

# Challenge

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

The views expressed herein are those of the contributors.

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## ***Congratulations:***

**Professor Alexandra Walsham, CBE** – Alex Walsham, Churchwarden of St Andrew's Church, West Wrating, has been made a Commander of the Order of the British Empire in the Queen's Birthday Honours announced in June for 'Services to History'. Alex is a fellow of Trinity College, Cambridge and her research focuses on the religious and cultural history of early modern Britain. *See more at:*

[www.cam.ac.uk/news/cambridge-academics-recognised-in-queens-birthday-honours](http://www.cam.ac.uk/news/cambridge-academics-recognised-in-queens-birthday-honours)

**Tom Westley** – Tom has been called up to bat for England in the test match against South Africa at the Oval. Tom plays first class cricket for Essex, averaging 53 this season, and scored an unbeaten century against South Africa for the England Lions at Worcester in June. He began playing at Weston Colville, then Saffron Walden and Mildenhall.

## ***The Portable Pint comes to Weston Colville***

The Portable Pint is a new Linton-based venture offering monthly 'pop-up' pub nights to villages without a pub. After several successful evenings in Hadstock and Great Bradley, we will be holding our first pub night in Weston Colville Reading Room on Friday 1<sup>st</sup> September from 7 pm.



The idea is to recreate the atmosphere of a traditional village pub, dedicated to the simple pleasures of real ale and conversation, perhaps with a few traditional pub snacks and games. The bar will serve cask ale from a local brewery, together with Cambridgeshire cider, Adnams lager, wine, prosecco and soft drinks. There will be no spirits, no loud music or electronic entertainment, just the opportunity to socialise with friends and neighbours in a community setting without having to get in your car.

We are hoping to have a delivery of fish/chicken and chips (plus veggie alternative) during the evening, which would have to be ordered in advance (watch out for leaflets and posters for details).

The Portable Pint believes that every village should have its own pub and that pubs are at the heart of community life. A recent study for CAMRA by academics at Oxford University found that people who drink in community pubs have more friends, enjoy better health and wellbeing, and drink less than those who visit chain pubs or drink at home. It also found that communities with a pub enjoy a greater sense of social cohesion. The Portable Pint encourages everyone to support their local pub, and actively supports campaigns to protect and preserve village pubs. However, if a village does not have a pub, we are happy to provide an occasional pub night in the village hall where people can meet friends and neighbours for a drink.

Please come along to our opening night in Weston Colville on Friday 1<sup>st</sup> September – if this is successful it could become a regular event. You can find out more by visiting our Facebook page at [www.facebook.com/ThePortablePint](http://www.facebook.com/ThePortablePint)

*Jeremy Newton*

## ***West Wrating Over 60s***

Our garden meeting, to be held at Janet's in Linton, will be at 12.30 pm to include refreshments, on Wednesday 9<sup>th</sup> August. We will also have the bring'n'buy and the raffle.

Last month we enjoyed a lovely lunch provided for us at The Chestnut Tree, and had a short quiz to round off the meeting.

The meeting to be held on 6<sup>th</sup> September will be at The Chestnut Tree at 12.30 pm.

*Wendy Halls*

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### *Tea and Cakes, Weston Colville*

We enjoyed another gathering in July. In August we will meet on Friday 4<sup>th</sup>; same place – the Reading Room; same time – 3.30 - 5 pm. Come along for a cuppa, a piece of delicious homemade cake, and a chat. All welcome. We look forward to seeing you.



*Melanie and the Tea and Cakes Team (291319)*

### *Saturday Morning Café, West Wrattling*

We enjoyed another wonderful gathering at the cafe on 1<sup>st</sup> July. The next Saturday morning café will run on Saturday 5<sup>th</sup> August between 10.30 am and noon in the village hall. The café works by different volunteers offering to serve and donate cakes every month. There is always a play corner set up for kids, and a bookstall with second hand books.

Please come and join us for a catch up over tea / coffee and delicious cake!

*Sherry (290070) and Catherine (291307)*

### *Weston Colville Harvest Swap*

Our August Harvest Swap will be on Saturday 12<sup>th</sup> in the Reading Room, hoping to catch those 'gluts' your garden may produce. Bring produce that's too much for your table and go home with something different in exchange. All fruit and veg welcome, plus maybe recipes to go with them, and preserves. Nothing to swap? No problem – come and see local produce you might like in exchange for a donation. Refreshments available, 10 am until 12 noon.

*Jacqueline Douglas (291475,  
[jacquelinetheteacher@hotmail.com](mailto:jacquelinetheteacher@hotmail.com))*

### *Weston Colville Circular Walk*

In July, fifteen of us and six dogs enjoyed a warm, sunny walk to West Wrattling and back. At times, we walked through tall crops and at others, saw the harvest home.



Our next circular walk will be on Saturday, 30<sup>th</sup> September. All welcome – we meet at the Reading Room at 10.00 am and walk about five miles; 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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**West Wrattling Oil Syndicate**

For the July fillup, I still managed to beat the Boilerjuice ‘Bulk’ price, despite a relatively small group order.

Eleven houses in West Wrattling participated in the order, that was placed on 12<sup>th</sup> July with Certas Energy, with deliveries due to be completed by 19<sup>th</sup> July. Certas Energy (aka Pace / Butler) won the order with a price of 33.75p per litre , which was a small saving of 0.92p against my benchmark Boilerjuice ‘Bulk’ (for 2,000+ litres) price of 34.67p. All prices + VAT, of course.

For interest, prices in the last twelve months have been: (2016) July 31.60p, September 32.00p, October 37.20p and (2017) January 44.25p, March 40.95p, May 35.10p, so prices are still heading down at the moment . . .

The next fill up will be in September, with a cut off date of Wednesday 6<sup>th</sup> at 6 pm. Please don’t order before 1<sup>st</sup> September.

*Richard Holness*



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**West Wrattling Harvest Supper**

This year’s event will take place on Saturday 30<sup>th</sup> September, starting at 7 pm and finishing at midnight.

The format will be the same as previous years: we will be serving a simple supper of cheese and ham ploughman’s, followed by apple pies/crumbles.

There will be a raffle, produce auction and bar. Tickets: Adults £10, Children £5.

As this is a community event I am looking for people to help with running the supper (before, during and after), as well as donations for the raffle, produce auction and apple crumbles/pies. If you will be free and can help with the supper, please email or leave a message. Thank you.

*Karen (291229, karen@karenbakerdesign.co.uk)*

**West Wrattling Book Club**

Our next meeting will be on Wednesday 13<sup>th</sup> September at The Chestnut Tree, when we will talk about ‘A Street Cat Named Bob’ by James Bowen and ‘Colonel Belchamps’s Battefield Tour’ by local author, Adrian Crisp. We plan to start this meeting at 7.30 pm and we are delighted that the author will then join us at approximately 8.30 pm to discuss his book and answer questions. Please do try to read this book and join us for what should prove to be an interesting evening. All welcome.

*Linda Gorman*

**West Wrattling Driven Clay Shoot**

**Saturday 26<sup>th</sup> August**

For further information, please contact me, on *simon.sampson@btinternet.com* .

*Simon Sampson*

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d'Abo Tennis Club West Wrattling

# Summer Tennis

Tennis Coaching will run on Monday 14<sup>th</sup>, Tuesday 15<sup>th</sup>, Wednesday 16<sup>th</sup> and Thursday 17<sup>th</sup> August, with four age groups, as follows:



- **Tots Tennis (for ages 4 and under), 9 - 9.30am**
- **Red Ball (for 5 - 8 year olds), 9.30 - 10.30am**
- **Orange / Green Ball (for 9 - 10 year olds), 10.30 - 11.30am**
- **Yellow Ball (for 11 years and over) at 11.30-12.30pm**

This year we have been very generously subsidised by the West Wrattling Saturday Cafe so costs for this course are incredibly reasonable.

	Single Session	10% Discount for all four days
Tots Tennis	£2.50	£9
Red Ball	£4	£14.40
Orange/Green Ball	£5	£18
Yellow Ball	£6	£21.60

Children do not have to be members of the d'Abo tennis club in order to join in with this summer programme, but there will be an additional, one off, charge of £2 per child for non-members. Please enquire if you would like further information about membership of the d'Abo tennis club.

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### *Temporary Accommodation Required*

Due to building work at our house in Weston Colville, we are looking for temporary accommodation (for two adults and one child) for the period mid-August to mid-November approximately. Even if the accommodation is available for only part of that time, that would be helpful. Anything (other than a tent!) would be considered, eg caravan, mobile home, or whatever.

If anyone has anything that they would consider renting out to us for all or part of this period, please call me on the number below. Thank you.

*Juliet Gamble (291210)*

### *Cambridgeshire Historic Churches Trust Ride, Drive & Stride*

**Saturday 9<sup>th</sup> September, 10 am - 6 pm**

This year's national Ride, Drive and Stride Day coincides with Heritage Open Day, and is CHCT's main fundraising event, in aid of the grants they offer to churches of all denominations to assist with the cost of repairs and new facilities. St Andrew's church has recently benefited from this.

We hope to have St Andrew's open for this event and to provide refreshments for any participants. Please let me know if you can help in any way. If you would like to take part or would like more information please contact me or go to: [www.camhct.uk/ride/](http://www.camhct.uk/ride/)

*Linda Gorman*

### *First Friday Bridge*

There will be First Friday Bridge on 4<sup>th</sup> August in West Wrattling village hall from 7.30pm.

*Sherry*

*Stan Turner's 100<sup>th</sup> Birthday*



*Ministry Matters*

By the time you read this the summer holidays will be well under way, with children going around the villages enjoying being outside in the fresh air, perhaps having some picnics, playing in the park and leading a simple life. This time of refreshment enables us to connect with the natural world, with the harvest in full flow, and appreciating the flora and fauna around us.

It is hard to believe that Julie left us a year ago, but we have managed to maintain regular services in the seven churches due to the hard work of the clergy, churchwardens and willing helpers. Not only are we maintaining the status quo but we are also growing in our outreach in the community, with activities such as fetes, concerts and an art exhibition to come. There has been a steady flow of requests for baptisms in some of the churches, which is really encouraging. As I was thinking about baptism I realised that in days gone by it was a rite of passage. Once the baby had arrived it was a chance to 'wet' the baby's head followed by a trip to church for the naming of the infant, and then a party afterwards. This is a wonderful way to celebrate a new life, joining the family of the church – not just those in the village but worldwide – to be part of the whole Anglican Communion. Amazing to think of family on such a large scale.

There is the support of the parents and godparents as well as the church Rev Dr Carrie Pemberton Fordcommunity helping them to grow in faith. We celebrate that with the baptised person. Although it does not always have to be a baby; adults too can

come forward to experience God's love, which is not limited to the privileged few, but accessible to all, regardless of who they are. We are all made in the image of God.

One of the prayers we use during the baptism service is this . . .

*Faithful and loving God,  
 bless those who care for these children  
 and grant them your gifts of love, wisdom and  
 faith.  
 Pour upon them your healing and reconciling love,  
 and protect their home from all evil.  
 Fill them with the light of your presence  
 and establish them in the joy of your kingdom,  
 through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.*

Cardinal Newman said "The day you are baptised is the greatest day of all, even above ordination". If this is something you would like to know more about, please get in touch.

We have so much to be thankful for in our lives on our journey of faith. On this journey there are times when we travel with certain friends, and other times when there are others who only accompany us very briefly. In a society that has many lonely people perhaps we could be one such friend, to walk alongside someone who is lonely.

*Kathy Bishop*





### *West Wrating Parish Council*

At the meeting held on Monday 10<sup>th</sup> July the following items were discussed:

**Affordable housing:** Ulrika Maccariello from Hastoe explained to the parish council what progress had been made since Six Mile Bottom Estate had offered a piece of land along Six Mile Bottom Road for affordable housing. Once Hastoe and Six Mile Bottom Estate have completed a formal agreement a public meeting will be held.

**Finance:** the authorised payments and monies received are itemised in the draft minutes which are posted on the noticeboards in the village. The internal audit had been carried out satisfactorily.

**Community Chest Application:** Cllr Causton has received one quote for adding additional posts to the play area fencing. Further quotes will be sought before applying for funding.

**Dilapidated Building Action, Section 215 Town & Country Planning:** it was agreed a letter would be sent to the owners regarding state of the building etc.

**Publicity for Parish Council:** the photos taken by Cllr Roberts of the assets owned by the village and maintained through the parish council will be on display at one of the Saturday Café mornings.

**Football Club & Sports Pavilion:** Cllr Holness had written a report with suggestions for resolving the issues over the proposed additional football pitches, at present being applied for, following the public meeting held regarding application S/1397/17. It was agreed that two sets of groups would not work, but one group of nine people with a rotating chairman, meeting possibly every six weeks, could work. Cllr Causton said it was important to have open discussions in order to find solutions to the concerns

of parishioners. Cllr Nichols said she would draw up draft Terms of Reference for the first meeting, and Cllr Holness will contact the Football Club and volunteer residents. Cllrs Holness, Roberts and Okkenhaug will represent the parish council.

### **Traffic issues:**

- a) *Local Highways Improvement project:* it was agreed to defer discussion of this as council had only just received the proposed plans.
- b) *Speed Indicator:* it had been agreed at the last joint meeting to purchase the larger of the indicators. The siting of the indicators and the type of posts are under discussion.
- c) *Road signs:* these are in need of a clean and it was suggested to ask the Scout troop at Balsham if they would be prepared to do it for a fee.

**Transparency Compliance:** a list of present parish councillors with their email addresses will be put on the website, and also the dates of parish council meetings up to January 2018.

### **Reports by Dist Cllr Fraser & County Cllr**

**Batchelor:** These are shown in the draft minutes which are posted on the noticeboards.

The next parish council meeting will be held on Monday 11<sup>th</sup> September at 8.00 pm. All are welcome to attend.

*Jenny Richards (Parish Clerk)*



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### Weston Colville Neighbourhood Watch (NHW)

The villages around us, including West Wrating, have experienced a number of problems recently with items stolen from sheds and unlocked cars. Do take care to lock your shed, outhouses, cars and vans. While on the subject, the weather is warm so we leave windows and sometimes doors open for much needed ventilation. This is an invitation to the opportunist criminal.

Items were stolen by prying open a conservatory door at a property in Six Mile Bottom; a rear back window was forced open in Balsham, where cash and

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jewellery were stolen; similarly, entry was gained via a rear glass patio door in Balsham where various other items were stolen.

There have been two security advice emails from the police which I would be happy to copy – just send me your request by email, please – ‘Warm Weather Security’ and ‘Car Key Burglaries’.

Dial 999 when a crime is taking place or you need immediate assistance. To report non-emergency incidents dial 101 or use [www.contactcambspolice.uk/Report/Crime/](http://www.contactcambspolice.uk/Report/Crime/) when the suspects are not at the scene, as in cases of theft, criminal damage and burglary.

Allen Scott (290837, [allen.scott70@googlemail.com](mailto:allen.scott70@googlemail.com))



## Are You Up for It?

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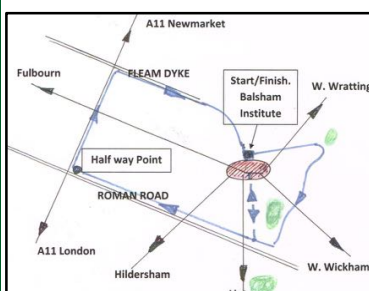
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## Weston Colville Marsh Tit Study

There is a beautiful pair of Bullfinches and their offspring visiting garden feeders along the north-eastern end of Mill Hill. Please watch out for them – they are stunning. Also a young Greater Spotted Woodpecker, with red on top of his head, and his Mum, who doesn't have any red on her head at all. (Dad has a small patch of red at the back of his head).

Your Marsh Tits have probably finished breeding for the year (in fact, on average they finish by 20<sup>th</sup> June). Monks Wood National Nature Reserve have shown that this year's youngsters will be pairing up and establishing territories, presumably for use next year. The life of a Marsh Tit is fast and furious . . . We can confirm that in Lower Wood, where we have just ringed a likely pair of youngsters, male S320199 'Green over White' (Minty) and female S320198 'Yellow over White' (Yolo – You Only Live Once). This pair appear to be defending a territory around the main path, west of the pond. If you see them, please don't disturb them or their habitat. Minty and Yolo are pictured here,



together with another youngster S320197 'Black over Green' (Boggy), taken on 2<sup>nd</sup> July.

I feel obliged to add that my team ganged up to outvote me in the pitiful choice of names.

On 16<sup>th</sup> July, we renewed our acquaintance with an old friend: 'Red over Green' (Charles), Weston Colville's alleged bigamist. (He's named after Charles Lindbergh, and not by me). Charles has been with us

since the very beginning of this study in February 2016, and we're very pleased to see he's survived. Well, to be honest, he's thriving: his weight was 12.0 grammes, and the heaviest Marsh Tit ever seen in this country was 12.1 grammes. Here is Charles, looking a bit dishevelled, as you would expect after rearing a brood or two and defending his patch from all comers. For me personally, it's comforting to confirm that his rings haven't been a disadvantage to him.

We have a lot of unringed young Marsh Tits visiting garden feeders at the moment. It's frustrating that we can't tell much from a simple sighting; the colour rings tell us much more about them and how we can help save this species for the UK. For instance, we can't tell where unringed birds go when they leave your feeders. Are the same birds coming back each time? They clearly go to the woods, but where?

This information becomes crucially important when you realise that Marsh Tits are doing well in this area, but in their former strongholds of Monks Wood and Bradfield Woods, they are continuing to decline. We need to find out why Weston Colville and West Wratting are special, and soon.



If anyone has Marsh Tits visiting their feeders, we would dearly like to ring in your garden. Please tell me ([cambsmarti@gmail.com](mailto:cambsmarti@gmail.com)) or Mel Stammers ([m\\_stammers@btinternet.com](mailto:m_stammers@btinternet.com)) or contact **Challenge** if you are able to help these rare birds by having us around for a morning. Now is a particularly good time to monitor them.

Hope to hear from you soon,

**Alex Inzani and the Weston ringing team,  
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### Weston Colville Cricket Club Report for June/July



After struggling to get two sides out, things have improved recently and both the 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> XI have had mixed results. In a low scoring match away to Foxton on 1<sup>st</sup> July, Weston could only manage 90 all out and the situation did not look promising. However that did not account for some superb bowling by Matt Daniels (4 for 6), well supported by Adrian Westley (4 for 16) which meant that the home team were dismissed for only 60, a win by 30 runs. On 8<sup>th</sup> and 15<sup>th</sup> July, Weston were set challenging targets of 246 at home to Needingworth and 231 away to local rivals Abington. Replying to the Needingworth total, Weston made a fine effort due to some sound batting by Adam Taylor (85), Ade Westley (38) and Sam Charlton (23) but they ran out of overs and fell short by 30 runs. The Abington chase was even closer, Weston just failing to reach the required total by 5 runs. Andy Brightmore (84) and Ade Westley (87) led the chase but others were unable to provide the necessary support on the day. The two losses have moved Weston a couple of places down the CCA Senior League Division 1 table and they lie

in 7<sup>th</sup> place. However, there are very few points between the teams around them, so a few victories would push them up the table.

The 2<sup>nd</sup> XI beat Sawston and Babraham 4<sup>th</sup> XI at home by 1 wkt on 24<sup>th</sup> June. Sawston reached a decent total of 181 for 9, with Joe McGrath taking 4 for 21 and Adrian Reedman 2 for 24. Weston played well to reach the target with 9 wickets down, with some sensible batting from Ben Bradnam (52), Nick Saunders (44) and Ned Westbrook (31). Weston came up against stronger opposition on 1<sup>st</sup> and 15<sup>th</sup> July. They lost at home to Longstowe by 91 runs and at home to Linton III by 157 runs respectively. Longstowe reached 212 in spite of some accurate bowling by Joe McGrath (4 for 31) but Weston could only manage 121 in reply, although Ben Bradnam made 27 and Richard Golding 25. On a fine afternoon, Linton III batted first and set a challenging total of 233 for 8, with Patrick Charlton (3 for 29) our only bowler to make any impact on the Linton batsmen. Weston were bowled out for 76 although Duncan Gray (20) put up some last minute resistance before falling to a fine catch in the slips. The 2<sup>nd</sup> team are still close to the bottom of their division but they are now providing some good cricket for many of our younger players who are gaining valuable experience competing in the adult leagues.

### Fixtures for August

	1st XI	2nd XI
5 <sup>th</sup>	Thriplow (A)	Royston III (H)
12 <sup>th</sup>	Fordham (H)	Great Shelford III (A)
19 <sup>th</sup>	Needingworth (A)	Rickling Ramblers (H)
26 <sup>th</sup>	Cambridge NCI (A)	Little Shelford II (A)

*John Garrod*

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### *The Meadow School*

The words amazing, fantastic, outstanding, brilliant, are banded around so freely these days that sometimes when you say them people don't appreciate their true meaning and the effort that has gone in to the results that you then declare to be those words. I can honestly say that every time I have written or said these words this year they have been heartfelt, and the hard work behind them has been so evident.

As the academic year draws to a close we have celebrated so many successes and achievements there isn't enough room to mention them all or to thank all of the people involved. What I am most proud of though is that through all of the tough and challenging times (and in education there are many) we haven't lost sight of what is important to us as a school. We haven't compromised on our core education and enrichment offer, and we haven't let suggestions/ideas from those up high (in the Department for Education or Ofsted) change our thoughts and focus on what we believe is important. The mantra – 'We do things because they have impact on our children and not just to tick a box' may as well be tattooed on all of the staff. I am proud to say even in times when pressures mean you are taking a huge risk to not fully conform

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or to introduce something new, we have stuck to our guns, and we do things for our children and not to please others.

The risk has very much paid off as yet again our end of year results place us significantly above both Cambridgeshire and the National Average for all recordable measures. 83% of our youngest children achieved their Good Level of Development compared to the national average of 70.9%. Our Year 1 children achieved a 100% pass of the phonics check for a remarkable fourth year in a row, while Year 2 scored between 10-20% higher in reading, writing and maths compared to the national average. Our Year 6 children also worked their socks off, achieving 10% more than the national average in reading, writing and maths, with an overall combined score of 71% compared to the national average of 61% (full results available on our website).

Our results are exceptionally pleasing, and huge congratulations should be given to every child and staff member who has worked with them.

As we bid our current Year 6 children a fond farewell, we look forward to welcoming our new Reception children in September, who will be starting their school careers in a time when funding is at its worst and the picture of education seems to be forever changing. What I can safely say is that we will continue to do what we believe is right and will have impact on our learners – we won't compromise on opportunities, experiences or quality teaching just so we can tick a box!

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

*Nichola Connor, Headteacher*

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***Buttercups Community Pre-school, Balsham***

It was an emotional end to the year when we had to say goodbye to twenty-one of the children, who move on to 'Big School'. The majority will go to the Meadow School, but some others are going further afield. We will miss them all next year, but wish them lots of luck, happiness and success at school, and hope that the ones who do go to the Meadow School in Balsham will say "Hello" when we see them in the school playground.



The last few weeks of term were very busy, with transitional activities and events for the older pre-schoolers, and we had fun at the end of term/ graduation party, which was awash with bubbles and balloons. The children looked very grown up when they collected their scrolls and balloons. The entertainer kept the children occupied for a while, as did the bubble-themed craft activities and treasure trail.

As part of our fund raising activities we would like to thank Louise Webb, who let us run the refreshments at

the Big Balsham Sale and shared the money from this event with us. We would also like to give belated thanks to the Ploughmen, who gave us a donation to support our activities, and finally to the community who have supported our many cake stalls in the village on a Saturday morning, and to the West Wratting Saturday Café, who provided us with a donation and bought lavender bags and bath salts. All the money we have raised has been used to pay the staff and buy equipment and materials for the children, as well as to cover the costs of the end of term party.

Looking ahead, September looks like being a busy month with thirteen new children joining us from Balsham, West Wratting and Weston Colville. We take children throughout the year, once they reach two. We are going to be part of the Government's 'thirty hours free childcare for working parents' scheme and accept funded two year olds. If you would like to come and visit, or learn more about our outstanding Pre-school, please get in touch.

***The Buttercups Team***  
*(buttercupspreschool@yahoo.com , 894608)*

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

A young person's education consists of all sorts of experiences beyond the regular curriculum at LVC. As well as learning important knowledge and skills that will help them to achieve success in academic study and the next steps in their lives, opportunities at school also help our young people to learn valuable life lessons about themselves and their communities.

Our PSHE (personal, social and health education) and enrichment programmes are ways in which students do this. Through a diverse range of topics and activities, our young people are enabled to mature and develop their understanding of their own personal development and of the world around them.

As with every generation that has come before them, it is a challenging and exciting time to be a young adult. With a degree of uncertainty about what the future has to hold, and the promise of the change that they have the power to bring about, we aspire to help our students to play a positive and productive role in their communities and in wider society. A key element of this is to develop their confidence, independence and sense of responsibility.

One way in which we help young adults to broaden their horizons and learn from those that are different as well as similar to themselves is by providing opportunities to travel and to benefit from an exposure to new experiences and contexts.

This academic year there has been a great range of local and international excursions. In the last month, students of all ages have participated in the Wind Band Tour to Croatia, playing live music in a number of town squares across the Adriatic coastline.

Currently twenty of our Year 11 students are on a Camps International adventure in Cambodia.

Following a great deal of personal fundraising, they are spending four weeks exploring the country and helping to contribute to community infrastructure through volunteer charity work, such as helping to build schools.

These kinds of life experiences are character-shaping and help our young people to grow, learn and mature in all kinds of ways that can't be tested or measured through a formal exam.

*Helena Marsh, Executive Principal*

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**1<sup>st</sup> Horseheath Brownies**

We had a great time singing our hearts out at the Annual District Campfire held at the Jarman Centre in Newmarket, with a good mix of old and new songs, some with actions, others more of a serenade.

At the beginning of July we celebrated Rainbows' 30<sup>th</sup> Birthday with a joint Rainbow and Brownie Funday at Horseheath Village Hall. Using the

Girlguiding Anglia Region Rainbows' 30<sup>th</sup> Birthday Challenge Badge for our ideas, fifty girls from Balsham and Linton Rainbows, and Balsham, Burrough Green and Horseheath Brownies joined together to make and try sushi, and made bracelets, flapped fish, decorated fish and made sand art pictures. All the girls went home with bags filled with everything they had made during the day (obviously they ate the sushi).

We also attended the Annual District Strawberry Evening held at Linton House. The evening was a huge success and the predicted thunderstorms never materialised.

At the end of term we said "goodbye" to Anna who is moving to Ireland with her family during the school holidays. We return to Brownies at the beginning of September, so if you have a daughter who would be interested in joining us please register her at [www.girlguiding.org.uk/interested](http://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, & Laurené (brownies@horseheath.info)*

**THURLOW SUNDAY**  
**FAYRE 3<sup>RD</sup> SEPTEMBER**  
12 - 4pm  
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**Balsham Gardening Club**

There will be no meeting in August; however, this is the month to think about what to enter in our 40<sup>th</sup> anniversary show on 2<sup>nd</sup> September.



The show is open to all members of the society and all residents of Balsham, as well as all children aged 11 and under attending The Meadow School and all children and grandchildren of members of the society. Schedules are available from the Balsham Post Office, with full details on classes, how to enter, dates for submissions, and rules of the show.

The show will be held in the Institute and the church and will be open to the public between 2 pm and 4 pm on Saturday 2<sup>nd</sup> September, so please come along and enjoy the displays of produce, from garden/allotment and kitchen, flower arrangements and plants.

There will be an autumn outing to Fullers Mill Garden on 5<sup>th</sup> September, and there are still places available for members or non members. The cost is £10 and bookings can be made by contacting Lyn Bobrow (890598 or [lgb21@cam.ac.uk](mailto:lgb21@cam.ac.uk)).

*Jennie Tipler*

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**Cambridgeshire Fire and Rescue Service**

With the summer holidays in full swing and a heatwave upon us, we are warning young people to stay safe in the county's waterways, and making you aware of the dangers of swimming in open water.

With the sun shining, the public and particularly young people are more inclined to gather around waterways to socialise and enjoy the weather.

We want to remind people to keep our #RememberRony campaign on their minds before they get tempted to cool down in rivers and lakes, and instead to go to a supervised lido. Young people often gather near lakes and rivers, some of which are not always the easiest to access for emergency vehicles, and many of which are actually private property, not designed for public swimming, with no lifeguard on site.

The fire service's #RememberRony campaign aims to educate young people about the risks associated with open water. It is backed by the family of Huntingdon schoolboy Rony John, who sadly died in 2014 during the first week of the summer holidays, while playing with friends in the Great River Ouse.

It is important for parents and young people to be aware of the many risks that open water possesses, such as being deeper than anticipated, with hazards below the surface to get trapped on. Even though the sun may be shining, the water could still be very cold, causing the body to cramp up quickly and posing a risk to getting out of the water safely.

It is also important that if you see someone in trouble in water that you know what to do. Call 999 immediately with clear details of your location, and if possible send someone to the nearest road to flag down the emergency services when they arrive. Find the nearest life ring or anything that could help them float, and if someone goes under the water, mark on the water's edge, with something like a piece of clothing, the place they were last seen.

For more information about water safety visit [www.cambsfire.gov.uk](http://www.cambsfire.gov.uk), or to pledge that you will stay safe around open water this summer, use the hashtag #RememberRony on social media.





### *Here Comes the Sun!*

We are having a fantastic summer so far – I am writing this on 21<sup>st</sup> June, it is bright and sunny outside and the temperature is an amazing 27 deg C. When you read this it may well be a different story, knowing the unpredictability of our weather.

The suncream I have is in the middle of the price range and one that is very water resistant, as I swim outdoors a lot. I tend to use the ones for kids, and with very high sun protection factor (SPF). This one is 50+ which supposedly only allows 1/50<sup>th</sup> of the UV radiation through, with 5 UVA stars – maximum rating.

Tanning is not a bad thing. It is the body's response to increased ultraviolet radiation, producing darker melanin and more melanin and protecting the cells from damage. A bit of sun on the skin is also good to produce vitamin D, and makes us feel better.

The problem is too much sun, too strong and too often. This causes genetic changes in the skin cells and ages the skin. Some people don't tan well, they burn. Over time or with repeated skin damage, the cells change and can become damaged, causing flaky reddish patches (actinic keratoses) particularly on the face and other exposed areas, eg arms and legs. These can occasionally turn to skin cancer.

Skin cancers are of three main varieties:

1. BCCs or basal cell carcinomas, also known as rodent ulcers, are very common, tend to affect sun exposed areas and are usually slow growing pink / reddish spots or patches that can crust and bleed. They are usually easily cured unless neglected for years. They don't spread to other places but can be tricky to remove, for example near the eyes.
2. SCCs or squamous cell carcinomas are more likely to affect those over 70 years of age, probably with existing sun damage, and they tend to be like a fast growing fleshy wart, often tender. Face, scalp and back of hands are common. They can occur when there is an ulcer that does not heal. They can spread, but usually are cured when removed in a timely fashion.
3. Melanomas are the really nasty skin cancers. They are usually brown or black, but not

always, particularly in red haired or very fair people when they can be pinkish. I've even seen a purple one.

Lots of sun exposure, repeated burning and having lots of 'atypical' moles are known risk factors. Having a history of melanoma in the family increases the risk too.

Melanoma can appear anywhere on the body, but the trunk is the most common place, so if you have a partner or friend, check their back from time to time. If caught early they can be easily cured by removing them, but they do spread to other organs, sometimes quickly, and sometimes they are caught late.

In the UK, melanoma is diagnosed at a mean age of around 50 years, but a fifth of cases occur in young adults and as a result it has a large impact in terms of years of life lost. Over the last 30 years the incidence of melanoma has increased more than for any other common cancer in the UK. Lifetime risk of 1 in 60.

The thing to look out for is change in a mole – change in size, change in shape and change in colour. We also use the 'ABC' rule when checking a mole:-

A for Asymmetry

B for irregular Border

C for Colour (the more colours, the more concerned one would be).

So do seek advice early if you feel something is not right with your skin and remember the Australian health campaign: 'Slip, Slop, Slap' is probably the best slogan to remember in preventing problems.

**Slip** on a shirt, **Slop** on the 30+ sunscreen, **Slap** on a hat, **Seek** shade or shelter, **Slide** on some sunnies (sun glasses):

**Slip, Slop, Slap, Seek, Slide**

I am raising money for melanoma research in primary care via the local charity Melanoma Focus, and I am doing a sponsored English Channel swim in August.

This money will go to projects designed to prevent melanoma and pick them up early in general practice. It will fund Dr Fiona Walters' research at Strangeways laboratories in Cambridge; she has already worked with local surgeries and patients over the last ten years or so. It is really important research to avoid unnecessary suffering and deaths.

My page: <http://uk.virginmoneygiving.com/>

**Dr Mig Arbide, GP Granta Medical Practices**

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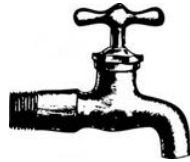
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## Bee Swarms

*A swarm of bees in May, Is worth a load of hay.  
A swarm of bees in June, is worth a silver spoon.  
But a swarm of bees in July, isn't worth a fly!*

So goes the old country poem which I first heard from Nip (Pearson) a decade ago.

It's swarming season again: a wonderful and exciting time of year. To see a swarm is a real treat, and don't worry if you should come across one; they have better things to do than sting you! In fact, they are preserving all the stores they bring with them and their own numbers as best they can, so can't afford to bother you.

Half of the colony has set flight and is off to find a new home, usually with the old queen. The first thing you will notice is the sound, a building crescendo of noise as they gather in the air and turn the sky a little dark. Scout bees will have found a staging post, a place where they will regroup and settle. Hopefully, this is a low hanging branch on a tree or similar where they can be accessed. A swarm looks like a dark, rugby ball shaped mass of gently shimmering bees hanging from the branch, with a few fliers around. Allow them to settle and then call a bee keeper. Just type 'I have a swarm' into Google (or other search

engine!) and the British Bee Keepers' Association website ([www.cbka.org.uk](http://www.cbka.org.uk)) will find the nearest one to you with the aid of a postcode. Be mindful of course that the keeper may not be available immediately.

Swarm collection is always a most rewarding job for the bee keeper; getting a colony of bees into a skep is great fun and surprisingly straightforward – if you know what to do and have the right kit! Do stay and watch. The bee keeper will leave the skep on the ground until later when all the bees are in and then return to collect them around dusk. If a swarm has got into the fabric of a building the bee keeper can't always help so spotting them early is definitely best.

For the apiarist, he or she has a new young colony and for the property owner, there is relief that the unexpected visitors have gone. Of course for all of us there is a need for bees, so look after the swarms and don't be alarmed by them. Without these busy pollinators, we'd all be doomed!

For those interested in bee keeping, the Cambridge Bee Keepers' Association runs an excellent course.

Do let me know if you see a swarm and I will try and help.

**Malcolm Cameron** ([malcolmcameronfrcs@gmail.com](mailto:malcolmcameronfrcs@gmail.com))

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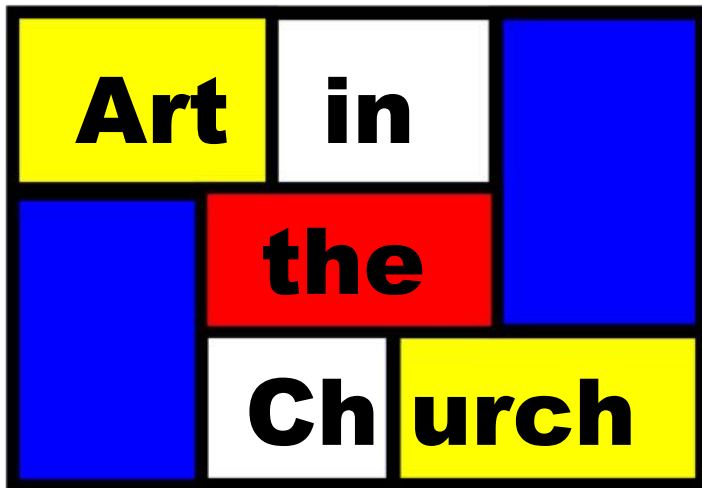
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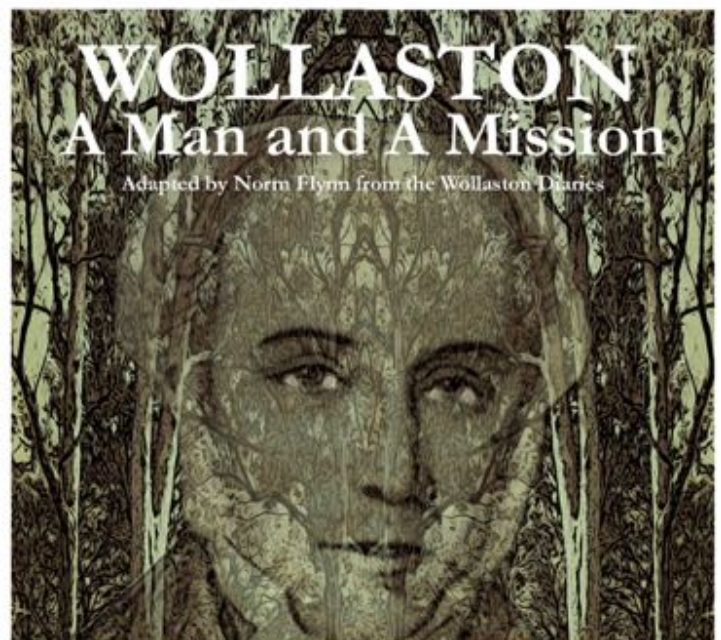
**Wollaston – a Man and a Mission**

In 1804 Edward was rector of Balsham, and later perpetual curate at West Wickham, where he and his wife Mary supervised a Sunday School of over 100 children – the only form of education that most would receive. He also organised the village festivities for Queen Victoria’s coronation with a supper for 400 people followed by sports, dancing and fireworks.

At the age of 50, John and Mary emigrated with their family to the newly established colony of Western Australia. They left London in 1840 and it was then that John started his diaries detailing their experiences to send home to family and friends. The journey was horrendous – it took five months, and they were nearly shipwrecked twice. They learned to cope with the hard pioneering life, building a wooden church, St Mark’s. In 1849, John was made the first Archdeacon for the whole of Western Australia.

The Stark Raven Theatre Company of Bunbury, Western Australia, will be performing a dramatised version of the Australian diaries (see details below). The performance will last for 80 minutes with no interval, and refreshments will be available afterwards.

*Janet Morris (290863, [jmmorris@jmmorris.plus.com](mailto:jmmorris@jmmorris.plus.com))*



With Tony Martin & Sigari Luckwell as John & Mary Wollaston

From perpetual curate of West Wickham to famous diarist and colonial figure in Western Australia, John Ramsden Wollaston is the central character in this acclaimed and dramatic presentation performed by members of Stark Raven Theatre Co. of Bunbury, Western Australia.

**West Wickham Village Hall  
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*In association with West Wickham & District Local History Club*



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Sunday 13 <sup>th</sup> August	Holy Communion	Very Rev Keith Johnson	Ben	Fanny	Sue
Sunday 20 <sup>th</sup> August	Holy Communion	Rev Kathy Bishop	Sisse	Fanny	Maggie
Sunday 27 <sup>th</sup> August	Holy Communion	Rev Dr Carrie Pemberton Ford	Alex	Jenny	Jenny

St Mary's, Weston Colville (9.15 am)		
	FLOWERS	CLEANING
August	Erica	Jane and Lucy

### Roman Catholic Mass

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

## DIARY

### August 2017

- Fri 4 Tea & Cakes, Reading Room, Weston Colville  
First Friday bridge, West Wratting
- Sat 5 Saturday Morning Café, West Wratting  
Farmers' Market, Linton
- Wed 9 West Wratting Over 60s
- Sat 12 Weston Colville harvest swap, Reading Room  
'Wollaston, Man and Mission', West Wickham
- Mon 14 - Thur 17 Summer tennis coaching
- Thur 17 West Wratting Lunch Club
- Sat 26 West Wratting driven clay shoot
- Sat 26/Sun 27 Art exhibition, Balsham

### September 2017

- Fri 1 Portable Pint, Weston Colville Reading Room
- Sat 2 Balsham Gardening Club 40<sup>th</sup> anniversary show
- Sun 3 Thurlow Fayre
- Wed 6 West Wratting Over 60s  
Cutoff for West Wratting oil syndicate orders
- Sat 9 Historic Churches Trust Ride, Drive & Stride
- Sun 10 Great Balsham Boundary Walk
- Mon 11 West Wratting parish council meeting
- Wed 13 West Wratting book club
- Thur 21 West Wratting Lunch Club
- Sat 30 Circular walk, from Reading Room  
West Wratting harvest supper

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 – Ian Ashbridge (291344)  
 Philippa Coates (290842)  
 St Andrew's – Sebastian Bain (403415),  
 Alex Walsham (291491)

#### Parish Council Clerks:

Weston Colville – Melanie Laing,  
[westoncolvilleparishclerk@gmail.com](mailto:westoncolvilleparishclerk@gmail.com), 01799 584428  
 West Wratting – 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:** Monday 14<sup>th</sup> & **Tuesday 29<sup>th</sup>** August,  
 Monday 11<sup>th</sup> & 25<sup>th</sup> September

**Blue & green bins:** Monday 7<sup>th</sup> & 21<sup>st</sup> August,  
 Monday 4<sup>th</sup> & 18<sup>th</sup> September

#### Mobile library: first Tuesday of each month

(1<sup>st</sup> August, 5<sup>th</sup> September)

High Street, West Wratting	12.15 - 12.45
Post Office, Weston Green	1.50 - 2.15
Mill Hill, Weston Colville	2.20 - 2.50

**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.

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