

# 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.  
Printed by E & E Plumridge Ltd, Linton (Cambridge 891407)

## Café Church

Sun 11<sup>th</sup> Feb. 3-4 pm

West Wrating Church

All ages – All welcome

Tea coffee and cakes



### Café Church

Café Church is a new venture in St Andrews, West Wrating, the first of which will be held on Sunday 11<sup>th</sup> February from 3 to 4 pm, with further occasional services planned throughout the year; an informal service, held around small tables and chairs at the back of the church, and starting in a relaxed way with coffee, tea and cake.

There will be some music and prayer, and then a short talk with time for questions and discussion. It's going to be for all ages, so activities will be provided for the children too.

Come and try it out! Everyone is welcome.

On this occasion Dr Rob Loe from Balsham will be explaining his work with the Relational Schools Foundation, which aims to improve society by strengthening the quality of relationships in our schools (see [www.relationshipschools.org](http://www.relationshipschools.org)).

*Catherine, John and Scilla*

### West Wrating Over 60s

Our first meeting of 2018, to include lunch, will be held at The Chestnut Tree, West Wrating, at 12.30 pm on Wednesday 7<sup>th</sup> February.

The following meeting will be on 7<sup>th</sup> March.

*Wendy Halls*

### Tea and Cakes, Weston Colville

For our January gathering we shared the Reading Room with the wonderful village history exhibition. Many thanks to everyone who helped out and attended.



We will get together next on Friday 2<sup>nd</sup> February, 3.30 - 5 pm at the Reading Room. Please come along for a cuppa, a chat and a piece of cake.

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

### Saturday Morning Café, West Wrating

Huge thanks to everyone for another enjoyable café at the beginning of January – what a great start to the year! The money raised continues to be donated to local community projects such as the Little Movers dance morning on Saturday 27<sup>th</sup> January, for preschoolers in the area, and the children's tennis week in August.

The Saturday morning café will run as usual on Saturday 3<sup>rd</sup> February between 10.30 am and noon in the village hall. Please come and join us for a catch up over tea / coffee and delicious cake.

*Sherry (290070) and Catherine (291307)*

### Bird Flu

On Friday 19<sup>th</sup> January, Wildlife Rangers confirmed that 18 of 19 dead geese, ducks and gulls found at Amwell nature reserve had Bird Flu.

This is just 30 miles SSW of Weston Colville and West Wrating. The virus is spread through contact with infected birds and their faeces.

Please follow guidelines for your poultry and waterfowl, as they are most at risk:

<https://www.gov.uk/guidance/avian-influenza-bird-flu>  
*Alex Inzani*

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

***West Wrating Lunch Club***

The lunch club at The Chestnut Tree will meet on Thursday 22<sup>nd</sup> February, not 15<sup>th</sup> (the usual third Thursday) as Pete and Rachel are away on 15<sup>th</sup>. I will email you nearer the time to remind you as usual, but wanted to give you all early warning of the change of date in February.

*Suan Rowland (suanrowland@btinternet.com)*

***The d'Abo Tennis Club AGM***

The tennis club's annual general meeting will be held on Wednesday 14<sup>th</sup> March at 7.30 pm.

As in previous years, Mr & Mrs Colin McCall have kindly offered to host the meeting in their home, The Old Vicarage, West Wrating, CB21 5LU.

All members are welcome to attend.

If you are unable to attend the meeting but have any points to be raised, please send your comments by email to: [admin@westwrattingtennis.co.uk](mailto:admin@westwrattingtennis.co.uk), or by post to: The Treasurer, Mark Holme, Scarletts Farm, Padlock Road, West Wrating, CB21 5LS, to arrive by Monday 12<sup>th</sup> March.

*Cally Wilson*

***Seniors, Weston Colville***

Our next meeting will take place on Tuesday 27<sup>th</sup> February.

There has been significant support for the first meeting; next month I will report results. Please come along to the February meeting and join in.

There will be hot drinks and biscuits. Do come, enjoy yourselves, and if possible bring a few goodies to share.

*'Elderly' Allen*

***Bumble Bees***

Bumble Bees Toddler Group is back! We will be re-opening our doors on Tuesday 20<sup>th</sup> February.

Come and join in the fun every Tuesday at the Reading Room, Weston Colville, from 10 am until noon.

There are indoor and outdoor toys, table top activities, crafts, stories and songs, suitable for children aged 0 to 5 years old.

£2.50 for the first child, plus an additional 50p per sibling; this includes a healthy snack for the children and tea/coffee for adults.

If you require any further information, please contact Beverley on 07833 228958.

We look forward to seeing you there!

*Beverley*

***Get-together for Christine***



Thanks to everyone who came to share a cuppa and a chat with Christine and to wish her a long and happy retirement.

*Joyce Oliver*



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***The Chestnut Tree***

We will be taking a short break during the February half term to recharge our batteries after a busy Christmas.

The pub will remain open but we will not be serving food from Tuesday 13<sup>th</sup> to Thursday 15<sup>th</sup> February; normal service will resume on the Friday.

Due to this please note that the lunch club will be a week later, on Thursday 22<sup>nd</sup> February.

*Peter & Rachel*

***Thank You from Chris***

A huge thank you for the party get together for my retirement. I didn't want any fuss but it was a lovely send off.

Special thanks to Joyce for all her hard work and patience; also to Jacqueline and her camera, to Val and Allen for the beautiful cake (it's all gone) and keeping the tea flowing, to Jenny for the amazing card with pages and pages of names, and to all the people behind the scenes. Thank you all so much; to see you all there, past and present, was really lovely.

I was overwhelmed at the amount collected. I didn't know I was that much appreciated; after all, I was only doing a job I enjoyed. The iPhone I chose as my gift is going to be a good choice. I just need to learn all about it now. The remainder of the collection may possibly be used for some garden shrubs, for when the building has gone and the garden and lawn will be bigger and better.

So thank you all once again. I'll still see you all around, so just say "Hi" if you see me wandering.

*Chris*

**PS** The Christmas raffle plus the charity box made a total of £294.07, giving a running total of nearly £4,000, so I am pleased with that. Thank you for supporting my charity, leukaemia, for many years.

***Churchyard Cleanup, West Wrattling***

The spring churchyard clear up at St Andrews will be on Saturday 31<sup>st</sup> March, 10 am - noon. Everyone is welcome, and coffee and doughnuts will be provided as ever.

*Colin McCall (290036)*



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**West Wratting Progressive Supper**

Thirty homes and 73 people took part in our latest village progressive supper party on 20<sup>th</sup> January.

We have been having these suppers annually since 2002 and many of the original participants still take part and enjoy them. It has been lovely to gradually introduce newcomers, and I hope that the newcomers this year have had a great time.

Thank you everyone for taking part and being so accommodating. It is great that we now have the pub who welcome us at the end of the evening; thank you Rachel and Pete for your great hospitality.

If you haven't tried this before and would like more information, please look out for details about the 2019 event in *Challenge*, or contact one of us. Thank you.

*Sherry (Sherry.odonovan@gmail.com),  
Tamara (Tamara.keith@gmail.com)*

**West Wratting Sports Pavillion AGM**

This will be held on Wednesday 14<sup>th</sup> March at 7 pm at the Sports Pavillion.

All are welcome; refreshments will be available.

*Blanche Miller, WWSP Secretary*

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**Chain at West Wratting Recreation Ground**

Residents may have noticed that for the last few months there has been a chain across the recreation ground as a measure to prevent trespassing and anti social activities. Should anybody wish to have the access code for the padlock, please email *richardholness@btinternet.com* If you do unlock the chain in order to park your vehicle on the recreation ground, please put the chain across the entrance after you've driven in and make sure that you re-lock the padlock and chain when you leave.

*West Wratting Parish Council*

**The Peter & Ruth Lloyd Trust Award**

We are now inviting applications for pupils starting university in September 2018. For further information about the trust and award, please contact Jonathan Drury on 01223 2909681. For an application form please apply via email to:

*peter.ruthlloydtrust@sky.com* The application form and supporting documents must be received at the latest by 31<sup>st</sup> March.

*Jonathan Drury*

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**Weston Colville Cinema Club**

On Wednesday 7<sup>th</sup> February we're showing a multi-Oscar winning western directed by and starring Clint Eastwood. Our choice for Wednesday 7<sup>th</sup> March is a beguiling, heartwarming tale of what happens when outsiders come into a small community on the west coast of Scotland. For details, see posters at the Reading Room or look on the Reading Room website, [www.thereadingroom.org.uk](http://www.thereadingroom.org.uk). Alternatively, email to subscribe to our mailing list. Both evenings will start at 7.30 pm with a pre-screening talk; admission by voluntary donation; refreshments available; all are welcome. Enquiries: [jacquelinetheteacher@hotmail.com](mailto:jacquelinetheteacher@hotmail.com), 291475



**Circular Walk**



The fresh – and dry – air was welcome for our New Year's Day walk, though the mud less so. The table back at the Reading Room was groaning with leftovers to share.

Our next walk will be on Saturday 3<sup>rd</sup> March at 10 am. Meet at the Reading Room, BYO lunch, and maybe something to share. Refreshments will be available and all are welcome. Enquiries: [jacquelinetheteacher@hotmail.com](mailto:jacquelinetheteacher@hotmail.com), 291475.

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**Quiz – Save the Date**

The next Reading Room quiz will be on Wednesday 18<sup>th</sup> April; details to follow.

**Treasurer Required in Weston Colville**

Would you like to make a real contribution to the future of St Mary's Church, Weston Colville?

The Parochial Church Council (PCC) is seeking a competent and trustworthy person to succeed the current treasurer and join the PCC.

Qualifications are not necessary but a sound grasp of financial management is important. A full handover will be provided.

To arrange an informal chat, please contact Fraser Rogers ([fraserrogers@gmail.com](mailto:fraserrogers@gmail.com), 07841 031330).

**New Home Sought for Horses**

I'm hoping to move my four horses nearer to my home in Weston Colville, and am looking for a yard with stables and at least 4/6 acres of land, with water and electricity, and a riding school, please.

**Debbie (07429 351043)**



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**Weston Colville Oil Co-operative**

Ordering deadline: **noon, Sunday 18<sup>th</sup> February.**

**Church End to the bottom of Mill Hill:**

Alastair Douglas (291475, or [salguoda@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:salguoda@hotmail.co.uk))

**Chapel Road, Common Road, Horseshoe Lane:**

Anne Vidler (290010, or [anne.vidler@talk21.com](mailto:anne.vidler@talk21.com))

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

We keep a note of any special requirements, such as needing a phone call the day before delivery to arrange access; please let us know if you wish to change these. The minimum delivery is 500 litres; this is a Trading Standards ruling because of the accuracy of lorry gauges. To get the minimum ask for 500 litres; do not ask for a 'top up' because you might get a 'fill up'.

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

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

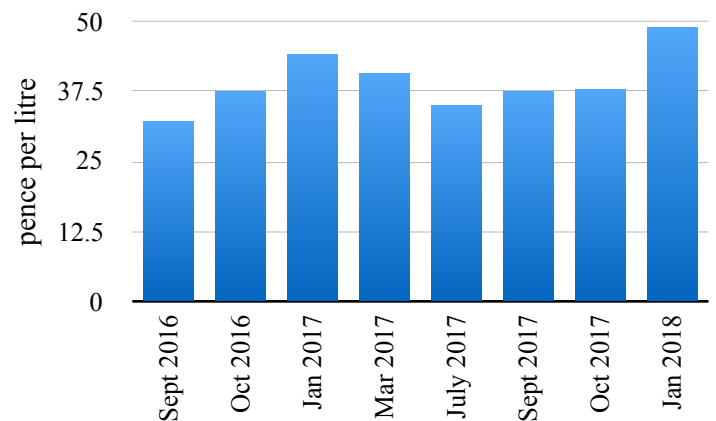
**Please ensure we have your correct address and post code** because some deliveries have been delayed due to the lack of correct information.

**West Wrating Oil Syndicate**

January fill up results: this month I benchmarked against the consolidation websites Boilerjuice (more about them later) and Direct Oil. For bulk quantities, Boilerjuice were 49.9 ppl and Direct Oil 49.3 ppl. After a few phone calls, the winning company was Shelford with a quote of 48.7 ppl, interestingly beating their sister company Direct Oil (they are both owned by Watson Fuels). Anyway, 24 houses in West Wrating participated in the order that was placed with Shelford Energy on 9<sup>th</sup> January.

The price for this January was quite a lot more than the same month last year:

**Recent oil syndicate prices**



A couple of weeks ago I was approached by a member of Boilerjuice's sales team, offering to quote a price for our next fill up. As I always beat the 'bulk price' on their website I didn't think that there was much chance of getting a better price, but once I'd consolidated the orders I gave him details of the quantity and number of drops. To my surprise, the price quoted by Boilerjuice was much better than the one on their website and also the one I got from Shelford (see above). I didn't take the Boilerjuice price because they have a different way of working to our other suppliers and I thought that I ought to pass

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on some information about how Boilerjuice operates before we use them. However, the principle of the syndicate is always to take the lowest price offered, so we must consider using Boilerjuice in the future.

Boilerjuice is a consolidation website and they do not supply the oil themselves, it is delivered by local suppliers. The big difference is that Boilerjuice always asks for payment in advance. This is not really a problem for customers who order a specific quantity, but may be for customers who just want a 'fill up', because they'll have to guess how many litres they can take and if they overestimate the quantity, they will therefore overpay, so will then need their card refunded with any overpayment.

Boilerjuice are confident that they can supply us in a way that will not be disruptive, so we may be placing our orders with them in the future. Please have a look at the FAQs on their website ([www.boilerjuice.com/faq/](http://www.boilerjuice.com/faq/)) and let me know if you don't want to be supplied via Boilerjuice in the future.

There will be a West Wrating syndicate fill up next month, with an order cut off date and time of Wednesday 7<sup>th</sup> March at 6.30 pm.

*Richard Holness*

**The Chestnut Tree  
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**Jackie and the Virgin London Marathon**

I turned 60 in January and went to Italy for three days to celebrate. That was the minor celebration. The major one is to run the Virgin London Marathon (all 26.3 miles) on 22<sup>nd</sup> April. You may have seen me running round the village footpaths, training. If anyone wants any advice on any particular circular walk around the village, I am your girl!



Apart from celebrating my 60<sup>th</sup> birthday, why am I doing this? It's a long story but the short version involves a relatively successful academic career, a nervous breakdown and a fabulous job teaching clinical skills to veterinary students. The Clinical Skills Centre at the University of Cambridge Veterinary School was set up three years ago to allow students to learn and rehearse practical skills in preparation to treating animals in their final year and beyond. The Centre has been largely funded by charitable donations from the University of Cambridge Veterinary School Trust (or CamVet to their friends).

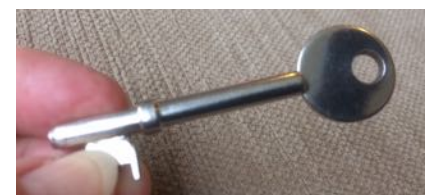
As a means of saying thanks to CamVet for supporting the Centre, gaining my own head space and by the way, did I say I was 60 this year, I am aiming to run a marathon. If people would sponsor me I would be very grateful; either visit my Just Giving Page (<https://www.justgiving.com/Jackie-Brearley1>) or contact me directly (07984 655116 or 01223 290076) to give or pledge an amount.

Anything would be gratefully received and make me even more determined to get to the finish line. (I also have a good line in home made preserves and award winning marmalade, available for a contribution, which will go towards the fund raising).

*Jackie Brearley*

**Key Found**

A key was found recently on the bridle path by the far corner of the woodyard in Weston Colville. If it's yours, please contact me.



*Anne (editor@challengemag.co.uk)*

## Linton Complementary Health Centre

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### Ministry Matters

The New Year has begun with great excitement with a visit from Bishop Stephen to Balsham for a service which included the Blessing of the Plough. It was a wonderful occasion with a full church, including a number of the ploughmen in their costumes, which were much admired by the Bishop.



The plough blessing ceremony has its origins in pre-reformation days when the plough was kept either in or around the church.

In the meantime spring is on its way and already the snowdrops are coming out. Buds are appearing on the trees and the birds are singing lustily. It won't be long



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before the bulbs will be coming up, giving a wonderful splash of colour to hearten us on our way. The nights are drawing out and it is time to look ahead. Later this month on 14<sup>th</sup> February it is Ash Wednesday, with services at Balsham and Hildersham, marking the start of Lent. People usually consider giving up something for Lent but I like to commit to doing a little something extra – maybe a quiet time of a few more minutes than normal, or being aware of a person who is lonely and needs a visit. Lent is a time to reflect and say sorry, and being aware of our effect on those around us is no bad thing. So maybe instead of a New Year's resolution it might be an idea to focus on searching inwards to ourselves, and outwards to those around us.

*Kathy Bishop*

### New Priest-in-Charge

We are very pleased to announce that the Bishop of Ely, the Rt Revd Stephen Conway, has appointed the Revd Iain McColl to be our new Priest-in-Charge (Rector-Designate). Revd Iain McColl comes to us from St Peter's Henleaze, Bristol. He is married to Anna, and they have two children, Owen and Bethan. Revd Iain McColl worked as a lawyer for some years before he was ordained in the Church of England.

The Bishop will conduct the Licensing Service for Revd Iain McColl at 7 pm on Thursday 12<sup>th</sup> April at Holy Trinity Church, Balsham; further details will be announced in due time.

Revd Iain McColl and his family will be moving into the Rectory in Balsham. Please remember them in your prayers as they make the move from Bristol to Cambridgeshire.

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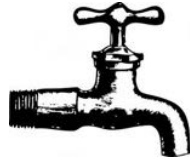
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## **Lionel Ralph Wickham, Priest**

*1<sup>st</sup> May 1932 - 17<sup>th</sup> December 2017*

Lionel was born in Hove but spent part of his early childhood in Yorkshire. He was educated at Dulwich College followed by the Royal College of Music, where he was a very accomplished pianist. After National Service in Germany, he continued with his studies at St Catherine's College, Cambridge, and trained for ordination at Westcott House.

As a curate at Boson, Lincs, he was proud of maintaining his pitch when lightning struck the 'Stump' and silenced the organ! After teaching at Cuddesdon College, Oxford, he and his new wife Helen went to his first parish at Cross Stone, Todmorden, in the diocese of Wakefield. There followed: teaching Patristics at Southampton University; parish priest at Honley with Brockholes, again in the diocese of Wakefield; and finally combining parish and academic work in Cambridge, as a lecturer in the faculty of Divinity, and priest-in-charge of West Wrattling and Weston Colville. There he could bring academic understanding to his parishioners and parochial insight to his student and colleagues.

His publications included his widely regarded OUP edition of Select Letters of Cyril of Alexandria, and many articles and editions in the field of Patristics. He continued to review in learned journals well into retirement, finally giving in with the comment: "I can no longer pick up these heavy books!"

He was a musician, an academic, a loving family man, but above all a faithful priest of the Church of England, saying the daily office until just a few days before he died.

May he rest in peace and rise in glory.

## **Granta Deanery Spring Fair**

**10<sup>th</sup> March, 10 - 12 noon**

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

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

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

*Linda Gorman (290653)*

### Granta Deanery

supporting the churches' work for village communities  
in South Cambridgeshire

# Spring Fair



**Saturday 10<sup>th</sup> March**

10 am – noon

Great Shelford Memorial Hall

Cakes \* Produce \* White Elephant  
Toys \* Jigsaws \* China \* Glass  
Card & Craft \* Gifts \* Tombola \* Raffle  
Refreshments \* wide range of Books

Entrance: Adults 50p Children Free

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**West Wrating Book Club**

The book for discussion at our January meeting was ‘Down and Out in Paris and London’ by George Orwell. This was an account of his time trying to survive in Paris, having been robbed of the money he had hoped to live on until he found a job, and then later in London.

He gives us a vivid picture of the life led by those working in the kitchens of even the best restaurants and hotels in Paris in the early 1930s – the drudgery, poverty and filth in which they lived and worked. You had to learn to work the system. Some of his accounts of particular events in Paris strike us as very politically incorrect but are probably typical of the attitudes prevalent at the time and foreshadow certain events that followed in the Second World War. This contrasts with his experience in London, where he describes a group of people from various ethnicities and backgrounds where their mutual poverty breaks down the barriers between them with more solidarity.

The fact that he need not have suffered these deprivations and could have gone back to his family can be ascribed perhaps to his pride in not wanting to fail and to his writer’s curiosity.

His time in London, which actually came after a time with his family, he spends mainly on the road and contrasts with his life in Paris in that the treatment of tramps and such like was much more controlled and regimented, a system which meant they were given the minimum food and shelter, and then had to move on. Orwell makes the point that it might have been better to have allowed them to work for their food, perhaps growing it themselves which would also give them a purpose and self-pride as well as providing for the whole establishment. It gives a real insight into the attitudes to the poor, out-of-work and homeless

which still exists to some extent and gives an interesting link with ‘A Street Cat Named Bob’.

Other comments were that poverty appears to free people from ordinary standards of behaviour; that, as suggested by George Bernard Shaw, people end up behaving in the way we treat them; and it is easy to lose who you are. Those who are better educated appear to be able to survive better.

All gave it 9 out of 10 and would recommend it.

The date for February is Wednesday 14<sup>th</sup>, when we will discuss ‘Girl of Slender Means’ by Muriel Spark, and we will then meet on Wednesday 14<sup>th</sup> March to talk about ‘Corduroy’ by Adrian Bell, a book with lots of local interest. Both meetings will be as usual at 8 pm at The Chestnut Tree.

*Linda Gorman*

**Visit to Amey Cespa Recycling Plant**

The litter team has organised a visit to the Amey Cespa Recycling Plant on Tuesday 27<sup>th</sup> February, 2 - 4 pm. There will be a guided tour and an opportunity to ask any questions about the recycling process. Anyone interested in visiting, please contact Colin McCall on 290036. It should be a very interesting afternoon.

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### *Weston Colville Neighbourhood Watch (NHW)*

As part of future policing plans there will be 50 new front line police officers, in response to the ongoing consultation between the police and us, the public.

We had one break-in on Mill Hill recently, where a glass door at the back of a house was smashed to get in. There was a real mess in the house, drawers and their contents tipped onto the floor in heaps while the burglars looked for valuables, and personal belongings left lying around. This is really distressing for anyone on the receiving end.

Advice about security at home ranges from locking up and not leaving any keys in locks or on view, to fitting outside lights, fitting and locking side and back gates, to burglar alarms and CCTV systems. Any and all of these will help to make us safer, simply by making it more difficult for passing crooks by frightening them off, and CCTV can identify them if they do try to get into homes and property .

The police tell us that better internet security is only a few clicks away, and it is free. Enter *Quad9* into your search engine and look through the results. *Quad9* provides an automated way to protect yourself by blocking access to known malicious websites, like phishing sites designed to steal personal or banking details.

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

### *Cats Killed on Village Roads*

My name is Karina and I have lived at Carlton Green since June 2002 – 15 years of peaceful existence with my dogs, cats and chickens. However in 2017 five of my cats were killed on the road in front of my house, all during the hours of daylight.

About eight months ago I placed two signs, SLOW, CATS CROSSING. It made no difference. Carlton Green Road is a 60 mph speed area. How ridiculous is this? A few years back I rang Highways and asked if we could have 30 mph signage. The answer was “No, because people do not observe road speeds.” Now, how stupid a reply is this?

I would like to ask all of you, your teenage children, friends of teenage children, visitors, contractors, delivery couriers, etc, to SLOW DOWN. Please, please, please.

**Karina**



### *Stanley Luckhurst Turner*

Just before Christmas Weston Colville lost a long term resident when Stan Turner, my father, died peacefully in Addenbrooke's Hospital.



Stan was born in 1917 in Fulham, London, and had a successful career as a government auditor until his retirement in 1976. In the late 1960s he and my

mother, Thelma, bought a house in the village, and on Stan's retirement they moved to the Old Forge. Stan and Thelma were regularly seen cycling on their tandem, and many neighbours enjoyed stopping by to chat with them both. Stan survived Thelma by 22 years and became a regular sight on the roads around Cambridgeshire on his long distance rides. As well as cycling he pursued his interest in sketching and writing and was a regular user of the mobile library service.

In June of last year Stan celebrated his 100<sup>th</sup> birthday with his family and friends at the Reading Room. I would like to thank the local community for all your kindness and support for both my parents during their retirement. Latterly, I know that this meant that my father could stay at home for as long as possible, as was his strong wish.

**Mark Turner**



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**West Wrating Parish Council**

The parish council met on Monday 8<sup>th</sup> January and the following were some of the items discussed. The draft minutes will be put on the noticeboards and the website.

Susan Lock was welcomed by the chairman as a co-opted member of the parish council having been nominated at the previous meeting and having completed the necessary forms.

**Opportunity for public statement:**

i) James Baker of Six Mile Bottom Road wished to appeal against the planning application as it now stands, for four houses on Six Mile Bottom Road, outside the village envelope, on the grounds that without a pavement going from the new development to join up with the existing one it would be extremely dangerous to try and walk along the road, the verges, which have ditches cut into them, being almost non-existent. A wheelchair or push-chair could only be used on the road, which is narrow and very busy and would be extremely hazardous for everybody. The parish council agreed with this and the chairman will look at the application on-line and see what could be

done at this stage, as the parish council had already given its support to this development. Cllr Fraser said he would attend the SCDC committee meeting and represent West Wrating.

ii) Colin McCall is appealing for volunteers from Weston Colville to help with clearing fly tipping as his group of volunteers are under considerable pressure due to the renewed use of Fox Road, since the Highways Dept filled the holes up with planings and it is being used by all and sundry. They cleared up five bin bags of rubbish recently.

**Finance:** the authorised payments are shown in full in the draft minutes.

*Precept and Budget:* the council went through the accounts for the past year looking at the income and expenditure and agreed there were adequate funds for 2018/19. Cllr Holness proposed that the precept be set at a 2% increase, seconded by Cllr Roberts and agreed by the council, increasing the precept to £11,134.02 for 2018/19. It was also agreed that the budget should remain as for 2017/18, proposed by Cllr Holness, seconded by Cllr Bonfield and agreed by the council.

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**Maintenance:**

- i) *Dog poo bins:* the parish clerk will enquire as to their whereabouts.
- ii) *Road markings:* nothing has been done by Highways to re-mark the roads where markings are no longer visible, despite these danger spots being highlighted to Highways. This matter will be brought up at the next combined parishes meeting on 31<sup>st</sup> January.

**Football Club:**

- i) The accounts and lease issues will be discussed at the next meeting with the Sports Pavilion Committee and Cllr Holness will write a report on the outcome.
- ii) The football club have secured the entrance to the rec with a heavy chain and the parish council agreed to share the cost of this chain.

**Traffic Issues & Speed Restrictions:**

- i) The *Local Highways Improvement scheme* project has been delayed as the work is being re-costed.
- ii) The *Speed Indicator equipment* has been purchased, with each parish council paying their share. The siting of the posts to hold the equipment will be decided upon shortly.

**Report by Dist Cllr Andrew Fraser:** this report will be available on the website.

- i) *Local Plan* – the main modifications are available for comment during the consultation period, 5<sup>th</sup> January to 16<sup>th</sup> February.
- ii) *Dual Carriageway Action Group* has been set up by West Wickham Parish Council to oppose a new dual carriageway north or south of the A1307 as proposed by the A1307 Strategy Board.

**Report by County Cllr Henry Batchelor:** this report will be available on the website.

- i) *County Council Funding:* the council tax increase has not yet been agreed.
- ii) The *Park & Ride charge for parking* has been subsidised by the Greater Cambridge Partnership and as from April there will be no charge.
- iii) *Support Lodgings:* this scheme is looking for people with a spare room or annex who can support a young person leaving care aged 16 - 21. There would be an allowance of £250 per week granted to anyone offering this support.

The next parish council meeting will be held on Monday 12<sup>th</sup> March at 8.00 pm. All are welcome.

*Jenny Richards, Parish Clerk*

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### Weston Colville Marsh Tit Study

The good news is that the days are getting noticeably longer, the Snowdrops and Christmas Box are out, and it's a great time of year to spot Marsh Tits chobbling away on your sunflower hearts and fat balls in your gardens. They're not slow to find a new food source!

Please send sightings of Marsh Tits, ringed or unringed, to me ([cambsmarti@gmail.com](mailto:cambsmarti@gmail.com)), Mel ([m\\_stammers@btinternet.com](mailto:m_stammers@btinternet.com)) or Anne at Challenge ([editor@challengemag.co.uk](mailto:editor@challengemag.co.uk)).

The lengthening photoperiod has not been lost on our birds, whom you will hear chirping with more gusto in the mornings and evenings. Breeding season looms, the sap's rising and they're on territorial acquisition and defence. In Church End, Len and Ben Eeles noticed a probable pair of Marsh Tits on their feeders in early to mid January. I'm pleased to report that they've also seen Red over Black 'Rob'. This Marsh Tit is an old friend who's been with us since the beginning of this study in February 2016. Rob is now three years old, which is 50% longer than the typical lifespan for this species, and adds to the data which shows that ringing doesn't affect survival. Although we've examined Rob four times and seen him another 22 times, we don't know if Rob is male or female. Birds only grow visible naughty bits for the breeding season and Rob has evaded us very successfully around this season. Smart bird. :) Last year, one of his brethren – whom I suspect was ringed – actually perched on top of one of our net poles and watched us while we were taking down the nets after a ringing session. Naturally, we hadn't caught this bird during the session. I wonder if Marsh Tits are capable of mockery . . . ?

Since the last Challenge report, five Greenfinches have been encountered in a month. This is encouraging news, as British Facebook birders have been lamenting the decline in Greenfinches, especially in Cornwall and Surrey, since the 1970s. Some people haven't seen them for years ([www.facebook.com/groups/67375210866/permalink/10155865865165867/](http://www.facebook.com/groups/67375210866/permalink/10155865865165867/)). Ours are healthy and well-fed, and four out of five are young birds, hatched in 2017. This means good breeding success and a very good sign for the future of Greenfinches here. Another reason why Weston Colville and West Wrating are special places.

We need to set up the next generation of conservationists, and here's our latest recruit, Charlie Nott, aged 10, with his very first, expertly held Great Tit. His mum, Clare and team scribe Joyce Oliver



form a proud escort for this budding ornithologist. In the trade, Great Tits are known as 'Guatemalan Fighting Finches', second only in ferocity to the feared Blue Tit. I'm pleased to say this Great Tit must've recognised a new ally and was kind to Charlie. :)

Have a delightful February and Valentine's Day. Remember it's still a mistake to eat the flowers and put the chocolates in water, even if you've just enjoyed half a bottle of champers.

*Alex Inzani and your friendly neighbourhood ringing team, for the BTO National Ringing Scheme*

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***West Wickham and District Gardening Club***

On 15<sup>th</sup> January West Wickham and District Gardening Club were pleased to welcome Alan Shipp, the holder of The National Collection of Hyacinths at Waterbeach, who gave us a talk on the propagation and origins of hyacinths and showed many slides of his 180 varieties. Many of these date from the 19<sup>th</sup> century and Alan has been able to make sure that these old varieties are not lost. Every year he opens his fields, with 200,000 hyacinths in bloom, to the public and this year the dates are 24<sup>th</sup>/25<sup>th</sup> March. Anybody can visit to enjoy the riot of colour and the wonderful perfume.

Our speaker on February 19<sup>th</sup> will be Simon White from Peter Beales Roses on ‘Who Dares Prune’, a timely reminder for us on how to tackle our annual cut back of all types of roses. If you would like to join us for this talk, we meet at West Wickham Village Hall at 7.30 pm.

***Rosemary Yallop (01799 584262)***

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

This term we will be getting prepared for our weekend away in March. We will be going back to the Jarman Centre in Newmarket, the purpose-built guiding centre set in 18 acres of woodland. We haven’t decided what our theme is yet this year; we might either have ‘All the Fun of Fair’ or spend time ‘Under the Sea’. I’m sure whichever one we choose we will have lots of fun.

We also have our District Thinking Day celebrations to look forward to in February, when we will be joining other units in the Linton area at LVC for an afternoon of fun filled activities. We also have Mothering Sunday and Easter activities planned.

***Pauline, Katie & Laurené (brownies@horseheath.info)***

***Balsham Gardening Club***

The next meeting of the Balsham Gardening Club will be at 7.15 for 7.30 pm on Tuesday 6<sup>th</sup> February at the Meadow School, when Jennie Tipler will give an illustrated talk on ‘Singapore Botanic Garden’.



***Jennie Tipler***

***Cambridgeshire Fire & Rescue Service***

On-call firefighters are a vital part of today’s fire and rescue service, providing an efficient, effective service that gives emergency cover to more than 90% of the UK. In Cambridgeshire they make up 56% of the workforce. An on-call firefighter is not based at a fire station but carries a pager and responds to emergency incidents as and when they happen. They receive an annual wage to reflect the time they commit to being available, plus additional payments for attending incidents and drill nights (one evening a week for two hours).

On-call firefighters are men and women who may have other jobs and are able to provide evening, daytime, or weekend cover. When they are on-call they may be at home, working for themselves or for a nearby company, or out in their local community within our five minute radius of the station itself. Our on-call firefighters are mainly located in rural communities, small towns and villages, and we will be able to tell you if you are within range to apply to be an on-call firefighter.



If you are interested in becoming an on-call firefighter please go to our website at [www.cambsfire.gov.uk](http://www.cambsfire.gov.uk) and search for ‘on-call firefighter’ under the careers section, or contact the recruitment team at [recruitment@cambsfire.gov.uk](mailto:recruitment@cambsfire.gov.uk).

### *The Meadow School*

We spoke recently to children about the resilience required for making a new start, and how to deal with disappointments when they come our way. As a school, we have had our fair share of discouragements alongside the positives, and yet each time we learn from them and they only serve to make us stronger.

At the end of the autumn term, we had a reminder of how resilient our school community is and why we continue to be so grateful for the support of the staff and families within the school. During the last full week of the term the school was struck by the dreaded norovirus, affecting as many as 120 children as well as many staff and parents. We are so grateful for the teachers, TAs and office staff who stepped in and put their own health at risk to come and cover classes, deal with poorly children and help to keep the school open so that learning could continue.

Despite the virus, and with many children and staff still poorly, we were determined to continue with the Infant Production of 'Christmas with the Aliens'. Fortunately we had enough children in full health to put on rearranged matinee and evening shows on the penultimate day of term.

We are so grateful for people who gave up their time so readily to come and help make this a reality, including Sarah Bassett who accompanied so beautifully on the piano. The children performed brilliantly, with many children taking on multiple parts to fill in for their absent friends. We were still able to end the term with the message of Christmas sitting poignantly with each person watching.

Thankfully the children and staff were well enough to put on our annual Christmas Carol Service in the church. This is always a memorable and thought-provoking evening as we listened to the Key Stage Two children reading passages from the Christmas story so confidently and articulately. The children sang the carols with enthusiasm and the Year 4 children helped to tell the story through a montage. This year, 'Declan the Donkey' helped to bring the Christmas story to life in the church.



2018 has started with a positive spirit in the air, including a New Year disco postponed from the end of term. Learning through new topics is in full flow and four year groups have already been on school trips, either to Burleigh House in Stamford or to the FitzWilliam Museum in Cambridge. As the school looks back to the past, either through the Victorians, the Ancient Egyptians or at jobs throughout history, we are once again reminded of how quickly time is passing and yet we can continue to learn so much through the study of these times and the way societies developed. As we look forward to 2018 and all that it brings, we can be assured that the school community; children, staff, governors and families will continue with resilience and perseverance to make the school a caring and happy environment where children are encouraged to achieve their full potential.

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

*Nichola Connor, Headteacher*

### *Daisy Chains Quiz*

Daisy Chains Pre-School will be holding its annual quiz night on Saturday 24<sup>th</sup> February, 7.30 for 8 pm start, with a bar, snacks, prizes, and a raffle, in West Wickham village hall.

### *How to Cope with a Viral Illness*

Colds, sore throats and flu can cause a great deal of worry and frustration. Young children have between 3 and 8 colds a year, and adults 2 to 4. The onset is 2 to 3 days and symptoms can last up to 3 weeks in adults, 10 to 14 days in children.

Don't despair though! Here are some tips and good advice that may reassure and speed things up.

- Keep warm – an extra blanket at night perhaps, and have plenty of warm drinks such as hot lemon or blackcurrant and hot chicken soup which may help raise your natural defences, as can probiotic drinks.
- Rest as much as you can.
- Honey can really help with coughing. Children must be over one year old though! Try in warm water and with lemon juice.
- Avoid milky drinks if you find they make you more congested.



- Blocked nose, sinus discomfort? Saline sniffs can help. Dissolve a large pinch of salt in a cup of warm water. Every 2 to 4 hours, make a puddle in your hand with about a tablespoon of this salty water, lean over a sink, block up one nostril and sniff up each nostril twice. You can also inhale steam – place bowl in a sink for safety, containing boiling water with a little tea tree oil or eucalyptus, and inhale every 3 to 4 hours. This reduces the viral count in the back of the nose and loosens up secretions.
- Take a daily multivitamin and mineral supplement. Eat vitamin rich, light meals if hungry. Drink plenty of clear fluids.
- Paracetamol and Ibuprofen will make you FEEL better but won't make you better as they lower your core temperature. Your immune system is trying to 'heat treat' the virus so if you take these, your illness may take longer to resolve. Take sparingly when appropriate. If your throat is sore, use a menthol sweet or a spray to ease the pain.
- Vapour rubs, gargling with salt water and the use of saline or boiled, cooled, water nasal drops have also been found to be helpful and can be bought from chemists and some supermarkets. Cough mixtures are generally ineffective and are a waste of money. Increasing bedroom humidity works better, as do steam inhalations and honey.
- Antibiotics have **no** effect on viral illnesses. They can cause rashes, diarrhoea, sickness, and changes in your natural defences, and increase resistant strains of bacteria. They also waste time and money. Please don't expect them!
- **Don't smoke**, and avoid smoky atmospheres.
- Have a flu and pneumonia vaccine if appropriate.
- Use tissues only once and bin them. Wash your hands with soap and hot water frequently to reduce the spread to family members, friends and colleagues.

Children with a history of febrile convulsions should always be kept cool (do not use tepid sponging) and given Paracetamol as directed. Burning skin, but cold hands, and rashes which don't fade when pressed with a glass, are worrying signs and such patients should be examined as soon as possible. Drooling or the inability to swallow are signs of upper airway distress – please seek advice. Rapid and/or laboured breathing and/or low urine output and/or persistent

vomiting are also worrying signs which need prompt attention. Severe headaches and symptoms that are deteriorating after three to five days need urgent review with a clinician.

Anyone who becomes breathless, wheezy or coughs up dark or blood stained sputum **MUST** be seen. People who suffer with chronic lung or heart disease are prone to bronchitis and **MUST** be seen if they become breathless or unwell. Diabetics who vomit and are unable to eat or keep down fluids must follow their sick day rules and seek advice.

*Granta Medical Practices*

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

With the cabinet reshuffle in January came the announcement of Justine Greening's resignation and a new Secretary of State for Education: Damian Hinds.

During my two years as Principal at LVC, there have been three different ministers in this top position. We are still awaiting details of Mr Hinds' vision and values.

In many ways, it is great that since Blair's 'Education, education, education' pledge in his 1997 speech, schooling has become a more pressing priority for the government. However, Greening's exit signals yet more change for the profession. Given the amount of turbulence since 2010, teachers are understandably anxious about what policies the new Secretary of State may introduce to make his mark.

It is children, not political preferences, that need to be at the centre of education policy.

*Helena Marsh, Executive Principal*

### *Action Aid Coffee Morning*



There will be a coffee morning on Friday 16<sup>th</sup> February at the Ellesmere Centre, Stetchworth, in aid of Action Aid, a charity which helps to empower women and children throughout the world. Action Aid endeavours to educate women so that little girls as young as ten years old are not forced into child marriages and subjected to FGM, giving them the chance of an education and a brighter future. Please come along to the centre and join us for a hot drink and cake between 9 am and noon to help us raise funds.

*The Ellesmere Centre, [www.ellesmerecentre.org.uk](http://www.ellesmerecentre.org.uk)  
(01638 508212. [office@ellesmerecentre.org.uk](mailto:office@ellesmerecentre.org.uk))*

<b>St Andrew's, West Wratting (10.45 am)</b>			<b>SET UP</b>	<b>FLOWERS</b>	<b>CLEANING</b>
Sunday 4 <sup>th</sup> February	Holy Communion	Rev Monica Cameron	Jenny	Louise	Pauline
Sunday 11 <sup>th</sup> February	Café Church, <b>3.00 pm</b>	Cath Willcocks / Scilla and John Harvey	n/a	Louise	Maggie
Sunday 18 <sup>th</sup> February	Holy Communion	Canon John Pinder	Fanny	n/a (Lent)	Jenny
Sunday 25 <sup>th</sup> February	Holy Communion	Rev Kathy Bishop	Alex	n/a (Lent)	Sue

<b>St Mary's, Weston Colville (9.15 am)</b>		
Sunday 4 <sup>th</sup> Feb	Holy Communion	Rev Monica Cameron
Sunday 11 <sup>th</sup> Feb	Holy Communion	Very Rev Keith Johnson
Sunday 18 <sup>th</sup> Feb	Morning Prayers	Steven Wheeler
Sunday 25 <sup>th</sup> Feb	Holy Communion	Revd Dr Carrie Pemberton Ford
February Flowers & Cleaning		Ruth; Jane & Lucy
March Flowers & Cleaning		n/a (Lent); Gay

### **Roman Catholic Mass**

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

## **DIARY**

### **February 2018**

- Fri 2 Tea & Cakes, Reading Room, Weston Colville  
First Friday bridge, West Wratting
- Sat 3 Saturday Morning Café, West Wratting
- Tues 6 Balsham Gardening Club meeting
- Wed 7 West Wratting Over 60s, The Chestnut Tree  
Weston Colville Cinema Club, Reading Room
- Sun 11 Café Church, St Andrew's
- Wed 14 West Wratting Book Club
- Fri 16 Action Aid Coffee Morning, Stetchworth
- Sun 18 Deadline for Weston Colville oil co-op orders
- Mon 19 West Wickham & District Gardening Club
- Tues 20 Bumble Bees Toddler Group, Reading Room
- Thur 22 West Wratting Lunch Club
- Sat 24 Coppicing, Lower Wood, Weston Colville  
Daisy Chains quiz, West Wickham
- Tues 27 Seniors group, Reading Room, Weston Colville  
Visit to Amey Cespa Recycling Plant

### **March 2018**

- Sat 3 Circular walk, from Reading Room
- Wed 7 Deadline for West Wratting oil syndicate orders  
West Wratting Over 60s
- Sat 10 Granta Deanery Spring Fair, Great Shelford
- Mon 12 West Wratting Parish Council meeting
- Wed 14 West Wratting Book Club  
Tennis club AGM  
West Wratting sports pavilion AGM
- Sat 31 Churchyard clearup, St Andrew's

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  
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#### **Churchwardens:**

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

#### **Parish Council Contacts:**

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[rvidler@btinternet.com](mailto:rvidler@btinternet.com), 01223 290010  
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**Black bins:** Monday 12<sup>th</sup> & 26<sup>th</sup> February,  
Monday 12<sup>th</sup> & 26<sup>th</sup> March

**Blue & green bins:** Monday 5<sup>th</sup> & 19<sup>th</sup> February,  
Monday 5<sup>th</sup> & 19<sup>th</sup> March

**Mobile library:** first Tuesday of each month  
(6<sup>th</sup> February, 6<sup>th</sup> March)

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.

**February issue's copy date:**  
**Tuesday 20<sup>th</sup> February.**