

# 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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## ***West Wrattling Summer Event – Could You Help?***

In 2016, West Wrattling came together as a community to celebrate the Queen's 90<sup>th</sup> Birthday in June. In preceding years there has been a Pet and Produce Show in St Andrew's church and churchyard. We owe many thanks to Jeanette Job, Scilla Harvey, and Sherry O'Donovan for coordinating these events. We hope that there will be enthusiasm for some kind of summer event in 2017 which will mark the completion of the repairs to the roof of the parish church following the lead theft last April. We are looking for good ideas for something a bit different for 2017, and for volunteers to assist with organising it. Some suggestions put forward at the open meeting held at St Andrew's in November included a mini sports day, a dinner dance, and a picnic beneath the cherry trees.

The aim is to raise funds to improve disabled access to the church and to install a WC, so that St Andrew's can be used for a wider variety of purposes by the village as a whole, and become more of a hub for the community. If you could help in some way, please contact Alex Walsham (291491, [amw23@cam.ac.uk](mailto:amw23@cam.ac.uk)) or Jeanette Job (290076, [thejobs@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:thejobs@hotmail.co.uk); it is best to phone Jeannette as well as email, in case a message gets stuck in her spam folder).

*Alex Walsham*

## ***Saturday Morning Café, West Wrattling***

We enjoyed another wonderful gathering at the café on 7<sup>th</sup> January – what a great way to start the new year! As an added bonus, Eloise and Lois raised £32.50 on the bookstall, which will go to Alzheimer's Research.

The Saturday morning café will run as usual on Saturday 4<sup>th</sup> February between 10.30 am and noon in the village hall. This month, Izzy Wilson will be

selling fudge and other homemade goodies in order to raise funds for a girl guiding trip to Switzerland in August. Please come and support Izzy, and also join us for a catch up over tea / coffee and delicious cake.

*Sherry (290070) and Catherine (291307)*

## ***Tea and Cakes, Weston Colville***

Thank you to everyone who turned out for January's Tea and Cakes. It was lovely to see so many of you.

February's Tea and Cakes will take place on Friday 3<sup>rd</sup> February, 3.30 - 5 pm at the Reading Room. Please come along for a cuppa, a piece of cake and a chat. Everyone welcome.

Thank you also, to all the lovely people who help to make it happen.

*Melanie*

## ***Weston Colville Circular Walk***

On New Year's Day, we had a walk of two halves via West Wickham. As the photo shows, the first half was dry . . .



Our next circular walk will be on Saturday 4<sup>th</sup> March. Meet at the Reading Room at 10 am, 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](mailto:jacquelinetheteacher@hotmail.com))

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***d'Abo Tennis Club, West Wrattling, AGM***

The Annual General Meeting of the club will take place at 7.30 pm on Thursday 16<sup>th</sup> March at the home of Colin and Sissie McCall, The Old Vicarage, West Wrattling (01223 290036). All existing members welcome.

*Cal Wilson*

***West Wrattling Lunch Club, February***

Please note that the Lunch Club in The Chestnut Tree this month will be held a week later, on 23<sup>rd</sup> February.

If you would like to come, please let Suan Rowland know, in the usual way.

*Rachel & Peter*

***West Wrattling Book Club***

At our January meeting we discussed John le Carré's memoir 'The Pigeon Tunnel'.

It is made up of a series of events from his life, linked with his background working for British Intelligence and his career as a writer, and the way these overlap and influence his stories. It was agreed that it was

well written and the self-contained chapters made it easy to read and to dip in and out of.

It was thought to give an incredible insight into the world of diplomacy and espionage, as well as the background to many events that we remembered from the news in previous years. In particular, there were episodes that resonated with certain people, such as his visits to Russia, leading on to discussion of their and others experiences of some of the places referred to. Others gave an insight into the attitudes of members of the British Intelligence services, and well known political figures, to his revelations.

Although one person commented that it was not a world to linger in, being sinister and cold with such things still going on, there were some amusing reminiscences. Some of us hadn't realised just how many books he had written and it was interesting to see how he was able to use his earlier experiences and, no doubt, contacts, to research his books and look for possible characters. Having made an error in one book he makes a point of making sure he gets his facts right. He certainly had some 'interesting' experiences, meeting some of the most high profile and history-making characters of recent years.

The last chapter talks about his childhood and his dysfunctional parents, which goes a long way to explaining the type of person he became.

Scores ranged from 8.5 to 9 and all would recommend it, especially to male readers. It was agreed that we should read one of his novels, possibly for April.

We will next meet on Wednesday 22<sup>nd</sup> February to review 'Mother Tongue' by Julie Mayhew, and on March 22<sup>nd</sup>, 'Nujeen' by Nujeen Mustafa and Christina Lamb.

*Linda Gorman*

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**West Wratting Oil Syndicate**

January fill up results: the order coincided with a cold snap, so I struggled to get a competitive price. As I'm sure everybody knows by now, I like to beat the Boilerjuice 'Bulk' price and only just succeeded.

*PLEASE CHECK PRICE YOU HAVE BEEN CHARGED AGAINST AGREED PRICE BELOW \**

Anyway, thirty houses in West Wratting participated in the order that was placed on 11<sup>th</sup> January, with deliveries being made from 16<sup>th</sup> – very good service from Butlers, as some suppliers were quoting over two weeks' delivery. Butler Fuels (Certas) won the West Wratting syndicate order, with a price of 44.25p per litre, which was a saving of just 0.19p against my benchmark Boilerjuice 'Bulk' (for 5000 litres +) price of 44.44p. All prices + VAT, of course.

Our syndicate orders always represent great value for households that order less than 1,000 litres and the savings certainly help at Holness Towers as we've used up all the oil we put in the bath last year. For interest, prices in the last twelve months have been:

Oh, to be back in those halcyon days of January 2016!

\* I have had a report that one member was charged a higher price than the agreed price shown here, so please check the price that you have been charged!

<b>October 2015</b>	30.30
<b>January 2016</b>	24.75
<b>March 2016</b>	28.10
<b>May 2016</b>	27.00
<b>July 2016</b>	31.60
<b>September 2016</b>	32.00
<b>October 2016</b>	37.20
<b>January 2017</b>	44.25

There is no fill up this month; the next fill up will be in March. There'll be a reminder in the March edition of *Challenge*, if I remember . . .

*Richard Holness*

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Any orders left by email will always be acknowledged; if you do not get a reply, we haven't received your order. Please don't phone before 8 am or after 10 pm (leave a message during the day).

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

Please be aware that most suppliers now add 2% to the invoice for credit card payment. Debit cards and cheques attract no surcharge.

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### Let's Talk About It . . .

There will be a discussion on Tuesday 21<sup>st</sup> February, 7.00 pm, West Wrattling Village Hall (79 High Street, CB21 5LU).

- Did you attend our event chaired by Libby Purves about 'end of life' issues in October last year and want to know more?
- Did you miss that event but wish you had been there?
- Are there questions about 'end of life' that you would like to discuss with professionals in a safe and comfortable environment?

If your answer to any of the above is 'yes' or you have any other interest in this frequently avoided topic, then you are warmly invited along to a discussion at West Wrattling Village Hall on Tuesday 21<sup>st</sup> February at 7.00 pm, for an opportunity to talk openly about some issues that at times are just too difficult.

The discussion will be led by The Revd Dr Derek Fraser, Lead Chaplain at Addenbrooke's and the Rosie, and Dr Stephen Barclay, University Senior Lecturer in General Practice and Palliative Care. They will be joined by local GPs Dr James Morrow



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This is a free event; refreshments will be available.

### Ministry News

May I wish you all a happy New Year.

January can often seem a dark depressing month. Take heart.

“The shortest day has passed, and whatever nastiness of weather we may look forward to in January and February, at least we notice that the days are getting longer. Minute by minute they lengthen out until the moment comes when with a start of delighted surprise we realize that we can stay out of doors in a twilight lasting for another quarter of a precious hour.”

*(Vita Sackville-West)*

Maybe this is an encouragement for us to take a breath to stop and stare, so that the world does not pass us by at break neck speed. Living life minute by

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minute seems like a dream but we can revel in those precious moments that come to us unexpectedly – the birth of a grandchild, or watching lambs being born – moments that take our breath away. Savour them and put them in a memory box for later.

Just to back track to the Christmas period, I am pleased to say that the services were well attended and in the lead up to Christmas there was a variety of Christmas events, with excellent LVC and Meadow primary school concerts. I hope that there will be more occasions when Balsham church can be used for their benefit.

I would like to thank all of those who decorated the seven churches, cleaned them and rang the bells in celebration of the birth of the Christ child; not forgetting those who have worked so industriously to enhance our churchyards.

On Sunday 8<sup>th</sup> January a successful service for Plough Sunday was taken at Balsham by Gill Parry Brown, who had enlisted the help of quite a few ploughmen to assist with the carrying of the plough to the front of the church to be blessed for the following year. It is really good to connect with the farming community in this ancient tradition, remembering their dependence on God for a good harvest.

The parish profile is almost ready to be sent to the archdeacon for him to read. The church wardens have worked very hard on our behalf to ensure we are in a good place to attract a new priest in charge.

On a theme of being united as six parishes, a joint service is being held with the URC on Sunday 19<sup>th</sup> February, 2.30 pm at the URC chapel in Lt Abington. Everyone is warmly welcome to attend.

I am leading the women’s World Day of Prayer once again on Friday 3<sup>rd</sup> March, 10.30 am at Hildersham church. The country that has written the service is The Philippines, and the theme is ‘Am I being unfair to you?’. You are most welcome to come; there will be refreshments after the service

May 2017 be good year for you all. Best wishes.  
*Rev Kathy Bishop*

***Village Defibrillator***

Some of you may have seen the bright yellow box on the side of Weston Colville Reading Room; this houses our new village defibrillator. The box is locked with a keycode pad for security but it's quick and easy to get the number in an emergency. Just phone 999 with your location and the operator will tell you the code straight away.

These great life saving devices are really easy to use and are designed to be operated by anyone who can follow the simple spoken instructions, which start as soon as you open the lid on the case housed in the yellow box. A short DVD that came with the unit goes into more detail should anyone want to know more. In the hopefully unlikely event the unit is used please contact a member of the parish council who will make sure the unit is okay to be used again.

Any questions, please feel free to ask me.  
*Matt Jackson, Parish Councillor (290854)*

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**Weston Colville Neighbourhood Watch (NHW)**

Two farms were burgled in West Wrattling on 10<sup>th</sup> January and a range of items were stolen including a generator, petrol, a battery, battery charger, and a trailer to carry their ill gotten gains. There have been no other local reports but in our police area, cars, vans and houses were broken into, with number plates, cycles, mobiles and other valuable items being stolen.

Action Fraud and the Express have highlighted attempts by fraudsters to steal consumers' bank account details. The frauds by email, telephone or letter ask us to click on a link, to verify details and to provide personal information. These are convincing and sneaky ways to relieve us of our money. Beware unexpected emails, calls from BT or Openreach, and letters from your bank, especially Lloyds.

If you do receive any of these, or are simply suspicious, **End** the contact, **Close** the email, **Put** down the phone or **Scrap** the letter. If you want to check, use the method you usually use to contact the organisation and discuss the problem with them. If the problem came by telephone wait for a while and ensure that the line is clear first. The alternative is to ring 101 and ask for advice.

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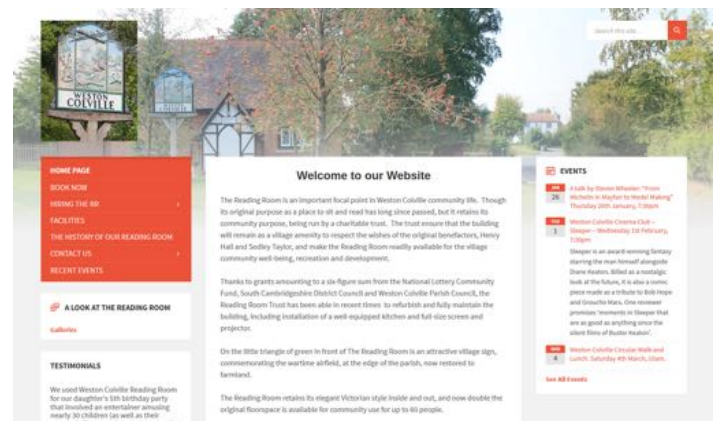
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The police issued a crime prevention list recently which I am happy to share with anyone who emails me.

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

**Weston Colville Reading Room Website**

The Reading Room has a new website which you can find at [www.thereadingroom.org.uk](http://www.thereadingroom.org.uk)



We have been working diligently on winter evenings to put together a site that will allow you to see:

- the facilities you can enjoy, with a gallery of photos
- what's on, and photos of past events
- when the Reading Room is available, the fees and how to book
- an illustrated page on its history.

We'd love to hear from you if you have any information or photos we can add, if you have any queries, or if you spot any typos/link problems. Use the 'Contact Us' tab on the home page.

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**Weston Colville Cinema Club**



February's film, on Wednesday 1<sup>st</sup>, will be Woody Allen's 'Sleeper', an award-winning fantasy starring the man himself alongside Diane Keaton. Billed as a nostalgic look at the future, it is also a comic piece made as a tribute to Bob Hope and Groucho Marx.

One reviewer promises "moments in 'Sleeper' that are as good as anything since the silent films of Buster Keaton".



On 1<sup>st</sup> March, the film will be 'The Draughtsman's Contract', a British film made in 1982 starring Janet Suzman and Anthony Higgins. Directed by Peter



Greenaway and underscored throughout by the wonderful music of Michael Nyman, it's a sumptuous feast for the eye and ear, a

murder mystery full of puzzles and clues and one of the very best British movies of the past forty years.

Both films will be in the Reading Room at 7.30 pm, with refreshments available, all welcome.

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

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### Your Marsh Tits after the Christmas Break

If you've had time to watch your garden feeders and bird tables as the days get longer, you may have noticed a change starting to happen: The birds are emptying the feeders more quickly than usual, and the Marsh Tits are coming frequently.

If you've got colour-ringed birds visiting you, you'll notice that it's the same birds coming again and again.

What we think is going on is that recently the nights have been very cold, and spring is approaching. The birds have to eat more than usual in the mornings to replace energy depleted overnight. Moreover, their biological clocks are telling them that they have to get ready for the rigours of the breeding season, which is Marching towards them, if you'll excuse the pun. So they must build up their reserves even more.

(Interestingly, German physiologists showed that biological clocks are set by daylength, which they called der Zeitgeber – the time giver. It's sensed through the pineal gland of the brain, which is exposed to daylight in many animals. A British physiologist showed that, besides the well-known rods and cones, human eyes have a third type of receptor to sense daylength, as our pineal gland is



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encased deep within our dark skulls. He found that some profoundly blind people can tell you whether it's night or day!)

A reliable food source in winter is worth noting by any bird. Joyce Oliver's garden, on the northern side of Mill Hill, is regularly attracting Marsh Tit Y291374 'Red over Green on Left leg', an enormous bruiser of a bird weighing in at over 11.5 grams, who is probably male. Another Marsh Tit, alloy ringed but sadly not colour-ringed, is seen with him on almost all occasions. This might be D779544, a female who is not colour-ringed but was alloy ringed at Joyce's at the end of April. A known breeding female, D779564 'White over Green on Left' (pictured, see page 9) showed up there on 18<sup>th</sup> December and again on 18<sup>th</sup> January. Hmmm . . .

Is this the beginnings of a love triangle for hunky Red over Green? Will feathers fly between the girls? Who needs Coronation Street, when you've got a real-life drama happening right outside your window?

You'll notice that no Marsh Tit ringed in Mel's garden on the southern side of Mill Hill, all of which have a lower Blue ring, has been seen at Joyce's nor anywhere north of Mill Hill. And vice versa; no Marsh Tit seen at Mel's, John Rogers' or Len and Ben

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Eeles' has come from the northern ringing sites at Joyce's (where all have a lower Black ring), Great Coven's (all have a lower Red ring) or Lower Wood (lower Green ring).

Which brings us to this month's request . . . we are really keen to hear from anyone who has seen a Marsh Tit with a RED or GREEN lower ring to the south of Mill Hill, or in Church End.

As an example of what we're looking for, here is Duncan Mackay's excellent picture of our love triangle protagonist D779564 'White over Green on Left', seen in the old coppice plots of Lower Wood on



27<sup>th</sup> December. Note the lower Green ring. (This hen bird was in Joyce's garden just north of Mill Hill on



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18<sup>th</sup> December and 18<sup>th</sup> January, so Marsh Tits do move about.)

If you can't get a picture as good as this because Marsh Tits move too fast, don't worry: Duncan had an unfair advantage. 'White over Green' felt safe to hang around and stay still while Duncan fiddled with the focus etc, because she knows him personally – Duncan had colour-ringed this wild bird under my supervision last October. She has clearly forgiven him for the experience.

With best wishes for snowdrop season,

*Alex Inzani and the Weston ringing team,  
on behalf of the BTO*

## Christmas Competition

Youngster Y291485 'Green over Blue on Left' (hatched in 2016) was lurking behind the feeding dish, while adult S320099 'Grey over Blue on Left' was wearing its Santa hat.



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## Lower Wood Work Parties

There will be a coppicing work party in Lower Wood on Saturday 25<sup>th</sup> February at 10 am. If you are interested in helping out or just having a chat and finding out what we do, please come along or give me a call. You will find us somewhere along the main ride through the wood. There are usually hot drinks and biscuits on offer too.

*Melanie (291319)*

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**West Wrating Parish Council**

At the parish council meeting held on Monday 9<sup>th</sup> January some of the issues discussed were:

**Finance:**

- a) The *authorised payments* are as shown on the draft minutes posted on the noticeboards.
- b) The *budget & precept for 2017/18* was discussed. After discussion about the amount to request it was agreed that a 1.99% increase should be asked for, in keeping with the SCDC 2% precept increase for this year. This is the same percentage as requested last year and amounts to £218.55 for the year added to our present precept.

**Planning:** Planning applications S/3068 (A Simms, 31 The Common), S/2759 (S Kirk, 85 High St), and S/2422 (Dr C Hodson, 4 Hayter Close) were all supported by the parish council. The re-application S/3559 (G Drake, 21 High St) for erection of new dwelling and garage was looked at but no decision was made.

**Maintenance:**

- a) *Dog poo sites:* The site plan for the poo bins had been sent to SCDC but the bins are not yet in place. It was agreed that if nothing is heard before 25<sup>th</sup> January, the next Forum meeting at Castle Camps, the matter will be raised at this meeting.
- b) *Flood Risk form:* The Chairman decided not to complete this form as any reports of flooding immediately had the effect of increasing insurance rates, even if it was a one off event.
- c) *Diseased trees* from Honey Fungus in Hayter Close – a letter written by Mike Rowland concerning this problem had been forwarded to Garrod Family Tree and they have since agreed to remove the trees and stumps.

**Football Club & Sports Pavilion:** Cllr Holness reported that the football club were still trying to lease some land in order to have two football pitches and he has advised them on the legal aspects of this. As yet the parish council has received no invoice for grass cutting from the football club and they have not yet received £250 rental money from the Sports Pavilion. Cllr Holness said he would look into this. There have also been complaints about youths using the car park to do wheelies in their cars. It has been suggested that the metal pole fence separating the car park from the Sports Pavilion be extended to include all the car park, or to have gates across the entrance which would then require keyholders to be available to open the gates when necessary.

**Traffic issues & speed restrictions:**

- a) *Minor Highways Improvement scheme:* Having put in an application for funding, a decision will be made on which application will succeed on Monday 30<sup>th</sup>/Tuesday 31<sup>st</sup> January. West Wrating will be represented by the chairman and a resident.
- b) *Speed issues:* The request for a sign 'Not suitable for HGV vehicles' to be placed on the Six Mile Bottom Road near the A11 junction had been refused as it is a B road. Cllr Nichols intends to follow up complaints of HGV vehicles going at more than 20 mph through the village and hopefully encouraging them to sign up to the informal agreement agreed by other farm estates to keep the speed down to 20 mph through villages.

**Land owned by Parish:** Cllr. Holness has completed his investigations into the awarded pieces of land, two of which were verges. The third, now belonging to C J Threlfel, was considered to be 'wash land' and was not farmed, being far too swampy, and there was no public access. He therefore felt there was no need to register these pieces of awarded land and to put a

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note with their documentation and archive them. This was agreed and he will write a letter to the parish clerk as a record.

**Any other business:**

- a) Cllr Nichols wished to promote the parish council, as parishioners often did not know its function. It was agreed to show photos of the village assets, and also to set out the duties carried out by a parish councillor, at a Saturday coffee morning. Cllr Roberts will take some photos.
- b) Due to Cllr Snow's resignation it will be necessary to advertise the vacancy on the noticeboard and also in *Challenge* and by word of mouth.
- c) The grass cutting contract with CGM ends this spring and it was agreed to put this out to tender. Cllr Holness will write an advert for *Challenge*.
- d) Storage space is required by the parish clerk for three plastic boxes of archived documents, and she asked if they could be stored in the village hall. This was agreed.

The next parish council meeting will be held on Monday 13<sup>th</sup> March at 8.00 pm. All are welcome to attend.

*Jenny Richards, Parish Clerk*

Raising funds for the  
 ★ Meadow Primary School ★

**MEADOW SCHOOL**  
 PTA  
**Quiz NIGHT**

**FRIDAY**  
**24.03.17**  
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**START: 7:30 PM**

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### *The Meadow School*

“We all get the exact same 365 days. The only difference is what we do with them.”

*Hillary DePiano*

2017 has started positively and incredibly well. The feeling within the school community is that 2017 will be our year to shine. We have continued to push the theme of ‘Aspiration and Inspiration’, the aim being to ensure that all of our children can have dreams for their futures, with the message that no ambitions are beyond their reach.

I made a plea for help from parents to share their achievements with the children, and they didn’t disappoint. We have parents who have skydived for charity, rowed for Great Britain, or fought against the odds having been brought up abroad in poverty and with limited access to education and then have gone to university and achieved great things. Others have worked their way up to be an integral part of the team producing graphics for films such as ‘Gladiator’ and ‘Harry Potter’. Some have moved a significant distance to enable them to follow their dreams, working hard to serve our country as a police officer, others were part of the hugely important Human Genome Project. Some of the stories they shared with me genuinely made me very emotional. They were incredibly inspirational and nearly every single story involved a huge amount of determination, self belief and support from others.

In a world where there is so much negativity in the press, providing our children with the opportunity to think big, dream, and have a focus is hugely important. I am very excited about this project and the snowball effect it is already having. In the summer term we will be holding a careers fair for all of the children in school to visit. They will have the

opportunity to listen to people talk about their jobs and how they think they will change in the future, along with seeing what the world has to offer. If you have a career that you could share with us, then please make contact as we would love to hear from you.

To support our Aspirations and Inspirations we have continued to provide children with new experiences. The Infants have already been to The London Aquarium for their new topic, ‘Life on an Ocean Wave’. The looks on their faces as they saw sharks and giant turtles literally swim past them were truly amazing.



Not to be outdone, Y3/4/5 have ventured ‘Into the Freezer’. They started by looking at artwork painted by artists inspired by the polar regions, and then had a fantastic day when they visited the Scott Polar Research Institute, being amazed by the equipment used past and present during expeditions, and finding out just how cold it get can in the polar regions.



Finally, Y5/6 literally did start the year and term with a bang! On the very first day back they had an African Drum workshop launching their ‘Africa – Land of Diversity’ topic, learning traditional African songs along with playing a number of different African drums. So we already we have had children declare they are going to swim with sharks when they are older, climb Everest and visit Africa. If these aren’t inspiring topics, providing aspiration, then I don’t know what are!

If we have one message for all of our community this year it is: think big!

“There is never any excuse to let anything stand in the way of your dream. Everyone is entitled to their dreams even if they seem unattainable.”

*Jaydee McNamara, parent at The Meadow*

**Nichola Connor, Headteacher**

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**MOPS HAIR SALON**

***The Marsh Mail (news from Linton Village College)***

Extra-curricular opportunities are a key strand of schooling. There is a reason why this element of our provision is entitled 'Enrichment' at LVC; such experiences are truly enriching for students' learning and their wider, formative education.

I'm sure that most adults can fondly recall trips from their own school days. My highlights include a French exchange, aged 11, and the increased independence and cultural exposure that the trip to Lille involved. International, far-flung adventures and local excursions certainly have the ability to enhance, extend and enrich children's learning.

At LVC, students have a plentiful enrichment offer. This term, students have benefited from enterprise, careers and science trips including a visit to Dalehead Foods and to Oxford University. This month we wish our GCSE French students 'bon voyage' as they embark on a week's immersive stay at a château. Meanwhile, plans for our annual Enrichment Week are under way, with almost every Year 9 student signed up for a residential trip to Derbyshire, Paris or Lanzarote, and significant fundraising is taking place for our Camps International trip to Cambodia in the summer.

Enrichment opportunities such as these offer students the chance to develop relationships and a raft of personal skills (confidence, endurance, risk-taking and responsibility to name but a few), as well as memories. They also have the potential to be transformative opportunities: to spark a passion or interest that might have remained untapped in the parameters of a regular classroom.

Staff invest time and energy above and beyond their regular duties to organise and supervise school trips, often giving up their evenings, weekends and holidays, because they recognise their value and importance. As a comprehensive state-school, we want all of our students to benefit from enriching learning opportunities. While our trips vary in terms of budget, money can ultimately be a barrier for a number of families.

LVC's Trust Fund enables voluntary contributions from parents, the school's alumni and members of the community to provide financial subsidy for families that would otherwise struggle to afford extra-curricular activities. Anyone wishing to donate to the Trust Fund can contact [jackie.bailey@lvc.org](mailto:jackie.bailey@lvc.org) at the College.

*Helena Marsh, Executive Principal*

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## Balsham Community Market

Another cracking market was held on 14<sup>th</sup> January, with a fantastic turnout from our local community. The doors opened at 2 pm, and the inflow of people didn't slow down till 2.45 pm. The Institute was bursting at the seams once again, and the atmosphere was electric. Quite a few stall holders had sold out within the first hour of trading!



Thank you to those of you who could come along and support us. We look forward to seeing you at our next market on Saturday 11<sup>th</sup> March: 2 pm to 4.30 pm in the Institute. The theme will be chocolate and Easter.

More information can be found on our Facebook page: [www.facebook.com/balshammarket](http://www.facebook.com/balshammarket), or follow us on [www.balshammarket.wordpress.com](http://www.balshammarket.wordpress.com).

*Debbie Paton*

## West Wickham Gardening Club

On Monday 16<sup>th</sup> January we were pleased to welcome Andrew Sankey to talk to us on 'Rethinking your Garden'. This was a very informative talk, giving us many tips on how to redesign your garden to make it appealing to the eye: pathways with a feature at the far end; using colour to make an impact in the border; using borrowed views by lowering hedges; and being ruthless with those plants that sulk and do not thrive.

We are all guilty of putting our plants where we want them and not where they really need to be. He illustrated his talk with photos of gardens he has designed in Lincoln and Cambridge, giving us all plenty to think about in the coming months.

We have a varied and interesting series of talks from February to April on the third Monday of the month, 7.30 at West Wickham Village Hall. On 20<sup>th</sup> February Richard Arnott will talk on 'Wildflower Meadows', Rob and Denise Sherriff on 'How to Grow Dahlias' on 20<sup>th</sup> March, and a talk on 'Caring for Plants in Containers' on 24<sup>th</sup> April (17<sup>th</sup> April is a bank holiday). If any of these are of interest to you just come along and we will give you a warm welcome. More information from Rosemary Yallop.

*Rosemary Yallop (01799 584262)*

## Granta Deanery Spring Fair

Can you contribute anything for the Deanery Spring Fair? The fair will be held on 4<sup>th</sup> March, and West Wrating help with the toy stall so if you have unwanted toys or puzzles please let me know. Other stalls include Cakes & Bakes, White Elephant, Produce (jams etc), Tombola, Bottle Stall, Books, China & Glass, Gifts, and Card & Craft. We have been asked to contribute, if possible, various items for the other stalls – bottles, bakes, a raffle prize, and jams etc.

We will also need two people to help on the stall. There is a rota with other parishes so you don't have to be there for the whole time.

If you are unable to contribute, do come along to what proved last year to be a very enjoyable and worthwhile event. If you can help in any way or want further information please contact me. Many thanks.

*Linda Gorman (290653)*

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Granta Deanery

# Spring Fair



**Saturday 4<sup>th</sup> March**

10 - 12 noon

**Great Shelford Memorial Hall**

Cakes Produce White Elephant Toys Jigsaws  
China Glass Card & Craft Gifts Tombola  
Raffle Refreshments Wide Range of Books

Entrance: Adults 50p, Children free

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## Balsham Gardening Club

The next meeting of the club will be at 7.30 pm on Tuesday 7<sup>th</sup> February, at the Meadow School, when Alice Warley will be sharing tips on growing for showing.

*Jennie Tipler*

## Cambridgeshire Fire and Rescue Service

Looking for something new to do in 2017?

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On-call firefighters are men and women who may have other jobs and are able to provide evening, daytime or weekend cover. When they are on-call they may be at home, working for themselves or for a nearby company, or out in their local community (staying within a five-minute travel time of the fire station) and are generally located in rural communities, small towns and villages.

If you would like to become an on-call firefighter, or to find out more, then please go to our website at [www.cambsfire.gov.uk](http://www.cambsfire.gov.uk) and search for 'on-call firefighter' under the careers section.



# LINTON JAZZ

Saturday 4th March

7:30pm

Linton Village College

Tickets £10

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St Andrew's, West Wrating (10.45 am)			SET UP	FLOWERS	CLEANING
5 <sup>th</sup> Feb	Holy Communion	Very Rev Keith Johnson	Ben	Linda	Pauline
12 <sup>th</sup> Feb	Holy Communion	Very Rev Keith Johnson	Jenny	Linda	Maggie
19 <sup>th</sup> Feb	Holy Communion	Rev Dr Carrie Pemberton Ford	Sisse	Fanny	Sue
26 <sup>th</sup> Feb	Holy Communion	Very Rev Keith Johnson	Alex	Fanny	Jenny

St Mary's, Weston Colville (9.15 am)		
	FLOWERS	CLEANING
February	Jane	Ruth
March		Gay

### Roman Catholic Mass

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

## DIARY

### February 2017

Wed 1	Weston Colville Cinema Club, Reading Room
Fri 3	Tea & Cakes, Weston Colville First Friday bridge, West Wrating
Sat 4	Farmers' Market, Linton Saturday Morning Café, West Wrating
Tues 7	Balsham Gardening Club
Sun 12	Order deadline, Weston Colville Oil Coop
Tues 21	'Let's Talk About It', West Wrating village hall
Wed 22	West Wrating Book Club
Thur 23	West Wrating Lunch Club, The Chestnut Tree
Sat 25	Coppicing work party in Lower Wood

### March 2017

Wed 1	Weston Colville Cinema Club, Reading Room
Sat 4	Circular walk from Weston Colville Granta Deanery Spring Fair, Great Shelford Linton Jazz concert, LVC
Sat 11	Community Market, Balsham
Mon 13	West Wrating Parish Council meeting
Thur 16	Tennis Club AGM
Thur 16	West Wrating Lunch Club, The Chestnut Tree
Wed 22	West Wrating Book Club
Fri 24	Quiz Night, Meadow School

Revd Kathy Bishop, Associate Priest  
tel: 892288 email: [revkathy@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:revkathy@hotmail.co.uk)  
Very Revd Keith Johnson, Honorary Associate Priest  
tel: 890835 email: [jkeith1412@gmail.com](mailto:jkeith1412@gmail.com)  
Mr Steven Wheeler, Licensed Lay Minister  
tel: 290643 email: [steven@juicyfruitsuk.com](mailto:steven@juicyfruitsuk.com)  
Mrs Rosemary Mead, Authorised Lay Minister  
tel: 891718 email: [leonardavmead@hotmail.com](mailto:leonardavmead@hotmail.com)  
Mr Keith Day, Authorised Lay Minister  
tel: 891527 email: [keithdday@btinternet.com](mailto:keithdday@btinternet.com)

#### Churchwardens:

St Mary's – Roger Whitehead (290524),  
Philippa Coates (290842)  
St Andrew's – Sebastian Bain (403415),  
Alex Walsham (291491)

#### Parish Council Clerks:

Weston Colville – Christine King,  
[wcpcc@typo.demon.co.uk](mailto:wcpcc@typo.demon.co.uk), 01223 290963  
West Wrating – Jenny Richards,  
[j.richards597@btinternet.com](mailto:j.richards597@btinternet.com), 01223 665260

**Church Administrator:** Caroline (Cazzy) Walshe,  
[7churches.seven@gmail.com](mailto:7churches.seven@gmail.com), 01223 891443

**Parish Nurse:** Claire Gillett,  
[7churches.parishnurse@gmail.com](mailto:7churches.parishnurse@gmail.com), 07498 994205

**Black bins:** Tues 7<sup>th</sup> & 21<sup>st</sup> February

**Blue & green bins:** no green bin collection in February

**Blue bins only:** Tues 14<sup>th</sup> February

(No information available on March collections at time of going to press)

#### Mobile library: fourth Wednesdays

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](mailto: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.

**March issue's copy date: Monday 20<sup>th</sup> February**