

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)

New Priest-in-Charge, the Revd Iain McColl



My family and I are looking forward with excitement to our move to the Granta Vale benefice and our involvement in both church and community life. We have enjoyed a wonderful time in Bristol being part of St Peter's in Henleaze and there is always a poignancy about moving on, but we can now look ahead with great anticipation to life and ministry in Cambridgeshire.

My wife, Anna, grew up on a farm in Essex and I grew up in the countryside as well, so we will be looking forward to the change from living in the city. We have two children, Owen aged 7 and Bethan aged 6, who both like sports, cycling and playing outside, so we think they will enjoy it too!

Prior to ordination I was a solicitor for ten years in London and Bristol and my church ministry experience began as a leader of a 'fresh expression of church' in the centre of Bristol. I then trained for ministry at Westcott House in Cambridge, so as a family we do have some knowledge of Cambridgeshire already.

My licensing, which is my start date, will be on Thursday 12th April and I am really looking forward to getting to know people in the churches and communities. Please feel welcome to come along to the licensing and to get in touch after our move.

With prayers and best wishes, **Iain McColl**



Easter
Songs of Praise

Palm Sunday

25th March, 4 - 5 pm

West Wrating Church

Child friendly songs

Bonfire and refreshments afterwards

West Wrating Over 60s

This month's meeting will be at Linton (Nicholls Court) at 2 pm on Wednesday 7th March.

The April meeting will be at The Chestnut Tree on 4th April.

Wendy Halls

Help Needed . . .

Weston Colville Reading Room needs your help: after the success of the village history exhibition in the Reading Room over the Christmas and New Year period, we would like to make a permanent record of the information displayed. We need someone who would be willing to transfer the information on to our website. The volunteer would receive help and guidance from the Reading Room Trustees, plus a modest honorarium. Anyone interested, please contact Jan Ogden on 291401.

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Tea and Cakes, Weston Colville



I haven't managed to come to many Tea and Cakes sessions since starting my job back in June last year, but I was able to come along for the February get together. It was really lovely to be able to catch up with old friends and see some new faces. I hope you all enjoy it as much as I do.

Our next gathering will be on Friday 2nd March, 3.30 - 5 pm at the Reading Room. All are welcome. Please come along for a cuppa, a chat and a piece of cake.

Melanie (291319)

Saturday Morning Café, West Wratting

Huge thanks to everyone for another enjoyable café at the beginning of February.

The café continues to donate the money raised to local community projects. On Saturday 27th January, the café organised a 'little movers' dance morning and lunch for preschoolers in the area. It was a fantastic morning, enjoyed by all! There were 25 children and 30 adults and lots of energy. Huge thanks to Vanessa at The Lane Academy for making the party such a success!

The Saturday morning café will run as usual on Saturday 3rd March between 10.30 am and noon in the village hall. There is always a play corner set up for kids and a bookstall with second hand books. At the March café there will also be an Easter craft table for the children and an Easter fundraising stall run by Buttercups. Please come and join us for a catch up over tea / coffee and delicious cake!

Sherry (290070) and Catherine (291307)

An 'anonymous' notice: **Watch out!** There may be a surprise at this month's Saturday Café!

www.westwratting.org.uk

for information on:

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

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

Churchyard Cleanup, West Wratting

The spring churchyard clear up at St Andrews will be on Saturday 31st March 10 am - noon. All welcome; coffee and doughnuts will be provided, as ever.

Colin McCall (290036)

The d'Abo Tennis Club AGM

The tennis club's annual general meeting will be held on Wednesday 14th March at 7.30 pm. All members are welcome to attend.

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

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, or by post to: The Treasurer, Mark Holme, Scarletts Farm, Padlock Road, West Wratting, CB21 5LS, to arrive by Monday 12th March.

Cally Wilson

Seniors

Seniors is a new village group for all those who are retired, and are probably pensioners. 'Seniors' is one of the varied names applied to our age group, which offers advantages with bus passes, theatre tickets, etc.

We aim to arrange meetings based around ideas suggested by members. February saw us with a cup of tea and a chance to meet friends; Roger set a few communication tasks using iPhones, laptops and computers, helping where needed.

Our next meeting will be on Tuesday 20th March at 2.30 pm in the Reading Room, to enjoy a cup of tea with friends and neighbours, and to investigate another idea.

'Elderly'Allen



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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 31st March.

Jonathan Drury

Circular Walk

Our March walk will be on Saturday 3rd starting at 10 am, and the one after that will be on Saturday 28th April. Meet at the Reading Room, BYO lunch, and maybe something to share. Refreshments will be available, and all are welcome. Enquiries:

jacquelinetheteacher@hotmail.com, 291475.

Weston Colville Cinema Club

On Wednesday 7th March we'll be showing a beguiling, heartwarming tale of what happens when outsiders come into a small community on the west coast of Scotland.



We have no film in April, then our choice for Wednesday 2nd May is a wonderful film from rural France, following the warm reception that the Jean de Florette film received in January. For details, see posters at the Reading Room or look on the Reading Room website, 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 will be available; all are welcome.

Enquiries: jacquelinetheteacher@hotmail.com, 291475

Pamper Day, Reading Room

New for Weston Colville – a day to relax with a treatment – treat yourself to a massage or manicure here in the village. We've arranged for two local beauty therapists, Emma and Andrea, to come on Saturday, 21st April from 10 am until 4 pm, and appointments are bookable now, directly with the therapists. General enquiries:

jacquelinetheteacher@hotmail.com, 291475.

Treatments with Emma Townsin (07581 156302):

Head/shoulder/face/hand massage (15 mins) £10
Hopi ear candling (15 mins) £10

(with 10% discount for combined treatments, so 30 minutes will be £18).

Treatments with Andrea Aston (07715 059040):

Manicure (45 minutes) £24
Pedicure (45 minutes) £28

(with discount for both treatments, ie £50)

Refreshments will be available and all are welcome; come and relax, chat and be pampered.

Weston Colville Events – Save the Date

Quiz: as this seems to have become quite a popular twice-yearly event, we'll be holding another on Wednesday, 18th April.

Photography Day: once the clocks have gone forward and we're well into spring, we'll be holding a day of photography in Weston Colville on Saturday 5th May.

Weston Colville Progressive Supper: we are planning to hold a village progressive supper on Saturday 9th June .

There will be further details for all these events in April's Challenge.

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There will be a West Wrattling syndicate fill up this month, and the order cut off is Wednesday 7th March at 6.30 pm.

Place your orders either by email to me at richardholness023@btinternet.com (please put 'Oil' in the subject box; if you don't get a reply from me to your emailed order within 48 hours, please place your order with the pub by phone), or by phoning the pub during licensing hours – not too late, please – on 290384. Please also make sure that you tell me if you have any special delivery requirements, such as 'Phone day before for gate to be unlocked' etc.

Please don't forget that we may be using Boilerjuice, so if you haven't already, can you look at their FAQs by using this link: www.boilerjuice.com/faq/

Remember that syndicate orders take at least a couple of weeks from the cutoff date to be collated, brokered and delivered, but if you take the minimum of 500 litres every time there's a fill up, you'll always be buying at the best possible price. Details of the supplier, price and delivery dates will be placed on the West Wrattling website www.westwrattling.org.uk about three days after the order cutoff day.

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Bumble Bees Baby and Toddler Group

The toddler group is held every Tuesday (term time only) from 10 am to 12 noon in the Reading Room, Weston Colville.

£2.50 per session (with an additional 50p for every additional sibling.)

There are many different toys suitable for 0 - 5 year olds, a different craft activity each week, a garden with outside play equipment, songs, stories and a drink and snack for both adults and children. Come along and join in the fun!



Spring term dates and planned craft activities:

- 20th February – Cotton Wool Sheep
- 27th February – St David's Day Daffodils
- 6th March – Mothers' Day Cards
- 13th March – St Patrick's Day Craft
- 20th March – Easter Rabbits
- 27th March – Easter Cards

Closed during the Easter holidays, re-opening Tuesday 17th April.

Beverley (07833 228958)

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Updated Stories from February's Challenge

The story of the marathon count down: training is going well and I am on track for at least walking the 26.2 miles around London on 22nd April. In preparation I am running the Cambridge half marathon – so if anyone else from the villages is also running it, good luck and may you have the time you desire. Is anyone else from the villages also running the Virgin London Marathon? If so, do you want to get together sometime and share training experiences? I am a complete novice and am having difficulty with the nutrition side of things. Does anyone have any ideas?



Preserves are still available and marmalade production is in full swing, so if you want any sweet spreads or meat accompaniments please let me know.

Sponsorship would also be appreciated:
www.justgiving.com/fundraising/jackie-breareley1, or to Farringford, Mill Hill, Weston Colville.

The story of the lost key: the story of the key is that we went away for a few days and when we got back our house sitter confessed she had lost our door key whilst walking in the mud through Lower Wood.

Good bye key, hello key cutter in Newmarket! However, as you have probably guessed, this was the key found by Christine as per February's Challenge – thank you so much, Christine, and what a good idea putting it in Challenge to locate the owner. Miracles do happen and human nature is good.



Jackie Breareley (290076)

Personal Assistant Required

We are looking for a genuine caring person to help our current personal assistant, who gives personal care to our son with complex care and health needs. The position is in West Wrattling and is for Friday evening 7 pm, Saturday morning 8 am and evening 7 pm, Monday morning 7.30 am and evening 8 pm, and Tuesday morning 7.30 am. We offer a good rate of pay.

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

Kenya Trip Fundraising

In the summer of 2019, Izzy Wilson (14) is going to be travelling to Kenya for four weeks with Camps International. During her trip she will be working with the local community, participating in environmental projects and wildlife conservation, and completing a five-day trek up Mount Kenya. In order to raise funds for this trip she is available for local babysitting, dog walking, gardening, or other odd jobs. If you would like Izzy's help please contact her on 01223 290179 or via Cally Wilson at cally.wilson@hotmail.com / 07946 638630.

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West Wrating Book Club

On 14th February a small group of regulars discussed ‘The Girls of Slender Means’ by Muriel Spark, one of a series of autobiographical novels. For those of us who are familiar with ‘The Prime of Miss Jean Brodie’, and in particular the film adaptation starring Maggie Smith, this book left a feeling of dissatisfaction. It is set in the May of Teck Club, a sort of hostel for less well-off young ladies who for one reason or another need to live in London away from their families. The story moves between the last months of 1945, after the end of World War II, and a later period when the main protagonists have grown older, with settled professional and/or family lives. After a description of the hostel and its purpose, we move to the character of Jane Wright, the columnist (possibly based on Muriel Spark herself), telephoning one of the others to tell them of the death of a man who was a major presence in their lives. It does give an atmospheric picture of a London suffering from the after-effects of the Blitz, and is a good comment on the era and on the somewhat carefree and shallow life-style of this group of young women. The story comes alive with an unexpected event towards the end of the book, perhaps made even more dramatic by the

almost humdrumness of what has gone before. It was not thought to be a page turner but does have some amusing vignettes which contrast with later events. We gave it a score of 7 out of 10.

We will meet on Wednesday 14th March as usual at 8 pm at The Chestnut Tree to talk about ‘Corduroy’ by Adrian Bell, a book with lots of local interest.

Linda Gorman

Weston Colville Neighbourhood Watch (NHW)

I received a call last night about guns being fired at night in the fields behind Brinkley Road. Vermin are shot at night here, so it isn’t unusual, but I am sure that the police will take an interest in guns being fired. so if you are concerned please call 101.

During Crime Prevention Day on 21st February the police hosted activities across the county including marking property, showing people how to protect their belongings, and how to reduce opportunist crime. James Sutherland, our Superintendent, said: "Protecting yourself, your home and your business is easier and cheaper than you might think".

The Bobby Scheme is a local charity which provides improved home security to reduce crime and the fear

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of crime. I have seen several homes in our village with window alarms, door chains and other security features provided by this scheme. Their charges depend on age and vulnerability. To know more, just call them (on 01480 413311) and discuss your situation.

There were no reports of crime in our villages this month. Looking further afield, criminal activities have included power tools stolen in Balsham, lead stolen from a church roof in Linton, and copper pipes stolen. Eggs were thrown at one property in Fulbourn.

I have articles on flight ticket fraud, courier and police impersonation scams, phantom debt fraud, and burglary crime prevention. Please email me if you would like copies.

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

West Wratting Football Liaison Group

The inaugural meeting took place on 17th January, with four representatives from West Wratting football club (WWFC), four local residents, and a West Wratting parish councillor in the role of observer. The meeting focused on the three issues most often cited by residents: bad language, parking, and noise.

It was a very positive and collaborative meeting. Between us we have come up with a range of immediate measures which should start to address both the residents' and WWFC's issues. The meeting also clarified longer-term issues that are more complex to resolve, and may require external help or funding.

Some of the first steps will be temporary signage in the car park about bad language not being tolerated,

increased visibility of the pedestrian entrance into the recreation ground to ensure a safe crossing, and a process for dealing with any issues residents may have.

Your village representatives are:

Alexia Passmore (Lead)

alexia.passmore@googlemail.com

Nicky Anderson

popeanderson@aol.com

Becky Gilley

becky.gilley@babraham.ac.uk

Matt Williams-Gray

matthew.williams-gray@doctors.org.uk

If you have a complaint about on-pitch behaviour or parking near the rec: be as specific as possible – this helps us to identify who to contact and how to proceed. Please tell us the time; the duration and nature of the incident; were any specific people involved, ie if a player, what colour kit and number were they wearing? Had you spoken to the referee? If it's parking, give us the make, model, colour, and number plate (take a photograph if possible) and the issue; did you leave a note; did you speak to the driver? (NB Not all parking issues along the High Street are WWFC generated, but may be due to village hall events, or visiting relatives or friends.)

If you have a complaint about event noise: there is always a WWFC representative present, responsible for managing and securing the site. Ask for them at the bar, describe the issue, and ask them to help. If this does not resolve the situation, please send us an email with as much information as possible (nature of the complaint, timing, who you spoke to, what happened) and we will log the issue and pass it on to the WWFC, the sports pavilion committee, and the parish council.

All complaints will be answered. If you have not had a reply from the person to whom you sent your email, then please contact one of the other residents' reps, as it may be that person is away for work or on holiday. We will keep you informed at every step.

The liaison group aims to meet every few months. If you want to get involved, have an issue to raise, or help to offer, then drop us a line before our next meeting, on 14th March.

Nicky Anderson

Illegal Trapping in our Village

Gin-type traps like the one pictured are being set illegally in and around Weston Colville to trap the likes of rabbits or foxes. The use of such traps is strictly controlled, due to the horrific injuries and death for any animal unfortunate enough to venture into the indiscriminate sprung jaws of these usually rusty implements.

So you will forgive me for voicing my shock and disgust at having one of our 8 month old cats fall victim by putting his head into such a trap that was undoubtedly baited. The poor creature was found on the verge of death in the garden of a house on Horseshoe Lane. The owner, allegedly, was alerted in the morning by a neighbour on Sunday 11th February, and a vet and then the RSPCA were called to rescue the animal. When the RSPCA lady arrived at 2.30 pm no attempt had been made by the resident nor neighbour to help release the cat, and he had been left to suffer untold agony for hours.



The police have been informed and the RSPCA are in the process of conducting their investigations whilst the trap is being checked for any evidence. Information already provided by various pet owners in the village is causing alarm bells to ring. Pets have vanished or come home with injuries to limbs, with some needing those limbs to be amputated.

These traps do serious harm and will kill small pets. Even a child walking into one will be left with permanent injuries.

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I urge all caring members of our community to be vigilant and report any criminal activity involving these illegal traps. A heavy fine may fall upon anyone using these traps, and even possession with intent could be considered a criminal act.

Cats have an unusually thick skull and because of this our cat survived but with appalling injuries. I would like to hope that his pain serves to highlight this activity and we all work hard to get the culprits brought to justice and have this barbaric practice stamped out.

If anyone has information that may help please contact us or **Challenge**. All information will be dealt with in the strictest confidence.

Jan and Maria Mol

Tree Cutting in Lower Wood

May I raise concern about the tree cutting that has recently been done in Lower Wood by the Wildlife Trust? Around the end of January, an area adjacent to the pond in the centre of the wood was clear-cut in a way that seems more destructive than any of the previous felling. Previously, the Trust has cut down ash trees (for coppicing or for replacement with hazel understorey) but many mature non-ash trees have been preserved. This time, a distinctive mature oak tree was cut down, and a whole patch cut down to the ground. I have complained to the Wildlife Trust about this, and the Reserves Manager for this area replied that it is all being done according to an 'agreed' management plan (he did not tell me who agreed it) and will be of benefit to wildlife; that mature trees are being cut down to reduce shade, and that after the present 'rotation' (to which he does not specify an end), there will be little need to cut down more mature trees but the hazel understorey will be cut every eight years. This seems to raise the threat that felling of

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mature trees will still continue until some of the best trees in the wood have gone (the present line of advance could lead to at least one more great oak tree and the fine twelve-trunked ash tree), and that much else will be cut down to the ground every eight years, making the wood a perpetual demolition site. If other people who enjoy walking in the wood share these concerns, perhaps we can urge the Trust to think again before doing any further damage.

John Rogers

Ministry Matters

Soon we will welcome our new Priest in Charge, the Revd Iain McColl. The Bishop of Ely, the Rt Revd Stephen Conway, will license him at Holy Trinity, Balsham, and he and his family will be living in Balsham Rectory. Later Iain will be made our new Rector, as the impenetrable legal systems of the Church of England gradually grind through.



In April Iain will be on the inevitable 'learning curve' of getting to know us all. The McColls will be the first family with young children in Balsham Rectory for many years.

Meanwhile, both here in our group of churches and in Iain's parish, St Peter's in Bristol, we will all be travelling through Lent, looking forward to the solemnity of Holy Week and Good Friday and the celebration of Easter Day, the 'Queen of Feasts'.

The next big change in our ministry team will be the appointment of a priest who will be living in the vicarage at Little Abington. When that happens we, the ministry team, will finally be back to full strength, serving all our seven churches and our village communities.

Keith Johnson

Parish Council Elections, Thursday 3rd May

Nomination forms can be obtained from West Wratting's parish clerk, Jenny Richards, or from Weston Colville's parish council chairman, Ray Vidler (contact details on back page of *Challenge*).

Timetable of Proceedings

Publication of notice of election (nominations open)	Monday 26 th March
Deadline for receipt of nominations	4 pm Friday 6 th April
Withdrawal of candidate	4 pm Friday 6 th April
Appointment of election agents	4 pm Friday 6 th April
Last date for publication of notice of election agents	4 pm Friday 6 th April
Last date for publication of statements of persons nominated	4 pm Monday 9 th April
Last date for registration	Tuesday 17 th April
Receipt of postal vote applications	5 pm Wednesday 18 th April
Last date for publication of notice of poll	Wednesday 25 th April
Receipt of proxy vote applications	5 pm Wednesday 25 th April
Appointment of poll and count agents	Thursday 26 th April
First day to issue replacement lost postal ballot papers	Friday 27 th April
Last day to issue replacement spoilt or lost postal ballot papers	5 pm Thursday 3 rd May
Receipt of emergency proxy vote applications	5 pm Thursday 3 rd May
Day of poll	7 am to 10 pm, Thursday 3 rd May
Return of election expenses	Thursday 31 st May

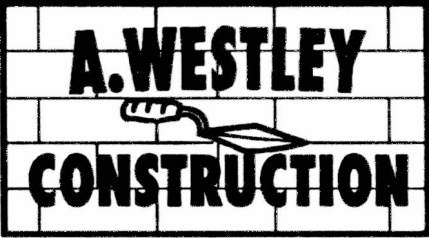
Mike Leeson

I and my family would like to thank all those friends from West Wratting and Weston Colville who came to Mike's service of celebration for his life in Balsham church. It was wonderful to see the church so full, a testament to how much Mike was thought of.

The kind cards, messages and letters following his death have been a great comfort. The friendship and support we have received over these past 16 months has eased the path we have had to tread.

Thank you also to those who gave donations to The Brain Tumour Charity or to the Arthur Rank Hospice.

Hazel, Hannah & Alex & families



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Weston Colville Parish Council

A meeting was held on Monday 8th January, where the following items were discussed and where relevant agreed:

Co-option of new parish councillors – following brief presentations by both the candidates and a short discussion by the council it was agreed to co-opt both Ian Ashbridge and James Hubbard onto the council. A check was made of the rule governing parish councils which confirmed that eight councillors were permitted.

Website – a quote of £299 has been obtained to create a parish website, and an offer has been received from the Reading Room to share their web site. Councillor Pagonis is to follow this up and feed back at the March meeting

Car park transfer from SCDC to WCPC – following interventions by our county and district councillors, the council legal department are progressing this. The disputed area is a very small strip of land at the rear of the car park by the stream claimed by the Six Mile Bottom estate; it was agreed to try to find out the precise location of this strip of land.

It was agreed that the council would continue with transfer of the rest of the car park from the district council to the parish council. Part of this area is leasehold, with the lease expiring in 2081, at which point we can claim the whole area as the landlord has been untraceable for over 100 years. It was agreed to talk to the council’s solicitor to progress this transfer. The total cost will be in the region of £2,000 .

Ditch and stream clearing – following an intervention by county councillor Batchelor, a meeting is to be arranged with Highways and the flood officer on 22nd January to agree how to fix the drains at Mill Hill / Brinkley Rd, Church End to prevent flooding of the cottages there. In the meantime Highways are expected to clear the blocked drain on Mill Hill in the near future, and councillors Durham and Garrod have cleared the gullies and under the bridge at the Weston Green end adjacent to the ford. This work was greatly appreciated during the melt of the recent snow as it prevented flooding of the roads as seen previously from heavy rainfall. The council would like to record its thanks to Bridget and John for this work.



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Councillor Ashbridge agreed to discuss the clearance of the ditch by the cricket field with both the d’Abo estate and the Reading Room.

Defibrillator – it has been confirmed that the defibrillator access code is now available by calling 999. It was also agreed that Councillor Garrod would provide his address details so that people can go to his house for the code. He also agreed to ask the Reading Room tenant if she was happy to give the code if anyone knocked on her door, and he will report back at the next meeting

Speed Indicator Device – a meeting has been held with Josh Rutherford of the County Council Highways department to agree suitable locations for the installation of the speed indicator devices in the village. As a result the council agreed to the use of the speed indicator devices in the village .

The Post Office – based on what the post office are prepared to offer in terms of a contract, it now looks unlikely that it would be viable for anyone to operate a post office on a full time basis in Weston Colville. The only potential option would probably be a part time option like the one in West Wickham village hall by someone on a semi voluntary basis. The council would still be keen to support anyone interested.



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Playground maintenance update – still looking for contractors to repair the slide at Church End but there seems little interest in doing this type of work due to any potential safety issues arising from a repair. As a result the council agreed that it may be better to get quotes for a replacement slide.

The seesaw seats at the Green play area were badly cracked. It was agreed to buy replacement seats for £95 from the original supplier Sutcliff plc. Repairs have been made to various other items, and all the equipment appears to be in sound condition

Finance – no receipts or payments since last meeting. Payments agreed at the meeting: £100 for Challenge, £40 for a bouquet for CT, £76 for new seesaw seats.

New clerk – a new parish clerk will be appointed at the next meeting.

Date of next full meeting – 5th March at 7.30 pm in the Reading Room.

Ray Vidler, WCPC Chairman



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Weston Colville Marsh Tit Study

Hello March Titters, welcome to spring in South Cambs. :)

Sightings of colour-ringed Marsh Tits have been coming in thick and fast, thanks to Joyce Oliver, Ben Eeles and John Rogers. It's apparent that adult Marsh Tits are heavily using sunflower seed feeders in gardens at this time. For example, Green over White 'Minty' (at least two years old) and Green over Red 'Charles' (three years old) are regulars at Joyce's on northern Mill Hill, while Red over Black 'Rob' (three years old) prefers to eat at Ben and Len's at Church End, and Green over Blue 'Florence' (two years old) likes John Rogers' bird bistro on southern Mill Hill.

No Marsh Tit wants to venture much more than 500m from their own deciduous woodland territory, which might explain why each bird tends to visit its own feeder.

Florence is pictured here looking rather, well . . . plump. Before you're tempted to gossip that Flo's 'muffin top look' results from overindulgent eating habits, the photo is dated 9th February. Cold birds fluff up their feathers to trap more air and increase their insulation. Flo might simply be chilly.



©John Rogers 2018

What is conspicuous is the absence of teenage Marsh Tits, which hatched last year. So far, none have been seen in gardens this year. These immature birds wouldn't pass up a chance of a free meal, so they're not within 500m of a village feeder.

Britain's lowland deciduous woods have declined by 40% since 1935 and now cover 1 - 2% of their original range, so there's not enough woodland territory to share with the new generation. Without homes, it's likely that many of these teenagers have been forced to disperse beyond our villages to try to find an unoccupied wood elsewhere. For safety, they'll try to do this by hopping a few metres from deciduous tree to deciduous tree. Our modern rural landscape will look bleak to them.

So if you're going to plant a tree, make it a deciduous native one. I have a Horse Chestnut *Aesculus hippocastaneum*, planted in the ground in a plastic dustbin (with holes) to keep it to a manageable size for a garden. It's now twenty years old but only six metres high, and the birds love it. :)

Please keep your Marsh Tit sightings – the lifeblood of our study – coming in to me (cambsmarti@gmail.com), Mel (m_stammers@btinternet.com) or Challenge. We'd have nothing without you.

Enjoy the mad Hares and the Daffodils,
Alex Inzani and your friendly neighbourhood South Cambs ringing team

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The Meadow School

As we move into spring, the school is looking bright and cheery with new displays popping up. From philosophical enquiry to history displays of playtimes of the past (which I may find a little spooky when locking up in the dark at night!), these displays make the corridors look cheerful, and provide an opportunity to showcase and celebrate the learning that the children have completed.

Just before we broke up for half term we once again set aside our normal timetable for something as a school we are passionate about – wellbeing. We try really hard to ensure that everyone who steps foot in our school, whether they are a child, staff member, parent or visitor, are aware of how important wellbeing is to us. Each day we still do peer massage or have quiet reflection time. However, we decided to take this a step further and have an entire wellbeing week, when every child experienced a Pilates class, dance class and mindfulness sessions along with a myriad of other activities.

This half term is full of events and exciting ventures for many of our children. By the time you read this our Infants will have travelled to KidZania for a day of real life work, when they will be donning uniforms, picking up tools, stacking shelves and counting money whilst taking on the role of real life jobs in a children’s world of work. This will support their topic in learning about past and present jobs, and starting to think about what jobs they may have in the future!

Our Year 5 children will soon be packing their bags and heading off for three days on the Norfolk Broads, which for many will be their first time away from home. The place they will be staying is absolutely idyllic and the children get to spend three days in the great outdoors running around with the most beautiful

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backdrop whilst undertaking activities such as owl pellet dissection, night time animal camera watching, learning the history of Eel Cottage, bird watching on the Broads, and many more activities. One of their favourites is always setting the tables and clearing up after mealtimes. Let’s hope everyone gets plenty of sleep while they are away!

We are also looking forward to the music soiree where all of the children who take music lessons in school get to perform one evening, and the Year 3/4 production, ‘Glint of Gold’ will keep us all entertained as the term draws to a close.

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

Nichola Connor, Headteacher

Has Anyone Seen this Cat?

This is Tigger, photographed as a kitten. Has anybody seen him?

Please can villagers who are feeding a cat who may be wandering, or a little lost and not a stray, please put a notice in Challenge to let the animal's owner know? They may believe they are helping, but it is heartbreaking to lose a companion animal.



Margaretha Galt (Weston Colville)

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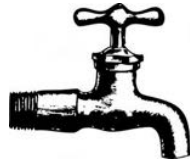
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Marsh Mail (news from Linton Village College)

Everyday sexism in schools has been the focus of recent research by the government, revealing some shocking findings. A report published last year by Parliament's Women and Equalities Select Committee outlined evidence that nearly 60% of girls and young women aged 13 - 21 said that they had faced some form of sexual harassment at school or college within the previous year. It is disturbing that there were so many victims of unpleasant and unwanted language and behaviour, and that this kind of conduct continues in the 21st century.



At LVC we continue to address these issues through our PSHE curriculum, and seek to tackle and address casual sexism that can be perceived by students as 'a joke'. We also continue to work on perceptions of careers aspirations through our information, advice and guidance and opportunities. Our March science week programme at LVC features talks from female STEM (science, technology, engineering and maths) leaders, amongst other engaging events to showcase the subject.

Delivering a curriculum that reflects women's achievements starts in our partner primary schools with the study of influential figures, such as Mary Seacole, and exploring parents' careers in non-gender-stereotyped professions, such as female surgeons.

It has been great to see children of both sexes flourishing in our inaugural dance production, 'Ignite', last month, and smashing gender stereotypes. Solo performances by males and females and an all boy dance troupe were fabulous. Meanwhile, our

under 16 girls' basketball team celebrated the title of district champions.

The introduction of an LGBT+ group at LVC for students to openly discuss issues relating to gender is an example of the safe and accepting environment that we seek to foster and support.

It is essential that all children, regardless of sex and gender, are able to thrive, flourish and achieve their potential at school and in life, without fear of harassment or limitation.

Helena Marsh, Executive Principal

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Balsham Gardening Club

The meeting on Tuesday 6th February heard about the history of Singapore Botanic Garden, its heritage trees and the National Orchid Garden, which has the largest collection of tropical orchids in the world and is a major centre for breeding hybrid orchids. It was interesting to note that Eric Holttum, the garden's director from 1925 to 1949, and the person who spearheaded the



development of the orchid industry in Singapore, was actually born down the road in Linton. It was also interesting to



hear that a sizeable proportion of the group had actually been to the Singapore Botanic Garden themselves.

The programme of upcoming events is as follows; as always, visitors and new members are welcome.

March 6th Mike Day on 'RHS Vegetable Trials'

April 3rd Mike Petty on 'Pickwick's Gardening Scrapbook, 1830's'

May 9th Visit to Upwater Lodge, Cambridge. 6 - 8 pm. Own/shared transport. Cost £7.00 to include wine and nibbles.

May 19th Plant Sale

July 15th Coach outing to the Place for Plants and Hyde Hall. Total cost £21 to include coach and entry to Place for Plants. Hyde Hall entry free.

Jennie Tipler

Harold's seasonal tips:

- Prune winter jasmine
- Prune buddleia davidii
- Sow broad beans in pots for planting out in March after hardening off
- Transplant aconites and snowdrops if overcrowded
- Don't walk on frozen lawns
- Wash pots and trays ready for the greenhouse early sowings
- Is the mower in good condition for spring?
- Feed roses with a high potash fertiliser
- Set seed potatoes to sprout before planting
- Remove diseased leaves from Christmas and Lenten roses
- Cut down perennial grasses.



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West Wickham and District Gardening Club

We were delighted to welcome back Simon White, manager at Peter Beales Roses in Attleborough, who gave us a really helpful talk on how to prune roses and the best equipment to use for each job. His illustrations were clear and instructive; he had brought many goodies for sale and our members made good use of the hefty discounts offered.

Our next talk, on March 19th, will be given by Dr Paula Dyason from 'Strictly Daylilies Nursery' at Histon. This will be at the usual time of 7.30 pm in West Wickham Village Hall, so do join us if you can.

Rosemary Yallop (01799 584262)

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4. Stay well and warm – can you afford to heat your home? Do you have access to a hot meal? Do you access all the services available to you?
5. Crime reduction – we can provide advice on making your home more secure in addition to advice to make you less vulnerable to scams or fraud.
6. Smoking – need a helping hand to quit? Our partners can offer you the help and advice you need to stop smoking.

You are under no obligation to answer any questions that you do not want to, but the more information you provide us with, the better we will be able to support you. We can also provide advice in relation to promoting the health and safety of individuals with hoarding concerns, as well as providing valuable information to care providers.

To find out if you are eligible for a visit, call us on 01480 444500 or email us at

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The Ellesmere Centre, Stetchworth

Open Mic will be on Saturday 10th March, with a variety of music by local musicians and some from further afield. The January Open Mic was amazing, with two great new performers joining us from Cambridge. This month the evening will finish with a performance by 'Somali Road Attic Band' who will be new to the centre. If you have never been before come along and give it a try. There is a fully licensed bar serving real ale from our local brewery, and entrance is £3. Refreshments are available.



Bird boxes have been installed around the playing field at the centre, with a camera in one. We are hoping that people will come along and watch the birds whilst

enjoying a hot drink in the Gredley Room. Fingers crossed that we get a nest in the box with the camera – this will be played live on a screen in the centre. Please note that the Gredley Room is not available on a Tuesday morning, but at all other times it is open for visitors, with tea, coffee, hot chocolate and squash available.

We will be having an informal coffee morning with homemade cake in the Gredley Room between 9.30 am and 12 noon on Friday 13th April for all those of you interested in birds, so come along and join us.

Booze & Brushes is a two hour class where everyone is taught to paint the same painting, guided by Rosey



Hancock. This will be on Thursday 12th April at 7 pm; -booking essential. No experience is necessary, just bring your own drink. For more details contact Rosey at paintingpassions.co.uk.

Carpet Bowls – the club which plays at the centre on Wednesday evenings is in urgent need of new players. If you would like to have a go then please call Ray on 01638 614449. There is also a Monday Club run by John Puddick (01638 507636) which would also welcome new members.

Easter Activities – details are now available on our website, or email the office and they will send you a copy.



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Sunday 11 th March	Holy Communion	Very Rev Keith Johnson	Alex	Lent; Mothers' Day posies	Jenny
Sunday 18 th March	Holy Communion	Canon John Pinder	Jenny	Lent	Pauline
Sunday 25 th March	Songs of Praise (at 4.00 pm)	John & Scilla Harvey	n/a	Lent	Fanny

St Mary's, Weston Colville (9.15 am)		
Sunday 4 th March	Holy Communion	Revd Dr Carrie Pemberton Ford
Sunday 11 th March	Holy Communion and Baptism	Rev Kathy Bishop
Sunday 18 th March	Morning Prayers	Steven Wheeler
Sunday 25 th March	Holy Communion	Canon John Pinder
March Cleaning		Gay
April Flowers & Cleaning		Charlotte; 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

March 2018

- Fri 2 Tea & Cakes, Reading Room, Weston Colville
First Friday bridge, West Wrattling
- Sat 3 Saturday Morning Café, West Wrattling
Circular walk, from Reading Room
- Mon 5 Weston Colville Parish Council meeting
- Tue 6 Balsham Gardening Club meeting
- Wed 7 Deadline for West Wrattling oil syndicate orders
West Wrattling Over 60s
Weston Colville Cinema Club, Reading Room
- Fri 9 Meadow School PTA Quiz, Balsham
- Sat 10 Granta Deanery Spring Fair, Great Shelford
Balsham Community Market
- Mon 12 West Wrattling Parish Council meeting
- Wed 14 West Wrattling Book Club
Tennis club AGM
West Wrattling sports pavilion AGM
West Wrattling Football Liaison Group meeting
- Thur 15 West Wrattling Lunch Club, The Chestnut Tree
- Mon 19 West Wickham & District Gardening Club
- Tue 20 Seniors' Group, Reading Room
- Sun 25 Easter Songs of Praise, St Andrew's
- Sat 31 Churchyard clearup, St Andrew's

April 2018

- Tue 3 Balsham Gardening Club meeting
- Wed 4 West Wrattling Over 60s
- Thur 12 Licensing of Rev Iain McColl, Balsham
- Fri 13 Bird coffee morning, Ellesmere Centre
- Tue 17 Bumblebees reopens, Reading Room
- Wed 18 Quiz, Reading Room
- Sat 21 Pamper Day, Reading Room
- Sun 22 Virgin London Marathon
- Sat 28 Circular walk, from Reading Room

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Very Revd Keith Johnson, Honorary Associate Priest
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Mr Steven Wheeler, Licensed Lay Minister
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Mrs Rosemary Mead, Authorised Lay Minister
tel: 891718 email: leonardavmead@hotmail.com
Mr Keith Day, Authorised Lay Minister
tel: 891527 email: keithdday@btinternet.com

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, 01223 290010
West Wrattling Parish Clerk – Jenny Richards,
j.richards597@btinternet.com, 01223 665260
Church Administrator: Caroline (Cazzy) Walshe,
7churches.seven@gmail.com, 01223 891443
Parish Nurse: Claire Gillett,
7churches.parishnurse@gmail.com, 07498 994205

Black bins: Monday 12th & 26th March,
 Tuesday 10th & Monday 23rd April

Blue & green bins: Monday 5th & 19th March,
 Wednesday 4th, Monday 16th & 30th April

Mobile library: first Tuesday of each month
(6th March, 3rd April)

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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

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, so please resend. Some contributions may have to be edited, to fit the space available, and are published at the discretion of the editor.

April issue's copy date:
Tuesday 20th March.