection, followed by
a hot supper (7.00 – 8.30 pm) for which we ask
a donation in the region of £10 - £25

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Mini Gym – the Centre now has some gym
equipment on the squash court gallery: a cross trainer,
a treadmill, a cycle, and a step machine. It costs



£5 per hour to hire this space, which is
perfect for those who like to exercise
alone or with a friend. Please feel free to
come and have a look.

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For further details and/or an application form, please
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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

March 2016

- Tue 1 Tennis Club AGM
Balsham Gardening Club meeting
- Wed 2 Weston Colville Cinema Club, 'A Mighty Wind'
West Wrating Over 60s
- Fri 4 Tea and cakes, Weston Colville
First Friday bridge, West Wrating
- Sat 5 Weston Colville circular walk
Saturday morning cafe, West Wrating
Farmers' Market, Linton Village College
- Sun 6 Litter pickers' gathering, The Chestnut Tree
- Mon 7 Weston Colville Parish Council meeting
- Tue 8 West Wrating Oil Cooperative order deadline
- Fri 11 Meadow School PTA Quiz Night
- Mon 14 West Wrating Parish Council meeting
- Tue 15 West Wrating Book Club
- Thur 17 Lunch Club, The Chestnut Tree
- Sat 19 Thyroid support group meeting, Weston Colville
- Sun 20 Table Top Sale, Balsham
- Mon 21 West Wickham & District Gardening Club
- Tue 22 Compline, St Mary's, Weston Colville
- Wed 23 Compline, St Andrew's, West Wrating
- Fri 25 Good Friday service, St Andrew's, West Wrating
- Sat 26 West Wrating churchyard clearup
- Thur 31 Deadline for applications, P & R Lloyd Trust

April 2016

- Mon 11 Annual Church Meeting, West Wrating
- Thur 21 Beacon lighting, Cheese Night at Chestnut Tree
- Fri 22 Pies and live music, The Chestnut Tree
- Sat 23 St George's Day celebrations
- Sun 24 Annual Church Meeting, Weston Colville

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
6 th Mar	LENT (Mothering Sunday: posies)	Pauline
13 th Mar	LENT	Maggie
20 th Mar	LENT	Fanny
27 th Mar	EASTER (all available)	Jenny

St Mary's:	Flowers	Cleaning
March	Jane R	Gay
April	Gay	Charlotte

Black bins:	Tuesday 8 th & 22 nd March, Tuesday 5 th & 19 th April
Blue & green bins:	Tuesday 1 st & 15 th , Wed 30th March , Tuesday 12 th & 26 th April

Mobile library: fourth Wednesdays (23 rd Mar, 27 th Apr)		
High Street, West Wrating	12.10 - 12.55	
Post Office, Weston Green	2.05 - 2.25	
Mill Hill, Weston Colville	2.30 - 3.05	

Parish Council Clerks:
Weston Colville – Christine King,
wpcpc@typo.demon.co.uk, 01223 290963
West Wrating – Jenny Richards,
jrichards007@talktalk.net, 01223 665260
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.

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