

# 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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## ***Saturday Morning Café, West Wrattling***

Huge thanks to everyone for another buzzing café with lots of new faces at the beginning of September!

The Saturday morning café will run as usual on Saturday 6<sup>th</sup> October between 10.30 am and 12 noon in the village hall. Granta School will be selling a selection of arts and crafts to raise funds for the school. Please come and support them!

The money raised continues to be donated to local community projects. This year, all proceeds from the bookstall will go to Granta School.

Please come and join us for a catch up over tea / coffee and delicious cake!

On Saturday 10<sup>th</sup> November, the café is organising another little movers' dance morning and lunch for preschoolers in the area.

***Sherry (290070) and Catherine (291307)***

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

It was lovely to catch up again in September after our summer break. We meet next on Friday 5<sup>th</sup> October when all proceeds will go to MacMillan Cancer Support. Please join us at the Reading Room, 3.30 - 5 pm. All welcome.

***Melanie (291319)***



## ***West Wrattling Over 60s***

Our meeting on Wednesday 3<sup>rd</sup> October, to include lunch, will be at 12.30 pm at The Chestnut Tree.

The following meeting will be held at The Chestnut Tree on Wednesday 7<sup>th</sup> November.

***Wendy Halls***



## **AUTUMN CONCERT**

**at St Andrew's Church,  
West Wrattling**

**Saturday 6<sup>th</sup> October,  
7.00 pm**

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## ***St Andrew's, West Wrattling, Gift Day***

**13<sup>th</sup> October, 10 am - noon, at the Parish Pump**

St Andrew's will hold a Gift Day on 13<sup>th</sup> October to support general church funds. The churchwardens will be at the parish pump between 10 am and 12 noon. All donations will be gratefully received.

Information and forms will also be available if you wish to support the church through a monthly covenant via banker's order.

If you are unable to attend, but wish to help, please contact us by email.

***Sebastian Bain (sebastian.bain@gmail.com)  
and Alex Walsham (amw23@cam.ac.uk)***



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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.

**St Andrew's Churchyard Clear-up**

The autumn tidy-up of St Andrew's churchyard will be on Saturday 17<sup>th</sup> November, 10 am till 12 noon. Everyone welcome, and coffee and doughnuts will, as ever, be provided.

*Colin McCall (290036)*

**Weston Colville facebook Page**



Did you know that Weston Colville has a facebook page? This is where information can be shared, especially if it needs immediate attention or note. There have been posts such as finding a lost child, alerting residents to blocked roads and other such matters. It also contains useful information about how to access the village defibrillator. Have a look at the page on facebook and click on the 'join' link to get the latest news.

*Peter Milner (290540)*

**Eyes Down for Charity Bingo Night**

Eyes down and join us for an evening of bingo games and supper at West Wrating Village Hall on Saturday 13<sup>th</sup> October. £10 a ticket for your first game and fish and chips supper, with a free first drink! Meat and veggie supper options also available.

Welcome drinks at 7 pm, with eyes down at 7.30 pm and food at 8.30 pm.

All proceeds from the evening will go towards the St Andrew's Church Restoration Fund.

All welcome – so grab your dabber and come and join the fun!

*Catherine (291307), Claire (290638), Sarah (291906), Anne (290967)*

**West Wrating Oil Syndicate**

Back to usual with one of the traditional suppliers, Goff Petroleum, winning the September order for thirteen houses with a price of 49.85p. Boilerjuice quoted a 'special price' of 50.34p so didn't get the order. Prices for the last year have been: September 2017: 37.62p, October 2017: 38.1p, January 2018: 48.70p, March 2018: 57.00p, May 2018: 49.20p, July 2018: 46.56p.

There will be a **fill up this month**, the last one this year, with a cut off date and time of Monday 8<sup>th</sup> October at 6.30 pm. Place your orders either by email to me at [richardholness023@btinternet.com](mailto:richardholness023@btinternet.com) (please put 'Oil' in the subject box; if you don't get a reply from me to your emailed order within 48 hours, please place your order with the pub by phone), or by phoning the pub during licensing hours – not too late, please – on 290384. Please also make sure that you tell me if you have any special delivery requirements, such as 'Phone day before for gate to be unlocked', etc. 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 from the cutoff date to be collated, brokered and delivered, but if you take the minimum of 500 litres every time there's a fill up, you'll always be buying at the best price. Details of the supplier, price and delivery dates will be placed on the West Wrating website [www.westwratting.org.uk](http://www.westwratting.org.uk) about three days after the order cutoff day.

Please don't place your orders until 1<sup>st</sup> October, and if I'm in the Chestnut Tree, make sure you write them on a beer mat . . .

*Richard Holness*

**The Portable Pint returns to Weston Colville with real ale straight from the cask, and Scotch eggs from local pop-up kitchen The Kitsch Hen.**



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**WESTON COLVILLE READING ROOM  
FRIDAY 12<sup>th</sup> OCTOBER  
BAR OPENS 6.30 PM**

**Seniors**

Our next meeting will take place on Tuesday 9<sup>th</sup> October at 2.30 pm.

We open with information about our plans and ideas.

Bernard will provide a talk and slide show on his experiences in the Antarctic with the British Antarctic Survey, then Charlotte will continue with Chair Yoga.

New seniors always welcome, or call me for a chat.

*Allen (290837)*

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**Weston Colville Circular Walk**

The next walk will be on Saturday 20<sup>th</sup> October at 10 am, and we'll walk approximately 5 miles. Meet at the Reading Room, BYO lunch, and maybe something to share. Refreshments will be available and all are welcome.

Enquiries: [jacquelinetheteacher@hotmail.com](mailto:jacquelinetheteacher@hotmail.com) , 291475.

**Weston Colville Cinema Club**

Back from our summer break, the next film, on Wednesday 3<sup>rd</sup> October, will be the Coen brothers' wonderful crime comedy,



'O Brother Where Art Thou?' starring George Clooney and with an award-winning bluegrass soundtrack.

Our choice for next month, on

Wednesday 7<sup>th</sup> November, is 'L'Atalante', a 1930s French classic, hailed as one of the greatest films of all time. We

join newlyweds on their barge as they travel to Paris to deliver cargo, enjoying a makeshift honeymoon en route.



Both films are at the Reading Room at 7.30 pm; donations; refreshments available; all welcome.

Enquiries: [jacquelinetheteacher@hotmail.com](mailto:jacquelinetheteacher@hotmail.com) , 291475.



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### *Les Moulton 'West Wratting Vegetable Gardener Of The Year' Memorial Vase*

The Les Moulton 'Vegetable Gardener Of The Year' memorial vase event was held in West Wratting on Saturday 1<sup>st</sup> August. The judges were Richard Holness, West Wratting Parish Council, and last year's winner, Mr Dave Holah of Six Mile Bottom Road.

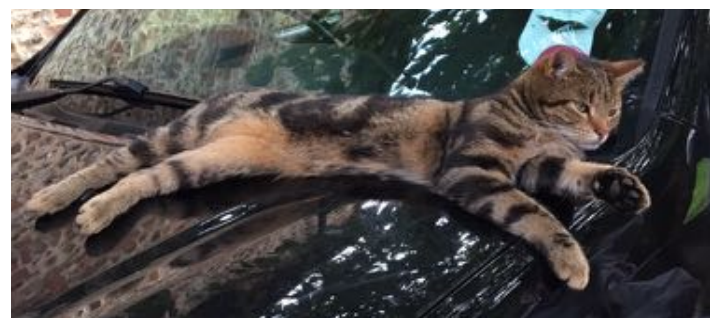
The judges visited three vegetable gardens of all sizes and were impressed by the range of produce that was being grown, as well as fruit and herbs. Such was the quality of the entries it was clearly difficult for the judges to decide on a single winner, but they eventually agreed to award the Les Moulton memorial vase to Melvin and Lyn Cottage, of Six Mile Bottom Road, for their innovative approach to growing such a variety of vegetables in a small garden. Thanks also go to Mr and Mrs Tempest and Dr and Mrs Rowland for allowing the judges to visit their gardens.

*Richard Holness*

### *Missing Cat*

Our much loved cat Monty has not been home (High Street, West Wratting) since Sunday 19<sup>th</sup> August.

Please keep a look out for him, and check garages/sheds. He has been microchipped.



Please contact me if you have seen him, or know where he is. Many thanks,

*Heather (07887 650596)*

## Café Church

Sunday 14<sup>th</sup> October 4 – 5 pm

### Fiona Castle

Well known speaker and writer, and widow of Roy Castle

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All ages – All welcome

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Children's Activities



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

Our village has not reported any problems to the police this month, although there has been significant criminal activity in the villages around us. We may have been lucky this time and should remember that this is the season for oil theft.

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



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## ‘Dissecting Dementia’

a discussion with

Heidi Allen, *MP for South Cambridgeshire*

Dr Lelane Van de Poel, *Consultant Geriatrician*  
and

Rev Simon Talbott, *Rural Dean of Granta*

**Thursday 8<sup>th</sup> November,**

**6.30 pm - 8.00 pm**

**(talk will start at 7.00 pm)**

**at St Mary’s Church, High St,  
Great Abington, CB21 6AA**

*Engaging in a conversation about one of the biggest health and care challenges facing our community.*

*How can we better care for those living with dementia?*

*What can we do to help reduce our risks?*

**This is a health awareness event, as part of our Parish Nurse Project.**

Please note that this is a free event – no booking required.

Refreshments will be available.

For more information contact:

Cazzy Walshe, [7churches.seven@gmail.com](mailto:7churches.seven@gmail.com)

or

Keith Day, [keithdday@btinternet.com](mailto:keithdday@btinternet.com),  
01223 891527

## *The Lost Words*

Thank you to all who made this a Reading Room success last month. It was wonderful that there were almost as many little ones as adults reading the ‘spells’ and, on seeing photos, their author Robert Macfarlane said “those brave children, standing up with a book as big as them . . . lovely to see them reading aloud, and Jackie Morris’s images glowing on the big screen behind them”.



Comments from those there included “Great to see people of all ages enjoying art, poetry and the natural world together” and “It was such a lovely, calm celebration of village life. Hugely appreciated and enjoyed by all our family.” Donations of a copy of ‘Ring of Bright Water’ and tea/raffle proceeds are going to The Meadow School whose deputy head writes that they’ll “spend it wisely . . . probably for the key stage 2 classes to each have a copy of ‘The Lost Words’!”

*Jacqueline*

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### ***West Wrating Book Club***

After a summer break, we met to discuss two books.

Nearly everyone had enjoyed reading ‘Eleanor Oliphant is Completely Fine’ by Gail Honeyman. One person did not like it and did not think it well written. There were funny as well as poignant and painful moments. Most loved the main character and thought Raymond was a kind, hospitable person who saved her from herself. The way her mind worked caused her to misinterpret everyday events wrongly or see significance in them that was not there, creating a scenario to block out other events from her past. Another felt it was an interesting take on building trust in someone so damaged by previous experience. Some thought the plot a little bit obvious and contrived or unbelievable, in particular, how quickly events brought about a change in her behaviour. It was a reflection on relationships and the impact of upbringing, in particular her lack of understanding of other people. Scores varied from 4 to 9 out of 10, most being at the higher end. All except one would recommend it.

All enjoyed reading ‘The Woodlanders’ by Thomas Hardy, although some found it difficult to get into at first. Several wished that they had read it before, or had been inspired to read or re-read other Hardy novels. One comment was that it was a banal story beautifully written. One theme could be seen as the damage caused by the heroine’s father in giving her an education and experience which meant she did not really fit into the level of society to which she had been born and the one to which she (or at least, her father) aspired. The descriptions of the towns, village and landscape are wonderfully portrayed while one learns fascinating facts about the way of life, rural lore and crafts, and colloquial terminology.

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One person wondered about a female protagonist smoking at this period. Perhaps this was meant to be an indication of her true character and background. It also highlighted the power that the landowners still had over their tenants, social changes taking place such as divorce law, and the interest in new medical or pseudo-medical science (as also referenced in ‘The Essex Serpent’).

It could be said that it was a very moral ending, despite previous tragedy. It could be suggested that the true heroine is Marty. The average score was 8 out of 10, and all would recommend it.

The book for October is ‘Silk’ (a story of war) by Alessandro Baricco. The date is Wednesday 17<sup>th</sup> October.

*Linda Gorman*

### ***Autumn Concert, West Wrating***

The concert on **Saturday 6<sup>th</sup> October at 7 pm** in aid of St Andrew’s Church will have a choir from King’s School, Ely, as well as other local musicians. Tickets £10 including interval refreshments; children free; raffle. If you would be willing to help in any way – organising refreshments, obtaining financial support, helping on the day, etc – please let us know.

On Friday 5<sup>th</sup> October a large lorry will be delivering a portable toilet to the church for the concert on Saturday 6<sup>th</sup> October. We do not have a definite time at present. Also, we expect there will be extra cars parking along The Causeway and the High Street in the vicinity of the church during the evening of 6<sup>th</sup> October, before and during the concert. Please accept our apologies for any inconvenience caused and let us know if you foresee any problems with this.

Many thanks for your understanding and support.

*Linda and Michael Gorman (290653)*



### West Wratting Clay Shoot

Once again our annual event took place on the August Bank holiday weekend, with twenty plus guns taking part. Richard and Jackie from the Green Man at Six Mile Bottom looked after proceedings, and after an excellent morning of shooting we returned for a well earned lunch. Thank you to all those who took part and organised this very enjoyable fund raiser which so



far this year has raised in excess of £2,000.

Those who like to to save dates please note that next year we will

be in action again on Saturday 24<sup>th</sup> August, 2019.

*Simon Sampson* ([simon.sampson@btinternet.com](mailto:simon.sampson@btinternet.com))

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**Weston Colville Parish Council**

At the meeting held on 5<sup>th</sup> September, the following items were discussed and where necessary agreed.

**Parishioners’ question time:** concerns have been raised by parishioners via email about the removal of the post box from the site of the old Post Office, and the lack of its replacement. Currently the nearest post boxes are at the Church End or Weston Woods approximately a mile away. Councillor Harvey will discuss with a colleague at the District Council and provide contact details.

**Planning:** planning to be discussed and voted by Parish Council – none.

Status of planning applications with the District Council –

Reference	Address	Proposal	Status
S/ 1922/18/ FL	Cheviot House, Church End, Weston Colville CB21 5PA	Proposed two storey side extension, rear single storey extension and a new rear dormer extension	Approved
S/ 2083/18/ FL	Linnet Hall Barn, Road to Linnet Hall, Weston Colville, CB21 5PF	Proposed driveway to dwelling approved under S/0351/16/PA	Approved
S/ 1903/18/ FL	The Paddock, Horseshoe Lane, Weston Colville, CB21 5NU	2 polytunnels and a building to be used as shelter, storage and maintenance	Out for Consultation
S/ 2360/18/ PN	Existing Farm Yard Old airfield Runway, Weston Woods Farm, CB21 5NR	Prior notification of agricultural or forestry development for general purpose	Approved

Concerns have been raised about the development on the Paddock, Horseshoe Lane. Councillor Ashbridge to contact the case officer Luke Waddington on behalf of the parish council.

**Website update:** Councillor Pagonis is in talks with the website company as they want to charge extra fees for additional users; this is being challenged. The proposal is to start with three editors, and for the website to contain useful links, events, and photos of the village. There will not be an open forum, as this will cause GDPR concerns.

**Road drain clearance and repair update:** Councillor Batchelor is going to chase up the works. There are concerns about the ash trees at the top of Mill Hill, Councillor Garrod raised the issue with highways in January and received a response in August.

**Speed Indicator Device (SID) update:** data was collected from the week the SID was in place in the village on Chapel Road. 743 vehicles passed the device in a week, of which 218 were speeding (40%). Many were in the high 40s and some over 50 mph. The next placements will be further down Common Road on the way out of the village, and heading towards Mill Hill. Data is being collected to put forwards to Highways for traffic calming measures in the village.

**Footpaths and rights of way:** there was a discussion about the bridge north west of College Farm which is

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a vehicular bridge in danger of collapsing, and has not had vehicles over it for many years. Footpath 19 uses the bridge for access to cross the Stour. The bridge has been the cause of some flooding by causing a blockage. It has been reported to CCC on these grounds in the past. The landowners (one from College Farm, and from the land north east of the bridge) are proposing to take it down, and are asking if CCC can help fund this as part of flood prevention measures. Clarification is required for responsibility of reinstating the right of way by putting in a footbridge? Councillor Durham has logged her concerns with Highways. Councillor Batchelor agreed to provide a contact in Highways who deals with bridges.

**Village sign:** Councillor Ashbridge has repaired the sign.

**Trees:** there is a proposal to chop down the trees by the Reading Room car park to hedge level as many are dead and dying. Allen Scott received a quote from Alexander Talbot to carry out the work for £550. Councillor Ashbridge is going to ask Ashley Garrod to quote too. Ash die back has been witnessed in Lower Wood; The Woodland Trust management plan needs to be consulted on this.

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**Playground:** Councillor Jackson was absent from the meeting, so will update on the slide maintenance at Church End at the next meeting. Councillor Hubbard has dealt with all the maintenance concerns at the Recreation Ground.

**Finance:** *mandates for bank signatories:* signed by Councillor Pagonis and Councillor Ashbridge. Councillor Jackson will sign and return his mandate to Councillor Vidler on his return. *Mandates for the RAF Wrattling Common Memorial Charity:* signed.

**Reading Room car park transfer:** document to be signed by Councillor Vidler and the Clerk in the presence of Rhodri Rees on Friday 14<sup>th</sup> September. Rhodri is happy to discuss with the Six Mile Bottom estate taking ownership of the strip of land and the stream at the back of the car park for no additional fees. In twelve years it will be possible to apply for absolute ownership. Clerk to establish a terrier (*a register of the lands belonging to a landowner*) for parish council land ownership.

**Matters for next agenda:** Post box; trees by Reading Room car park.

**Date of next meeting:** 12<sup>th</sup> November.

*Jessica Ashbridge, Parish Clerk*

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### West Wrating Parish Council

The following were items discussed at the parish council meeting held on Monday 10<sup>th</sup> September. The draft minutes are available on the village noticeboards.

#### Opportunity for public statement:

1. SisseMcCall spoke about the Mobile Warden Scheme, which would like to see an increase in the donation made by the parish as this has been the same for many years. It will be discussed at the next meeting.
2. She also spoke about the need for refurbishment of the play area. This was discussed later.
3. Colin McCall asked for more volunteers to help pick up litter; ten bags had been collected at Six Mile Bottom Road. He also said that the cross-field footpaths would soon be reinstated once the drilling has been completed.

#### Finances:

The Chairman requested that the incomes received from the Tennis Club and the WWFC should be looked at with a view to increasing them and would like it discussed at the budget meeting in January.

#### Maintenance:

1. Fox Road barriers – no progress as yet. It is hoped that those parties involved will be at the next Combined Parishes meeting.
2. Poo Bins – no progress.
3. Dilapidated building – the council are endeavouring to get something done with regard to the safety of the building.

**Correspondence:** a request from South Cambs. to draw up an Emergency Plan was discussed and the chairman said he would complete the form and return it.

**Recreation ground & pavilion:** the chairman is unable to attend the next sports pavilion meeting but his place will be taken by Cllr Roberts. The Ambulance Service had been informed of the code number for the defibrillator and an information notice placed on the equipment. The new gate should soon be in place. There is concern about the parking of cars on the road at the bend but if it happens please inform the police.

**Traffic issues & speed restrictions:** Cllr Bonfield would like to have another set of speed signs at a cost of approximately £2,000. Funding could possibly be found from the Wadlow Fund. The system is working well. Two new volunteers have offered their services to help with the Speed Watch.

**Play area:** quotes are being sought for the replacement of the surfacing round the play equipment. Three will be required.

The next parish council meeting will be on Monday 12<sup>th</sup> November; all are welcome to attend.

*Jenny Richards, Parish Clerk*

## HOME ANIMAL CARE

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[info@homeanimalcare.co.uk](mailto:info@homeanimalcare.co.uk)  
[catherineneale9@icloud.com](mailto:catherineneale9@icloud.com)



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## PEST CONTROL SERVICES

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01223 290570 / 07773 682676

### *District and County Council Reports*

**A1307:** the next meeting of the Local Liaison Forum will be on 12<sup>th</sup> September at 6 pm in Sawston Village College. This is to outline the next steps for the Greater Cambridge Partnership's funding to make upgrades to the road.

On a related note, the stretch of the A1307 from Haverhill past Horseheath is being resurfaced between 17<sup>th</sup> September and 7<sup>th</sup> October. The road won't be closed but there will be a slow 10 mph convoy in place to get the traffic through, so expect delays if you travel this route.

**Local Plan:** we actually have some progress to report this month. South Cambs has the Inspector's report on the SCDC Local Plan submission and is preparing to publish this on Monday 3<sup>rd</sup> September. Following this we need to look at a work plan for moving this forward; most likely it will be brought to the next full council meeting at South Cambs, in September.

**Business Support:** South Cambs is still offering free business support sessions to people who either currently run their own small business or are thinking about starting one up. The sessions are run by NWES, an external non-profit company. More details

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can be found at <https://www.scambs.gov.uk/business/latest-news-workshops-events-support-awards-funding-and-grants/>

**GCSE results:** well done to Linton Village College for recording another excellent set of GCSE results, with 74% of students achieving 5 GCSEs at Grade 4 or above. 20% of students achieved Grade 7 or above (that is equivalent to the old A and A\*; the grades changed to numbers this year). The new pass grade is 4, the equivalent of a C. The old pass was a D.

**Combined Authority:** the Authority is in some disarray with the unexpected departure of the Chief Executive and the surprise appointment of a (now ex) County Councillor as a full time Director. This was relatively well publicised in the local media.

The Government has had to step in to tell the Combined Authority and the Greater Cambridge Partnership to get their acts together and start working together. There have been disputes over who is responsible for road transport improvements. Some large projects have been halted at the insistence of the Mayor. We hope this will not affect the plans for the improvements to the A1307 though our area.

*County Councillor Henry Batchelor,  
District Councillor Geoff Harvey*

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## Old house advice



**Cracks, movement, damp, decay and other problems with your historic property?**

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For practical, independent, local advice, contact David Cook  
Tel: 07879 425640 email: oldhouseadvice@gmail.com  
The Old Inn, High Street, West Wrating

### Weston Colville Marsh Tit Study

It's been an early autumn bonanza for Marsh Tits. We're averaging more than one bird per session. To be fair, we are targeting this rare species, but we are getting hardly any young birds hatched this year. This is worrying news. The only youngster we've found, Red/White over Black on Left 'Sumo', was ringed in Joyce's garden bird bistro on Mill Hill on 21<sup>st</sup> July, then reappeared in Great Coven's Wood on 16<sup>th</sup> September. So the youngsters do travel the 500 metres from the woods to the village in search of food. As broadleaf woodland specialists, they probably use the tall hedgerows and trees to do it.

The take-home message is: if you can see a wood from your garden, please put out sunflower hearts or birdseed in your garden from now until March. The national survival of this beautiful little bird could depend on it.

On the bright side, we are getting adult birds. Four new adults were encountered since the last *Challenge*, of which half were hatched last year. This year was their first breeding season. If they managed to find a territory in the little deciduous woodland that remains in this part of England, they would have bred. So the number of youngsters – the 'productivity', in ornithological terms – could pick up next year.

Speaking of youngsters, we have a treat for you . . . may I present The Two Florries?

The rather cute and eponymous Florence, (granddaughter of Johnny and Emma Kaye) and proud Dad Philip, and her namesake, Blue over Green over Red 'Florrie' the Marsh Tit, who hatched last year.



# MGP

## CARPENTRY

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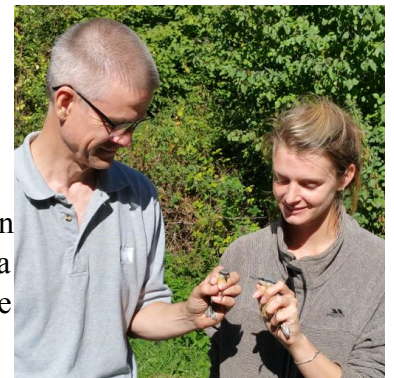
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Fabulous! One Florrie keeps talking about the other, but heck, I can't remember which one . . .

My birdringing trainees Rachel and Paul had a treat too: two teenage male Nuthatches – hatched last year – and an adult female Nuthatch, possibly their mum. The two teens are pictured here (the birds, not the trainees).



Nuthatches are unusual in that they sound just like a guinea pig (thanks for the simile, Duncan) and can turn one of their front toes around to face backwards. This gives it an X-shaped 'zygodactylous' foot (two toes forward and two back) like a Woodpecker. So, like the latter, it can go up and down tree trunks, but can still use the 'three toes forward, one back' configuration of most other birds. Isn't nature amazing?

Please keep your Marsh Tit sightings coming in, to Alex ([cambsmarti@gmail.com](mailto:cambsmarti@gmail.com)), Mel ([m\\_stammers@btinternet.com](mailto:m_stammers@btinternet.com)) or *Challenge*.

*Alex Inzani and your friendly, neighbourhood South Cambs Ringing Group*

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**Balsham Craft, Gift & Food Fair**

13<sup>th</sup> & 14<sup>th</sup> October, 10.30 am - 4 pm  
Meadow Primary School, High Street, Balsham  
£2 entry, including cup tea/coffee; 50p child.

This craft fair is now in its 29<sup>th</sup> year, and has over 40 stalls of locally handmade exquisite crafts and foods. This year will include crafts, tombola, sweets, lucky dip and face painting/child tattoos; refreshments and cream teas available.

*Bernadette Bottom, Craft Fair Organiser*

**Balsham Gardening Club**

The 2018-19 season starts on Tuesday 2<sup>nd</sup> October, when Nigel Start will give a talk on ‘Growing for Show’. As always, visitors and new members are welcome. It would be great to see some of the people there who entered the Have a Go Show for the first time, to pick up some tips for next year.

Most of us have been very busy trying to get our gardens in order now that the long hot summer drought is over and everything is growing again, especially the weeds.

A bench in memory of Mike Leeson has been installed overlooking the Community Orchard.

Mike was a long standing member of the club and a very skilled gardener and allotment holder who regularly and very successfully competed in the village show over many years. The bench has already been well used by walkers and visitors to the orchard.

*Jennie Tipler*

**West Wickham & District Gardening Club**

After a year of exceptional heat and consequential difficulties for us and our gardens we are now into September, the season of mists and mellow fruitfulness. It also brings us to our Annual General Meeting which took place on Monday 17<sup>th</sup> September in West Wickham Village Hall. We were delighted to find so many attending and this is an encouraging sign for our year ahead. Despite having to pay our speakers more than we have done in the past, mainly because they have to come from further afield and charge mileage, we have a healthy bank balance. We have welcomed quite a few new members from the surrounding villages. All our officers were reelected:- Chairman Arthur Mawby, Treasurer Andrew Morris, Programme Secretary Rosemary Yallop, Trading Secretary Marian Corbett.

It may be of interest that we buy our seeds through the club from Mr. Fothergills and Marian has been able to secure a discount of 40% on all orders.

Our first meeting will be on 15<sup>th</sup> October at 7.30 in West Wickham Village Hall, when David Hack from the British Trust for Ornithology will talk on ‘Attracting Wildlife in your Garden’, birds in particular. If you would like to join us at any of our meetings please come along, you can be assured of a welcome and tea and biscuits.

*Rosemary Yallop (01799584262)*

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## *The Meadow School*

Welcome back for the new academic year. It is hard to believe where a six week summer holiday went, but already the school is back in full swing!

The start of term has gone exceptionally smoothly, and it has been lovely to see old faces returning, and to welcome in all our new children and families. The beginning of term is always full of happy smiles, shiny shoes, new jumpers and neat hairstyles; let's hope it lasts! We are especially proud of our youngest Early Years children and how well they have adapted to school life. Hardly a tear has been shed, and they have adapted to their new learning environment very quickly. Each Foundation Stage child is attached to a Year 6 Buddy, and these have been brilliant at training them in the tricky aspects of school life, especially learning to balance the school dinner tray without dropping the contents on the floor!

For the rest of the school, learning started off at full pace in the classrooms. Children had already spent time on their transition days back in July getting to know their new teachers and class mates, which really helped relationships start positively. Our whole school focus this term is 'Arts' and each year group has chosen a topic through which they will explore a broad spectrum of arts. As a school we feel it is essential that children receive a broad and balanced curriculum and teaching Music, Drama, Art and Design and Technology alongside the other parts of the curriculum is vital for developing the 'whole child'.

The Infant children started their year off with a Design and Technology topic, investigating, designing and making photograph frames as part of their 'You've Been Framed' topic. It felt very brave as this was only Days 1 and 2 in school for many of these children! Year 3 and 4 have made and tasted sushi, as part of their Japan Topic. It was certainly interesting watching the mixed reactions as the children sampled it, but they now have a new understanding of just how tricky this cuisine is!



It was clear that Year 5 and 6 were starting their arts topic, linked to Africa, as they enjoyed their African drumming workshop. The sound coming from the

classroom was amazing as they were taught to play a variety of African percussion instruments and different rhythms.



We have also begun to welcome a number of visitors into the school.

At the start of September, we were asked by Cambridge Assessment if we could host some visitors from the Bureau for Development of Education in Macedonia, who have been working with Cambridge Assessment as part of an ERASMUS+ project to introduce new curricula for maths and science in Macedonian state primary schools, and we had been recommended as a great example of a Cambridgeshire Primary School to visit. It was a pleasure to show them around and be part of their development.

All of our learning at The Meadow is greatly enhanced by visitors and helpers from our local community. We rely heavily on parents and members of the villages to come into school to hear readers, or help with classroom jobs, trips or Forest School. If you feel that you can spare an hour or two a week, then please do contact the school office.

*Helen Loe, Assistant Headteacher*

## *Marsh Mail*

The start of the new academic year is an important time for building relationships. Our new Year 7 cohort has been busy bonding in tutor groups, and teachers and students across the school have been getting to know each other in their new classes and houses.

Secondary schooling can prove a challenging time for friendship issues and teenage cliques; the pressure to fit in and be accepted by peers is not always easy to navigate, especially with the additional influence of social media. The shift in the PSHE curriculum to give a greater emphasis to healthy relationships, as well as e-safety, is an important one to equip young people with the opportunity to learn and reflect on the connections that they engage in.

The changes that we have made to pastoral care structures and systems at the College this term are in recognition of the need for clear, targeted support to enable all of our young people to achieve their



potential. We have been joined by a new Inclusion Administrator to support the pastoral team including our Inclusion Manager, and have some new roles including Heads of House, Safeguarding Officer and Case Workers in recognition of the need for intervention and pastoral care that focuses on safeguarding our young people and providing vulnerable students with bespoke care and support. We are also in the process of recruiting important support staff positions including Teaching and Catering Assistants which are advertised on our website.

Our positive climate for learning is always commented on by external visitors to the College. We are looking forward to showcasing our amazing students at our Open Evening on Thursday 4<sup>th</sup> October and subsequent Open Mornings.

*Helena Marsh, Principal*

## **Granta Medical Practices Flu Clinics**

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Patients eligible for flu vaccinations are:

- All healthy children aged 2 to 4 years of age as of 1<sup>st</sup> September 2018. Please note that children aged 5 to 9 years (but not 10 years or older on 31<sup>st</sup> August 2018) should be vaccinated in school
- Please speak to your local practice nurse if you have any queries about this
- Clinically eligible patients, aged 6 months to 17 years and 18 to 64 years of age
- Pregnant women
- Those aged 65 years and over
- Those in long-stay residential care homes
- Carers.

If you are a patient registered with Granta Medical Practices you have the flexibility of choosing where you would like to go for your vaccination. When you ring to book your appointment, please state your age so that you can be booked into the appropriate clinic.

If you have any questions please don't hesitate to contact one of our surgeries.

**Sandra East (01223 843661, Sandra.east@nhs.net)**

Date	Surgery	Time
<b>Saturday 6<sup>th</sup> October</b>	Sawston Health Centre 01223 727555	18-64yrs Over 65yrs 0730-1330
<b>Saturday 6<sup>th</sup> October</b>	Barley Health Centre 01763 848244	18-64yrs Over 65yrs 0800-1400
<b>Saturday 27<sup>th</sup> October</b>	Linton Health Centre 01223 892555	18-64yrs Over 65yrs 0800-1300
<b>Saturday 27<sup>th</sup> October</b>	Shelford Health Centre 01223 843661	18-64yrs Over 65yrs 0730-1300
<b>Saturday 3<sup>rd</sup> November</b>	Sawston Health Centre 01223 727555	18-64yrs Over 65yrs 0730-1330
<b>Saturday 3<sup>rd</sup> November</b>	Barley Health Centre 01763 848244	18-64yrs Over 65yrs 0800-1400

## **Stronger for Longer**

A major new strength and balance campaign is launching this International Older People's day, 1<sup>st</sup> October, to help people in Cambridgeshire stay stronger for longer.

The 'Stronger for Longer' campaign has been designed by Cambridgeshire County Council, working with local NHS health partners, to encourage older people (particularly women 70 - 79 years old) to take up strength and balance exercises twice a week to reduce their risk of falling and keep them doing the things they enjoy.

Jill Smith, who lives in Cambridge, started going to strength and balance classes about two years ago as part of her rehabilitation after a heart transplant. The 66-year-old is now reaping the rewards of regular exercise and can do the things she enjoys again.

Simple strength and balance exercises twice a week are proven to keep you stronger for longer so you can keep independent and enjoying the great things in life, whether it's playing with grandchildren, shopping, socialising with friends or gardening.

For success stories and more information on classes and activities in your area visit:

[www.cambridgeshire.gov.uk/strongerforlonger](http://www.cambridgeshire.gov.uk/strongerforlonger)



**BINGO**  
**night**  
Lots of Great Prizes  
**West Wickham Village Hall**  
Saturday 6th October 7.30 for 8pm start  
**Bar & Raffle**  
Tickets £3 - includes one free game

*Daisy Chains*  
Pre-School West Wickham  
All proceeds go to Daisy Chains Pre-School, West Wickham

**Tickets available from:**  
Daisy Chains Pre-School West Wickham or on the door.

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

We started the new term with five new Brownies: Isla, Niamh, Olivia and Lexi all transferring up from Rainbows, and Charlotte who is new to Guiding. We will have space for more girls who would like to join, are free on a Wednesday, and are seven years old or older; see below on how to register.

This term we will be working on the Jarman Centre 30<sup>th</sup> Birthday Challenge badge. So far we have seen how many words we can make from 'Jarman Centre' and planted some spring bulbs in the village hall grounds. We have a campfire planned with the Guides, and some 'makes' involving pearls and beads. We will also be trying out some activities from the new Brownie programme which was launched at the end of July.

Also this term we will be joining other Brownies in our district for our annual Revels; the theme this year will be 'Teddy Bears Picnic'. We will also be getting ready for Christmas with crafts and activities for the girls to take home.

If you have a daughter who would be interested in joining us please register her at [www.girlguiding.org.uk/information-for-parents/register-your-daughter/](http://www.girlguiding.org.uk/information-for-parents/register-your-daughter/) or if you would like more information on what we do or would like to help us with a special skill you may have then please drop us an email.

*Pauline, Katie, & Laurené* ([brownies@horseheath.info](mailto:brownies@horseheath.info))

### *The Ellesmere Centre, Stetchworth*

**Walking Netball** will be starting at the centre on



Tuesday 9<sup>th</sup> October from 9-10am. All abilities welcome. If you would be interested in taking part in this then please contact the office.

**Carpet Bowls** – we are looking to start a new carpet bowls club on Wednesday evenings (twice a month).

The club will be informal and friendly and for all abilities. Those with no experience welcome. £2 a session. Please contact the centre if you would be interested in this.



**Pulling The Pooch and The Sugar Shakers** (Blues/R'n'B bands) will be coming to the centre on Friday 19<sup>th</sup> October. The two bands will be travelling up from Devon and Southend to bring us a great night of music. The evening will start at 7.30 pm and there will be a fully licensed bar. Tickets on sale from the office, £8.

**Poppy Rocks** – we are hoping to cover the grass in front of the centre with rocks with poppy pictures on before November 11<sup>th</sup>, to commemorate a hundred years since the end of WW1.



Please collect a rock from reception or paint your own and give to the office. Cost: child 50p/adult £1 per rock; all donations to the British Legion. Rocks can be collected afterwards and a few (by local artists) will be sold to the highest bidder. Please join in and make this a spectacular event.

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

### *Cambridgeshire Fire & Rescue Service*

Follow our 'top tips' to ensure your home is kept safe and warm all year round.

#### **Chimneys and Fires**

- Have your chimney swept once a year or more frequently if you burn wood



- Avoid burning resinous woods that quickly build up soot
- Only burn fuels suitable for your burner (ie never burn anything other than wood in a wood burner)
- Do not overload the grate/ appliance
- Do not bank fires too high and remember to let them burn out well before you go to bed
- Check the hearth, floor and furnishings near the fire for hot sparks/embers
- Do not place objects on or over the mantelpiece which cause you to stand too close to the fire in order to reach them
- Use a fire/spark guard to prevent accidental fires and make sure it has the kite mark or conforms to British/ European standards
- Inspect your chimney breast, particularly the roof space. Make sure it is sound and sparks/fumes cannot escape through cracks or broken bricks.

**Wood/Multi-Fuel Burners**

- A qualified and competent engineer should install all wood/multi-fuel burners and boilers – regular maintenance should be undertaken to prolong the working life of the appliance. Specialist servicing and maintenance will usually be provided by the company you purchase the appliance from but you can also refer to [www.solidfuel.co.uk](http://www.solidfuel.co.uk) for advice and information
- Ensure correct ventilation is in place when the appliance is in use
- Wood burning appliances should only use the right quality wood recommended by the supplier
- Regularly inspect the chimney and flues
- Generally wood should be well-seasoned (usually wood kept dry and stored for around two years)



- Avoid wet or newly felled wood as this will cause tars/ creosote deposits to form in the burning appliance and chimney
- Using laminated chip boards will leave binding glue deposits
- For each slow burning period there should follow a quick burn to dry out unwanted tar/creosote deposits and to warm up the chimney again
- At the end of each burning season and at least once during the season the entire system should be cooled and thoroughly cleaned to maintain top performance.

**Most importantly**

- Fit a smoke alarm that carries the kite mark or British Standard Number 5446 and test your alarm weekly by pressing the test button, and know the life of your battery
- Always also install a CO alarm in the room where the burner is installed. Chimney fires continue to be a common occurrence in home fires in the winter months.
- We experience an average of 81 chimney fires a year in Cambridgeshire alone.
- Whatever fire you have, or fuel you burn, it is vitally important you have your chimney swept to avoid a build-up of ash and soot.

For more information log on to [www.cambsfire.gov.uk](http://www.cambsfire.gov.uk), follow us on social media or call 01480 444500.



<b>St Andrew's, West Wrattling (10.45 am)</b>			<b>SET UP</b>	<b>FLOWERS</b>	<b>CLEANING</b>
Sunday 7 <sup>th</sup> October	United Service, Balsham	Rev Iain McColl	n/a	Linda +	Maggie
Sunday 14 <sup>th</sup> October (4 pm)	Café Church	John & Scilla Harvey, Catherine Willcocks	n/a	Fanny	n/a
Sunday 21 <sup>st</sup> October	Holy Communion	Rev Kathy Bishop	Jenny	Fanny	Pauline
Sunday 28 <sup>th</sup> October	Holy Communion	Rev Iain McColl	Alex	Louise	n/a

<b>St Mary's, Weston Colville (9.15 am)</b>		
Sunday 7 <sup>th</sup> October (10.45 am)	United Service, Balsham	Rev Iain McColl
Sunday 14 <sup>th</sup> October	Morning Worship	Steven Wheeler
Sunday 21 <sup>st</sup> October	Holy Communion	Rev Kathy Bishop
Sunday 28 <sup>th</sup> October	Holy Communion	Rev Iain McColl

### 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

### October 2018

- Tue 2 Balsham Gardening Club
- Wed 3 West Wrattling Over 60s  
Weston Colville Cinema Club, Reading Room
- Fri 5 Tea & Cakes, Weston Colville Reading Room  
First Friday Bridge, West Wrattling
- Sat 6 Saturday Morning Café, West Wrattling  
West Wrattling Autumn Concert, St Andrew's  
Bingo, West Wickham
- Mon 8 West Wrattling Oil Syndicate-order deadline
- Tue 9 Seniors' meeting, Weston Colville
- Fri 12 Pop-up Pub, Weston Colville Reading Room
- Sat 13 St Andrew's Gift Day  
Bingo, West Wrattling
- Sat 13 - Sun 14 Balsham Craft Fair
- Sun 14 Café Church, West Wrattling
- Mon 15 West Wickham & District Gardening Club
- Wed 17 West Wrattling Book Club
- Thur 18 Lunch Club, The Chestnut Tree
- Sun 20 Circular walk from Reading Room

### November 2018

- Wed 7 West Wrattling Over 60s  
Weston Colville Cinema Club, Reading Room
- Thur 8 'Dissecting Dementia' discussion, Gt Abington
- Mon 12 Weston Colville Parish Council meeting  
West Wrattling Parish Council meeting
- Sat 17 St Andrew's Churchyard clear-up, West Wrattling

Revd Iain McColl  
tel: 890693 email: [mccoll.iain@gmail.com](mailto:mccoll.iain@gmail.com)  
 Revd Kathy Bishop, Associate Priest  
tel: 892288 email: [revkathy@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:revkathy@hotmail.co.uk)  
 Very Revd Keith Johnson, Honorary Associate Priest  
tel: 890835 email: [jkeith1412@gmail.com](mailto:jkeith1412@gmail.com)  
 Mr Steven Wheeler, Licensed Lay Minister  
tel: 290643 email: [steven@juicyfruitsuk.com](mailto:steven@juicyfruitsuk.com)  
 Mrs Rosemary Mead, Authorised Lay Minister  
tel: 891718 email: [leonardavmead@hotmail.com](mailto:leonardavmead@hotmail.com)  
 Mr Keith Day, Authorised Lay Minister  
tel: 891527 email: [keithdday@btinternet.com](mailto:keithdday@btinternet.com)

#### Churchwardens:

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

#### Parish Council Contacts:

Weston Colville Parish 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,  
[7churches.seven@gmail.com](mailto:7churches.seven@gmail.com), 01223 891443

**Parish Nurse:** Claire Gillett,  
[7churches.parishnurse@gmail.com](mailto:7churches.parishnurse@gmail.com), 07498 994205

**Black bins:** Monday 8<sup>th</sup> & 22<sup>nd</sup> October,  
Monday 5<sup>th</sup> & 19<sup>th</sup> November

**Blue & green bins:** Monday 1<sup>st</sup>, 15<sup>th</sup> & 29<sup>th</sup> October,  
Monday 12<sup>th</sup> & 26<sup>th</sup> November

**Mobile library:** first Tuesday of each month  
(2<sup>nd</sup> October, 6<sup>th</sup> November)

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.

**November issue's copy date:**  
**Saturday 20<sup>th</sup> October.**