

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



St Mary's, Weston Colville

## Flower Festival

with a display of

### Wedding Dresses

Sat 23<sup>th</sup> June 11 am - 6 pm

Sun 24<sup>th</sup> June 10 am - 5 pm

### Teas & Cakes

Enjoy beautiful summer flowers and wedding dresses from the village through the ages

There will be a special service to celebrate married life at 9.15 am on Sunday 24<sup>th</sup> June

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**Bring the family**

### *West Wrattling Over 60s*

We will hold our first garden meeting at 2 pm on Wednesday 6<sup>th</sup> June. The venue will be Ann's garden in Hayter Close, and there will be a raffle and a bring 'n' buy.

The following meeting, to include lunch, will be at The Chestnut Tree, 12.30 pm on 4<sup>th</sup> July.

*Wendy Halls*

### *The Chestnut Tree*

We will be welcoming the Devil's Dyke Morris Men back on Thursday 21<sup>st</sup> June from 8 pm. It is always an enjoyable evening with a great atmosphere, and the opportunity to join in, so we hope to see lots of you there.

*Peter & Rachel*

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***From the Rectory***

As I've been settling in I've been struck by the beauty of the landscapes which surround our villages, especially the waving yellow fields at this time of year and the wide horizons. Gazing into the sunlit distance as far as the eye can see, it can be quite captivating, almost numinous. It reminds me of the words of the poet Gerard Manley Hopkins, as he gazed out one day and saw a world: 'charged with the grandeur of God'.

My horizons have also been broadened by the variety of people I've encountered. Recently, for example, I met with representatives of the charity 'Reach Community Projects'. Reach is based in Haverhill but also works in south Cambridgeshire. It began by founding a debt advice centre but has expanded to include running a food bank and assisting people with housing and benefit enquiries. I was so impressed with the scope of their vision and the number of people they assist. This has opened my eyes to ways in which we can support one another in our villages and surrounding areas.

At this time of year in the Church we prepare to celebrate Pentecost. Here we remember that God's Spirit dramatically widened the horizons of the early disciples who were gathered in Jerusalem after the resurrection. Their powerful experience of God's Spirit shaped them into a community who supported one another in prayer, compassion and friendship. It took them out of the upper room where they were staying and into the wider world, bearing a message of God's love for us in Christ.

It can help us all, now and then, to pause and gaze into the distance as far as our eyes can see. When we broaden our horizons we can be captivated by the beauty of our environment as if noticing places for the



[www.westwratting.org.uk](http://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.**

first time. We can also see more of the different needs in our local community, and be inspired with concern and love for our wider world.

*Revd Iain McColl*

***Tea and Cakes, Weston Colville***



Many thanks to everyone who helped out and attended our May gathering. As the weather improves it's lovely to see the children troop off the school bus, take on fuel and race around outside the Reading Room. Let's hope the weather is good for our next get together on Friday 1<sup>st</sup> June, 3.30 - 5 pm. Please come along for a cuppa, a piece of cake and a chat. Or even squash, cake and racing around outside. All welcome.

*Melanie (291319)*

***Saturday Morning Café, West Wratting***

Huge thanks to everyone for another very enjoyable café at the beginning of May!

The Saturday morning café will run as usual on Saturday 2<sup>nd</sup> June between 10.30 am and 12 noon in the village hall. Please come and join us for a catch up over tea / coffee and delicious cake!

The money raised continues to be donated to local community projects.

*Sherry (290070) and Catherine (291307)*

***West Wratting Music Bash***

We are hoping to hold the Music Bash on Saturday 14<sup>th</sup> July and will add more details in next month's *Challenge*. Previous events have been great fun and also very successful in raising money for charity.

*Blanche Miller*

***The Bumble Bees Baby and Toddler Group***

The group will be running in the Reading Room from 10 until noon on the following days, with proposed activities as follows:



- 5<sup>th</sup> June sponge painting (aprons are provided)
- 12<sup>th</sup> June Father's Day cards
- 19<sup>th</sup> June paper plate fish
- 26<sup>th</sup> June hand print flowers (aprons are provided)
- 3<sup>rd</sup> July loo roll butterflies
- 10<sup>th</sup> July decorating biscuits
- 17<sup>th</sup> July masking tape/paint pictures (aprons are provided)
- 24<sup>th</sup> July Teddy Bears' picnic

We are now able to play in the fenced garden area, so please bring sunhats and suncream with you.

Bumble Bees will be closed for the summer holidays, however, I will keep you informed as to any Bumble Bees outings that may be arranged during that time.

Bumble Bees returns to the Reading Room on Tuesday 4<sup>th</sup> September.

*Beverley (07833 228958)*

***Seniors***

Our May meeting saw Jackie Brearley talking about her experiences in the recent London Marathon. She really enjoyed running in it, happily answered our questions, and told us that she was entering another marathon in Suffolk. The numbers would be limited and the route will follow coastal paths. It sounds really attractive and Jackie is looking forward to running in it.

Our next meeting will take place on 12<sup>th</sup> June at 2.30 pm in the Reading Room, when Colin McCall will talk about recycling and waste management. He is also passionate about clearing litter from roads in West Wrattling and Weston Colville. If you have ever wondered what happens after our bins are tipped into the dustcarts, just come along – I'm sure that it will be interesting. We may even bring a sack of clean items which we do not really know what bin to place them in.

We look forward to seeing you then.

*Allen*

**WEST WRATTLING  
TEDDY BEAR  
PARACHUTE JUMP**

**SUNDAY 24<sup>th</sup> June**

**4.45 pm**

**St  
Andrew's  
Church**



**Bring your teddy bear and home-made parachute to jump off the church roof!**

**FREE TO PARTICIPATE**

**Leave bear in blue bucket in church main entrance by 4.30 pm to ensure your bear can jump.**

**This event is after the songs of praise service and at the start of the village BBQ**  
*(Please note this will be weather permitting as it would not be safe for bears to jump in wind or rain. All bears jump at their own risk.)*

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**West Wrattling Churchyard**

The beautiful churchyard in West Wrattling is maintained by volunteers. If anyone feels able to spare a couple of hours once per month over spring/summer to help cut the grass it would be much appreciated. Mower and fuel provided.

Please contact Ben (01223 291307).

**Public Access Defibrillators**

There are two defibrillators locally: one on the wall beside the back door of the Reading Room, Weston Colville, and one on the football pavilion building in West Wrattling. These are in locked wall cabinets which require a code to access.

If someone is in cardiac arrest, start chest compressions immediately and phone 999.

The ambulance service phone operator will give the code to open the defibrillator cabinet to the person who makes the 999 call, once they have said they are dealing with a cardiac arrest and given the location of the defibrillator. The same process is used for any public access defibrillator in a locked cabinet in the UK.

*Dr Tamara Keith*

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**West Wrattling Oil Syndicate**

Well, I hoped that the price for the May fill up wouldn't be as bad as it was in March and it wasn't. Mind you, the price didn't come down as much as I'd hoped.

Goff Petroleum won the order for twelve houses with a price of 49.20p per litre, with delivery on 14<sup>th</sup> May.

There will be a fill up next month, with a cut off date and time of Monday 9<sup>th</sup> July at 6.30 pm.

Please don't place your orders until 1<sup>st</sup> July as they are written on pieces of paper at Holness Towers and then get used for shopping lists, takeaway orders etc.

*Richard Holness*

**West Wrattling Village BBQ & Teddy Bear Parachute Jump**

**Sunday 24<sup>th</sup> June** from 4.45 pm in West Wrattling church grounds.

Bring your own meat and drink. Salads, bread, strawberries & cream, and cake provided.

Everyone from the village welcome.

More details from Scilla Harvey (290199, scilla.harvey@btinternet.com)

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Summer



Songs of

Praise

West Wrattling Church

Sunday 24<sup>th</sup> June

4 to 4.45 pm - All welcome

Followed by BBQ in  
church grounds for all the  
village from 4.45pm

+ Teddy Bear  
parachute jump



### Save the Date

On Saturday, 15<sup>th</sup> September we will share Robert Macfarlane's poems, 'The Lost Words', written to be heard, and the accompanying images. There will be a short meeting in the Reading Room on Friday, 20<sup>th</sup> July at 7 pm for anyone interested in taking part. Enquiries: [jacquelinetheteacher@hotmail.com](mailto:jacquelinetheteacher@hotmail.com), 291475.

### Speed Limits and SIDs

Last year West Wrattling parish council was successful in bidding for a local Highways Initiative grant to change the speed signs on the main entrances to the village. 40 mph zones have been introduced. so please note the new restrictions.

Furthermore West Wrattling, with other villages who will share their use, has purchased Speed indicator Devices (SIDs). These can be moved to various locations. The parish council hopes this will make our village a safer place.

*Mira Nichols*

### Weston Colville Circular Walk

Our next walks (of about five miles) will be on Saturday 16<sup>th</sup> June and Saturday 18<sup>th</sup> August, and we hope for a sunny gathering on both days. 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](mailto:jacquelinetheteacher@hotmail.com), 291475.

### Treasurer Required in Weston Colville

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

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

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

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

**Speedwatch**

South Cambs has active and very enthusiastic Speedwatch groups and would welcome new volunteers to help run more sessions. The Community Speedwatch scheme trains volunteers from members of the community to get actively involved in monitoring the speed of vehicles travelling through their neighbourhood. Volunteers are trained to use speed indicator devices which display vehicle speeds. The registered owner of any vehicle seen exceeding the speed limit is sent an advisory letter by the constabulary, explaining that speeding is unacceptable to the local community and asking them to be more considerate. Volunteers typically offer one to two hours a month helping to reduce the speed of vehicles driving through their neighbourhood. There is no expected time commitment; volunteers attend sessions when they like, and it's a great opportunity to meet new people, and enjoy the activity whilst benefiting your community.

If you would like more information please contact [speedwatch@cambs.pnn.police.uk](mailto:speedwatch@cambs.pnn.police.uk)

Volunteers are fully trained and insured by the constabulary. Training sessions will be held on the Saturdays of 9<sup>th</sup> June and 14<sup>th</sup> July, starting at 10 am in Cambourne Police Station. If you would like to attend please book a space via email.

**Mike Brooks, Speedwatch Coordinator**

**Mike Leeson**

The collection for Mike following his funeral has now closed, and Paintins have written to tell me the totals raised.

A staggering £1,376 was raised for The Arthur Rank Hospice Charity and £1,431 was raised for the Brain Tumour Charity.

It is a wonderful tribute to Mike and his memory, and gives me great comfort.

I wish to thank all of you who donated to these worthy charities. I have some names from Paintins but I know some folk gave cash and some gave anonymously.

I and the family send our grateful thanks to you all.

**Hazel Leeson, Hannah, Alex, Stuart & Tara**

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**West Wrattling Football Club**

West Wrattling 1<sup>st</sup> team's success this season was about the squad, not just the starting eleven – all seventeen, eighteen, nineteen players we had – every player was as important as the next player, whether they were starting or on the bench.

Every player brought into what the main goal and aim was, that was to do everything in their power to win the league. We had a group of players who enjoyed playing with each other and who would run through brick walls for each other, and in every game we played gave their all, win lose or draw. But the one thing that drove everyone on was the fact that this season was about winning the league for the first time in the club's history, and for unsung heroes at the club who it means so much to. I can't speak highly enough of this group of players for what they have achieved this season: two cup finals, winning the league, unbeaten at home all season, only losing two league games all season.

**Michael Bavester, 1<sup>st</sup> Team Manager**

The Reserve football team also won their league, an amazing achievement too. Well done to all the managers and players.

**Sports Pavilion Commitee**



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**West Wrating Book Club**

We had a really good turnout to discuss our May book ‘New Finnish Grammar’ by Diego Marani, who worked as a senior linguist for the European Union in Brussels, invented his own language, Europanto, and published six novels in Italy. The story is set during World War II and revolves around a man who is found seriously injured and the only evidence of his name is a label in the jacket he wears. The injury has caused him to lose his memory and any knowledge of his native language.

There was a definite split in opinions about this book, with some disliking it intensely while others enjoyed it, particularly certain aspects. One person felt it fell short of its initial promise and could not suspend their disbelief, particularly in the light of personal knowledge of how language is acquired and works. This feeling was shared by at least two other people. It was considered interesting rather than enjoyable. It gives a feeling of how lonely it is when you have lost your memory and are unable to remember who you are or where you are from. Other comments were that the scenario was unrealistic but the exploration of identity was interesting, particularly in the light of wartime displacement. It was felt by most that it was

not feasible that some of one’s own language would not bubble up at some point, not least in dreams.

Those who enjoyed it, some for the second time of reading, were fascinated by the mythology and the creation myths as well as the history of the Finns which caused them to fight with the Germans against their historical enemy, Russia. They were also intrigued by the Finno-Ugric people and their languages, which are so different to any others.

Scores varied hugely from two to eight, giving an average of 5.

The book for Wednesday 13<sup>th</sup> June, is ‘Educated: a Memoir’ by Tara Westover, at the usual time of 8 pm at The Chestnut Tree.

*Linda Gorman*

**Spare copies of Challenge**, where available, can be collected from The Chestnut Tree or the Weston Colville telephone box (opposite the former post office). Otherwise, contact me to be included in the mailing list for the digital edition.

To comply with new data protection regulations, please confirm that you’re happy for Challenge to hold your data for the purpose of receiving the magazine. Thank you if you have already done this.

*Anne*

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### *West Wratting Parish Council*

The Annual Parish Meeting was held on Monday 14<sup>th</sup> May at 7.30pm. The minutes are as follows:

1. **Apologies for absence:** none.
2. **Chairman's Opening Remarks and Signing of Last Year's Minutes:** the Chairman welcomed everyone and thanked the council for its work during the previous year. The minutes dated 8<sup>th</sup> May 2017 were signed as correct.
3. **Chairman's Report:** please see attached.
4. **Financial Report:** copies of the accounts for the year which will be resolved at the Parish Council meeting this evening at 8.15 pm were available for anyone wishing to study them.
5. **Parish Lands & Properties:** as listed on the agenda.
6. **Reports:** reports had been received from: Tennis Club; Village Hall Management; Bridge Club; Footpaths (P3 co-ordinator); Over 60's Club; Football Clubs ; Saturday Morning Café; Monthly Lunch Club. These reports will go on the website and into Challenge.
7. **Matters Arising from Minutes of 8<sup>th</sup> May 2017:** Cllr Holness will again put something in Challenge about the award this year for 'vegetable grower of the year', and judging will be in July.
8. **Any questions:** the chairman of the Village Hall Management Committee said that £3,000 had been awarded from the Wind Farm Fund to replace flooring in the kitchen and toilets of the village hall. He would be glad of any comments from the Parish Council as to the benefits of these improvements, as feedback is required for the Wind Farm Fund Committee.

The meeting closed at 7.45pm.

*Jenny Richards (j.richards597@btinternet.com)*

### **Chairman's Report**

Since the last meeting there have been several changes in the membership of the council. Rachel Causton stepped down from the council and we have a new councillor this year: Sue Lock.

As you can see from the agenda sheet, the parish council holds a large number of properties and lands in the village, some of them small – two noticeboards,

benches etc – and some of them very large, including the sports pavilion and village hall.

Today the plan to introduce 40 mph limits further out from the existing 30 mph village speed limits, to improve road safety in the village, has been completed. This has been a long process involving a number of discussions with Highways, but we have now got pretty much what we originally desired.

The parish also entered into an agreement with other local parishes to invest in speed indicator devices. These have been purchased and will be shared between a number of councils. I would like to thank Cllr Holness and Cllr Bonfield and Cllr Nichols for their work with the speed watch campaign in the village.

Over the last year the parish council has taken the step again of increasing the precept by the cost of inflation. It is important to note that it is recommended that the council hold at least a year to a year and a half's full precept in reserve. As can be seen from the accounts we are close to this higher reserve figure. However, we still have to pay our contribution to the speed limit works (£3,000) and to provide two extra posts for the speed indicator devices to fit on. Works will also be required on the children's playpark and it is therefore essential that the amount available for such emergency or crucial work is available.

Cllr Holness and Cllr Roberts are providing valuable liaison with the sports pavilion committee, just as myself and Cllr Nicholls provide liaison on the village hall committee.

It is the shared view of the membership of the parish council that by engaging on a one to one basis with all groups active in village life we can greatly improve the lives of everyone living in West Wratting. To this end a liaison group is now meeting with village members and members of the football club, looking at ways to improve communication to provide mutually beneficial outcomes.

I would like to thank Simon for continuing to cut the grass and Cobby for his tireless efforts as footpath officer and litter picking crew warden.

Lastly I would like to thank Jenny Richards our Parish clerk for her valiant work over the last year, and her seemingly endless supply of patience with us in what has been a very difficult year for her personally.



## **The Chestnut Tree West Wrattling**

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### ***Other Reports from Clubs, Institutes etc***

#### **Tennis Club**

The club continues to thrive, with the court being used on a regular basis by a strong family membership. There is also a popular summer kids' tennis coaching week in July/August. The club's finances are strong, with a reserve being built up to pay for a new court in the future. The court surface is in good condition and was cleaned last year so it continues to play well. New members are always welcome, and existing and new members can now sign up and pay online via our website.

Further information for prospective members is available on our website:  
[www.westwrattlingtennis.co.uk/](http://www.westwrattlingtennis.co.uk/)

#### **West Wrattling Football Club**

The first team lost 2 - 0 in a cup final to Linton, but are now top of the league. Three wins in the last five games will secure the title. The club has never won this league since the football club's inception in 1884.

The reserve team is also in the running to win its respective league.

The football club is working closely with local residents on local issues, with a joint mission to improve resident/football club relations and tackle any existing and future issues together.

*Riki*

#### **Parish Paths Partnership**

The footpaths around West Wrattling have been kept in good order throughout the year, and we had our usual cuts by the County Council. Our landowner's manager has maintained the cross-field paths (weather

permitting) and has cut hedges overhanging other paths, for which many thanks.

A big thank you to everyone who has managed the paths, including the Horsfields and Raymond Maskell and the Johnstons, and again a huge thank you to Simon Anderson who did a wonderful job mowing the paths in the immediate vicinity of West Wrattling. This is a big job and much appreciated by all walkers.

Cambridge City Council and the County Council worked in unison to deposit road chippings along the length of Fox Road. The Council has a legal obligation (I am told) to keep the byways navigable to traffic. This has radically altered the byway from being a country lane to a minor road. The walking (for humans) is indeed easier but not for dogs. The character of Fox Road has changed for ever and the smell of tarmac on hot days is pervasive.

The increase of vehicular traffic and motor bikes along the road has been noticeable and (needless to say) there has been a large increase in litter and fly-tipping. I found the remains of a Macdonalds lunch on the lane – this was a first after twenty years of walking there. A gypsy family camped at the lowest point in late autumn, and, although they were nice people and cleared up the best they could, it took four man hours to clear up the residual litter after their departure.

There is now a danger that Fox Road will become a dumping ground, and this is acknowledged by both the Balsham Parish Council and the West Wrattling Parish Council. Both councils are looking at erecting barriers to alleviate the problem. Guidance has been sought from the legal department at South Cambs Council but at the time of writing no reply has yet been received. Watch this space.

Otherwise, wishing all walkers happy trudging. What a relief the ground has firmed up after one of the muddiest winters ever. If you have any paths issues, please do not hesitate to contact me.

*Colin McCall (290036)*

#### **Over 60s Club**

Apart from two members hosting summer garden meetings, the club meets monthly at The Chestnut Tree for socialising and lunch.

*Wendy Halls*

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**Village Hall**

This has been another good year in which our regular activities have been well sustained. Keep Fit, T'ai Chi, FitSteps, and the Saturday Café have all seen modest increases in numbers, often drawing new members from neighbouring villages. In addition, Friday Bridge and Over 60s have continued to support us in their use of the hall. Elections and the now regular Cycle Club events make important contributions to our income. We have received generous donations from the proceeds of a fascinating Indian music and dance evening, and from the Saturday Café. As a result our finances are in a steady state.

Redecoration and refurbishment in the Committee Room and Kitchen has continued. The newly painted benches and bar have helped brighten an intrinsically dark committee room. The new non-adhered floor covering in both rooms is light and bright, with the added benefit of a textured surface. No more slipping and sliding on wet areas in front of the bar or kitchen sink! We are again grateful to the Wadlow Wind Farm Community Fund for a grant of nearly £3,000, which has covered the cost of this worthwhile upgrade.

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Our next plan is to replace the three remaining single glazed windows at the back of the hall with double glazed units, which will help to conserve heat. At the same time we aim to replace the damaged external kitchen door and incorporate a locking mechanism more suitable for a fire exit. We will seek a grant from a different source for this work.

We are grateful for the voluntary efforts of those village residents who have helped maintain the grounds by gritting the steps and ramp in winter, and hedge and grass cutting through the year.

Finally, my thanks to the loyal, supportive village hall management committee who help make all this possible.

*Mike Rowland, Chairman,  
 West Wrating Village Hall Management Committee*

**Bridge Club**

First Friday Bridge in West Wrating continues to be held from 7.30 pm until 10 or 11 pm. Ours is a very informal bridge club. We play Chicago and change partners throughout the evening. Talking through the hands is encouraged. It is not necessary to come with a partner as we accommodate any number of players. We break for refreshments at 9 pm; a very relaxed evening of play. We welcome new players. Many come from other villages. £1.50 covers our hall hire cost.

Non regular players should check that the session is running – we sometimes cancel during the summer months – phone or email Sherry (290070, sherry.odonovan@gmail.com ).



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### West Wrattling Lunch Club

It is seven years since we started meeting for lunch at The Chestnut Tree on the third Thursday of the month. Peter continues to provide us with scrumptious two course lunches for £7.50. We meet for 12.30 and finish lunch usually around 2 pm or so, so there is plenty of afternoon left.

It is consistently well attended with a core of West Wrattling attendees but also people from other villages and we are glad to see friends and family. It brings a whole variety of people together in a warm social environment and the food is truly wonderful. All are welcome .

*Suan Rowland*

### District and County Council Report – All Change at South Cambs

The big story is undoubtedly the District Council election this month. There has been a complete change of party leadership with the Liberal Democrats taking overall control for the first time in the history of South Cambs. The new council will be:

Liberal Democrats: 30; Conservatives: 11;  
Labour: 2; Independents: 2.

The new council takes control at the AGM to be held on 23<sup>rd</sup> May.

Our local result was:

Henry Batchelor: 1150; John Batchelor: 1096;  
Enid Bald: 981; Chris Negus: 804; Mike Murry: 293;  
Ernie Turkington: 219; Paul Richardson: 207.

The big ongoing issue has been the Local Plan that has been under review by a government inspector for well over four years. Without the plan in place this

has opened the door to developers to build housing in areas around our villages which would not normally be allowed. Over the whole district this has amounted to nearly 6,000 unplanned houses. Linton has seen around 100 houses approved at appeal whilst The Abingtons and Castle Camps have seen significant approvals.

We understand that the inspector will finish her work on the Local Plan around June or July. Once it is back in place the villages will be protected again.

We have better news on the A1307 where the Greater Cambridge Partnership is proposing to invest at least £39 million in safety and public transport improvements to the road. This will include a roundabout at the Bartlow Crossroads at Linton as well as speed reductions, improved traffic lights systems, and bus priority measures. We are expecting to hear the results of the recent consultation process in the next few weeks and see a revised plan and hope to hear that work will start on the Haverhill to A11 section this summer.

The County took the decision last year to ‘re-designate’ some of Cambridgeshire’s children’s centres, which means that the County Council-owned buildings that have children’s centres in them will no longer be classed as such. We have one in Linton and this was one of the centres that was earmarked for re-designation. They are having some issues with the trust that runs the building, however, as the County Council has the children’s centre on a long-term lease, which they are struggling to get out of. They are still working through this, however, so the centre will eventually not be there.

The plan from the County Council is to offer the same services remotely via outreach programmes. Our concerns are that the transition won’t be as smooth as planned, and some people will be left in limbo without any support that they are entitled to.

The Greater Cambridge Partnership (City Deal) has agreed to take on the charge for parking at Cambridge’s Park & Ride sites. This includes the annoying electronic system for actually parking the car as well as the charge. The charge for the actual bus remains, however, but the charge and the system for the car park have been removed.

*County Councillor Henry Batchelor*

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**Weston Colville Neighbourhood Watch (NHW)**

I am sad to report that there has been a jewellery theft in Weston Green recently. There were very few clues for the police to work on and fortunately no other damage was done.

As a suggestion, do keep valuables in a safe place and insure them. It is good to note that a number of burglars have been defeated by secure doors windows and locks.

It is thought that youngsters from 10 to 15 are responsible for damage to various pieces of equipment near the village hall, West Wickham.

The National Fraud Intelligence Bureau advise us that fraudsters are cold-calling to offer a discount on television service provider subscriptions. They may also offer TV equipment upgrades. They may use your name and address and do appear to be targeting older people. They will ask for bank details and possibly passport information, then use these details to take money from victims' bank accounts.

What can we do? Don't assume a phone call is genuine. Stay in control; don't be pressured to act quickly. Put the phone down and don't give them any details. If you have been affected call the police, by dialling 101. If you are concerned about your existing TV contract just check with your service provider.

For information about protecting yourself online visit Take Five ([takefive-stopfraud.org.uk/advice/](http://takefive-stopfraud.org.uk/advice/)) and Cyber Aware ([cyberaware.gov.uk](http://cyberaware.gov.uk)).

Remember to report any suspicious activity on either the 101 non-emergency number or [www.cambs.police.uk/report](http://www.cambs.police.uk/report), or use 999 in an emergency. Give as much information as you can. The police value your calls.

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

**Wadlow Wind Farm Community Fund**

Wadlow Wind Farm Community Fund offers grants to charitable projects with public benefit within a 5 km radius of the wind farm. It will soon be six years since the first grants were awarded, and during that time some 54 grants have been made. The total amount handed out stands at £202,648. The principal recipient has been the parish of Balsham, where significant grants have gone to the Meadow School and Out of School Club. However, the distribution is widespread, as shown in the table.

The radius of benefitting parishes has been extended by the panel because applications from inside the 5 km zone were dropping in number. The funds have to be used, or we are in danger of having the award from RES suspended. The pot currently available stands at

Balsham	£60,735
Bottisham	£1,015
Brinkley	£20,010
Fulbourn	£5,367
Great Wilbraham	£33,597
Hildersham	£5,000
Linton	£12,554
Little Wilbraham	£5,376
Suffolk	£1,000
West Wrattling	£34,041
Weston Colville	£23,354
Carlton cum Willingham	£600

£48,562.71. The next funding meeting is in September, and all interested parties are encouraged to put together their bids, and use this money for the good of our community. Information on the application process can be obtained from the Cambridgeshire Community Foundation (CCF, the fund administrators) by emailing [info@cambscf.org.uk](mailto:info@cambscf.org.uk) or calling 01223 410535. If anyone would like a full copy of the CCF report, I can email one to you if you provide an address.

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### Weston Colville Marsh Tit Study

We're now in the middle of the usual drop-off in garden sightings, as all the birds (and probably bees) have gone to the woods to raise families. The first of the youngsters appeared on 13<sup>th</sup> May – a fledgling Dunnock. Welcome, Junior! The first Marsh Tit offspring should be about any time now.



Please let us know of any sightings of Marsh Tit youngsters. It's crucial for the next phase of our study – where do the young go?

As always, send the time, date, location and what you've seen to [cambsmarti@gmail.com](mailto:cambsmarti@gmail.com) or [m\\_stammers@btinternet.com](mailto:m_stammers@btinternet.com) or **Challenge**. Thanks very much for those you've already sent in.

Going further afield to John O'Gaunt golf club in central Bedfordshire, home of Conservation Greenkeeper of the Year Steve Thompson, and we find that other babies are about. This Tawny owllet and his sibling were living in a Stock Dove box on 15<sup>th</sup> May. This type of box should be too shallow for

Tawny Owls, but this family obviously haven't read the textbook. The chicks (pulli) are beautiful, docile and relaxed, as you can see in the picture. I think it's

fallen asleep sitting on my hand. Despite its smallish size and fluffiness, it's ready to leave the nest and live on a branch where its parents will continue to feed it. This behaviour is called 'branching' and is not as risky as you might think. The legs are already well-grown and powerful (which is why we can ring them now). The pulli occasionally make a loud click with their bills, which is a warning you'd do well to heed. I know of a branched Tawny Owl chick that has seen off a much larger pet cat by jumping on its head and sinking its talons into the cat's nose. Moreover, that clicking can call in the Tawny's parents, who are not at all docile. Two people who have been blinded by Tawny Owl parents, one of them the famed photographer Eric Hosking. Scalpings happen too. We routinely use a face shield and helmet for this species, but the conservation data we get is well worth the risk. Steve and I only ringed these two pulli because the parents were elsewhere and did not know of our visit.



Enjoy June and the start of summer. There is a Hertfordshire saying that summer isn't here until you can put your foot on nine daisies. (With my size 13s, I've been able to do that since March!)

*Alex Inzani and the wonderful South Cambs Ringing Team*



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**Balsham Gardening Club**



Perfect weather was laid on for the visit to Upwater Lodge on 9<sup>th</sup> May, where Jane and George Pearson greeted us and gave a garden tour.

Two spectacular wisterias adorn the rear of the house. Planted when the house was built in 1902, they are a sight to behold. Cow parsley was in full bloom in areas where, earlier in the year, bulbs had flowered, and effectively disguised the bulb leaves. Trees in blossom, lilacs and forget-me-nots provided masses of colour.

The next event in the calendar is the Have A Go Show at the Balsham Feast on 7<sup>th</sup> July. Everyone is welcome to enter and the schedule of classes, including the entry form, is available from the Balsham Post Office or by email from [alicewarley@runbox.com](mailto:alicewarley@runbox.com)

There is still time to put your name down for the coach outing on 15<sup>th</sup> July to the Place for Plants and Hyde Hall. Total cost £21 to include coach and entry to Place for Plants. There is no charge for Hyde Hall as it is an RHS garden. If you are interested please contact Annie Marks on 897908.

*Jennie Tipler*

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**Daisy Chains Pre-School**



Daisy Chains in West Wickham is celebrating its 40<sup>th</sup> Anniversary this year. If you or your children have attended or been involved please come and join us for a celebratory tea on Saturday 14<sup>th</sup> June, 2.30 - 4.30; all are welcome.

We are still looking for photos to display on the day; if you have any please can you get in touch.

*Jess Ashbridge (291344, [jess@agrarian.biz](mailto:jess@agrarian.biz))*

**Sawston Open Gardens**

Five Sawston gardens will be opening their gates to visitors on Sunday 1<sup>st</sup> July, 1 - 6 pm, for the National Gardens Scheme (ngs). Details of the event, including



descriptions of the gardens, are on the ngs website [www.ngs.org.uk](http://www.ngs.org.uk). Entrance of £5 per adult (children free) covers all gardens. Tickets and village maps from any of the gardens. Cream teas, cakes and drinks available 1 - 5 pm from Sweet Tea café in the High Street. Do come along to have a look at some of Sawston's finest gardens and to support these important charities. It's an enjoyable afternoon; we look forward to seeing you in our gardens.

*Mike & Ann Redshaw (01223 834511)*



## Saturday 7<sup>th</sup> July *is* The Balsham Feast

1pm until late - Balsham Recreation Ground

Along with various food, craft, club and society stalls there will be lots of fun activities and entertainment for your whole family during the afternoon, with live entertainment on into the evening with a BBQ. Look at just *some* of the *fun*!

-  Three bands
-  The world famous Balsham 'Dog Show'
-  Daring teddy-bear drop - from the church steeple!
-  Raptors
-  Antiques Roadshow - bring your hidden treasures
-  Belly dancing
-  Donkey rides and sheep dog handling
-  Human hamster balls and a bouncy castle
-  Punch and Judy
-  Gardening 'Have-a-go' show

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### The Meadow School

The Meadow School is in the middle of a rather quieter week as Year 6 and Year 2 sit silently in the hall or classrooms completing their Key Stage 1 and Key Stage 2 SATS. Whilst there is much debate in the media as to the benefit of these assessments, they are statutory and schools are still benchmarked against their outcomes. In the current climate of high accountability, it is very easy to become obsessed with their outcomes and allow them to drive the ethos and climate of the school. As a staff, we believe strongly in the delivery of a high quality, balanced curriculum, which will prepare our children adequately for these tests, whilst helping them grow into well rounded and responsible children. Any visitor to our school will see happy and enthusiastic learners, engaged in a high quality curriculum. We continue to observe with pride the way in which our children have confidently approached their SATS, but we are reassured they have continued to receive a broad and balanced curriculum.

One group of children fortunate enough to enjoy the Spring sunshine was Years 3 and 4 who visited Kew Gardens for their entry point to ‘Carnival’. The children and staff have reported that it was the best trip ever! We are very fortunate to have such a fantastic resource within our reach and the children have not stopped sharing their new snippets of knowledge with us since. They were able to visit the huge greenhouses holding the ‘rainforest’ and learn about what a vital, life-giving resource the rainforest is. There was real awe and wonder at just how tall everything was, and the



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children couldn't get over how many of the everyday things we use come from the rainforest, including the orange colouring used on Doritos crisps! We are looking forward to seeing all the learning inspired by this trip over the coming weeks.

Our sports teams have been very busy this half term too. At the end of April, lots of our Year 5 and 6 children took part in either netball tournaments or cross-country competitions. The netball teams travelled to two tournaments where the teams played brilliantly against some stiff competition and returned to school very proud of their efforts. Our fabulous coaches, Mrs Bridgeman and Ms Stone, were very proud of each and every player and their brilliant team spirit! Well done! Our PE subject leader, Mrs Tinsley, also accompanied four Year 5 and 6 teams to a Cambridgeshire cross-country competition in St Neots. Over 100 teams took part in this county wide event. The Meadow teams ran brilliantly and represented the school so well. Mrs Tinsley was particularly impressed with the encouragement the teams showed each other and children from other schools. Huge congratulations to the girls' teams who finished 12<sup>th</sup> and 98<sup>th</sup> and the boys' teams who finished 89<sup>th</sup> and 90<sup>th</sup>.



One again, we are very grateful to the community support we receive from two parents who devote every Friday lunchtime to the running club in school.

**Nichola Connor, Headteacher**



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10.00 - 11.15, every Thursday during term time, at Balsham village hall

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### *The Ellesmere Centre, Stetchworth*

**Table Tennis** – a new club will be starting on Thursday evenings from 5<sup>th</sup> June, with Rob Boyce. All welcome from 8 years to adult; the younger children will come from 6 - 7 pm, followed by the older children and adults from 7 - 9 pm. Please call the centre to register an interest or just come along on the evening. No experience necessary.

**Introduction-to Tai Chi** – learn simple and gentle exercises to assist with balance, posture, strength, co-ordination and relaxation with an experienced tutor in Chinese Internal Arts.

Free taster session on 7<sup>th</sup> June, 2 pm at the centre, followed by refreshments. All ages and abilities welcome.

**The Centre Bird Box** – the Blue Tit nest had eight eggs. On Saturday 12<sup>th</sup> three chicks hatched, and by Sunday there were seven. All the chicks are thriving and being continually fed by both parents. We are supplying mealworms to help out. Please come along and have a look – the screen is placed in the Gredley Room.



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

## BIG BALSHAM SALE 2018

Sunday 3<sup>rd</sup> June, 10 am - 2 pm



Garage and table top sales throughout the village of Balsham, Cambridgeshire, CB21 4DJ.

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Opening LVC for community use is one of the special hallmarks of our heritage.



Henry Morris, the Chief Education Officer in Cambridgeshire who founded the village college movement after the first world war, had a vision for schools being at the heart of their local communities and for ‘raising the school leaving age to 90’. His legacy still lives on in the ethos and character of the schools that he established with the intention of making rural schools at the heart of their localities.

It was a great privilege to host Linton’s seventh Book Festival at the College. It is always such an inspiring event, and a special celebration of reading. The buzz of children listening and meeting with authors and engaging with the array of activities is great witness, as is the multi-generational attendance of local families and visitors to the festival.

Morris’ commitment to life-long, enriching learning is borne out through a memorial trust which was set up in his memory in 1964, three years after his death. Students aged 13 - 19 can apply for funding from the trust to fund projects with a purpose. This year LVC students have been successful in securing grants for trips to the Lake District and Berlin.

We are keen for the college to continue to play an important role in the life of the local community beyond formal schooling. It is great to see the school’s buildings, grounds and facilities continue to benefit local residents as well as our students. Most weekends, even those not hosting events such as the book festival, see the school packed with fixtures and other activities, as is the case after school. Having Linton Granta Playgroup on site and other community users such as the Linton’s Air Training Corps adds another dimension to our learning community.

Our adult education programme and sports centre facilities are two integral parts of our wider provision, as is making the college available for lettings. New websites have recently been launched to publicise our classes and facilities:

[www.lintoncommunitysportscentre.co.uk](http://www.lintoncommunitysportscentre.co.uk) and  
[www.lintonvillagecollegeadultlearning.co.uk](http://www.lintonvillagecollegeadultlearning.co.uk)

I hope that this important aspect of the school’s culture continues to flourish.

**Helena Marsh, Principal**

**Balsham Guides – Help Needed**

Our fantastic Guide leader is sadly leaving us in July to pursue other longstanding interests, after many years generously giving up her time to lead us. Could you take her place?



We offer a full training programme, mentoring and leadership qualification in a fun, girl led environment full of engaging activities, laughter and challenges. We need one or ideally two people to come forward to run our unit in Balsham. The guides currently meet on a Wednesday from 7 to 8.30 pm, but this could be changed to suit as long as the meeting place is free. Come and join in the fun and create some incredible experiences and amazing memories for yourself and our girls.

If you think you could help, or would like to know more, please contact Louisa on 01223 833776 or [louisapowell@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:louisapowell@hotmail.co.uk) Alternatively you can register your interest on the website: [www.girlguiding.org.uk/interested](http://www.girlguiding.org.uk/interested)

**Louisa Powell-Owens, Girlguiding Linton DC**



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### *Linton Scarecrow Festival*

**Friday 29<sup>th</sup> June – Sunday 1<sup>st</sup> July**



We look forward to welcoming visitors to the first ever Linton Scarecrow Festival, and invite you to join in the trail to find the scarecrows dotted around the village and to admire the ingenuity that has gone into their making.

There will be plenty of activities for all ages over the weekend: events include a Dog Show (Saturday); miniature railway (Saturday); music provided by several groups, plus a Saturday evening concert by the Grove Singers of London; talks; stalls; a bar; flowers in the church; teddy bear jumps from the church tower (Sunday); duck race (Sunday); grand draw, and much more. There will be a restaurant in the Infants' School on Saturday and Sunday. The weekend ends with a Songs of Praise service at 5 pm on Sunday, 1<sup>st</sup> July.

Trails price £1, giving full programme for the weekend, available from St Mary's Church (Friday 29<sup>th</sup> June, 2.30 - 4.30 pm) and The Infants' School (Sat 30<sup>th</sup>, 10 am - 5 pm & Sun 1<sup>st</sup> July, 11 am - 5 pm).

*Anne Parry-Smith*

### *Spring and Summer Health*

Did you know you don't need to see your GP for hay fever treatment? Hay fever and seasonal allergy treatments such as tablets, eye drops and nasal sprays are all easily available at low cost from your local pharmacy, with no prescription from your GP required! Antihistamines are usually the best treatment for hay fever; a packet of 30 tablets can cost as little as £2, but if a patient goes to their GP to get a prescription then it costs the NHS considerably more. For more information about treating allergies or to find your nearest pharmacy and opening times visit [www.nhs.uk](http://www.nhs.uk)

Top tips to help ease hay fever symptoms:

- Keep house and car windows closed, especially when the pollen count is high (early morning between 7 am and 9 am, and evenings between 5 pm and 7 pm)
- Avoid large grassy areas, woodland, cutting the grass, and car fumes
- Wear wrap-around sunglasses
- Use petroleum jelly inside your nose to block inhalation of pollen
- Don't dry washing outside to avoid pollen sticking to your clothes
- When you get in from outside wash your hands, face, hair, rinse your eyes and change your clothes.

The warmer weather often means that we spend more time getting out and about, so it is important to make sure you stock up on some summer self-care essentials. Key first aid essentials include:

- Painkillers, such as paracetamol or ibuprofen
- Antihistamines for allergies/hay fever
- Antiseptic cream for bites and stings
- Sunscreen (at least factor 15)
- Plasters and bandages
- Diarrhoea/constipation relief medication
- Travel sickness medication.

All of these are easily available to buy at local pharmacies or supermarkets.

Advice on travel health, including sun safety, vaccinations, DVT and how to apply for your European Health Insurance Card (EHIC) is available at [www.nhs.uk/NHSEngland/Healthcareabroad](http://www.nhs.uk/NHSEngland/Healthcareabroad)

**Granta Medical Practices**

St Andrew's, West Wrattling (10.45 am, unless otherwise stated)			SET UP	FLOWERS	CLEANING
Sunday 3 <sup>rd</sup> June	Morning Prayers	Steven Wheeler	Ben	(Wedding)	Maggie
Sunday 10 <sup>th</sup> June	Holy Communion (joint service with Weston Colville)	Rev Iain McColl	Alex	Fanny	n/a
Sunday 17 <sup>th</sup> June	Holy Communion	tbc	Jenny	Linda	Pauline
Sunday 24 <sup>th</sup> June	Songs of Praise (4.00 pm)	Scilla & John Harvey	n/a	Linda	n/a

St Mary's, Weston Colville (9.15 am)		
Sunday 3 <sup>rd</sup> June	Morning Prayers	Steven Wheeler
Sunday 10 <sup>th</sup> June	Joint service with West Wrattling (10.45 am)	
Sunday 17 <sup>th</sup> June	Holy Communion	tbc
Sunday 24 <sup>th</sup> June	Holy Communion	Rev Iain McColl
June Flowers & Cleaning		Gay/Lucy, Emily

## 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

### June 2018

- Fri 1 Tea & Cakes, Reading Room, Weston Colville  
First Friday Bridge, West Wrattling
- Sat 5 Saturday Morning Café, West Wrattling
- Sun 3 Big Balsham Sale
- Wed 6 West Wrattling Over 60s
- Sat 9 West Wrattling Youth Football Tournament  
Progressive Supper, Weston Colville
- Tues 12 Seniors Group, Reading Room, Weston Colville
- Wed 13 West Wrattling Book Club
- Sat 16 Circular walk from the Reading Room
- Thur 21 Lunch Club, The Chestnut Tree  
Morris Men, The Chestnut Tree
- Sat 23 Live Music Evening, Weston Colville
- Sat 23/Sun 24 Flower Festival, Weston Colville
- Sun 24 West Wrattling BBQ & Teddy Bear Parachuting  
Songs of Praise, St Andrew's
- Fri 29 - Sun 1 July Linton Scarecrow Festival

Locally produced lamb and pork  
for the freezer?

## Tamarind Herd

Available fresh by arrangement, or frozen.

Telephone Jerry to discuss requirements.

01223 290076 or 07970 154161

Revd Iain McColl  
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Revd Kathy Bishop, Associate Priest  
tel: 892288 email: [revkathy@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:revkathy@hotmail.co.uk)  
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### Churchwardens:

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

### Parish Council Contacts:

Weston Colville Parish Clerk – Jess Ashbridge,  
[jess@agrarian.biz](mailto:jess@agrarian.biz)  
West Wrattling Parish Clerk – Jenny Richards,  
[j.richards597@btinternet.com](mailto:j.richards597@btinternet.com), 01223 665260  
**Church Administrator:** Caroline (Cazzy) Walshe,  
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**Parish Nurse:** Claire Gillett,  
[7churches.parishnurse@gmail.com](mailto:7churches.parishnurse@gmail.com), 07498 994205

**Black bins:** Monday 4<sup>th</sup> & 18<sup>th</sup> June,  
Monday 2<sup>nd</sup>, 16<sup>th</sup> & 30<sup>th</sup> July

**Blue & green bins:** Monday 11<sup>th</sup> & 25<sup>th</sup> June,  
Monday 9<sup>th</sup> & 23<sup>rd</sup> July

**Mobile library:** first Tuesday of each month  
(5<sup>th</sup> June, 3<sup>rd</sup> July)

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

**Editor:** Anne Bragg (290550) or email:  
[editor@challengemag.co.uk](mailto:editor@challengemag.co.uk)

Thank you for all your articles, news, etc. If these are sent by email, they are always acknowledged; if you don't get a reply, your items haven't been received, so please resend. Some contributions may have to be edited, to fit the space available, and are published at the discretion of the editor.

**July issue's copy date:**  
**Wednesday 20<sup>th</sup> June.**