

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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Music in St Mary's Church



My grandchildren from the USA have greatly enjoyed the freedom of being able to continue practising their musical instruments, thrice daily, (french horn and trumpet) within the church. They said the acoustics were terrific!

If others would benefit from this freedom to use

the privacy of our church to continue their musical development unhindered by other home demands (especially now the holiday period has started) they will be made welcome. Please do contact me.

Roger Whitehead (290524)

Saturday Morning Café, West Wrattling

The Saturday morning café will run as usual on Saturday 6th August between 10.30 am and 12 noon in the village hall. Different volunteers offer to donate and serve cakes (including at least one dairy and gluten-free offering), and there is always a play corner set up for kids, a bookstall with second hand books, and table tennis for those fancying a game.

We would like to say a huge thank you to everyone who has volunteered at our café to help serve teas and coffees, and set up and clear away, and also our amazing cake bakers. 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. Please come and join us to catch up over tea/coffee and delicious cake.

Sherry (290070) and Catherine (291307)

Tea and Cakes, Weston Colville

It was a beautiful sunny day for our July gathering, so it was lovely to see lots of children racing around outside and then coming in to refuel. We are conscious that there is less to occupy the children at Tea and Cakes in the darker, winter months, and so with the proceeds we have collected over the last two years we are planning to purchase a table tennis table. However, before we do that we need to erect a shed in which to keep it. We have been kindly donated a shed, which we will be erecting and modifying to accommodate the table tennis table over the summer.

So, hopefully, we should have the table tennis table by the time the evenings draw in. If you have any other suggestions for activities you think would be of interest to the children, please let us know.

Our next gathering will be on Friday 5th August, 3.30 - 5 pm at the Reading Room. All are welcome. Come along for a cup of tea, a piece of cake and a chat.

Many thanks to everyone who helps out at the sessions, makes cakes, and comes along.

Melanie

West Wrattling Over 60s

The club will next meet in the village hall on Wednesday 3rd August at 2.30 pm, with a bingo session, bring'n'buy and raffle.

We thank Janet and Mark Gethin for hosting last month's garden meeting in Linton, a most enjoyable afternoon, with delicious afternoon tea provided by Janet and Jo.

Next month we will meet in the village hall at 2.30 pm on Wednesday 7th September.

Wendy Halls

From the Vicarage

I have really enjoyed being the Priest in Charge in these parishes. It has given me an opportunity to work with wise and inspirational ordained and lay colleagues. The Very Rev Keith Johnson, Rev Kath Bishop, and Steven Wheeler will all continue to lead the worship and take weddings, funerals and baptisms when I have gone, along with others who have agreed to help such as Rev Dr Carrie Pemberton who has moved into Hildersham to live. Keith Day will continue to develop the music and worship across the parishes, and Rosemary Mead is going to be offering prayerful reflective services in Great and Little Abington along with her meetings on contemplative prayer, her work with families and children, and the pastoral visiting. It is good that we now have Teresa Letimier, our Parish Nurse, to offer pastoral care to those in the villages.

I think that there are grounds for optimism for the future in these parishes. There have been a lot of people involved in bringing about change over the past years who have made the churches vibrant and loving places for people to be part of, and this goes on. In each village the churches are places where people can drop in and enjoy tranquillity and a sense of history. There have been teams of people working to make the buildings more accessible to the communities and to try to think of ways to make them places where activities can take place that will enable people to address the spiritual and practical issues of today and tomorrow. During the vacancy, there will continue to be opportunities for people to spend time in prayer and study: there will be regular corporate prayer during the week, the Julian Group, and Rosemary's contemplative 'Space to Be' meetings.

It will be good for a new Priest in Charge to come into these villages to bring fresh energy to all of this and to

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help to develop a new vision to take these parishes into the next stage of their development.

On a personal level, I continue to miss many people who have died but were a part of the life of the churches and villages. They have left a legacy that continues to inspire and encourage us all to invest in church and community life. It has also been a delight to share in the other significant moments in people's lives such as at weddings and baptism. I feel very privileged to have spent this time with you. Thank you.

Caroline Walshe is going to be a significant help during the vacancy by running the parish administration from her own home. If you contact her (891350, or 7churches.seven@gmail.com) she will point you in the direction of somebody who can help.

Meanwhile, you are all invited to the Vicarage Garden Party, 2.30 - 4.30 pm on Saturday 13th August at the Vicarage in Little Abington. It will be good to spend time with you at this event and to say "thank you" to you for all the good times and shared services and events.

Please also come to the United Service at 10 am on Sunday 14th August at Balsham Church. This will be my farewell. The choir are going to sing a most beautiful Rutter piece, there will be an activity for children, the Parish Nurse will take part, and there will be Holy Communion. All the ministry team will have a part in this.

Rev Dr Julie Norris

The week of guided prayer that was to take place in October has been postponed until next year, but there will be a 'taster' day at Hildersham on 9th October. Details to follow at a later date.

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Revd Dr Carrie Pemberton Ford

Just at the time when we need extra help, Rev Dr Carrie Pemberton Ford has moved into the parish of Hildersham and is willing to help us out with church services.



Carrie is the Director of the Cambridge Centre for Applied Research in Human Trafficking. This is an internationally recognized research network diving deep on issues of human trafficking. Currently Carrie is working on the capacity of the Black African Churches in the UK to build resistance to trafficking of West African women, children and men, regionally and internationally. This report is due out in the autumn of this year.

Carrie was ordained priest in the Ely diocese in 1992, and went on to develop a role in policy work at central government, advising the Chief Constables of Cambridgeshire, Gloucestershire and South Yorkshire on the complex impacts of European migration in their regions. She was the first ordained clergywoman to be appointed as a Women's National Commissioner

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– reporting to the Minister for Women – where she undertook some scoping research on sport, gender and schools, and chaired the ‘increasing BAME (Black Asian and Minority Ethnic) representation in public appointments’ committee. Carrie has been working in the area of migration, gender studies, NGO advocacy and first responder in human trafficking work now for over fifteen years.

Carrie says, “I am delighted to assist the churches to retain a regular celebration of the liturgy whilst change is underway, and look forward to being a part of the ongoing worshipping and pastoral life of the parishes, as across the benefice they seek the next steps forward in serving the communities in which they are set.”

West Wrating Oil Syndicate

July fill up results: just nine houses in West Wrating participated in the order that was placed on 7th July, with deliveries being completed by 15th July.

Goff Petroleum won the West Wrating syndicate order, with a price of 31.60p per litre, which was a saving of 1.21p against my benchmark Boilerjuice ‘Bulk’ price of 32.81p. All prices + VAT.

For interest, 2015 prices were: July 34.90p, September 31.65p, October 30.30p, and 2016 prices so far: January 24.75p, March 28.10p, and May 27.00p.

It looks fairly inevitable that prices are going to increase quite sharply for the rest of this year, because the £ has fallen against the US \$ and we are approaching winter. As a consequence, Mrs H has sent quite a sizeable order to Damart . . .

There is no fill up this month. The next one will be in September, with a delivery cutoff time and date of 6 pm on Wednesday 7th September. Please don't place your orders before 1st September as they may get written on pieces of scrap paper and then lost in the usual chaos that reigns at Holness Towers. A reminder will be in the September Challenge, if I remember to put it in.

The village website (www.westwrating.org.uk) has an explanatory page about how the oil syndicate (sort of) works.

Richard Holness

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We need to raise funds to replace the floor covering of our village hall committee room, and are also supporting the work of MAGPAS Helimedix.

Please support us. Contact sherry.odonovan@gmail.com for more information / tickets.

West Wrattling Book Club

At our July meeting we reviewed Philip Eade's book, 'Young Prince Philip', the story of 'his turbulent early life'.

All those who had read it agreed that it was well written, a good biography using primary sources, and not overly sycophantic to royalty. The first half, which covered the history of the family into which he was born, was especially interesting. This set the scene for the turbulent events in Europe, particularly

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in Greece and Germany, and the tragedies which followed one after another throughout his childhood and youth, as well as the activities in that social milieu at the time. Philip never had one place that he could call home, staying with different family members and friends during and after his school years. It is small wonder that he once filled in a document as 'of no fixed abode'. It threw light on his later behaviour, in particular his facility for gaffes and short temper in the face of perceived stupidity or inefficiency. However, it also showed how good he was at creating roles for himself, his inventiveness and ingenuity, seen to particular effect during his heroic war service, and his hands-on attitude when setting up a home for himself and his new wife. It seems that it was in no small part the comparative normality of Princess Elizabeth's family that attracted him and led to him spending so much time with them and, by extension, the young princess. It also shows what a large part other people played in bringing them together, possibly with their own ends in mind.

Although appearing not to have been the best of fathers to Charles, it seems that to start with, on the brief occasions that the parents were able to spend with their young son, it was Philip who showed most affection, played with him and tried to prepare him for

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future difficulties. It was interesting to hear from one
of our number that they had connections with some of
those mentioned in the book.

All would recommend it, in particular to those who
think that Philip has not done much of use, and gave
it a score between 8 and 9.

There will be no meeting in August but we will get
together again on Wednesday 14th September at 8 pm
in The Chestnut Tree to review 'The Lake House' by
Kate Morton, a mystery set around a country house
and the Edevane family in 1933 and seventy years
later. Also or instead, as we have two months, Bill
Bryson's 'The Road to Little Dribbling', an update of
his 'Notes From a Small Island'.

Linda Gorman

Summer Art Exhibition



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Vacancy for Parish Council Clerk

Weston Colville Parish Council is seeking
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Council Chairman, on 01223 290010.

Queen's 90th Birthday Medals

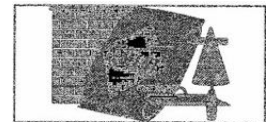
Weston Colville Parish Council has a limited number
of Queen's 90th birthday medals, which it is offering
for sale at a discounted price of £2 each.

Could anyone interested please contact the Parish
Council Clerk, Christine King (290963).

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Weston Colville Parish Council

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

County and District Matters: Cllr Turner spoke about the devolution between Cambridge and Peterborough that will go to the full council on 28th July. £100m will be available for affordable housing, weighted to South Cambridgeshire; £70m is for Cambridge City. Both sums are new money and not from existing. SCDC has already voted to approve.

At the October meeting of the full council a resolution will be put forward to appoint a mayor to cover the area. There will be one mayor for Cambridgeshire and Peterborough, and a second for Norfolk and Suffolk. The plan is for the mayors to be elected in May 2017 on the same day as the County Council elections. The Cambridgeshire mayor will be supported by existing staff.

Highways, Grasscutting and Hedgetrimming:

1. *Update on speed limit signs* – Cllr Garrod expects to hear soon about the new 40 mph zones. The parish council will contribute 10% to the costs of signage.



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2. *Potholes* – the web address to contact regarding new potholes has been published in *Challenge*. The repair of potholes is up to date except one in Six Mile Bottom Road where the repair has already been washed away, probably due to the recent flood. It will be reported by Cllr Durham.
3. *Proposed footpath from Church End to the Green* – two quotations have been obtained for the installation of a footpath. Highways will be consulted as to the specification that would be accepted. It is possible that there may be an LHI grant available (Local Heritage Initiative) but it cannot be applied for until next year when new grant money becomes available.

Flooding – Update Following Recent Floods:

Cllr Durham has had several conversations with Brian Heffernan, the leader of the SCDC Environmental Protection Team. The issue was discussed at length and a separate item will be included in the next issue of *Challenge*.

(see 'Watercourse Maintenance' article on page 9)

Affordable Housing – Alternative Proposal: Cllr Pagonis spoke about an alternative idea that might be possible to assist with provision of affordable houses in the village. At this stage it is just an idea, needing

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much more work before it is a proposal. He will report further at the next meeting.

Footpaths: all footpaths seem to be in good condition at present except the one that continues across the bridge beside 62a The Green, that is overgrown.

Popup Pub: it will be possible to have a Popup Pub as part of a social evening. More information is still needed from Catherine Hawkes, who attended the last council meeting.

Recreation Grounds:

1. *Upgrading of path to Church End Recreation Ground* – Cllr Scott has laid gravel to help with the slippery surface.
2. *Repair or replacement of fencing around play area at Weston Green* – this is being progressed by Cllr Scott. The suggested contractor is on holiday for two weeks. Some work has already been undertaken by Philip Sutton. CK will find out his plans to continue the work.

Fence Repair at Car Park: attempts have been made to find the person responsible for the condition of the fence. It is now in a dangerous condition since the flood. More contacts will be made as a matter of urgency.

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Defibrillator positioning: a bracket has been purchased and it will be fitted on the wall of the Reading Room. Instructions for use will be published in *Challenge*.

Reading Room:

1. *Trustee nomination* – Matt Jackson was nominated and accepted the position. Cllr Scott will contact him about details of the commitment.
2. *Reading Room layby funding request* – Richard Golding has asked if the council could fund a layby to be constructed between the bus shelter and the stream. It should have a water-permeable surface. The council is interested in helping but needs more details of the proposal and the cost.

Planning – Mines Farm: following the recent flooding, the planning application contains an out of date flood risk report. It has been returned to SCDC Planning Department requesting that this be re-visited.

Financial matters:

1. *Annual audit* – the documents are with the Internal Auditor.
2. *Payments of accounts* – payments were authorised (Badger Benches, £394.68 for picnic tables; Zurich Municipal, £607.53 for insurance; S Ratford, £375 for grass cutting) and cheques signed by the Chairman and Cllr Pagonis.

Remaining Queen's Anniversary Medals: it was agreed that the remaining medals be offered for sale at a cost of £2.00 each. An item will be written for *Challenge*.

(see 'Queen's 90th Birthday Medals' article on page 5)

Date of next meeting: 5th September.

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West Wrattling Parish Council

At the parish council meeting held on Monday 11th July the following were discussed:

Planning:

S/1414/16/FL – change of access, 29 The Common.
Approved by parish council.

S/1311/16/FL – Mines Farm, new dwelling. West Wrattling Parish Council had received no notification or documentation on this application and therefore an extension of the deadline has been given in order for the council to give their comments.

S/1607/16/FL – replacement of lead to nave room at St Andrews Church. Approved by parish council.

Finances: the authorised payments can be seen in the draft minutes on the noticeboards.

A Community Chest award of £1,500 has been given to West Wrattling for replacement of play equipment. Thanks go to Cllr Causton for putting in the application. She will now put in for a grant from the Wadlow Wind Farm Fund to replace the play area tarmac.

The internal audit had been carried out successfully with no issues.

Maintenance: the broken bollard has now been replaced, with thanks to Andrew Hodge for giving his time and skill for free, replacing the bollard with a sturdy wooden one.

West Wrattling Football Club: Cllr Holness reported:

- The bowls area is being turned into a pitch for the Juniors. They will need to apply for grant money to cover the cost of fencing and safety boarding. A grant application subcommittee has been formed to deal with this.
- The defibrillator is still not in commission due to the failure of the locks (two so far) supplied by the manufacturer to work. Hopefully the third one will work.

Traffic issues:

- Three rondels have now been put in and painted.
- It is hoped to put in a request for money through the Minor Highways Improvement Scheme to allow movement of the 30 mph signs to outside the present boundaries.
- Flash flooding in The Causeway and the High Street occurred during heavy storms due to blocked drains, and has been reported.

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d) Mobile speed monitors: it was agreed that these were too expensive. Jayshree Ramsuran, co-ordinator for the Speed Watch, is moving and thanks were given to her for the work she has done. Cllr Holness is now co-ordinator.

Land owned by Parish: it is intended to put a piece of land which is part of the recreation ground on the Land Register. Land awarded in 1813 is still being investigated to find out who is using it.

First Liaison Meeting with SCDC and Other Parish Councils: to be attended by Cllr Holness.

Any Other Business: a request for five dog poo bins has been made.

The draft minutes will be placed on the noticeboards. Next meeting: 12th September.

Watercourse Maintenance - Weston Colville

Following lengthy discussions with the county flood risk officer, it was agreed that routine maintenance of the River Stour should commence on 11th July, and I can report that this has been started. There is still much to do. All will be aware of the deluge that hit our village on Saturday 25th June. Several properties in Weston Colville were damaged by the water from the storm, as well as the flooding of the roads into and out of the parish. Details have been passed to the county flood risk officer. Even if the routine maintenance had been done sooner, the damage could not have been prevented in its entirety, but could perhaps have been mitigated. What did become clear during the storm was that many of our smaller drains and ditches were blocked, either as a result of damage (during building works, careless driving etc) or by the undergrowth which had not been subject to any control recently. The drainage systems for the parish

will work best if all the components are working. This includes drains running under drives, ditches alongside hedges, watercourses coming from the fields, ditches beside roads, etc. The parish council is pursuing those with the riparian responsibilities to undertake the work on the major watercourses, but it is incumbent on us all to look after the smaller dykes drains and ditches on our own properties. The parish council is considering a working party to help those less able to undertake any work needed on their sections of the system. Please let the parish clerk, Christine King, know if you might be someone we could assist.

Bridget Durham, Weston Colville Parish Council

Thought for the Month

Please don't park on the pavement!

We would like to keep the village pavement for pedestrians, not cars. Please don't park your car even half on the pavement, as it means that pedestrians (particularly those with pushchairs) are forced to walk in the road.

Thank you for your help.

West Wrating Parish Council

Domestic Help for You

I have over 30 years of experience in domestic, personal and child care. If you need help with any of the following, please give me a call:

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Weston Colville Neighbourhood Watch (NHW)

During the day on 29th June 1,000 litres of oil was stolen from The Causeway, West Wrattling. There have been no problems reported in Weston Colville this month but there was a similar theft of oil from Weston Green recently. Is someone targeting oil in our area? We need to think about security and watch out for unusual activities. If you notice anything call 101 and discuss what you have seen. Suggestions: hide or disguise the oil tank; secure lids with strong padlocks; fit alarms.

In other villages, thieves entered a bungalow from the back and stole credit cards and cheque books. Tools were stolen from a garage. A small generator and bike leathers were stolen.

There were two distraction thefts: a card user was distracted while using an ATM machine, and his card was stolen. An elderly lady answered her door and was asked if a man could look in her back garden for his son's ball; the door remained open and someone else entered, stealing cash and jewellery.

A black Nissan pickup vehicle was stolen from a locked yard; the rear doors of a kebab van were forced and the generator was stolen, while the van was

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occupied; eleven cars were damaged by vandalism; both number plates were stolen from a parked car.

Nationally, fraudsters have continued to be active. Vehicles are advertised for sale on websites, customers are persuaded to buy the vehicle via email and pay into an escrow account which they believe is safely operated by Amazon. Amazon does not offer escrow accounts; the whole transaction is fraudulent. Make sure you view the vehicle and meet the seller face to face before agreeing payment. If you have been affected by this, call Action Fraud (0300 1232040).

Other matters reported this month include fraudsters placing fake letter boxes on residential properties. The mail is harvested for personal details, enabling the fraudster to open various lines of credit. Tickets for the Olympic Games in Rio de Janeiro can be purchased from Rio 2016 ticketing. Authorised sellers can be found at www.rio2016.com

Please remember that you may be exposed to travel booking frauds when looking for last minute package deals and cheap flights. Use a travel company which is known to you and is registered.

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for information on:

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

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



Weston Colville Cricket Club



The great flood of Saturday 25th June took care of the

1st XI home fixture against Granta but the 2nd XI managed to complete their match at Royston, although the result was a loss by eight wickets. Weston batted first but could only reach a disappointing total of 48 with Paul Mayfield contributing 34 of those. Royston easily knocked off the runs for the loss of two wickets. The only other match played by the 2nd XI in the last month was the reverse fixture at home to Royston on 9th July. Home advantage did not pay off as Royston batted first and made 275 for 6. Weston put up a better fight than in the away game and reached a decent total of 122, with Izaak Darvill making 35 and Duncan Gray 21, but well short of the target. The 2nd XI has not made progress up the table yet but there are still seven matches and plenty of points to play for.

Teams in Division 2 of the Tucker League are strong this season and the 1st XI continues to come up against paid players who are a cut above the rest. Three fixtures have been completed since the abandoned match, but all have been defeats despite some good individual performances. At home to

Kimbolton on 2nd July, Weston restricted the visitors to 221 for 7 with Matt Daniels taking 3 for 24 and Torin Reedman 3 for 21. However, Weston could only manage 71 all out in reply. Away to March on 9th July, Sam Charlton made 34 but the other ten players only managed 32 between them, leaving an easy chase for the home side who won by nine wickets. The next match was at home to March on 16th July, and March put on a massive 332 for 8, with their overseas paid player scoring 130. In spite of this fine display of batting, Matt Daniels bowled well taking 4 wickets for 53. Weston put on a better show in reply than in the away fixture, with contributions from Sam Charlton (36), Alex Meddle (33), Adam Taylor (35) and Ade Westley 25 not out, but the total of 174 fell well short of the challenging target.

Unfortunately, the turnaround in fortune for our two senior teams has not yet arrived but cricket continues through August and into September and both teams should be stronger with players returning and with some recent recruitment.

There seems to be a general waning of interest in cricket at the moment, in spite of the success of the England team against Sri Lanka, and it is noteworthy that local rivals Balsham have only recently withdrawn their first team from the Cambs leagues due to shortage of players of the required standard. Some of you will also know that the Ambridge team in 'The Archers' is also struggling to raise a side and that programme tries to reflect what is happening in the real world!

At least the weather has improved since the last report (apart from the flood of course)!

For more information about the club, please visit our website, www.westoncolvillecc.co.uk

John Garrod

Lower Wood and Marsh Tits

Our devoted little team – Duncan, Mel, Joyce and yours truly – are delighted to report that we have started to colour-ring these charming but very rare little birds under Government licence, to find out why Weston Colville has them and so few other places do.

I'm also delighted to confirm that, as in other studies, colour-ringing doesn't seem to affect our Marsh Tits. Here's some pictorial proof: meet young Marsh Tit S320010, aka 'Blue over Red'. We first met him/her



on 3rd July in Great Coven's Wood, by kind permission of Colonel and Mrs Kaye. On 17th July, this whippersnapper turned up, bright-eyed and bushy-tailed, in Lower Wood. We ring there by kind permission of the Cambs Wildlife Trust. 'Blue over Red' had gained a

respectable 3% in body mass in the meantime, and, importantly, had crossed the open space between Great Coven's and Lower Wood.

Marsh Tits are a famously sedentary species; they spend their entire lives almost within the same wood. We think that's one of the reasons they're in trouble. If you don't move between woods, you can't meet fresh genes. Inbreeding results. Increasing woodland fragmentation exacerbates this to the point where the species finds itself on the conservation Red List.

Little S320010 'Blue over Red' shows that one Marsh Tit youngster is prepared to cross open rides and seek

their fortune in woodlands new. It may be that Marsh Tits don't see Great Coven's and Lower Woods as separate. It's much too early in the project to draw any firm conclusions, but this is an encouraging sign.

As usual, re-encountered birds seem to remember us and adopt a calm, resigned and world-weary tolerance, trusting us for good treatment and quick release. (I may be imagining it, but I can almost see a shrug and "Hurry up and get on with it" written on their little faces . . .)

All our Marsh Tits receive two tiny, ultralight colour rings on one leg. At the moment, all birds ringed in Great Coven's have a lower Red ring. All birds ringed in Lower Wood have a lower Green ring, so you can easily tell where any Marsh Tit you see has come from.

We suspect that they may come to feeders in Weston Colville's gardens. If you see any colour-ringed Marsh Tits, please tell us where and when you saw them. It's critical to their long-term survival to know what these birds are doing, and where.

Mel Stammers on Mill Hill, Duncan MacKay of the Cambs Wildlife Trust, or myself at cambsmarti@gmail.com will all be delighted to tell you the life story of the bird you've seen.

Best wishes, looking forward to hearing from you,
Alex Inzani, for the British Trust for Ornithology

More News from Lower Wood

The first sightings of the rare but rapidly spreading Purple Emperor butterfly were reported from Lower Wood. Kevin Wilson, who works at The Ark on the road into Fulbourn, visited the wood in search of them and amazingly he found them on his first visit.

With binoculars, the males can often be seen flying around in the tops of oak and ash trees high in the woodland canopy, and the females, which are more secretive, can be found much lower down, laying eggs on sallow. We have also got a tentative sighting for Purple Hairstreak butterflies as well. They also fly around the tops of oak trees, but are smaller. If you



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come into the wood. particularly when it is sunny, you stand a good chance of seeing both of these species. Purple Emperors used to be extremely rare and confined to just a few woodlands, but recently they have been expanding their range and have started to spread into Cambridgeshire. We have been expecting them, but this is a great addition to the reserves species list.

If you do come across the butterflies, please don't disturb them, and photograph from a distance with a telephoto lens. We are hoping to see Silver Washed Fritillaries and White Admirals before too long, as they are also expanding their ranges. Could this be a beneficial effect of global warming or just a natural change which often happens to wildlife? Who can tell? It is certainly very exciting.

Duncan Mackay (Volunteer Warden)

West Wickham & District Gardening Club

Our gardening year has nearly come to an end, with just the Annual Show on 21st August to look forward to. Our summer outings were affected by the unpredictable weather; the trip to Norfolk was on a very rainy Saturday when we found the best place was in the cafe by a log fire, but we were luckier when we visited Spencer's at Little Yeldham, the rain stopping for a few hours while we were shown round by the owner who provided us with tea afterwards. A woodland walk by the river Colne with the sun setting was really magical.

It is sometimes difficult for members of a club such as ours to spend time together socially so with that in mind we were invited last Monday to the garden of Gill and Michael Hicks in Little Saxham. Gill and Mike were for quite a few years active members of the Club before leaving West Wrating. It was a

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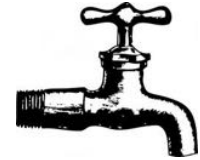
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beautiful evening, the garden looked stunning, and we enjoyed tea and cake whilst sitting watching the sun set.

Our Annual Show is always worth a visit to see the vegetables, fruit, flowers and produce entered, and to buy these at knock down prices in the auction. If you have thought about joining us, why not come along from 2 pm on 20th August, meet some of our members, and find out about our talks and activities. Or you can ring me, on 01799 584262.

Rosemary Yallop, Speakers' Secretary

Annual Show

West Wickham & District Gardening Club will be holding its Annual Show in August. We hope you can be challenged into entering some exhibits, or coming to see how well your friends and neighbours have done. There is a wide variety of classes we hope will interest you – vegetables and fruit, cut flowers and pot plants, classes just for children, cooking and jam making. This year we are celebrating the 150th anniversary of the birth of Beatrix Potter and there will be classes inspired by her wonderful books. Prize money and cups can be won, and once again a special feature in the domestic classes will be the WEST WICKHAM BAKE OFF, with an award for the STAR BAKER. Anyone from villages neighbouring West Wickham without horticultural societies of their own can enter, so we would welcome exhibits from people living in Weston Colville and West Wrating.

The show will be on Saturday 20th August at West Wickham Village Hall, opening at 2.00 pm, with the prize giving at 3.00 pm, followed by an auction of produce. Exhibits can be brought to the hall between 9.30 and 11.30 am.

Show schedules and entry forms are available from: Andrew Morris, 21 High Street, West Wickham, CB21 4RY (290863, morrisandrew203@gmail.com).

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Balsham Gardening Club

Following on from our very successful plant sale, we were keen to encourage talented showers and growers to take part in the 'Have a Go' show at the Balsham Feast. We were not disappointed! 112 exhibits from twenty exhibitors created a stunning display in the marquee, while the photographs on display in the church were of a very high standard. A steady stream of visitors during the afternoon ensured that these talents were given the praise they deserved. It seems that whatever the weather, we can still produce the goods!



May I, through this article, thank everybody who worked so hard on the day: table shifters, judges, stewards, runners, certificate writers, and prize presenters, to name but a few.

With better weather promised, may I wish you all a fruitful summer, and look forward to our next meeting which will be a trip to Dullingham Gardens on Tuesday 6th September. Please contact Lyn Bobrow (890598) for more details.

Sue Lock

1st Horseheath Brownies

Firstly, thank you to everyone who donated their Sainsbury's Active Kids vouchers to the Brownies; we collected a staggering 3,123, which isn't bad for a small unit in a rural area.

We were visited by fourteen US Girl Scouts from California at the end of June for an afternoon of activities, along with 1st Linton Guides. We had hoped to have an outdoor campfire but this wasn't possible due to numerous thunderstorms, so instead we put some nightlights into the fire pit and had a

good sing-song anyway. Each group took turns to lead a song and at the end of the afternoon we exchanged SWAPS (Simple Whatnot Affectionately Pinned Somewhere).

To finish off the Queen's 90th Birthday Challenge we made crowns fit for a Queen, and decorated horseshoes, and for the Mission Spectacular badge, which celebrates the centenary of The Senior Section, we spent the evening getting our hearts pumping using the play equipment.

During the final meeting of term we enrolled Jessica L, Jessica M, Emily S and Katie M into the unit. We also wished Hera and Katie F the best of luck with their exams and getting the university places they wanted. We will continue to see them at Brownies along with Laurené, our new Young Leader.

If you think your daughter may be interested in joining us please register her at www.girlguiding.org.uk/interested. If you would like more information on what we do or would like to help us with a special skill you may have then please drop us an email.

Pauline, Katie, Hera and Laurené
(brownies@horseheath.info)

Balsham Craft, Gift and Food Fair

Looking to kick off your Christmas shopping? Thinking about Christmas yet? Perhaps it is a good time to start looking for that special gift that will impress, or perhaps some unique, distinctive accessories not found on the High Street at affordable prices? Then you must look no further than the Meadow School's 27th Annual Balsham Craft, Gift and Food Fair on 8th and 9th October.

Get ready for plenty of infused glass decorations, original art work, a diverse range of jewellery, ceramics, vintage accessories, textiles such as fabric vases, crochet, knit and felt work, wood turned gifts, natural beauty products, and cards. In our food hall you will find chocolates, cheesecakes, cupcakes and all things cakey, preserves, breads, Greek oils, olives, artisan Greek biscuits, Greek Delight, homemade hummus, artisan ice creams and sorbets, raw allergen free cakes plus much more. There will also be stalls for the younger visitors, such as our tombola, lucky dip, face painting, sweet stall, craft tables, and an activity run by Cambridge United Football Club.

Our café will be selling lovely homemade cakes and biscuits, filled rolls, bacon butties and hot dogs, as well as serving up cream teas.

The fair runs from 10.30 am to 4 pm. Everyone is welcome. Entrance is £2 per adult (includes a tea/coffee), 50p each for under 16's.

Don't forget to bring plenty of cash or your cheque book as stall holders may not be able to take electronic payments.

Debbie Paton

The Balsham Community Market

It was thought this was as good a time as any to set up a community market selling local, tasty, fresh, seasonal produce and other locally made food goodies to the residents of Balsham and the surrounding villages.

The first market will be on Saturday 12th November, 2 pm to 5 pm in the Church Institute, then running every second Saturday of every second month.

At each market you will be able to find wild game, beef, lamb, pork, chicken, eggs, cheese, bread, local produce from the Balsham allotments, delicious chocolates, cheesecakes, cupcakes and other cakey deliciousness, homemade preserves, mouth-watering savoury foods such as sausage rolls, pies, pork pies, steak and kidney puddings, scotch eggs and pre-made meals. Greek oils and olives will also be available. Plumbs Dairy are joining in the fun, along with a few others.

Please do come along and support our small local businesses and farmers: your local community. You can be assured you will be purchasing fresh, seasonal and tasty local foods. Sample some of what is on offer and meet the people behind the products. This is

a not for profit scheme and any proceeds will be passed on to local charities. The Balsham Community Market will be on a trial basis for a year. If it is well supported and proves successful it will continue, but that is only down to you. Shop Local! Shop Fresh!

If you have any produce such as eggs, honey, etc that you would like to sell at the market, or perhaps you would like to make a suggestion about what you would like to see, please get in touch via email (balshammarket@gmail.com) or go to our website (www.balshammarket.wordpress.com/contact)

Remember to follow us on Facebook @balshammarket for regular updates.

Debbie Paton

Cambridgeshire Fire and Rescue Service

The school summer holidays are here and we hope you are enjoying time with family, going on holiday, or even creating your own adventures at home.

Why not take the opportunity to teach your children about fire safety and design your very own fire escape plan?

We recommend every household has a fire escape plan and regularly runs through it with the family – and especially when guests are coming to stay.

Here are a few things to consider when writing yours:

- Everyone should know where the window and door keys are.
- Your normal way out of the house is your best escape route so always keep it clear of clutter – think of the difficulties you'll have using this route in pitch darkness or smoke.
- Walk your escape route with the rest of your family or housemates and make sure everyone can open windows and doors easily.

If you, your neighbour or family member might be vulnerable or have trouble escaping from their house in a fire, get in touch with us by calling 0800 9179994 to see if we can help.

For the latest news, incidents and safety advice, or to contact us, log on to www.cambsfire.gov.uk or call 01480 444500.

Leanne Ehren



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The Marsh Mail (news from Linton Village College)

August is a very significant month for secondary schools. Despite being closed for the summer break, the publication of GCSE examination results at the end of the month is an important milestone in students' educational journeys.



This is the last year when A* - C grades will be used as a universal attainment measure – next year's new English and maths GCSEs will be graded from 9 - 1 and other courses will follow suit the next academic year. Whatever the number or letter awarded to qualifications, at LVC we are always really keen to encourage students to go beyond the bare minimum expectations and to be ambitious for themselves. I flinch when I hear students making comments such as "I only need three 'C's for my college course" when they are capable of much more. While GCSE grades are only one rather narrow measure of educational success it is important that students achieve the best that they can.

League table measures are also changing this year to recognise the progress of all learners. Existing headline statistics give a great amount of attention to the percentage of students achieving 5 A* - C grades including English and maths without giving any attention to students' starting points. The focus on the C/D borderline has been the cause of low aspiration among some groups of students, and of unethical practices with some schools targeting support to students who 'count' more.

Last year at LVC we opted into the new achievement measure, Progress 8, a year early. We welcome the move to focus on all students and their relative progress across all subjects, rather than the narrow view of a threshold that does not reflect the success of the whole cohort. Although, like many other benchmarks, Progress 8 has its limitations, we appreciate the more holistic view that it takes of all students' performance across eight subjects.

We look forward to celebrating individuals' achievements and hard work on 25th August and will be keen to recognise those individuals who have made the most significant progress during their time at LVC, not just those with the highest grades.

Helena Marsh, Principal

Meadow School

Another school year has drawn to a close and what a year it has been. In fact, not just what a year, but what a three years! Many of you will remember that on 13th July 2013 The Meadow had an Ofsted which moved the school from Outstanding to Special Measures. One of the teachers reminded me of the significance of 13th July this year when the date came around, and we all took time to reflect on how much has changed since then. Those three years have flown by, and it wasn't until I sat and thought about it that I realised how much we have actually achieved. This list is by no means exhaustive:

- An amazing team of dedicated staff who deliver a superb standard of teaching and learning.
- New headteacher and senior leadership team.
- Becoming an Academy alongside Linton Village College, forming the Chilford Hundred Education Trust.
- The best Y6 SATs results the school has ever posted over the past few years, including great results this year in the new system where the expectation and standard had risen considerably.
- Three years of 100% pass in the Year 1 phonics check.
- Amazing Early Years and Year 2 results.
- A Twitter account and a new website.
- Peer massage programme to promote well-being for the children.
- New clubs established, such as our very successful running club.
- New roof on the school to replace buckets catching rain in the corridors.
- New windows and external doors that we can now actually open!
- Re landscaped Infant outdoor area including sandpit, stage, mud kitchen, water play area, and a woodland walkway.
- New bright Postura coloured chairs that improve sitting position for each child.
- Newly refurbished ICT Suite with thirtyfour PCs, opened by ex pupil and cricketer Tom Westley.
- Establishing our hugely successful Helping Hands days.
- New interactive CleverTouch screens in every classroom.

- Swimming Pool refurbished, including changing rooms painted as beach huts.
- Forty iPads in school (and another thirty on order!)



•And who can forget Declan, the real life donkey at the Christmas carol concert in the church?

I am so proud of everything we have achieved over the past few years, and feel lucky to work in our school. The



hard work and commitment of the staff, pupils and parents shines through and we really are in such a different place to July 2013. Thank you to everyone who has supported our journey thus far. Here's to the next three years!

Nichola Connor, Headteacher

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Friday mornings	Mr Melody	11 am - 12 noon	Preschool		£3.50
Monday 8 th , 15 th , 22 nd	Ellesmere Sports Fun	9.30 am - 12 noon	4 - 11 yrs		£7
	SUPERVISED LUNCH				
	Fun Activities	1 - 3.30 pm	4 - 11 yrs	All day £16	£7
Tuesday 2 nd , 9 th , 16 th	Gymnastics	9 am - 4 pm	5 - 11 yrs		
Wednesday 3 rd , 10 th , 17 th , 24 th , 31 st	Opportunity Group	1 - 3 pm	Preschool Special Needs		Free
Thursday 4 th , 11 th , 18 th , 25 th	Jolly Tots play	9.30 am - 12 noon	Preschool	Just turn up. Supervised older siblings welcome	£2 adult £1 child
	Roller Skating	2 - 4 pm	All ages	Just turn up	£2 + £1 skate hire
Friday 5 th , 12 th , 19 th , 26 th	Ellesmere Sports Fun	9.30 am - 12 noon	4 - 11 yrs		£7
	SUPERVISED LUNCH				
	Fun Activities	1 - 3.30 pm	4 - 11 yrs	All day £16	£7

St Mary's Church, Weston Colville

Holy Communion each Sunday at 9.15 am
(except on fifth Sunday of the month).
Churchwardens: Roger Whitehead (290524)
and Philippa Coates (290842)

St Andrew's Church, West Wrating

Holy Communion at 10.45 am each Sunday (except on
fifth Sunday of the month).
Churchwarden: Sebastian Bain (01223 403415)

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

Methodist Chapel, Weston Colville

Minister: Rev Nigel Bishop (01440 702422)

Roman Catholic Mass

Every Saturday at 5.30 pm, Sundays at 10 am and noon,
at St Philip Howard Church, Cherry Hinton.
Every Saturday at 6.30 pm, Sundays at 10 am, Haverhill
(St Felix Roman Catholic Church)

DIARY

August 2016

Mon 1 - Thur 4 Children's summer tennis coaching
Wed 3 West Wrating Over 60s
Fri 5 Tea & Cakes, Weston Colville
Sat 6 Saturday Morning Café, West Wrating
Farmers' Market, Linton Village Hall
Sat 13 Vicarage Garden Party, Little Abington
Sun 14 United Service, Balsham Church
Thur 18 Lunch Club, The Chestnut Tree
Sat 20 West Wickham Gardening Club Annual Show

September 2016

Sat 3 Farmers' Market, Linton Village Hall
Mon 5 Weston Colville Parish Council meeting
Wed 7 West Wrating Over 60s
West Wrating oil syndicate cutoff for orders
Mon 12 West Wrating Parish Council
Wed 14 West Wrating Book Club
Sat 24 Ukelele evening, West Wrating

Archive

West Wrating website has links to an extensive
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Mr Steven Wheeler, Licensed Lay Minister
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Mrs Rosemary Mead, Authorised Lay Minister
tel: 891718 email: leonardavmead@hotmail.com

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

Parish Council Clerks:

Weston Colville – Christine King,
wcpc@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

Parish Nurse: Teresa Letimier,
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St Andrew's:	Flowers	Cleaning
7 th August	Fanny	Pauline
14 th August	Louise/Linda	Sue
21 st August	Linda	Fanny
28 th August	Jenny	Maggie

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

Black bins: Tuesday 9th & 23rd August,
Tuesday 6th & 20th September
Blue & green bins: Tues 2nd & 16th, **Wed 31st August**
Tuesday 13th & 27th September

Mobile library: fourth Wednesdays (24th Aug, 28th Sept)
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.

September issue's copy date: Saturday 20th August

