

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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RAF Wrattling Common – May Memorial Service, Sunday 27th May

A short open air service will be held at 1pm on Sunday 27th May at the RAF Wrattling Common Memorial, to commemorate the 75th anniversary of the opening of the airfield on the last Sunday in May (Sunday 28th May 1943) and to remember all those who served at the airfield, especially the 260 who gave their lives in the cause of freedom. We look forward to seeing some of the veterans who served with XC Squadron, 1651 Heavy Conversion Unit and 195 Squadron. Cadets from 1451 (Haverhill) Squadron of the Air Training Corps will be on parade. The Memorial is situated at Weston Woods Farm, Weston Colville, CB21 5NR, and all are very welcome to attend the service.

This year's service is particularly special as, to mark both our 75th anniversary and the RAF's 100th, we are scheduled to receive a fly-past by an RAF Dakota at

2 pm, hence the slightly later than usual start time of 1 pm.

The Douglas



C-47 Dakota is without doubt one of the most successful aircraft designs in history. It became one of the world's most famous military transport aircraft and saw widespread use by the Allies during World War Two and subsequently by Air Forces and civilian operators worldwide.

It is intended that tea and cake will be available while we await the fly-past.

For further information please email:

rafwrattlingcommon@gmail.com

We are always pleased to hear from anyone interested in getting involved with the Airfield Memorial. With just two services per year to arrange, as well as year-round general maintenance, this is not an onerous project to assist with but is very rewarding. It is hoped that, with the continued support of people in the locality, this key community asset will survive for many generations.

Dan Heath

Tea and Cakes, Weston Colville



Many thanks to everyone who helped out at and came to our April gathering. We get together next on Friday 4th May, 3.30 - 5 pm, in the Reading Room. All welcome. Please come along for a cuppa, a slice of cake and a chat. We look forward to seeing you.

Melanie (291319)

Saturday Morning Café, West Wrattling

Huge thanks to everyone for another very busy and enjoyable café at the beginning of April!

The Saturday morning café will run as usual on Saturday 5th May between 10.30 am and 11.45 am in the village hall. Please note that the cafe will finish slightly earlier on that day due to the village hall being used for a cycling event.

There is always a play corner set up for kids and a bookstall with second hand books. Please come and join us for a catch up over tea / coffee and delicious cake!

The money raised continues to be donated to local community projects. The takings from the April café were donated to the Parish Nurse Project. At the May cafe, Izzy Wilson will be running a fundraising stall to raise money towards her trip to Kenya.

Sherry (290070) and Catherine (291307)

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From the Rectory

Arriving in a new place lends itself to discovery. Having just moved with my family into our new home in Balsham, we are discovering so much about the village, from its history, which is so well presented in the book: 'Balsham: a village story', to its pathways, local businesses and social life.



We are discovering as well the vibrant nature of community life in our neighbouring villages. There are so many things going on: film nights, lectures, plays, quiz nights, and the many clubs and societies which are flourishing. We feel blessed to be part of such a thriving place and look forward to being part of community life.

It is people, however, who are the heartbeat of any village or community and it's been inspiring to meet so many people over the last week from the surrounding area. There were around three hundred people at Balsham church last Thursday when the Bishop of Ely led the licensing service, and a great warmth and welcome made it such an enjoyable and moving occasion.

As we continue to journey through the Easter season we are also reminded of the discoveries the followers of Jesus made after encountering the risen Christ. They gradually moved from feeling dejected, demoralised and fearful, to discovering a confidence that God was with them. They discovered that the resurrection says: 'God can be trusted'. God can turn our crucifixions into life.

For all of us, life involves a continual process of discovery, but we know this happens best as part of a community, with our friends, neighbours and those whose lives are intertwined with ours. We can also

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.

have confidence in an Easter message which resonates across the centuries: that God's love for us can help us discover more about life in all its fullness and help us be a blessing to those we share our lives with.

Revd Iain McColl

Contact details:

Revd Iain McColl

The Rectory, 19 West Wratting Rd, Balsham, Cambs CB21 4DX

01223 890693

mccoll.iain@gmail.com

**St Mary's Church, Weston Colville
Flower Festival, 23rd / 24th June**

How many people have seen your wedding dress since that special day? The theme of this year's flower festival is 'When the bride wore . . . ' and we will be using the marriage ceremony as the focus of our floral displays in the church.

The flower festival is held every year at the end of June, and it's always a popular event. This year we want to enhance the flower displays in church with some special memories of our local community.

We've chosen a wedding theme because flowers are an important component of wedding decorations.

So, could you lend us your dress, a picture or two or some accessories to form the focus of a display? We have arranged to use a number of professional mannequins in order to have the best possible arrangement of dresses. Naturally if you would like to get involved in the flower arrangements as well, we'd very much welcome your support.

Please get in touch if you can help, or have questions. Save the date!

Philippa Coates (290842, cheviotpfc@aol.com)



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FRIDAY 4th MAY
BAR & FOOD 6.30 - 10 pm

West Wrattling Over 60s

Please be aware that we will now be holding our next meeting in The Chestnut Tree on Wednesday 2nd May at 12.30 pm (not 9th May, as reported in last month's Challenge).

The following meeting, on 6th June, will be our first garden meeting, at 2 pm at Hayter Close.

Wendy Halls

Seniors

Roger Whitehead explained that Balsham Helping Hands is a local volunteer group offering lifts to people in need of help to reach local destinations. It serves the villages of Balsham, West Wrattling, West Wickham, and Weston Colville. Destinations include Linton, Addenbrookes Hospital, Chesterton Hospital, Haverhill, Newmarket, Saffron Walden and Sawston. The passenger pays 30p per mile and the service is available on 07399 263222 or, as Roger said, "just ring me".

We enjoyed a very informative illustrated talk by Duncan, the Lower Wood Voluntary Warden. He covered the history of the wood showing that it is a lot smaller than in medieval times. There is real concern in our village that Lower Wood is being spoilt and

damaged by the method used to care for the wood. Duncan explained that part of the area either side of the main path has been cleared in sections over the past few years and that the first section, behind the pond, is now due for further clearance. The aim is to leave a few trees growing and clear the remainder to give much more light to the area section by section. No plans exist to clear any further areas at present and the bluebells are expected to grow better under the new regime. Generally members were more settled after the talk and looked forward to part two. They also hope for a better understanding of coppicing, an ancient form of woodland management.

We finished with a period of chair yoga lead by Charlotte. At present we are looking at breathing and simple exercises to keep our joints in good condition.

Our next meeting will take place on 8th May at 2.30 in the Reading Room, then 12th June will see Colin McCall talking about recycling and waste management. Anyone on the retirement list will be welcome; more members will help us to grow into a sustainable village group.

Allen



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The d'Abo Tennis Club

New and existing members of the d'Abo Tennis Club can now register and pay for their membership and supper party tickets online – simply visit www.westwrattlingtennis.co.uk and follow the online instructions. Non-members are also welcome to attend our annual supper party, which will be held on Friday 18th May at 7.30 pm in the West Wrattling Village Hall. Non-members can purchase supper party tickets online or by contacting the club treasurer, Mark Holme, on 07768 443223.

Cally Wilson

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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).



- 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)

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

Weston Colville Cinema Club



Our choice for Wednesday 2nd May is a wonderful film from rural France, following the warm reception that Jean de Florette received in January. For details, see posters at the Reading Room or look on the Reading Room website, www.thereadingroom.org.uk. Alternatively, email to subscribe to our mailing list. 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

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. Meet at the Reading Room from 11 am, £3 entry, 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. Photos will be shown, and winners announced and presented with a prize, at 5 pm. 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

Weston Colville Progressive Supper

We are hoping as many people as possible will join in on Saturday 9th June, for what promises to be a very enjoyable evening. We need to know numbers NO LATER THAN MONDAY 14th MAY. Full details were in last month's Challenge, or contact Anne or Jacqueline.

*Anne Vidler (290010, anne.vidler@talk21.com),
Jacqueline Douglas (07884 365842,
jacquelinetheteacher@hotmail.com)*



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The Chestnut Tree

We will shortly be celebrating being at The Chestnut Tree for six years, and invite you all to come and celebrate with us over May Bank Holiday weekend.

Given our reputation for serving great real ales, we will be marking the occasion by serving six beers all weekend, from 4th May. On Saturday 5th May we will be having a party, where we will be entertained by the amazing local band 'Hoarse with No Name' from 8.30 pm.

In the late afternoon on Sunday 6th we will be remembering our dear friend Les by playing for the much coveted Les Moulton Darts Trophy. If you would like to take part please be here by 5 pm for the draw. We will also be repeating our popular cheese night that evening; we will start things off with a selection of cheeses with accompaniments. If you would like to take part please just bring along a small piece of cheese, which we will all then share.

As well as our continually changing selection of ales, we are changing some of our draught products for the summer. In addition to real ciders, our draught cider has been changed to Aspalls 4.5% and we will be serving a fruit cider, Rekorderlig Strawberry and Lime, particularly nice over ice on a sunny day. Portobello Pilsner craft lager will be available on draught. Also, for those of you who aren't aware, we now serve a large selection of different gins, which have proved very popular, and we have broadened our selection of alcohol-free beers, and now stock a bottled gluten-free ale.

We hope lots of you join us to celebrate our 'Birthday', it has been a great six years and we look forward to many more!

Peter and Rachel

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Spare Copies of Challenge, where available, can be collected from The Chestnut Tree, and the Weston Colville telephone box could also have some.

Otherwise, contact me to be included in the mailing list for the digital edition.

Anne

Help Needed . . .

Weston Colville Reading Room needs your help: we would like to make a permanent record of village history information displayed, and need someone who would be willing to transfer the information on to our website. You'd receive help and guidance from the Reading Room Trustees, plus a modest honorarium. Anyone interested, please contact Jan Ogden on 291401.

Treasurer Required in Weston Colville

The PCC is seeking a competent and trustworthy person to succeed the current treasurer.

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, 07841 031330).

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West Wrattling Oil Syndicate

There will be a syndicate fill up this month, with an order cut off of Tuesday May 8th at 6.30 pm.

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

Remember that syndicate orders take at least a couple of weeks to be collated, brokered and delivered; the minimum order is 500 litres. Details of the supplier, price and delivery dates will be placed on the West Wrattling website (www.westwrattling.org.uk) about three days after the order cutoff day.

Richard Holness

Weston Colville Oil Co-operative

Ordering deadline: **noon, Sunday 27th May.**

Church End to the bottom of Mill Hill:

Alastair Douglas (291475, or salguoda@hotmail.co.uk)

Chapel Road, Common Road, Horseshoe Lane:

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

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

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

Orders will be collated and placed shortly after the order deadline and deliveries may or may not begin the same week. If you are close to running out, tell

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 Could you please confirm to your contact that you are happy for us to hold your information.

Litter – Duke of Edinburgh Award

Congratulations to Adam Tempest for completing the requisite hours of work in the community for his D of E bronze award.

We spent five months scouring the verges and ditches of West Wrating, Balsham and Weston Colville, collecting approximately seventeen binliners of litter plus car wheels and other bits of plastic from cars.


Challenge

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We also discussed cloud formations (although in the past two months 'leadon' was really the only description), and tested the relative strength of ice in puddles and the quality of the bacon rolls in the converted bus on the A11.

Completing the course was a truly noble effort, as Adam had often been up at 5.30 for swimming training of 2,000/3,000 metres beforehand. Well done and good luck for the future.

Colin McCall

Found in West Wrating

Found in our cherry tree – one drone! Please contact us to reclaim it.

Sue / Mick Lock (290710)

West Wrating Clay Shoot

The next clay day will be on Saturday 25th August; further details available in due course.

Simon Sampson

Up for Grabs!

Two Cambridge Folk Festival tickets for Sunday 5th August are available. If you are interested please contact Alan Ogden on 291401 or via email at alan2ogden@yahoo.co.uk



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West Wratting Book Club

Our book for April was 'How to Stop Time' by Matt Haig. The basic premise of this book is that, as there is a condition known as Progeria with symptoms of premature ageing, there could be an opposite condition where a person ages incredibly slowly and so lives for centuries, given the name 'anageria' by a character in the book.

One of our readers commented that it was an interesting concept that history repeats itself in slightly different guises; she found it rather depressing that, given the new Cold War that seems to be developing, we never seem to learn. She also felt there was a missed opportunity in that lesser known pockets of history could have been used to enlighten the reader and strengthen the premise that history goes round and round. Another comment was that it seemed a bit stretched that the main character always seemed to be involved with or knew well-known characters from history. They would have preferred more information about his contemporary life.

It was agreed that it was a good read, although not all were enamoured by the structure, going backwards and forwards between the present and different periods of his past life.



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Perhaps the strongest messages from the story are that it may not be so wonderful to live, if not for ever, for a very long time, particularly if you are an exception to the rule and outlive those you love and care for. It also highlights the dangers of being unusual or different, either because of superstition or people wanting to use them in an unethical way for scientific research. This, at least at first, seems to be the basis of the menacing Hendrich's warnings not to fall in love or even wish to do so because this then means that you will want to stay somewhere for longer than is safe for you or them. The other message is that one should not worry about what might happen, but to grasp the day and any happiness, and how important relationships with others are. Scores were mostly 7 - 7.5 out of 10, with one 8.

The book for 16th May is 'New Finnish Grammar' by Diego Marani, and for 13th June, 'Educated: a Memoir' by Tara Westover, both at the usual time of 8 pm at The Chestnut Tree.

Linda Gorman

British Thyroid Foundation Cambridge Local Support Group

Our next meeting will be at Weston Colville Reading Room on Saturday 12th May, 10 am - 12.30 pm. Meet for a coffee and informal discussions on living with thyroid disease. BTF information will be available. Dr Nikkie Umaru will be our guest speaker, and will start her presentation at 11 am.

The 'Community Conversations about Medicines Initiative' facilitates engagement in informal conversations to support people in getting the most benefit from their medicines' use, pharmacy services and healthcare services.

The Chestnut Tree West Wrattling

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Dr Nikkie Umaru, a practising pharmacist registered with the General Pharmaceutical Council (UK), will attend to discuss all matters related to medicines' use, medication safety, self-care, pharmacy and healthcare related matters with the group.

This outreach initiative is supported by The Eastern Academic Health Science Network.

All are welcome, and there is no charge for the meeting. To book a place call Mary on 290263 or email butterflyecho@hotmail.com

Dr Nikkie Umaru MPharm, MFRPSII MRPharmS, PhD, SFHEA – Nikkie is a Principal Lecturer in Clinical Pharmacy at the University of Hertfordshire, where she leads a multidisciplinary postgraduate clinical practice team. She is also the Lead for Medication Safety in Older People Network, EAHSN. She started her professional practice in hospital pharmacy, still practises in community pharmacy, currently works in academia, and is actively involved in patient and medication safety research. She has a keen interest in patient and carer involvement in medication safety, particularly in older patients.

Mary Newton

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West Wrattling Seniors Football Club

The West Wrattling Football Club first team lost in a cup final to Linton 2 - 0, 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 club's inception in 1884.

The West Wrattling Football Club reserve team are also in the running to win their 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 Baker, player and committee member

West Wrattling Youth Football Club

As per the FA guidelines and rules, we are not allowed to advertise any results for our youth mini league (this is a non competitive age group league) but we can tell you our u10s are through to the semi final of the Cambridgeshire Knock Out Cup, where they will be facing Plantation at Bull Lane on 28th April, 10 am.

Our u13s, however, are in the Colts league, which is classed as a competitive league; they are currently sitting third from bottom in a very tough league, only having been beaten by a goal each time.

WW Youth will be holding their first 'Football Tournament & Fun Day' on 9th June, involving approximately twenty teams, with kick off aimed for 10 am. We will have stalls, refreshments and a BBQ, and it is open to everyone to come and support our youth teams. All proceeds will go towards supporting and paying for the youth facilities.

Richard Cole, Chairman & Secretary
West Wrattling Youth Football Club

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Weston Colville Neighbourhood Watch (NHW)

There have been criminal activities in Weston Colville and West Wrating as well as The Camps this past month. A shed break-in in Church End, Weston Colville, was apparently foiled by the alarm system and alert neighbours. They saw someone behind the house and then a car driving away, which is pretty good at 5.45 am. Items were disturbed but not stolen. Thank you for reporting this to me, it really helps to know what is going on, while help and action are up to the police.

West Wrating also had visitors a few days later, when a garage on The Common was broken into and various items were stolen. On the same day gates were forced to a barn on land in High Street, West Wickham, and a bag of sheep food was stolen, followed by the theft of a lawnmower.

As we are coming into spring and the better weather, when parking your car, especially at nature reserves and dog walking areas, make sure all valuables are well out of sight. If you put something in the boot before you leave the car, make sure no one is hanging around watching. Do take care and stay safe.

A fraudulent website alleging to offer cryptocurrency investments is dishonestly using the image of Martin Lewis, the founder and editor for *moneysavingexpert.com*. Visit 'Take Five' (takefive-stopfraud.org.uk/advice/) and 'Cyber Awareness'.

Another, usually telephone fraudster, tells you that a debt originates from you not paying a magazine advertisement subscription, which they are attempting to recover. Listen to your instinct and put the phone down. Try 1471 – is there a number? If so, pass it on to the police on 101 and report any problems to them. Try www.actionfraud.police.uk or call 0300 123 2040.

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

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West Wrating Parish Council

The next parish council meeting will be held on Monday 14th May at 8.15 pm, following the Parish Meeting which will be held at the earlier time of 7.30 pm. All are welcome to attend both meetings.

There will be no parish council election as it was uncontested, and the parish councillors remain the same.

Jenny Richards (j.richards597@btinternet.com)

Weston Colville Parish Council

The following items were discussed and where relevant agreed at the meeting on Monday 5th March.

Appointment of new Parish Clerk – a new parish clerk was appointed following a unanimous vote in favour by the council – Jessica Ashbridge has accepted the role.

Planning – no new planning applications have been received this year to date

Reading Room Car Park – progress has been made with the transfer of the car park from South Cambridgeshire District Council (SCDC) to Weston Colville Parish Council (WCPC). Since the last meeting SCDC have registered the car park with HM Land Registry under a wasting lease which gives them Title Possessory to the land. The lease expires on the 29th September 2081 at which time the parish council can apply to register for title to the land under the law of adverse possession. SCDC wishes to apply two conditions to the lease: (a) that it is transferred as a **village hall** car park and (b) an overage condition that if WCPC ever develops the land for housing then they must share any enhanced value, 50/50 with SCDC for a period of one hundred years from the date of transfer.



In discussion it was agreed that the land should be transferred into WCPC's ownership as a village and not a village hall car park. It was also felt that it was not reasonable to extend the overage after 29/09/2081 as SCDC's lease would end at that point.

Stream Clearing and Footpath Update/Verges – a survey has been carried out to assess the condition of the tributary of the Stour that runs down Chapel Road and enters the Stour at the bottom of Horseshoe Lane. Summer rain events have been exacerbated by water running down the road surface and not entering the drains. West Wrattling estate has cleared all drains on Chapel Road to the point where they enter the built-up village.

There was discussion around the section of the stream which runs alongside the cricket field. The stream is overgrown but not silted up and is affected by various debris which needs clearing. The main issue restricting the flow of water in this section of stream is a narrow twin wall culvert at the end of Horseshoe Lane where it meets the Stour.

It was decided to try to form a working party to clear the banks of the drain by the recreation field. An approach was to be made to the cricket club and suggest this as their activity for their Cricket Force weekend. It was also agreed that the council would investigate Environment Agency grants for replacing the small culverts

Verges – a discussion was held regarding how the condition of roadside verges could be improved. It was agreed that there is no real effective action the council can take but it was agreed that we would put an article in Challenge to remind people that it is their responsibility to keep the verges outside their houses in good repair.

Road Drain Clearance and Repair Update – a meeting was held between Councillors Ashbridge, Scott, and Garrod, Henry Batchelor with Brian Heffner and Nicola Burdon from Cambs County Council on 22nd January to discuss a solution to the flooding at Church End at the Mill Hill/Brinkley Road junction. The road drains are not clear; it was agreed at the meeting that the drains would be jetted and cleared by SCDC. The parish council is awaiting a proposal from Nicola Burdon regarding improvements to the infrastructure of Church End at the junction with Mill Hill which will reduce the risk of road surface water entering properties.

Speed Indicator Device Update – information and brackets have been received for the SID equipment and locations for use agreed. The village will have access to the equipment for two weeks out of a ten-week cycle. It was agreed to chase when the allotted slot will be, and fit the brackets in place.

Defibrillator Contacts – Councillor Garrod has agreed to provide his address details so that people can go to his house for the code for the defibrillator.

Age UK – Age UK, the UK's largest charity working with older people, is seeking to increase its work from 18 to 20 hours per week. South Cambs contributed £3,040 last year towards supporting 19 people. Three more require assistance, and Age UK is seeking an additional £1,300 spread over the parishes. It was proposed WCPC increases its contribution from £200 to £250, paid for by the Briggs Gift charity, on the condition that it is reviewed in two years and other parishes increase their contribution by the same amount. All agreed.

Playground Maintenance Update – new seats have been fitted to the swings at the Weston Green playground.

Finance

Receipts – none.

Payments since last meeting – Verge cutting: £1,314.

Payments agreed at the meeting – parish clerk training: £200.

Account balance – £16,585.37p on 2nd February.

Date of Next Full Meeting – the Annual Parish meeting: 14th May at 7.00 pm in the Reading Room. All welcome.

Jess Ashbridge

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Jackie's Marathon

Thanks to all those who supported me. I completed the Virgin Money London Marathon in 5h 58 minutes and didn't get any blisters or other injuries, and have raised £1,800 so far for the University of Cambridge Veterinary School Trust. If you would still like to sponsor me, please either drop some money through the letterbox or go to the Just Giving page – Jackie Brearley 1. Again, many thanks,



Jackie

Weston Colville Marsh Tit Study

Spring has sprung and the birds are getting fat. Or, more accurately, gravid – full of eggs. Your Marsh Tits have gone to the woods to make baby Marsh Tits and prevent the disappearance from the UK of this very rare species, so our moratorium has started and you won't see any ringers in the woods for the next two months. We'll still be ringing in your gardens, as breeding Marsh Tits stay on their woodland territories and won't travel to gardens. There are enough caterpillars in the trees that they don't need garden feeders at this time. We're looking for the first appearance of fledglings, to measure breeding success.

It's now critical study season for us – we really need to know where our Marsh Tits are, but we mustn't catch them in the woods, so we are totally dependent

on your sightings at the most important time of the year for your birds. So please, keep those sightings coming in! We have a new bird for you to spot – Brown over Black on Left leg 'Titler', who is a very nice and well-mannered bird, actually. Let us know your sightings of ringed and unringed Marsh Tits, at cambsmarti@gmail.com, m_stammers@btinternet.com or Challenge. Thank you.

The Cuckoos are back! Everyone knows the call of the male Cuckoo, but the female's is a strange whickering call, which sounds like the whinny of a horse. Look in the sky for a bird impersonating a Sparrowhawk, but flapping just the outer half of its wings and with an overlong tail. As brood parasites, Cuckoos pretend to be a raptor to scare their host species – around here, Meadow Pipits, but also Reed Warblers – off their nests so the female can sneak in and lay an egg. She can do this in under 30 seconds. The poor host birds then have to rear this foreign chick, which hatches first and pushes all the other eggs out of the nest. Two other cuckoo species, the Brown-Headed Cowbird of the US and Mexico, and the Greater Spotted Cuckoo of Europe, are even nastier: if the Cuckoo egg is removed by the hosts, the Cuckoo parent destroys the hosts' eggs. It's called the Mafia hypothesis, though it might be called rough justice – the Greater Spotted Cuckoo's host is the Magpie, itself a well-known egg thief. (Studies have shown that Magpie predation alone does not reduce songbird populations – they're just a natural selective pressure, like any other in evolution).

May you have a great month, free of any pathetic seasonal puns,

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



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The Balsham Singers Spring Concert

The Balsham Singers' Spring Concert is on Saturday 19th May in Holy Trinity Church, Balsham, and is a celebration of the centenary of Hubert Parry, one of Britain's most famous choral composers. Also included are songs by Franz Schubert, a selection of Abba favourites from 'Mamma Mia', and more.

The concert will begin at 7.30 pm and tickets can be bought from the post offices in Balsham and Abington; cost £10 in advance, and £12 on the door.

Lesley Crisp

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 Saturday 12th May 2pm to 4pm
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 Plus tea, coffee and cake.

* Weather permitting. Will be in Church Institute if raining.

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balshammarket@gmail.com



JUMBLE SALE

WEST WICKHAM VILLAGE HALL
 Saturday 12th May
 2 - 4 pm

Please drop in any items that you would like to donate between 9 am and 12 noon on the day.

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Balsham Gardening Club



Mike Petty MBE, a local historian for fifty years, writes for the Cambridge News on a regular basis, and visited the club to impart more of his local knowledge. Mike, who comes from Stretham explained that at these local meetings, he learns from his audience as much as he shares his information. He invited us to look at The Cambridge Scrapbook, an internet archive with thousands of local history stories, and read some amusing snippets from the archive, with everyday stories from Balsham.

His main topic for the evening was the Fenland floods of 1947, the worst for over a hundred years, which affected thirty four counties during February and March. He showed dramatic old photographs of the devastation that hit the Southern Fens, and how badly the local farming communities were affected. On one day over a thousand men worked to mend a breached bank to save the land and homes. With his engaging Cambridgeshire accent and enthusiasm, he brought the subject to life, telling the story as if he was there.

May 19th: Plant Sale, 9.30 - 11.30 at the Prince Memorial.

Harold's Seasonal Tips:

- Sow more vegetables to provide a succession.
- Tender vegetables such as runner and French beans and courgettes can be sown under glass and planted out at the end of the month.
- Mow lawns regularly, feed and treat for weeds and moss if needed.
- Prune shrubs such as forsythia and flowering currant as the flowers fade.
- Dead head daffodils, feed with a general fertilizer to boost flowering for next year.
- Beware of late frost and have fleece to hand if a late frost is forecast, to prevent damage to potatoes and other tender plants.

Jennie Tipler

West Wickham and District Gardening Club

The club welcomed Mike Warren, a photographer and horticulturist from Ipswich, on Monday 16th April, who gave a talk on 'Climbers, Crawlers and Creepers'. The message we were given is that you can cover your garden, fences and walls with plants



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that will give you a riot of colour right through the seasons. The talk was beautifully illustrated and I hope we all found something new to add to our gardens.

I now remind you that our FANTASTIC BUMPER PLANT SALE is on 19th May at 10.30 am, in West Wickham Village Hall. Don't be late since we find that many of the choice plants are snapped up in the first half hour. There will be coffee/tea and cake on offer, so make it an opportunity to meet up and chat with our knowledgeable and friendly members. Hope to see you there,

Rosemary Yallop (01799 584262)

Charity Bingo Night



Friday 11th May

7:00pm – Eyes down at 7:30pm
Chippy's delivery at 8:30pm



Balsham Church Institute

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All proceeds to go towards end of term party for Buttercups children.

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Linton Village College News

Science Week – 2018 science week kicked off with our Year 7 murder mystery, ‘The Head is Dead!’. Students used their scientific and analytical skills to identify suspects from a range of experimental evidence. Our Year 8 students spent three lessons researching and preparing projects based around the themes of technology and detective work. On Monday, the lunchtime KS3 science club continued to enjoy an excellent attendance, whilst students were treated on Tuesday to a fascinating rat dissection performed by Mrs Dawson. Mr Barton wowed students on Thursday lunchtime with his annual ‘bangs and smells’ event, always an exciting way to end the science week events; students particularly enjoyed the vigorous reaction and its effects on Mr Barton! In a week where the world lost the incredible scientific mind of Stephen Hawking, it was wonderful to see so many young scientists having fun and enjoying the subject.



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SSAT awards – LVC has been recognised nationally for its excellent results in 2017 based on data from the Department of Education and Ofsted, analysed by SSAT (the Schools, Students and Teachers network). We are among the best performing secondary schools in the country, receiving two awards for being in the top 10% of non-selective schools nationally for both attainment and progress. A big thank you and well done to pupils, parents, staff and governors for helping us achieve this.

Miss Mayzes

Author Visit – we welcomed author Dave Cousins to talk to Year 7 students and Year 6 pupils from six local primary schools. Dave writes the popular ‘Charlie Merrick’s Misfits’ books. His message to the students was to be bold and determined enough to follow your dreams, and not to forget that everyone has a story to tell.

Mrs Keys

BIG BALSHAM SALE 2018

Sunday 3rd June, 10 am - 2 pm



Garage and table top sales throughout the village of Balsham, Cambridgeshire, CB21 4DJ. Raising money for Buttercups Preschool and Rainbows. Parking and refreshments available. Further details from louisemcwebb@gmail.com or visit our Facebook page: Big Balsham Sale

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Daisy Chains Pre-School



Please save up your old clothes, toys, bric a brac, and books ready for our jumble sale, on Saturday 12th May, 2 - 4 pm at West Wickham Village Hall.

We are celebrating our 40th Anniversary this year, and will be holding a tea party in June for anyone who has been involved with Daisy Chains, either as a parent or child who has attended. We would like to appeal to anyone who has photographs of their time there, particularly pre-2000, to please contact me, on 07779 277647 or at jess@agrarian.biz.

Jess Ashbridge

Cambridgeshire Fire and Rescue Service

Sparkton is an online town that children can explore, play games and learn safety tips. The educational game is targeted at children aged seven to eleven, and is a fun resource that will educate young people on the importance of fire and road safety and how to keep themselves safe now and in the future. It's also a great way for them to learn more about the fire service, and what we do in the community." You can start playing on Sparkton at: www.cambsfire.gov.uk/games/sparkton/

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The Ellesmere Centre, Stetchworth

Our featured band for **Open Mic Night** on Saturday 12th May is Camisayo, a young folk/blues band from Cambridge. £3 entrance fee; refreshments available and fully licensed bar.

Let's get moving— our first **Health Walk** will be on Thursday 3rd May at 2.30 pm. The walk will be at a steady pace and will last for approximately 45 minutes. This is a new venture so we will adapt the walks when we get a better idea of who would like to come along. Walks will be slower and shorter on alternate weeks for those of you who are less able and would like a gentler pace. All welcome, including well behaved dogs. There is no charge for the walk, but refreshments will be available afterwards at the Ellesmere Centre for a small cost.



The Centre Bird Box with the camera in now has a Blue Tit's nest in. Come along and have a coffee and watch the birds; the Gredley room is free any time except Tuesday mornings. There are also several nest boxes around the field, and binoculars are available.



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NARP

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St Andrew's, West Wratting (10.45 am, unless otherwise stated)			SET UP	FLOWERS	CLEANING
Sunday 6 th May	Holy Communion	Rev Kathy Bishop	Jenny	Linda	Maggie
Sunday 13 th May	Holy Communion	Rev Iain McColl	Sisse	Jenny	Jenny
Sunday 20 th May	Morning Prayers	Steven Wheeler	Jenny	Louise	Pauline
Sunday 27 th May	Holy Communion	Rev Dr Carrie Pemberton-Ford	Ben	Louise	Sue

St Mary's, Weston Colville (9.15 am)		
Sunday 6 th May	Holy Communion	Rev Iain McColl
Sunday 13 th May	Morning Prayers	Steven Wheeler
Sunday 20 th May	Morning Prayers	Steven Wheeler
Sunday 27 th May	Holy Communion	Rev Dr Carrie Pemberton-Ford
May Flowers & Clean	Gay	Gay, Katie
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

May 2018

- Wed 2 West Wratting Over 60s
Cinema Club, Weston Colville
- Fri 4 Tea & Cakes, Reading Room, Weston Colville
First Friday Bridge, West Wratting
Pop-up Pub, Weston Colville
- Fri 4 / Sat 5 / Sun 6 Chestnut Tree celebrations
- Sat 5 Saturday Morning Café, West Wratting
Photography Day, Weston Colville
- Tues 8 Seniors Group, Reading Room, Weston Colville
Cut-off for West Wratting oil syndicate orders
- Fri 11 Buttercups Charity Bingo Night, Balsham
- Sat 12 Thyroid Support Group meeting, Reading Room
Daisy Chains Jumble Sale, West Wickham
Balsham Community Market
- Mon 14 Weston Colville Parish Meeting (& WCPC)
West Wratting Parish Meeting (& WWPC)
- Wed 16 West Wratting Book Club
- Thur 17 Lunch Club, The Chestnut Tree
- Fri 18 Tennis Club supper party, West Wratting
- Sat 19 Balsham Gardening Club Plant Sale
West Wickham & District Gardening Plant Sale
Balsham Singers' Spring Concert
- Mon 21 AGM, Weston Colville Reading Room
- Thur 24 'Horseheath Hall' talk, Reading Room
- Sun 27 RAF Wratting Common memorial service
Cut-off for Weston Colville oil syndicate orders
- Mon 28 Terrier & Dog Racing, Dullingham

June 2018

- Sun 3 Big Balsham Sale
- Sat 9 West Wratting Youth Football Tournament
Progressive Supper, Weston Colville
- Sat 23 Live Music Evening, Weston Colville
- Sat 23/Sun 24 Flower Festival, Weston Colville

Revd Iain McColl
tel: 890693 email: mccoll.iain@gmail.com
 Revd Kathy Bishop, Associate Priest
tel: 892288 email: revkathy@hotmail.co.uk
 Very Revd Keith Johnson, Honorary Associate Priest
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 Mr Steven Wheeler, Licensed Lay Minister
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 Mrs Rosemary Mead, Authorised Lay Minister
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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
 West Wratting Parish Clerk – Jenny Richards,
j.richards597@btinternet.com, 01223 665260
Church Administrator: Caroline (Cazzy) Walshe,
7churches.seven@gmail.com, 01223 891443
Parish Nurse: Claire Gillett,
7churches.parishnurse@gmail.com, 07498 994205

Black bins: Tuesday 8th & Monday 21st May,
Monday 4th & 18th June

Blue & green bins: Monday 14th & Tuesday 29th May,
Monday 11th & 25th June

Mobile library: first Tuesday of each month
(1st May, 5th June)

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

Editor: Anne Bragg (290550) or email:
editor@challengemag.co.uk

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.

June issue's copy date:
Sunday 20th May.