

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 Resident a Pioneer in Australia

Residents of Great Abington recently visited St Saviour's Church, Kuranda, North Queensland, and found recorded that the builder of this simple wooden church was Mr Arthur Newman, born in West Wrattling, Cambridgeshire. The population of Kuranda originally used the School of Arts building as a church, but there was increased enthusiasm from 1911 for building a church, and building work started in early 1915.

To raise funds for the building, "*a nice little Church Fair was arranged . . . a sale of work, refreshment and other stalls, were arranged, and though quite impromptu, proved a great success. Gifts were sent by many ladies, and easily disposed of, a euchre party* was also arranged, and thoroughly enjoyed.*" Many donations towards the cost were received in kind, including timber from the Veivers and Crothers families, which was milled green. The building originally had no glass windows and no ceiling, so rain on the corrugated iron roof was deafening.

The Centennial issue records that on 11th December 1933 Thomas Arthur Newman died at the age of 68, and so the district lost one of its most noted and universally respected pioneers. Arthur Newman went to Queensland at the age of 21, and for the 28 years prior to his death he lived in Kuranda and played a big part in the building of that place. He was survived by a wife, three grown up sons (Robert, Ernie, and Percy) and daughters Anne (Mrs W Austin), Rose (Mrs G Veivers), Ruby (Mrs G Austin), and Vera (Mrs Les Veivers), all residents with families at Kuranda, also 31 grandchildren and one great grandchild.

Source: Centennial Issue (History and Guide) for St Saviour's Church, Kuranda, N Queensland, Australia.

Valerie Silvey (Abingtons and Hildersham News)

** Euchre is a trick taking card game that is usually played with four individuals in two pairs, with a 24 or 32 deck of standard playing cards. Invented in the 1860s, this card game is said to have introduced the joker into the modern card playing decks. Perhaps this could be a suggestion for fundraising for our churches here? AB*

Come and raise the roof at
St Andrew's, West Wrattling
 (even though some of it is missing!)
Harvest Songs of Praise
for all the Family



Sunday afternoon,
9th October, 4.00 - 5.00

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

All ages welcome

Drinks and cakes afterwards

**Voluntary donations of money
 towards Tearfund's work with
 Syrian refugees in Lebanon.**

Scilla & John Harvey (290199)

St Mary's Harvest Celebration

October 9th, 10.30 am, **Harvest Service for families**, followed by **bulb planting** in the churchyard.

Bring some daffodils and crocus bulbs to plant and help make our churchyard beautiful in the spring.

After the planting there will be refreshments, including sharing the harvest loaf.

Jane Pryor

Churchyard Clear-up, West Wratting

The autumn clear-up of St Andrew's churchyard will be on Saturday 12th November, from 10 am until 12 noon. The usual doughnuts, coffee and tea will be available. Everyone is welcome.

Colin McCall (290036)

Christmas Fair

There will be a meeting on Tuesday 11th October, 7.30 pm, at St Mary's, Weston Colville.

Please join us for a cuppa and biscuits, to chat and share ideas for making things to sell, and how we can continue to run this successful and popular village event.

Alan Ogden (291401)

West Wratting Over 60s

The club will meet next on Wednesday 5th October at 2.30 pm in the village hall, with bring'n'buy and raffle.

Our penultimate meeting for 2016 will be in the village hall at 2.30 on Wednesday 2nd November.

Wendy Halls

'We don't talk about this sort of thing'

A discussion with broadcaster Libby Purves, Rev Prof Alasdair Coles, and the Bishop of Huntingdon, engaging in a conversation about the spiritual issues around end of life, care of the dying and support of the bereaved.

This is a health awareness event, as part of our Parish Nurse project, and is free to attend.

Monday 3rd October, 7.00 pm (talk starts at 7.30 pm) at the Meadow School, Balsham.



HARVEST SUPPER

Ploughmans
Raffle
Produce auction
Bar
Adults £10
children £5

West Wratting Village Hall
1st October
7 pm till midnight

Tickets available from Karen:
291229 or
Karen@karenbakerdesign.co.uk

Now in St Mary's, Weston Colville . . .

My fellow church warden, Philippa, and her husband Bob, have just put an auto coffee/tea machine into our church. It is at the back near the children's area.

If you just feel you need a quiet time away from the worries of the world come and have a cuppa! The machine is easy to use and there are full instructions, but if in doubt come and ask for help at our house and we can go through the procedure together.

Please do use this innovation. It is free!

Roger Whitehead

Autumn Concert

This year's concert will take place at Holy Trinity Church, Balsham, on Saturday 8th October at 7.30 pm, with the usual mix of choral and instrumental music.

Tickets: £12.00 including interval refreshments (the first increase in 6 years), children free; available from the Balsham shop/post office, Weston Colville post office, or Linda and Michael Gorman (290653).

We will also need help as usual with setting up, refreshments (providing and serving), selling/taking concert tickets, and raffle tickets. If you can help with any of these things please let us know.

Linda Gorman

Saturday Morning Café, West Wrattling

The Saturday morning café will run as usual on Saturday 1st October between 10.30 am and 12 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, 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, set up and clear away, and also our amazing cake bakers. Our 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 for a catch up over tea / coffee and delicious cake.

Sherry (290070) and Catherine (291307)

Children's Halloween Ghost Walk and Party

on Saturday 29th October, 4 - 6 pm, at the Reading Room, Weston Colville. Tickets from Sarah (290554). Look out for the posters!

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Lunch Club Change of Date

The West Wrattling lunch club will meet at The Chestnut Tree on Thursday 13th October, instead of 20th, because of holidays. After that we will continue to meet on the third Thursday of every month.

I will remind you nearer the time as usual, but if you know you can come and would like to do so, let me know, and I will book you a place.

Suan Rowland (290788, suanrowland@btinternet.com)

**Tea and Cakes, Weston Colville
in Aid of Macmillan**

We have decided we would like to hold our next Weston Colville Tea and Cakes gathering in aid of Macmillan cancer support.



Please come along and help us raise money for this important charity. We are hoping to have a greater than usual turn out, so that we can raise an impressive amount, so please spread the word. Donations of cakes would also be most welcome.

We look forward to seeing you on Friday 7th October, 3.30 - 5 pm at the Reading Room.

Melanie

Weston Colville Circular Walk

Our next circular walk will be on Saturday, 1st October; 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)*



AUTUMN CONCERT

**at Holy Trinity Church,
Balsham**

**Saturday, 8th October 2016,
7:30 PM**

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FOR MORE INFORMATION, CONTACT THE ORGANISERS:

Michael and Linda Gorman 01223-290653 Jeanette Job 01223-290706

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National Poetry Day

We'd like to bring National Poetry Day to Weston
Colville and hold an evening celebration in the
Reading Room. It's on Thursday, 6th October at 8 pm,
and you're invited to come along with a favourite
poem to share, and to listen to our neighbours'
choices. All welcome, no tickets necessary,
refreshments provided.

Jacqueline Douglas
(291475 jacquelinetheteacher@hotmail.com)

St Andrew's Church, West Wrattling

Everyone is welcome to come to the church on
Sunday 6th November from 4 pm to 5 pm for a village
tea and cake event. The aim is a social gathering (no
service at that time), and to find out people's ideas for
the church and its uses in the future. We would love
anyone with social media expertise to attend, too.

To help with numbers for catering please let us know
if you can, but if you haven't and still want to come,
please turn up!

Jeanette Job (290706)

Small Animal Run

Free to a good home – Savic branded small animal
run (for rabbits, guinea pigs, hamsters, gerbils),
formed from interlocking metal wired panels: 6 at
610mm high x 640mm wide, 5 at 610mm high x
780mm wide, and 16 at 920mm high x 620mm wide,
total length 17.6m; all still in good condition.

Richard Golding (07767 644450)

Apples on Offer

Organic apples are available for the picking from my
garden in Weston Colville.

Jackie Romanis, Naika, Mill Hill

Weston Colville Cinema Club

The cinema club returns on
Wednesday, 5th October, with
'El Baño del Papa', a
heartwarming and comic tale
from South America about how
a little community tries to
squeeze the most out of a once-
in-a-lifetime occurrence: on his way to the next city
on his tour, the Pope's coming through the village.
Beautifully shot in rural landscape, it's been described
by turns as a nutty farce and one of the sweetest films
you're likely to see.



Our November film, on Wednesday 2nd, will be 'Don't
Look Now', a 1973 film directed by Nicolas Roeg,
adapted from Daphne du Maurier's supernatural
thriller, and starring Donald Sutherland and Julie
Christie. Filmed mainly in Venice, it sets a riveting



but disturbing tale of psychological turmoil against
the serene and beautiful backdrop of 'La Serenissima'.
Both films are in the Reading Room at 7.30 pm, with
refreshments available, all welcome.

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

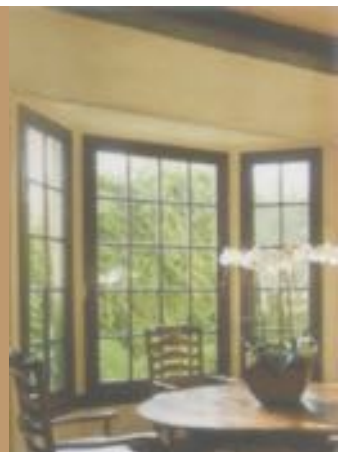
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Progressive Supper, West Wratting

Saturday 21st January

This one will be a fundraiser. ALL money will go to the St Andrew's church roof fund. £10 per person to take part.

Please contact me for more details, and to let me know if you are interested. I will collect your cash and details later.

Sherry (sherry.odonovan@gmail.com)

West Wratting Oil Syndicate

September fill up results: 17 houses in West Wratting participated in the order that was placed on 8th, with deliveries being made on 14th September.

Shelford Energy won the West Wratting syndicate order, with a price of 32.00p per litre, which was a saving of 1.65p against my benchmark Boilerjuice 'Bulk' price of 33.65p. All prices + VAT.

For interest, prices in the last twelve months have been: (2015) July: 34.90p, September 31.65p, October 30.30p, (2016) January 24.75p, March 28.10p, May 27.00p and July 31.60p.

Hopefully prices will continue to stay low for the **last syndicate fill up of the year**, which will be this month. The cutoff for orders is Monday 10th October at 6 pm. Place your orders either by phoning the pub during licensing hours --not too late, please -- on 290384, or by emailing me at *richardholness023@btinternet.com* (as some emails to me have gone missing, if you don't get a reply from me to your emailed order within 48 hours, please place your order with the pub by phone).

Details of the supplier, price and delivery dates will be placed on the West Wratting website *www.westwratting.org.uk* about three days after the order cutoff day.

Please remember that syndicate orders take at least a couple of weeks from the cutoff date to be collated, brokered and delivered. However, if you take the minimum of 500 litres every time there's a fill up, you'll always buy at the best possible price and improve your cashflow to boot!

Please also note that, because we are never offered a significant reduction in the run up to Christmas, this fill up will be the last one in 2016, and the next will be January 2017.

Richard Holness

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St Andrew's Clay Day

On a lovely warm morning in late August a team of 24 guns of all ages took part in our annual fundraising clay day. The warm windy conditions provided some great sport.



Thank you to all those who took part; with some extra donations we have raised over £2,500. Our thanks must also go to Richard and Jackie from the Green Man at Six Mile Bottom who organised such an enjoyable event plus a well earned lunch.

For those interested, we have a date for next year on Saturday 26th August.

Simon Sampson

Thought for the Month

Please pick up litter!

Thanks to Cobby and his dedicated team of litter pickers, the village is usually very tidy. However, you can help them by picking up any stray bits of litter you see as you walk through the village – just remember to take a bag with you so that you can dispose of it when you get home.

Thank you for your help.

West Wrating Parish Council

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West Wrating Book Club

We met at The Chestnut Tree to review two books: Bill Bryson's 'Road to Little Dribbling', and Kate Morton's 'The Lakehouse'.

'The Road to Little Dribbling' – a very humorous book by this talented author, updating his 'Notes from a Small Island'; it was perceptive, incisive, and great at highlighting how other nationalities view us and our 'ways'. It is a literal revisiting of parts of England that he viewed and wrote about previously. He shows how things are taken for granted, including the third Heathrow runway, the obsession with green belt, and our gorgeous countryside, with '... sheep dotted, plump hedgerows ...'. Our landscape is higgledy piggledy but it all works together. It is a great book, and is so funny in places, as well as sending up aspects from our seaside towns to orderly wheelie bins. He is excellent on his facts, too. Everyone would benefit from reading this book, and of the six reviewers, two scored it 10 out of 10, and the others gave it 9.5 or 9. Everyone recommended it, and it would be a great stocking filler for Christmas.

'The Lakehouse' – a mystery within a mystery, set in Cornwall, flitting between modern day and turn of the 20th century. A toddler goes missing from his bed on

the night of a midsummer party, and no one know who did what, until the case is re-opened by accident when a jogging detective loses her dog in a derelict secret garden. A good read, in parts a bit contrived, and a typical holiday read. There was enough meat for it to avoid being frivolous, and it touched on lots of themes, from adoption to illicit affairs. Enchanting as well as intriguing, we would all recommend it but not as strongly as the Bill Bryson one. You could say this book was Agatha Christie with attitude!

We will next meet on 12th October at 8 pm at The Chestnut Tree, to review 'The Essex Serpent' by Sarah Perry. We will then meet on 17th November to review 'Tender is the Night' by F Scott Fitzgerald.

Everyone and anyone is welcome to the book club, and if you don't want to come to the meeting, but just read the book, fine by us, but we would be delighted if you wanted to send in your review to Linda Gorman, lcg@btinternet.com

Jeanette Job

Weston Colville Neighbourhood Watch (NHW)

Reports this past month have covered the areas of Abington, Fulbourn, Sawston, and Whittlesford. Criminal activities reported include theft from vehicles, theft of number plates, theft of house and vehicle keys, cycle theft and jewellery theft. Nothing much seems to have happened around us, but remember that as autumn turns into winter, oil tanks will be topped up and may be targeted.

Seasonal rental fraud is an emerging trend, when students are looking for suitable accommodation. Advice includes only using reputable letting companies, and viewing the properties offered before parting with any cash or transferring money.

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A money mule is someone who is recruited by those needing to launder money obtained illegally. Be wary of unsolicited emails or social media posts offering easy ways of making money. The opportunity of making money quickly is an attractive one but remember that money laundering is a criminal offence and the penalties for the mule are very severe.

Advice concerning 'officials and utility workers' who knock on your door: if you are not sure, do not open your door. Stay safe, use a door-chain. Don't call the number the caller has given you, but check your utility bill for the emergency number and call that. If you feel threatened or are suspicious contact the police on 999.

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

West Wratting Sports Pavilion Vandalism

On Saturday morning it was noticed the defibrillator glass had been smashed, which is very sad as it has taken a very long time to provide this facility for all to use in an emergency. This must have happened on Thursday or Friday evening at some point. If anyone noticed anybody near the pavilion, vandalising or behaving suspiciously, please phone Colin (on 07899 998881) or the police.

Blanche Miller, Sports Pavilion Secretary

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Carers required

Are you a caring person? Would you like to earn a bit extra? We are looking for someone to join our current carer in the mornings at 7.30 am and/or evenings at around 8.00 pm Monday to Friday, and also Saturday mornings around 7.45 am and Saturday evenings at 7.00 pm. The support is to cover all aspects of personal care for a placid and interesting young man with complex care/health needs. Good rate of pay.

Any interested person please call James or Sarah Warren on 01223 291236 or email sarah@millendcam.co.uk for more information.

New FitSteps® Class in Linton

If you want to try my FitSteps® class, but can't face the early morning session on a Saturday in West Wratting, I have just started teaching at the Strictly Dance Studio on The Grip in Linton, 6 pm on Tuesday evenings. This is a lovely venue – there's even a glitter ball. For more information, please call 290967 or 07799 644053, or fitsteps.annec@gmail.com

Anne Catchpole

Oil Servicing in Aid of St Andrew's Church

John Edwards of Eastern Counties Oil Services has very kindly offered to donate £10 for every oil boiler service booked with him if you mention this article in 'Challenge when you book. He has also offered to donate a free oil service worth £66 for us to raffle in aid of the church roof fund. Please take him up on this kind offer, and ring him on 01223 291374. He also services oil fired Agas. Many thanks, John.

If you have an idea to help raise funds for the church roof, please contact either Jeanette Job on 290706 or Simon Sampson on 290461.

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West Wrattling Parish Council

The following items were discussed at the parish council meeting held on 12th September.

Planning:

S/1311/16/FL – Mines Farm – renewal of permission for new dwelling has been approved by SCDC despite concerns of both parishes with regard to flooding. Complaints have been made.

S/1711/16/FL – Dr D Kemp – an amended planning application was looked at during the meeting but was refused due to the balcony which overlooked gardens.

Maintenance:

CGM contract ends in December and it was agreed to get quotations from several companies for the new season, but first a tight schedule must be drawn up of the grass cutting requirements.

The flooding experienced earlier has been reported to CCC Highways and the problems should be looked at in the next three months.

Cllr Fraser has provided the parish with five dog poo bins, and once he knows where they should be sited in can inform the maintenance team.

West Wrattling Sports Pavilion Committee:

- The defibrillator is now working.
- The bowls area has now been cleared, but the idea of using it as a junior training pitch has been put on hold as they are hoping to purchase a piece of land for another pitch.

Traffic issues:

- All five rondels have now been installed.
- Speed issues on The Common Road – as Speed Watch cannot be used there, the various residents have purchased a radar gun as a deterrent. The parish council agreed to donate £30 towards its purchase.
- Minor Highways Improvement scheme – a sub-committee is being formed to put together the application for an award to move four pairs of the 30 mph signs further outside the village.

Land Registration: the registration of the land which is part of the recreation ground is in hand.

The next parish council meeting will be held on Monday 10th November at 8 pm. All are welcome to attend.

Jenny Richards (Parish Clerk)

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Weston Colville Parish Council

The following items were discussed at the meeting held on 5th September.

Flooding – Update Following Recent Floods – Brian Heffernan, the County Council Flood Risks Officer, attended the meeting and distributed questionnaires to those affected by the floods.

He said that the drainage grates needed to be cleared before the winter. Private contractors will be engaged to clear the road gullies. He was working with landowners to ensure ditches are cleared. A survey of pipes that run under the roads would be made, some of which are undersized. It is important not to place hedge cuttings in the ditches. Mr Heffernan will visit some parishioners who had specific problems. His report will be sent to the parish council and published in Challenge.

Roads, Update on Speed Limit Signs (new 40 mph limit outside 30 mph areas) – it was agreed that the village signs should remain as they currently are, and the speed limit signs should be installed separately. The plans for proposed positioning of signs were displayed.

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.

Pop-up Pub – it will be possible to have a Pop-up Pub as part of a social evening. The cost of using the Reading Room will need to be factored in.

Recreation grounds – the following work has been carried out:

- a. hanging the gate at Church End
- b. installing the picnic tables at Church End

- c. reinstalling and repairing the gates and fencing at Weston Green Recreation Ground
- d. the fence at the Weston Green Recreation Ground has new materials and reinforcing all round the perimeter
- e. a goal net has been fixed to the posts at Church End.

The following work is still outstanding:

Church End slide – the steel parts need painting to satisfy ROSPA.

Weston Green – there are nettles, brambles and bushes round two sides of the fence perimeter. These ought to be cut back by two to three feet.

Fence Repair at Car Park – attempts have been made to find the person responsible for the condition of the fence. Contact has been made at SCDC but no action has been forthcoming. CK will speak to Kathryn Hawkes again.

Defibrillator Positioning – a bracket has been purchased and will be fitted on the wall of the Reading Room. Instructions for use will be published in Challenge. It was decided that a protective box should cover the defibrillator. Cllr Jackson will organise this.

Grants to Cricket Club – a request has been received for a grant to assist with the cost of a new store for the cricket club. Planning permission has been put in. The Wind Farm has been asked for a grant, and it is hoped this will be successful.

The parish council agreed to offer £500 (to be funded from 106 funds) and £250 contribution to grass cutting.

Reading Room Layby Funding Request – this will be firm standing but will still show grass. The council offered a grant of £750 (from 106 funds) towards the cost.

Planning – the **Mines Farm** application has been approved, as has the **Methodist Chapel conversion** to a dwelling house.

The **next meeting** will be on Monday 7th November.

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Weston Colville Flooding

The September meeting of Weston Colville parish council included discussions with Mr Brian Heffernan, Senior Officer Flood Risk for Cambridgeshire County Council. Mr Heffernan has now confirmed that he has again formally written to the relevant riparian landowners along Common Road requesting a meeting to assess progress maintaining the ditches for which they are responsible. He previously wrote to them requesting this be carried out by early November 2016. He has requested Highways to initiate surface water gully maintenance at Weston Colville and understands the precise timing of this is subject to budgetary constraints and the availability of the relevant contractors to carry out the works. Mr Heffernan has only received back two of the questionnaires he handed out at the meeting, and encourages all residents affected by the recent flooding to return these to assist with the on-going investigation. He provided points of contact for reporting problems and faults as follows:

Reports of widespread and internal property flooding can be sent via the form below:

https://www.cambridgeshire.gov.uk/site/xfp/scripts/xforms_form.aspx?formID=48&language=en

Residents aware of any road/highway related flooding issues such as ponding on roads, footpaths and blocked gullies, and indeed anything road related such as potholes, can report these matters by the link below:

<http://www2.cambridgeshire.gov.uk/HighwaysReports/Highways/ReportProblem1.aspx>

Alternatively, call 0345 045 5212.

Further information is available on flooding on the following pages:

- http://www.cambridgeshire.gov.uk/info/20090/emergency_planning/482/report_flooding
- <http://www.nationalfloodforum.org.uk/>
- <http://www.floodadvisoryservice.co.uk/>

Bridget Durham

Parish Clerk Vacancy

Weston Colville Parish Council has a vacancy for the key role of parish clerk. This is a paid post for an average four and a half hours work per week, although the actual hours worked per week will vary. Apart from parish council meetings, when the hours are worked is largely up to the clerk.

The parish clerk is responsible for all administrative duties of the council (and its associated charities, which require minimal work once or twice a year) and for keeping the council finances in order, including ensuring that payments are made in a timely manner. It is also vital that the clerk is able to attend parish council meetings, which are held six times per year.

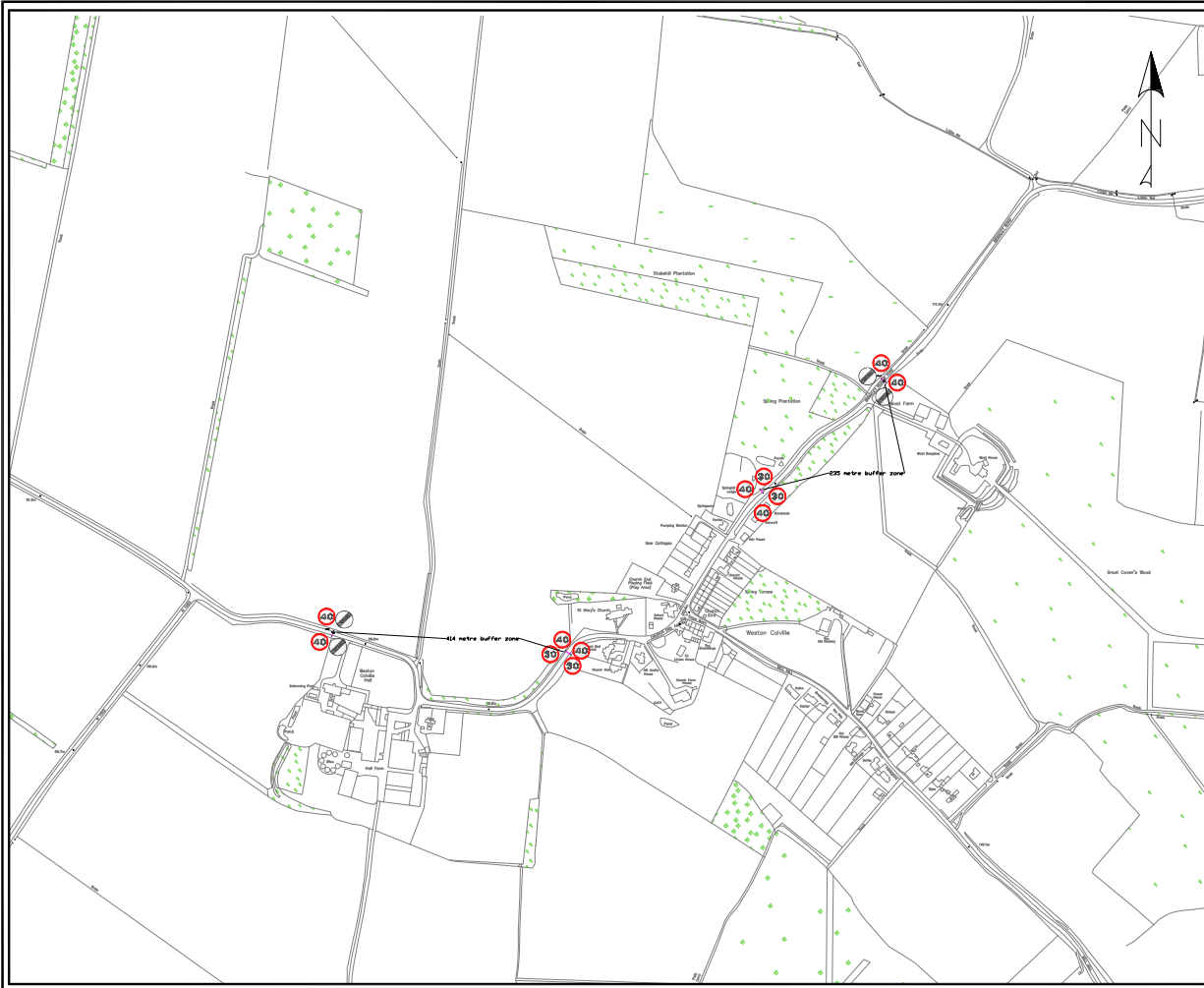
Training will be provided, and support is always available from parish council members

If interested, please apply to the council chairman, Ray Vidler, by phoning him on 01223 290010.


40 mph Zones in Weston Colville

The parish council has secured a grant under the Local Highways Initiative (LHI) to install 40 mph speed restriction buffer zones at all road accesses to the village. The following plans indicate the proposed positions of 40 mph signs, and indicate roundels that will be 'painted' on the road surface. The council would be pleased to have any comments. A formal consultation on the proposal by the County Council will begin on 10th October, and last for three weeks.

John Garrod



1. Sign mounting height 1600mm



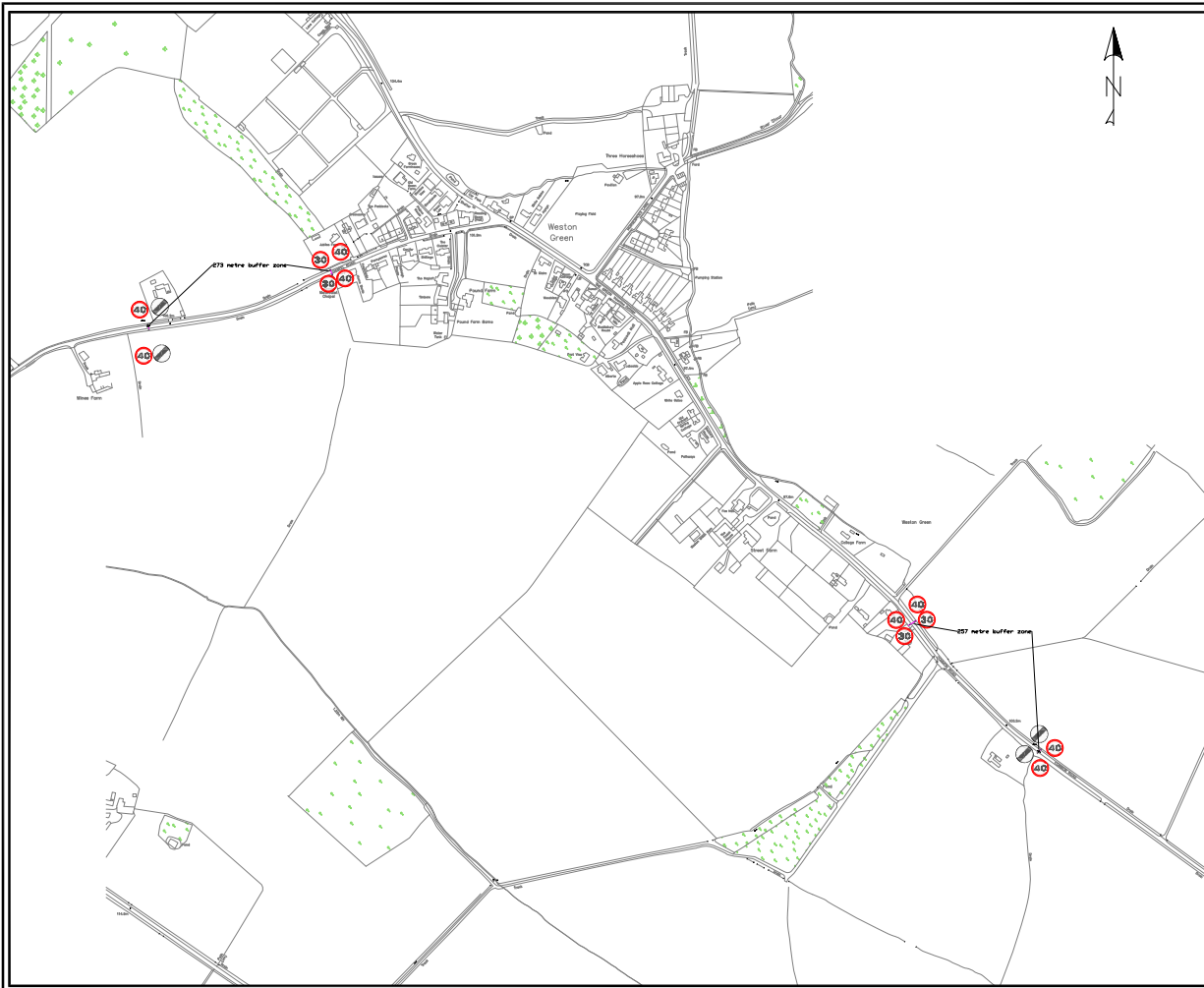
Project: SC046
Weston Colville
40mph Buffer Zones

Title: Final Plan Rev A
General Arrangement


Scale	Drawn	Checked	Date
1:5000	CF		19/09/2016

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Drawing Number: 15893 - 001A



1. Sign mounting height 1600mm



Project: SC046
Weston Colville
40mph Buffer Zones

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RICHARD KENYON
MASTER THATCHER
of Bluntisham, Cambridgeshire



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



Weston Colville
Cricket Club



It will come as no surprise, after previous

reports and the problems the teams have had with availability this season, that both the 1st and 2nd XIs suffered relegation at the end of the season.

The first team will play in the CCA Senior League Division 1 next season, along with Fordham and Newborough who were also relegated. The 1st XI's match against Saffron Walden on 3rd September was abandoned due to bad weather, and they lost their final match against Granta on 10th September, which meant that they won only one match this season. The 2nd XI played their final match away to CamKarala on 3rd but lost by 70 runs. Johnathan Durham had a fine spell of bowling in this match, taking 3 wickets for 8 runs in Camkarala's total of 156. However, in reply, Weston were bowled out for 86 with Paul Mayfield (29) the only player to make a decent score. The second team were relegated along with Foxton III and Comberton, and will play in the CCA Junior League Division 6 South next season.

The cricket club has some serious thinking to do over the winter to analyse the situation and formulate plans for a way ahead. Maybe Weston Colville is just a microcosm of the general position of cricket in the UK at the moment. A recent survey, for the England and Wales Cricket Board, reported in the national press, could not have been more gloomy. According to this report, just 2% of 5 - 15 year-olds describe cricket as their favourite sport, which suggests that the next generation is about as interested in our glorious summer pastime as it is in canoe slalom or dressage. Among 15 - 18 year-olds, cricket is the eleventh most

popular sport. It seems that the feats of Joe Root, Josh Buttler, Ben Stokes and the like have made little impression on children. The newspaper article goes on to suggest that it is sitting in front of the computer screen playing Fifa 16 that has caused football to seep into the youthful bloodstream, and cricket might have some lessons to learn! The removal of coverage of cricket from terrestrial television may not have helped the situation either. Whatever the reason, cricket is not so popular at the moment and teams all around the country will have to try to encourage interest, or adapt to fewer players being available on a Saturday afternoon.

On a more positive and pleasing note, it is good to be able to report that this year represents the 50th year of Steve Potter's association with Weston Colville Cricket Club. He started playing at the age of 14 and has contributed massively to the development and fortunes of the club over half a century. He hung up his boots a couple of years ago but played for the club for 48 years. Steve was a canny left arm spin bowler and a very decent middle order batsman. He captained both the 1st and 2nd teams variously over the years and took many wickets for both sides. Steve has also made a major contribution to the club off the field. He has held most jobs on the committee including chairman and treasurer, but perhaps his greatest achievement is the development of the junior section of the club over the last 20 years or so. Together with myself and Kevin Hayes, he was one of the original members who achieved the ClubMark accreditation for the club and he now maintains that with Richard Golding, the club welfare officer. It is through Steve's endeavours that the club now has six qualified ECB coaches to support the junior section. The success of the junior section gives the club optimism for the future if we can maintain early interest and take young players through the ranks. Steve is certainly committed to that, and will not tire in supporting young cricketers at the club. Steve's loyalty to Weston Colville Cricket Club is second to none and unusual in present day life. The club is fortunate to have Steve on board and we all hope that he continues to support us into his second half-century – 50 not out – well done Steve!

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

John Garrod

www.westwratting.org.uk

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.

Marsh Tit Update

Good and bad news this month.

To get the worst over with, Monks Wood research station has seen 40% fewer young Marsh Tits this year. This is part of a continuing downward trend.

We think that about half the birds are not surviving their first year. We don't know why yet. It makes our Weston birds even more important to check up on.

The good news is that we now have eight colour-ringed Marsh Tits to look out for, in our gardens and on our walks. There are two rings on the left leg.

Birds from Great Coven's Wood:

Green over Red, Grey over Red, Blue over Red

Birds from Lower Wood:

Grey over Green, Blue over Green, Yellow over Green

Birds ringed on the south side of Mill Hill Rd:

Grey over Blue, White over Blue.

Thank you for your sightings. It is precious data that we can't collect ourselves. Please keep them coming in, to: cambsmarti@gmail.com, or Mel Stammers (291319, m_stammers@btinternet.com), or Duncan Mackay, Cambs Wildlife Trust.

Alex Inzani, for the BTO

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Lower Wood Work Parties

Over the winter Duncan Mackay, the volunteer warden, organises coppicing work parties in Lower wood. We meet once a month, on a Saturday morning, 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.

The dates for the coppicing are:

- 29th October, 26th November, 31st December 2016;
- 28th January, 25th February 2017.

Melanie (291319)

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Interregnum

In the parishes we are operating as normal as the vacancy progresses. There is much going on and Keith and I are working to ensure that communication is maintained.

We have arrived in the season of autumn, and are reminded of the words of John Keats when describing autumn as the season of mists and mellow fruitfulness! Certainly as I write this we are blessed with an Indian summer. The fruits are plentiful and we can get outside to enjoy this wonderful gift of sunshine. We are reminded once again how we are dependent on the weather for our crops, and of God's goodness to us as we watch the farmers ploughing the fields.

The children have gone back to school and a new academic year begins. Normal routine starts again. Change is always there. The children go up to a new class and get to know their new teacher. The date for the children to come to celebrate harvest in the church is on at 1.30 pm.

On Friday 30th September there will be a harvest supper at 7.30 at Balsham Institute. The menu is shepherd's pie and apple crumble, and there will be entertainment afterwards. It promises to be a good evening; do come along.

A reminder: the Balsham Singers are performing at Holy Trinity Church on 8th October at 7.30, to raise funds for the roof repairs at West Wratting Church.

Our parish nurse Teresa is meeting with many people in the parishes. She has gained the confidence of all the people she meets, and it is a joy that she is on the team.

Whilst we are in vacancy, if there is anyone who needs Keith or me to visit, do let us know.

I would just like to say thank you to the churchwardens and those who help in all sorts of ways. I could not do what I do without their support. We are working together as a team.

I also look forward to meeting people as I go around the parishes.

Rev Kathy Bishop (892288)

The Julian Group

When I first arrived in the six parishes, just over five years ago, I wanted to set up a Julian group because I had been involved with a similar group in my previous six parishes as a curate. I found several people who were interested and we began to meet at Hildersham Church. Now we meet at Joanna Sander's house in Nine Chimneys Lane, in Balsham. The evening starts at 7 o'clock with a piece of music and then a reading from the writings of Julian of Norwich. After the reading we have half an hour of silence, concluding with more from Julian, and then we can share what has happened or not as the case may be. We finish with a cup of tea and leave by eight o'clock. We try to meet on the second Wednesday of the month, but sometimes that has to be slightly adjusted.

Julian lived around 1373. She was very ill and saw visions given to her by God. She was able to get this written down and was the first English woman to have recorded anything. Her writing cut through the theology of the day and makes the relationship with God much freer. What is totally amazing is the fact that the Roman Catholic Church accepted her writing about what she had seen. We all know that she is famous for saying "All shall be well and all shall be well and all manner of thing shall be well". Also, "everything that exists is contained in a hazel nut in the palm of my hand".

We will help you to settle into a quiet place and who knows what might happen in the stillness. Being prepared to be still is the first step.

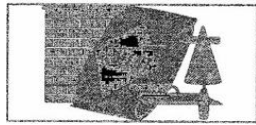
Has this whetted your appetite for more? We would love to see you. More details available from me.

Rev Kathy Bishop (892288)

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Cambridgeshire Fire and Rescue Service

Winter is coming, and Cambridgeshire Fire and Rescue Service is encouraging all residents to get their chimney professionally swept before the cold sets in. Top tips to enjoy an open fire safely:

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

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



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Alzheimer's Society

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people as possible who are affected by dementia. In rural areas, it can often be hard to get our message out there, which is, 'we are here for you'.

We are currently looking for volunteers to help raise awareness of dementia and Alzheimer's Society in their local areas. This can be achieved by ensuring local GP's, health centres, community centres and even local shops have up to date information from us. The role would involve supplying these places with the information through the forms of posters etc that would be supplied to you by our information worker, who will ensure you have the resources available to raise awareness of dementia and Alzheimer's Society.

The volunteering opportunity has no fixed hours, and can be done in your own spare time where available.

If this of interest to you and you would like to speak about it in more detail, then please do feel free to email me, at Joshua.Pearce@alzheimers.org.uk

Josh Pearce

Weston Colville Reading Room



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Meadow School

The school year has started extremely well and we have welcomed one of the largest and most confident group of Reception children for many years, along with many new families spread across the year groups. The staff team have worked tirelessly over the holidays to prepare their classrooms, get displays up, and make their learning environments welcoming, so those first day nerves for the children were very quickly removed.

Not only do the classrooms look fantastic, the flood damage has all been repaired and we have new flooring in certain areas. We also have a new automatic fire alarm system and internal fire doors. You may be wondering why doors are exciting us so much – well, if you have been around our school in the past few years you may have spotted that we had a range of coloured doors from red to blue to purple to white, which were not only looking very tatty, but it was a nightmare to try and match the colour paints if needed and there was no uniformity. We now have beautiful beech doors that have literally lightened the corridors and are making us even safer.

A building though does not make a school. A school is very much made by the people in it and once again



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the teachers alongside the children have planned exciting topics to engage all learners. Our whole school topic this term is focussed around books. The infants have chosen ‘Once upon a time...’ focussing on knights, princesses and castles. Key Stage 2 have opted for ‘Read between the lines...’, with Year 3/4/5 studying a range of Roald Dahl books and Year 5/6 focus upon World War II and ‘Goodnight Mr Tom’.

Trips to stimulate and offer experiences began in the very first week back, with Year 5/6 being transported back in time as evacuees. They were dropped at Stibbington railway station and spent a day just as evacuees all of those years ago would have done. Lunch was rations (apparently spam is very tasty!) and the outfits they came in were superb.



The Infants went to Hedingham Castle, where a day of dressing up as knights or princesses saw them being locked in the dungeon, learning to

sword fight, and trying on medieval armoury. They were superbly behaved and have produced some stunning work since they returned.

Not to be left out, Year 3/4/5 have been working hard looking at the stories written by Roald Dahl, and the highlight was a private screening at Haverhill Cinema of ‘The BFG’. I am not sure the red carpet was rolled out, and black tie was not required, but to have an entire cinema to yourself to see a blockbuster film was quite an experience!

We are still on the look out for people who may have the odd half an hour to fill, to either come in and help in the classroom with the children or to hear readers. If you are interested, please speak to the school office.

One of the children in Year 6 said to me the other day, “Miss Connor, this year is going to be a good one. I just know it!”. I have to say, it certainly feels that way already . . .

Nichola Connor, Headteacher

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The Marsh Mail (news from Linton Village College)

Governors are the unsung heroes of school life. They play a significant role in the school's standards and success.



They volunteer their time and energy to attend meetings, take part in reviews and interview processes, and contribute to school policies and direction. They have a significant responsibility for providing school leaders with critical friendship, support and challenge.

The collective commitment and investment of governors to the school is substantial. If we were to calculate the cost of the contribution made by governance to the education sector, the total sum would be vast. We are privileged to benefit from an array of different skills and expertise among our governing body at Linton Village College and the Directors of the Chilford Hundred Education Trust.

It is really important that the school's governance reflects its local community and serves the best interests of its students. While there is no longer a requirement for schools to have parental representation on governing bodies, we feel that there is great benefit to be had from this arrangement. Another important element is that of community governors. Recruiting from Linton and the surrounding villages allows us to tap into professional skills and talents of the local area, and sustain the school's unique character, ethos and values as a village college at the heart of its local community.

We currently have vacancies for governors at Linton Village College and are keen to hear from people who may be interested in taking up a position as a governor. To augment our existing governance skills base, we would particularly welcome additional

expertise in relation to finance, law and business, in addition to parent governors. We also have opportunities on the board of our Multi Academy Trust.

If you are interested in this rewarding opportunity and would like further information about what is involved, please get in touch with Tracy Coston, the clerk to the governing body (tracy.coston@lvc.org) by 17th October.

Helena Marsh, Executive Principal

1st Horseheath Brownies

We have started the new term with a couple of new faces – Millie and Matilda – and said goodbye to Eliška.

This term we are concentrating on being safe whilst outdoors, so we are working on our Road Safety badge. We are working through the clauses and will be practicing the Green Cross Code when we go on a night walk in October.

The United Reformed Church in Castle Camps have again invited us to decorate a tree for Christmas. We have decided to try making salt dough decorations; hopefully I won't burn them in the oven!

We will soon start our preparations for Christmas. In November we will be having a joint meeting with 1st Linton Guides, and hopefully we won't get covered in too much glitter!

The exam results are in, and Hera and Katie have definitely got places at university – Hera is off to University of Essex (Colchester campus) at the beginning of October so we will only see her when she is home from the holidays, and Katie is starting at University of Northampton at the end of September; she hopes to get to as many meetings as she can. We wish them both well on their courses.

Finally, Katie has now completed her Leadership Qualification and she was presented with her certificate and brooch recently.

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)

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Balsham Gardening Club

On Tuesday 6th September, thirty members of the garden club made their way to Dullingham House garden, owned by Sir Martin and Lady Nourse, and not normally open to the public. Lady Nourse almost cancelled the event due to the impact of the dry weather on her plants but was reassured that we have all been having the same problems and did not expect colourful perfection. We were welcomed with wine and nibbles on the terrace behind the house, where we admired the amazing datura plants in pots. These are not hardy and have to be moved into glasshouses for the winter.



Lady Nourse gave us a short talk on the history of the house and garden. The garden is surrounded by tall red brick walls that provide a warm microclimate for some tender plants, and perennials around the edges of the lawns. The walls are not parallel so the area on the west side is actually triangular and contains beds of heuchera in various shades of red. A seat here provides a view through to the opposite side of the garden, taking in the fountain and sundial through gaps in the limes.

The fountain is the centre point of a water feature which comprises a mini canal and central pond surrounded by beds of catmint. These were in full bloom and much admired.



To the west of the house there is a small enclosure, on the site of a demolished wing, laid out as a box knot garden. Lady Nourse generously provided cuttings on request and it is hoped that a return trip can be arranged to see the garden in its late spring glory.



There has been a change in the planned talk for the next meeting, on Tuesday 4th October. The subject will now be 'Gardens of West Scotland'.

Subscriptions are now due and will be collected at the October meeting. Membership charges have been increased to £10, to cover the cost of speakers and hire of the hall. Visitors are welcome at £3.50 per visit.

Forthcoming meetings

November 1st – Stephen Poyser, 'Beekeeping and the Garden'

December 6th – Christmas party with talk by Dr John Walters of the English Spirit Distillery

February 7th – Alice Warley, 'Growing for Showing'

March 7th – Veronica Bennett, 'Gardens of the National Trust'

April 4th – Gardener's Question Time.

Jennie Tipler

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Exploring accompanied prayer

Holy Trinity Church, Hildersham

Sunday 9th October, 12.30pm



Last year our Lent course focussed on prayer. One of the sessions, led by Archdeacon Alex Hughes, was based on Psalm 23. We read the passage together, had a quiet time to think, then shared in small groups what we had discovered.

If you would like to be part of a similar experience we invite you to Hildersham church on **Sunday 9th October, 12.30pm**, for a bring and share lunch. This will be an opportunity to take time out of our busy lives and be nourished in more ways than one.

- 12.30 - 1.30: Lunch; meet the team
- 1.30 - 1.40: What is guided prayer? Sr Anna Hawke
- 1.40 - 2.40: Guided meditation followed by small group discussion/feedback
- 2.45 - 2.50: Introduction to one to one accompaniment and how it helps
- 2.50 - 3.00: Any questions and closing prayer.

If you would like to attend, or find out more about this spiritually enriching event, please contact Kathy Bishop (892288, revkathy@hotmail.com)

HOME ANIMAL CARE

Let me take care of your pets, while you are out at work or away on holiday. I am a very responsible and reliable registered Pet Sitter, with many years' experience. I am fully insured and would like to have the opportunity to care for your pets.



Phone: Catherine 01223 291411 / 07778 921334
homeanimalcare@hotmail.co.uk
www.homeanimalcare.co.uk



NARP National Association of Registered Pet Sitters

St Mary's, Weston Colville (at 9.15 am)			FLOWERS	CLEANING
2 nd Oct	Morning Prayer	Mr Steven Wheeler	Perdita	Jennie
9 th Oct (at 10.30 am)	Family Service & Harvest Festival	Mr Steven Wheeler		
16 th Oct	Holy Communion	Rev Kathy Bishop		
23 rd Oct	Holy Communion	Canon John Pinder		
30 th Oct	UNITED SERVICE (West Wickham)			

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)

St Andrew's, West Wrating (at 10.45 am)			SET UP	FLOWERS	CLEANING
2 nd Oct	Holy Communion	Rev Dr Carrie Pemberton Ford	Ben	Jenny	Maggie
9 th Oct (at 4 pm)	Harvest & Garden Songs of Praise	John & Scilla Harvey & Very Rev Keith Johnson	n/a	ALL AVAILABLE	Fanny
16 th Oct	Holy Communion	Very Rev Keith Johnson	Jenny	Fanny	Pauline
23 rd Oct	Holy Communion	Very Rev Keith Johnson	Sisse	Louise	Fanny
30 th Oct	UNITED SERVICE (West Wickham)				Sue

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

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,
wccp@typo.demon.co.uk, 01223 290963
West Wrating – Jenny Richards,
jrichards007@talktalk.net, 01223 665260

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

Parish Nurse: Teresa Letimier,
7churches.parishnurse@gmail.com, 07498 994205

Black bins: Tuesday 4th & 18th October,
Tuesday 1st, 15th & 29th November

Blue & green bins: Tuesday 11th & 25th October,
Tuesday 8th & 22nd November

Mobile library: fourth Wednesdays (26th Oct, 23rd Nov)
High Street, West Wrating 12.10 - 12.55
Post Office, Weston Green 2.05 - 2.25
Mill Hill, Weston Colville 2.30 - 3.05

DIARY

October 2016

- Sat 1 Saturday Morning Café, West Wrating
Farmers' Market, Linton village hall
Circular Walk, from Weston Colville
Harvest Supper, West Wrating
- Mon 3 'We Don't Talk About . . .' discussion, Balsham
- Tues 4 Balsham Gardening Club meeting
- Wed 5 West Wrating Over 60s
Weston Colville Cinema Club, Reading Room
- Thur 6 Poetry, Weston Colville Reading Room
- Fri 7 Tea & Cakes, Weston Colville (Macmillan)
First Friday Bridge, West Wrating village hall
- Sat 8 Autumn Concert, Balsham
- Sat 8/Sun 9 Balsham Craft, Gift & Food Fair
- Sun 9 Harvest Celebration, St Mary's, 10.30 am
'Exploring Accompanied Prayer', Hildersham
Harvest Songs of Praise, St Andrew's, 4 pm
- Mon 10 West Wrating Oil Syndicate cutoff for orders
- Tues 11 Church fair meeting, St Mary's
- Wed 12 West Wrating Book Club
- Thur 13 West Wrating Lunch Club, The Chestnut Tree
- Sat 29 Children's Halloween party, Weston Colville
Coppicing work party in Lower Wood

Editor: Anne Bragg (290550) or email:
editor@challengemag.co.uk

Thank you for all your articles, news, etc. If these are sent by email, they are always acknowledged; if you don't get a reply, your items haven't been received. Contributions can also be left at Weston Colville Post Office. Some may have to be edited, to fit the space available, and are published at the discretion of the editor.

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