

Challenge

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

The views expressed herein are those of the contributors.

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The Licensing Service for our new vicar, Revd Iain McColl, will take place at Balsham church on Thursday 12th April, 7.00 pm. Residents from the villages are most welcome to attend.

Tea and Cakes, Weston Colville



Unbelievably, Tea and Cakes is approaching its fourth anniversary in May. The time has flown by. Tea and Cakes was set up with the idea of helping strengthen the community in the village by

providing a regular event for us to meet and get to know each other. We like the fact that it is an occasion where all ages can enjoy each other's company. We hope that you enjoy it too.

Other than acquiring games, the format has changed very little since we began. We welcome any ideas or suggestions of changes you might like to see. We are

also concerned that some who might like to attend may find it difficult to get there, and Alan Ogden has offered his help. If you would like help getting to Tea and Cakes you can contact Alan by telephone (01223 291401) or by email (alan2ogden@yahoo.co.uk).

Our next gathering will be on Friday 6th April, 3.30 - 5 pm at the Reading Room. As always we look forward to seeing you for a cuppa, a chat and the all important slice of cake.

Melanie (291319)

Saturday Morning Café, West Wrattling

Huge thanks to everyone for another very busy and enjoyable café at the beginning of March.

The Easter craft table organised by Buttercups was a huge success, and raised over £160 for the Buttercups charity.

The Saturday morning café will run as usual on Saturday 7th April 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)

Café Church

Sunday 29th April, 3 - 4 pm

West Wrattling Church

All ages - all welcome

Tea, coffee and cakes



The Bible. What is so special about it? Is it just good literature? How reliable is it historically?

Come to a talk and discussion led by Dr Dirk Jongkind. He is a specialist in the New Testament records and a very engaging speaker.

There will also be activities for the younger ones.

Pop-Up Pub, Weston Colville

The highly popular pop-up pub, courtesy of 'The Portable Pint', returns to Weston Colville Reading Room on Friday May 4th from 6.30 until 10.00 pm. Delicious Thai food (choice of meat or vegetarian) will be available (no need to order in advance).

Any enquiries, and for details, please contact newtonjed@gmail.com.



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West Wratting Over 60s

This month's meeting of the club will be held at 12.30 pm, to include lunch, at The Chestnut Tree on Wednesday 4th April.

Please be aware that next month we meet on 9th May.

The March meeting, held at Nicholls Court, was most successful, and we thank Muriel for her generous hospitality.

Wendy Halls

Seniors

We welcomed new members and new ideas to our March meeting, which had good company, humour, and suggestions which we will include in our future meetings. Charlotte told us about her experiences with yoga over many years, and led the group in a sample 15-minute session, with more to follow if we choose.

We plan to hold our April meeting on Tuesday 10th at 2.30 pm. The plan is to settle in with a cup of tea and then take up Charlotte's offer with the first of six monthly taster 'chair yoga' sessions, described by her as good experience and an introduction for the group, and follow this with a talk about Lower Wood. Do come along. There will be a warm cuppa and a biscuit waiting.

'Elderly' Allen

The d'Abo Tennis Club

The new tennis season begins on 1st May at the d'Abo Tennis Club at the Recreation Ground in West Wratting, which is a great place to play! Members also benefit from being able to enter the club's Wimbledon ballot.

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.

The club will hold its annual Supper Party on Friday 18th May at 7.30.

For more information on membership visit www.WestWrattingTennis.co.uk or phone the club treasurer Mark Holme on 07768 443223.

James Merrells

The Bumble Bees Baby and Toddler Group

The 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!

Summer term dates & planned craft activities:

- Tuesday 17th April – Paper Plate Bumble Bees (a painting activity; aprons are provided)
- Tuesday 24th April – St George's Day Craft
- Tuesday 1st May – Blossom Trees
- Tuesday 8th May – Cress Growing
- Tuesday 15th May – Butterfly Painting (aprons are provided)
- Tuesday 22nd May – Make your own Musical Instrument

NO SESSION DURING HALF TERM. The group will return on Tuesday 5th June. For any further information, please contact me.

Beverley (07833 228958)

Weston Colville Reading Room – Quiz

As this seems to have become quite a popular twice-yearly event, we're holding another on Wednesday, 18th April. Up to four people per team, with a prize for the winners; entry £2 per person. Bar includes wine, cider and draft ale. All welcome; enquiries: jacquelinetheteacher@hotmail.com, 291475.

Weston Colville Circular Walk

Our March walk was our first outing in the snow since we started these circular walks in 2015. Seven of us ventured out – are we now officially the most intrepid residents of Weston Colville?



The next walk will be on Saturday 28th April. Meet at the Reading Room at 10 am, BYO lunch, and maybe something to share. Refreshments will be available, and all are welcome.. Enquiries: jacquelinetheteacher@hotmail.com, 291475.

Weston Colville Cinema Club

We have no film in April, but our choice for Wednesday 2nd May is a wonderful film from rural France, the sequel to Jean de Florette, following the warm reception that film received in January.



Don't worry if you missed that, the introduction to this one will catch you up. 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. The evening 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.

Photography Day – Weston Colville

You're invited to take part in a day of taking photos around Weston Colville on Saturday 5th May, all ages welcome, £3 entry. Weather and light conditions will provide a level playing field as everyone will be out at the same time, and the rest is up to you. Meet at the Reading Room from 11 am, and take photos anywhere within the parish boundary between noon and 4 pm, using any transport and with your phone or any camera. Then meet back at the Reading Room from 3 pm, and enter your chosen images by 4 pm for judging. At 5 pm photos will be shown, and winners announced and presented with a prize. Refreshments will be available morning and afternoon. Enquiries: jacquelinetheteacher@hotmail.com, 291475.

Talk in the Reading Room – 'Horseheath Hall: a Lost Cambridgeshire House'

Janet Morris of West Wickham History Club will tell us this interesting story on Thursday 24th May at 7.30 pm. Refreshments will be available and all are welcome. Donations, no ticket required. Enquiries: jacquelinetheteacher@hotmail.com 291475.

THAI NIGHT

31/3/18 and 28/4/18, 7.30 pm
Reading Room, Weston Colville

GRACE'S POP UP PLACE

APPETISERS

Fresh spring prawn or vegetable rolls with a selection of Thai dipping sauces

STARTERS

Thai spiced salmon / vegetable cakes
Thai spiced chicken
Crisp Asian salad

MAINS

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DESSERT

Warm jasmine spice cake drizzled with a jasmine glaze and served with a refreshing mango icecream

£20 with alcohol or £15 without. There is also a £10 takeaway option to include rice and a curry.

To book email darvilld@hotmail.com
or call 01223 290605

Grace (15) is fundraising to join a month long expedition to Peru in 2018. Any support you can give will be gratefully received.

Annual General Meeting

of

Weston Colville Reading Room

(Charity no 1162032)

to be held in Weston Colville Reading Room
on Monday 21st May at 7.30 pm.

This is an open meeting, and everyone is welcome to attend.



Jan Ogden, Secretary



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MOPS HAIR SALON

West Wrating Book Club

An enthusiastic group met on 14th March to discuss 'Corduroy' by Adrian Bell. This is the first of a trilogy of books which documented his time apprenticed to Vic Savage in Weston Colville, before he bought his own small farm. Apart from these he wrote many other books and columns, and created the first Times crossword, continuing this for 50 years including the Golden Jubilee puzzle in 1980, the year he died.

Everyone enjoyed reading it and loved all the detail about farming life at that time. It was also fun to try and work out where the places were that he referred to, the towns, farms and houses.

It is well written in an easy style. Some of the writing reminded people of Bill Bryson, James Rebanks and John Lewis-Stempel, especially the descriptions of the natural world. It captures a period when the old way of farming were changing drastically with increasing mechanisation, which some regret and others look forward to. It gives insights into husbandry practices, especially at the agricultural show, where much is still recognisable in today's events. Also highlighted is the respect they had for creatures such as foxes, being



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glad when one that gave them a good chase escaped the hunt, while recognising the need to control them.

There is a striking comparison with his life in London and the attitudes of people to what he is doing.

One person who came from a farming family described how it brought back memories for her mother who also read it. Other adjectives used were kindly and quirky. Bell perhaps had a somewhat idyllic idea of the life, at least at first. There is a real poignancy in that when his son, Martin Bell, was sorting out his papers, he found many letters from soldiers who had treasured the book as a reminder of home and what they were fighting for. The score was 9 out of 10, and all would recommend it.

The book for 18th April is 'How to Stop Time' by Matt Haig, and for 16th May is 'New Finnish Grammar' by Diego Marani, to be discussed at the usual time, 8 pm at The Chestnut Tree.

Linda Gorman

West Wrattling Oil Syndicate

What a nightmare for the March fill up!

The 'Beast From The East' howled in and destroyed any chance of getting a lower price than our January order. Before the cold snap I was hoping for a price of about 45p, but the cut off date of Wednesday 7th was a perfect piece of bad timing, with some suppliers refusing to quote prices and others saying that they'd not be able to deliver until April. It appears that the last thing any of them wanted was to take an order for 27 houses! If they were quoting, most companies were offering oil at 60p to 62p per litre. Boilerjuice, my usual price benchmark, simply had a note on their website saying: 'Due to the high demand our suppliers are currently experiencing we are unable to offer

prices for domestic heating oil in your area at this time'.

In fact, the situation was so bad that I considered delaying placement of the order until the first week of April or even abandoning it altogether. However, a few phone calls to people who had placed orders with the syndicate told me that, although they were not absolutely desperate for delivery, they would rather have delivery now than wait a month or so. Also, the tank gauge at Holness Towers was heading south at a rate of knots and the present Mrs H said that she wasn't prepared to dig out her 'Fame' leg warmers . . .

So (on behalf of the syndicate) I bit the bullet and placed the order with Goff Petroleum at 57.00p per litre, as they promised delivery by 22nd March, which was the best price and the earliest delivery I could get at the time.

There will be a fill up next month, with a cut off for orders of Tuesday 8th May at 6.30 pm. It's got to be cheaper in May, hasn't it . . . ?

Please don't place your orders until 1st May and especially don't give them to me in The Chestnut Tree! A description of how the syndicate works, and how to order, will be printed in May's *Challenge*.

Richard Holness

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Weston Colville Neighbourhood Watch (NHW)

Recently I received a telephone call offering an enhanced call barring service provided by the Telephone Preference Service. The call felt wrong to me because we had registered with the one and only Telephone Preference Service (TPS) some time ago, as well as BT's Call Protect. Both TPS and Call Protect are free services, while this enhanced call barring service wanted us to provide our bank account details – no way!

Action Fraud warned us about this new fraud recently. Please remember that there is only one Telephone Preference Service (TPS) and it is FREE to register. TPS never charges for registration. Try www.tpsonline.org.uk.

Always be wary of providing personal information, or confirming that personal information the caller already claims to hold is correct. Always be certain that you know who you're talking to. If in doubt, hang up immediately.

Good Neighbour – many people are waiting out the weather at home and some won't have been able to get out for several days now so a friendly knock from a neighbour is welcome. Maybe they need a pint of milk or a can of beans to get them through to the thaw, or a path swept or their dog walked?

Just as we watch out for each other when on holiday, please do the same when the weather, health, or age are against us. A little help goes a long way.

Well, I have run out of space again. I don't know of any problems in our villages, though Linton, Sawston and Duxford have had several thefts recently, mainly of tools, jewellery and cash.

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

Community Awards

Weston Colville Parish Council nominated Christine Tilley for a Community Award under a scheme of recognition set up by South Cambridgeshire District Council. Christine was nominated for her 35 years of service to the village as post mistress, and the value to the local community of both the post office and shop. The award evening was held on 8th March, and Christine was presented with a certificate by Dame Mary Archer. Congratulations Christine!

Bridget Durham (290082)

I would like to thank the parish council for nominating me for a Community Award. It was a very nice evening, with Dame Mary Archer presenting the awards, and congratulating each one of us. There were some amazing awards, and then we had a group photograph taken at the end of the evening.

Chris

Updates

In October last year *Challenge* reported a missing tabby cat, Beatrice. Beatrice was absent for several months, but has since returned to her home. We also believe we've located the missing Tigger, shown in last month's *Challenge*. Nice to have good news!

Anne

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**“Wot – no Matron?”
Nurses not Managers**
A parish nurse event

**Thursday 26th April,
6.30 pm – 8.00 pm**

The Black Bull, High Street, Balsham

As part of our programme of parish nurse events please join us to hear more about the work of the Buurtzorg nurses and how they could change the way we think about future care in the community.

Buurtzorg is a pioneering healthcare organisation, originating in the Netherlands, and established ten years ago with a nurse-led model of holistic care that revolutionised community care. The scheme has received international attention for its innovative use of independent nurse teams in delivering high-quality, relatively low-cost, care.

Please note that this is a free event – no booking required. Refreshments will be available.

For more information contact Cazzy Walshe,
7churches.seven@gmail.com or Keith Day
keithdday@btinternet.com, 01223 891527

A Message from the Parish Nurse

It's hard to believe that I last wrote in the village magazines back in June 2017, telling you a bit more about myself and my role as your parish nurse. Since that time I have met even more villagers, visiting those that need me in their homes, and getting to know some of you at coffee mornings and clubs.

Last summer I asked if there was anyone out there who would be interested in volunteering for the project. I'm pleased to let you know that I now have a volunteer, Sue Buckingham, who will be working one day a week. Sue has many years' experience working with Age UK, and I'm sure many of you will have come into contact with her already.

We have produced a newsletter with information about the work that the parish nurse has achieved since the project started, and talking about our plans for the future. If would you like a copy please contact



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Our next parish nurse event takes place on Thursday 26th April, at the Black Bull in Balsham, when we will be hearing more about the work of the Buurtzorg nurses. I am pleased to say that two of the nurses will be with us for the talk.

A reminder that as your parish nurse I work for the seven churches, covering West Wickham, Weston Colville, West Wrating, Balsham, Hildersham and Great and Little Abington. I work three days a week: Mondays, Tuesdays or Wednesdays, and Thursdays. I am not an emergency service or a replacement for the services already available to you through your general practice. I do however hold an honorary contract with Granta Medical Practice and have access to the surgery.

If you would like to get in touch, my contact details are: 07498 994205 or

7churches.parishnurse@gmail.com

If you would like to know more about parish nursing please visit the parish nursing ministry website at www.parishnursing.co.uk

Blessings,

Claire Gillett

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Verges – Weston Colville

At the last meeting of Weston Colville Parish Council, the state of the verges was discussed. It was generally agreed that they were in poor condition due to vehicles using them as an extension of the highway. It seems unlikely that the County Council will have funds available to restore the verges where lorries have all but destroyed them, but a bit of self-help might improve the situation. If the verge near you is damaged, and it is safe to do so as the weather improves, some levelling, the careful application of topsoil, and reseeding could tidy up the raw edges. This could in turn deter drivers from crushing them again. Please remember that the verges belong to the Highways Authority, and it remains an offence to obstruct them with rocks, sticks etc. Help us care for our village, but do not put yourself or others in harm's way.

Bridget Durham (290082)

West Wrating Parish Council

At the parish council meeting held on Monday 12th March the following were some of the items discussed. The full minutes will be placed on the two noticeboards.



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Opportunity for public speaking:

- a) Mrs Jenny Horsfield requested permission to tidy up the footpath/right of way alongside their house at 53 High St, whilst improving the car parking area inside their boundary. This was agreed.
- b) Colin McCall thanked the council for nominating him 'hero of the village' which he was very honoured by, but hastened to add that there are so many other people in the village who contribute their time to helping others and keeping the village looking good. He continued by speaking about the amount of fly tipping down Fox Road since the new surface was put down and travellers were also using the area. Balsham PC has made an application to have a barrier at the Balsham end of Fox Road to prevent this misuse and it is the intention of West Wrating PC to put in a similar application. He informed the council that the Wadlow Wind Fund had a reasonable amount of money available and thought some could be applied for to refurbish the play area and equipment.

Village Liaison Group report: Alexia Passmore said the first meeting had gone well and that there were three main issues following on from this meeting.

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- a) *Language on the pitch:* the main culprit is a member of WWFC and the referee said he would speak to the player and also the captain. If the bad language is kept down by the home team this should hopefully set an example to visiting teams.
- b) *Noise:* complaints have been made by local residents of the noise made after a match or when an event is held in the Sports Pavilion. The Sports Pavilion committee are considering making a back entrance and area where people could go to drink and chat. Funding will be required to do this and it was suggested putting in an application to Wadlow Wind Farm.
- c) *Parking:* because there is insufficient parking in the car park the committee would like permission to place cones on the road outside the entrance to the ground to prevent cars parking on this corner. It means more cars on the High Street, but better this than having an accident. The parish council agreed to this.

Planning: S/0687/18/FL – new cartlodge at Valley Farm. It was agreed to hold a planning meeting on Monday 19th March in The Chestnut Tree.

Finances: the payments were authorised and are shown on the draft minutes posted on the noticeboards.

Maintenance:

- a) *Dilapidated building action:* a S215 Amenity Notice had been sent from South Cambs District Council to the owners to remedy the current condition of the property within a timescale of three months.
- b) *Road markings and pot holes:* Nicole Burdon of Highways had intended to inspect the potholes complained about by Cllr Nichols but was unable to come out due to snow. Cllr Holness had also

complained online about potholes and gulleys, and the latter were all cleared out last week.

Election: the parish clerk handed out six nomination forms for completion. There will be a notice posted on the noticeboard regarding dates, and the parish clerk holds the nomination forms should anybody wish to receive one.

Football Club: Cllr Holness had distributed his two reports and the accounts for the Sports Pavilion to the parish council. It was agreed by the parish council that the requirement of a Guest Book to be kept should be removed from the lease as it was almost impossible to implement it.

Traffic Issues & Speed Restrictions:

- a) *Local Highways Improvement scheme:* the chairman said that Highways were prepared to absorb the extra costs but the parish council will pay £3,000 towards the overall costs. It is hoped the work will start shortly.
- b) *Speed Indicator:* it was agreed that there would be two permanent posts and two sockets and two removable posts which could be moved about and these have been ordered.

Village Hall: a grant has been awarded from Wadlow Wind Farm Fund to replace some of the flooring.

Reports by County Cllr Batchelor and Dist County Cllr Fraser: these have been put on the village website and details are given in the minutes.

The next parish council meeting will be held on Monday 14th May at 8 pm, and all are welcome to attend.

Jenny Richards (j.richards597@btinternet.com)

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Weston Colville Progressive Supper

We have decided to organise a village progressive supper on **Saturday 9th June**, open to anyone in the village. You simply provide a single course for six or eight people (you don't need to be a cordon bleu cook!) including yourselves, and enjoy two other courses at tables around the village. This is not primarily a fund-raising event, but any money raised will go to charity. The way it works is:

1. You sign up as below, then three weeks before the supper we let you know which course to prepare: starter, main or pudding, and for how many people. **Please do not tell anyone which course you are providing**, surprise is half the fun!
2. On the night if you are preparing a **starter**, your guests will arrive at 7.30 pm. You will not know in advance who they are and they'll only be told where to go by note 30 minutes beforehand. For this course, we suggest a drink, followed by a starter. Then at a set time which we'll tell you, you open an envelope, which will have the addresses for everyone's next course.



Please return with £10 in cash, no later than Monday 14th May, to Jacqueline, 20 Spring Terrace, Church End or to Anne, Applerose Cottage, The Green.

We can join the progressive supper on Saturday 9th June 2018

Names

Address

3. At your **main course** you'll meet two or three new couples, enjoy more food and wine, then at a set time, you open another envelope directing you to your pudding.

At the **pudding course** – more food and drink, then another note telling you where to go for your coffee and a final drink.

We are asking for a £10 contribution per couple (a term we use loosely as a 'couple' could be one, two or three people).

We hope as many people as possible will join in for what promises to be a very enjoyable evening. Could you please complete and return the attached slip **NO LATER THAN MONDAY 14th MAY**. There is a lot of planning to do so we must stick to this closing date. Similarly, please do not drop out once you've signed up as this would make things very difficult!

Looking forward to hearing from you – and seeing you at the supper.

Jacqueline Douglas (07884 365842, jacquelinetheteacher@hotmail.com)

Anne Vidler (290010, anne.vidler@talk21.com)

Phone number

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Ministry Matters

This year is racing by and Easter Day will be over by the time you read this. We are in a season of new beginnings; thankfully the really cold weather has gone and now we can see the new growth springing from what appeared to be dead. It is amazing how nature reinvents itself, and wonderful to see the glorious colours of spring and more daylight hours to enjoy them with the clocks going forward. I am reminded of the Easter story that tells of Jesus' crucifixion at the end of his life, or so it was thought, but three days later he rose again and is still alive inspiring and encouraging us.



A poem by William Henry Davies says *"What is this life if, full of care, we have no time to stand and stare. No time to stand beneath the boughs and stare as long as sheep or cows"* and ends with *"A poor life this if, full of care, We have no time to stand and stare"*. Maybe this could be our new beginning?

We have another new beginning with our new Rector joining us shortly. We are looking forward to having someone to lead us in bringing about new ways of engaging church and community. The usual St George's Day service will take place on 22nd April,

3 pm at Balsham church, giving the scouts, cubs, brownies and guides a chance to meet Revd McColl.

There is a new beginning for West Wrating church with the introduction of Café church. The first one in February was very successful and the next one will be on 29th April at 3 pm. Also that day we have our United Benefice Service at Hildersham church, 10 am, led by Iain and the Archdeacon Alex Hughes. Do come and join us, we would love to see you. Blessings to you all.

Rev Kathy Bishop

Canon Bill Girard

Canon Bill Girard died on 14th February (Ash Wednesday) in Hinchingsbrooke Hospital after a short illness. Bill was Rector of Balsham and Priest in



Charge of West Wickham from 1985 until 1999. He also served as Rural Dean of the Linton Deanery twice, for a total of four years. Bill retired to Little Gidding. Many people, particularly in Balsham and West Wickham, will remember Bill with affection. May he rest in peace and rise in glory.

Joanna Sanders

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Weston Colville Marsh Tit Study

March was a beast of a month for the birds, as well as ourselves. Many thanks to all of you who fed them during the cold snap.

I am pleased to say that our star birds Red over Green 'Charles', Green over White 'Minty' and White over Green 'Pacer' all survived the bad weather, thanks to the garden feeding at Joyce Oliver's magnificent and reliable bird bistro.

March till June is our RAS resighting period and our study crucially depends on sighting as many different Marsh Tits as possible. If we don't get a statistically significant number of resightings from March to June, OUR STUDY FAILS, so please keep those sightings coming in to myself (cambsmarti@gmail.com), Mel (m_stammers@btinternet.com) and Challenge.

Interestingly, almost all the birds sighted this year are adults. Last year's juveniles are nowhere to be seen.

We have found out why Weston Colville and West Wrattling are good for Marsh Tits – garden feeding within 500 m of mature deciduous woods between October and March. So we now have a new question: “Where are all the teenage Marsh Tits going?”

We are particularly interested in West Wrattling's woods and those to the north and east of Weston Colville. Please keep your eyes peeled for colour rings on these charismatic little birds.

We suspect that these young birds have been booted out of Mum and Dad's patch. They won't travel far in the open. There's not enough deciduous woodland left to provide homes for the next generation, and each generation could live up to 11 years. So the teenagers are dying out on their own, homeless. If this is true and we can prove it, we can use the evidence to do something about it and bring this species back from the brink.



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Duncan Mackay's stalker – White over Green 'Pacer' – has not been far from him while he's been doing his rounds in Lower Wood. Here she is on 10th February, lurking around him again and clearly hoping for an autograph . . . She was in the trees to the north of the felled area, and we hope that she finds a tree hole to breed in again this year. Hopefully some Romeo of a Marsh Tit will be able to fill Duncan's shoes and her love will no longer be unrequited.



Please enjoy the Daffodils, Squills and Ramsoms while looking for Marsh Tits.

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



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Fundraising to combat poverty

My name is Ben Turner, I live in West Wrattling, and in April I'll be volunteering in Ghana for ten weeks as a Business Support Associate.

This volunteering is organised by the charity 'Challenges Worldwide' with funding from International Citizen Service, a government programme that funds projects overseas that alleviate poverty in poor countries. Challenges Worldwide works specifically with consulting and training local businesses in developing countries, with the aim of stimulating broader economic growth.

In Ghana I'll be placed with a local business that has applied for UK aid. With the help of trained staff, I will be analysing their business and then offering recommendations on how they can develop, with the aim of creating growth, jobs, and alleviating poverty in the wider community.

For the ten weeks I'll be working alongside a local volunteer who has also nominated themselves for the programme in their country. A local family will be hosting me for the period, offering me a fantastic opportunity to immerse myself in the culture and get the most out of my time in Ghana.



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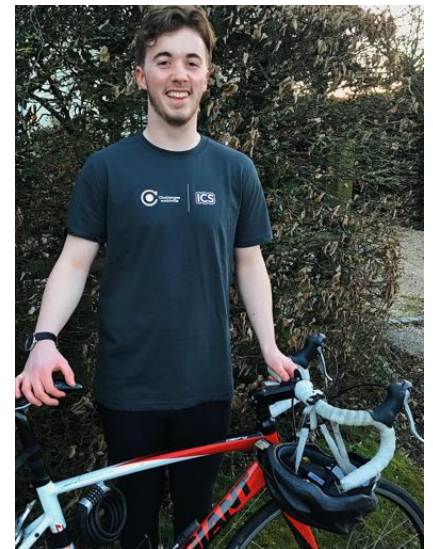
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The great thing about this project is that its key aim is to empower poorer communities, rather than making them dependent on handouts of food or clothing. This programme offers a sustainable solution that can be carried out by the same local people that it seeks to help.

In support I am aiming to raise £1,500. This programme is 90% government funded, so the donations do not come to me personally but instead contribute to the running and continuation of the programme while ensuring that other young people can continue to volunteer overseas on other great programmes like this.

My biggest fundraising challenge will be a 250 mile bike ride from London to Paris, which I'll be starting on 5th April! Alongside this I'm running other smaller events as well as collecting donations from generous community members. I'm more than happy to help out with any small jobs around the village in order to give something back where I can too – just call or text me on 07824 569333.



If you would like to donate then you can do so at www.justgiving.com/fundraising/ben-turner20. Alternatively you can text BEGA48 with the amount you'd like to donate to 70070. Any donations are hugely appreciated and go towards a fantastic cause. Many thanks!

Ben Turner



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Balsham Gardening Club



The small but select audience at the talk given by Mike Day on ‘Vegetable Varieties Today’ enjoyed a very informative and entertaining snapshot of developments in breeding new varieties of carrots, cabbage, Brussels sprouts, cauliflower, calabrese, onions, lettuce, sweetcorn, curcubits, kale and tomatoes. Mike worked for many years on vegetable trials and has seen a lot of changes in the varieties that are grown as we have become more adventurous in our tastes, and new methods of growing and storing vegetables impact on what we grow and buy to eat. We learned that carrots came originally in red, purple and white varieties and were introduced into Britain as cattle feed. It was Dutch breeders who developed the orange carrot that we all know and love, around 1600. Calabrese is now one of the top five favourite vegetables, and crisphead lettuces such as cos and little gem now account for 70 - 80% of sales, while bagged salads, containing a range of salad leaves, increased by 14% year on year over the past decade.

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

- 3rd April Mike Petty on ‘Pickwick’s Gardening Scrapbook, 1830s’
- 9th May Visit to Upwater Lodge, Cambridge. 6 - 8 pm. Own/shared transport. Cost £7.00 to include wine and nibbles.
- 19th May Plant Sale, 9.30 - 11.30 am at the Prince Memorial
- 15th July 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.

Harold’s Seasonal Tips:

- Plant sprouted seed potatoes;
- There is still time to prune and feed roses. Collect and dispose of any blackspot infected leaves from around the plants.
- Plant potatoes and sow peas, broad beans, carrots and onions if soil and weather conditions permit.
- Be wary of slugs and snails on the look out for soft shoots and young plants. Watch out for greenfly in the greenhouse and use sticky traps to catch the flying ones.

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- Sow half hardy annuals under glass. Sowing of French and African marigolds should be left until mid to late April.
- If you haven’t already done so, plant in the garden any spring flowering bulbs that have flowered indoors.
- Weed the asparagus bed.
- Progress the spring clear up if ground conditions allow.

Jennie Tipler

West Wickham and District Gardening Club

To most of us, *Hemerocallis* is the old orange thug that we inherited years ago, but West Wickham and District Gardening Club have found to their amazement that there are 5,000 or more different daylilies. Dr Paula Dyason and her husband Chris run the Strictly Daylilies Nursery at Histon; their website shows all their varieties in bloom, and the dates of their open days in July.

Next month is the last of our series of talks before the summer, and we have a real treat to offer you: Mike Warren is coming from Ipswich to give a talk on ‘Climbers, Crawlers and Creepers’, which sounds slightly sinister but I am assured is more to do with vertical gardening. This will be on Monday 16th April at West Wickham Village Hall at 7.30 pm.

Already we have seeds germinating and plants being potted up for our annual Plant Sale, also at West Wickham Village Hall, on 19th May. Last year we made over £700, so be sure not to miss out on it this year. I am sure you are all looking forward to some sunny days out there in the garden after the awfully cold weather we have experienced so far this year. Happy gardening to you all,

Rosemary Yallop (01799 584262)

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Cambridge Gliding Centre Open Day

Sunday 8th April, 10 am - 5 pm – come and visit Gransden Lodge Airfield to find out about the sport of gliding. All welcome. Trial flights with our qualified instructors available on a first-come, first-fly basis (subject to weather). Refreshments, free admission, aircraft displays, and talks about gliding. To fly in a glider you must be 13+ and weigh no more than 103 kg.

Airfield entrance: on B1046 between Little Gransden and Longstowe, opposite Gransden Lodge Farm (enter SG19 3EB into your SatNav). More information: www.camgliding.uk/ or via Facebook: <https://tinyurl.com/cgc-2018-openday>

Andrew Watson, Cambridge Gliding Centre

Daisy Chains Pre-School



Jumble Sale, Saturday 12th May, 2 - 4 pm, at West Wickham Village Hall. Please save up your old clothes, toys, bric a brac, and books ready for our jumble sale. Donations can be dropped off from 10 am on the morning of the sale. As well as bargain hunting, there will be refreshments, cakes and a raffle.

Jess Ashbridge

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1st Horseheath Brownies

We have just returned from our annual holiday to the Jarman Centre in Newmarket. Our theme was ‘All the Fun of the Fair’ and the girls made skittles and a bowling ball (sock version), mardi-gras masks and clown puppets, and decorated old CDs as clowns. They also tried to find the geocaches they had hidden last year, and with some help they did, and we held a campfire with the Rainbows.

Also this term we have made Mothering Sunday cards, had a trip to Horseheath Church and celebrated our Founder’s birthday at the District Thinking Day service. We now have Easter crafts to look forward to at the end of March as well as a Promise celebration for Tayla-Mae and Hollie.

As our numbers are quite low at present we would welcome any new girls joining our merry band,. If you have a daughter who would be interested in joining us please register her at www.girlguiding.org.uk/interested or if you would like more information on what we do, or would like to help us with a special skill you may have, then please drop us an email.

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



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The Meadow School

As I sit and write this, the sun is shining and it is hard to believe that only two weeks ago the school had to take the decision to close the school at mid-day as the snow fell down thick and fast. Our emergency plan to send children home in the middle of the day was implemented smoothly thanks to the efficiency of staff and parents.

Although this term is always a short one, we have still managed to pack in so many experiences which continue to make school an exciting and memorable place for the children. It is our vision that children learn to be responsible and confident citizens. The children in Key Stage One have been learning all about jobs from the past and thinking about possible jobs for the future! As part of this topic, the whole of Foundation Stage and Key Stage One went to Kidzania in London, an indoor city, run by children! They had enormous fun as they visited the ‘jobs’, earned money and learnt what it was like in a place of work. We have many budding firefighters, vets, dentists, pilots and even chocolate makers in our school!

Providing this broad and balanced curriculum has continued further up the school as well. Years 3 and 4

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visited the synagogue in Cambridge as part of their RE topic on Judaism. We aim to ensure that children learn about all the world religions in school, and the children were fascinated by the talk they had from the leader of the synagogue. This type of learning is vital to help our children become well-rounded and tolerant citizens.

Part of our continued drive to improve our school further is to gain the Arts Mark. We already offer children opportunities to perform in productions, play musical instruments and take part in music lessons, but we want to ensure that children are exposed to a broad range of arts. This term we have welcomed two different performing groups to play in school: the ‘Demon Barbers’, an English folk music band, and the ‘Blues and Roots Ensemble’, who entertained the school with an amazing jazz workshop and concert. The children and staff thoroughly enjoyed the performances, which have hopefully inspired our own budding musicians and performers for their own musical soirée evening and the Years 3 and 4 production of ‘Journey down the Nile’.

Nichola Connor, Headteacher

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Linton Village College News

One of the most memorable moments of the spring term at LVC (heavy snow aside) has been the college's production of 'The Crucible'. The play was an absolute triumph and showcased incredibly accomplished performances by our students. The high standard of compelling acting was very impressive for an 11 - 16 college, especially given the mature themes in Arthur Miller's play. Performing a script that centres on the Salem Witch Trials in 1690s Massachusetts certainly stretched the students' dramatic skills as well as their historical knowledge. Miller wrote this as an allegory for McCarthyism in 1950s America. This rich political undercurrent offered powerful messages for members of the audience and cast, with some very emotional and poignant scenes. The cast and crew developed in all sorts of ways in the lead up to show nights: team work, commitment, confidence and resilience, to name a few of the aspects of personal growth.

Historically, when discussing subject option choices with students as they make decisions about their future studies, a number of them have shared the view that the Arts subjects will provide light relief from their other options, or even, sadly, that they are hobbies rather than academic courses. It is credit to the Arts Faculty that these misconceptions are not widely held at LVC. In recent years we've seen a dramatic increase in numbers of students opting for Arts subjects. Any student (or adult) who has experienced the painstaking commitment of learning lines and perfecting a performance, hours of instrumental practice or artistic experimentation will appreciate the discipline and dedication required to excel in creative arts.



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I was thoroughly proud of the achievements of students and staff to achieve such stunning performances. 'The Crucible' was an example of the power and beauty of the Arts and an important reminder of the importance of enriching, educational opportunities.

Helena Marsh

The Roy Burrell Awards – Ed Brophy (Athletics), Ben Drury (Football), Will Humphrey (Horse Racing) and Alex Young (Athletics) attended this year's district sports award ceremony, and all achieved awards for their participation and attitude in school PE but also for their chosen field outside school. Ethan Rudd (Football) also achieved a Roy Burrell but was unable to attend. Ed Brophy was awarded the Greg Alvey Award, given to individuals who have shown an outstanding contribution to sports at LVC and also the high level of commitment shown to his athletics. The PE department are extremely proud to have had these students recognised for their effort and hard work in their chosen sports and their contribution to school sport. We have no doubt that with continued hard work and effort these individuals can accomplish something special within their sport.

Mr Kerley

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Sunday 1 st April	Holy Communion	Rev Kathy Bishop	Alex	Easter – all available	Jenny
Sunday 8 th April	Morning Prayers	Steven Wheeler	Ben	Linda	Maggie
Sunday 15 th April	Holy Communion	Rev Iain McColl	Fanny	Louise	Sue
Sunday 22 nd April	Holy Communion	Very Rev Keith Johnson	Jenny	Louise	Pauline
Sunday 29 th April (10 am)	United Service, at Hildersham	Ven Dr Alex Hughes and Revd Iain McColl			
Sunday 29 th April (3 pm)	Café Church	Catherine Willcocks/ Scilla & John Harvey			

St Mary's, Weston Colville (9.15 am)		
Sunday 1 st April	Holy Communion	Very Rev Keith Johnson
Sunday 8 th April	Morning Prayers	Steven Wheeler
Sunday 15 th April	Holy Communion	Very Rev Keith Johnson
Sunday 22 nd April	Holy Communion	Rev Iain McColl
Sunday 29 th April (10 am)	United Service, at Hildersham	Ven Dr Alex Hughes and Revd Iain McColl
April Flowers & Cleaning		Charlotte, Gay
May Flowers & Cleaning		Gay, Katie

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

April 2018

- Tue 3 Balsham Gardening Club meeting
- Wed 4 West Wrattling Over 60s
- Fri 6 Tea & Cakes, Reading Room, Weston Colville
First Friday bridge, West Wrattling
- Sat 7 Saturday Morning Café, West Wrattling
- Tues 10 Seniors Group, Reading Room, Weston Colville
- Thur 12 Licensing of Rev Iain McColl, Balsham
- Fri 13 Bird coffee morning, Ellesmere Centre
- Mon 16 West Wickham & District Gardening Club
- Tue 17 Bumblebees reopens, Reading Room
- Wed 18 Quiz, Reading Room
West Wrattling Book Club
- Thur 19 Lunch Club, The Chestnut Tree
- Sat 21 Pamper Day, Reading Room
- Sun 22 Virgin London Marathon
- Tues 24 Bumblebees, Reading Room
- Thur 26 Parish Nurse event, Balsham
- Sat 28 Circular walk, from Reading Room
Thai Night, Reading Room, Weston Colville
- Sun 29 Café church, St Andrew's

Hostess Trolley – Free to a Good Home!

West Wrattling Village Hall has a hostess trolley which is no longer needed. It recently passed the portable appliance test so is safe to use. If you're interested and able to take it away yourself please contact Diana Edwards on 01223 290616.

Revd Kathy Bishop, Associate Priest
tel: 892288 email: revkathy@hotmail.co.uk
Very Revd Keith Johnson, Honorary Associate Priest
tel: 890835 email: jkeith1412@gmail.com
Mr Steven Wheeler, Licensed Lay Minister
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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:

Weston Colville Parish Council Chairman – Ray Vidler,
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,
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 Tuesday 8th & Monday 21st May

Blue & green bins: **Wed 4th, Monday 16th & 30th April,**
 Monday 14th & Tuesday 29th May

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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.

May issue's copy date:
Friday 20th April.