

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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Palm

Sunday

Songs of Praise

14th April 4 - 5 pm

West Wrattling Church

Everyone welcome

Child friendly songs

Bonfire and food afterwards

West Wrattling Oil Syndicate

Boilerjuice won the March fill up for 20 households with a price of 44.78 ppl + VAT. The next fill up will be in May, with Tuesday 7th May at 6.30 pm as the order cut-off.

Richard Holness

Weston Colville Oil Co-operative

There will be an oil order next month, with an order cut-off date of 12th May. Full details in the next Challenge.

Tea and Cakes

Thank you to everyone who helped out and attended our March gathering.



We would like to give you advanced notice that all donations from our May Tea and Cakes will be donated to the charity, 'Stand up 2 Cancer'.

Our next gathering will be on Friday 5th April, 3.30 - 5 pm, at the Reading Room. We look forward to catching up over a cuppa and a slice of cake. All welcome.

Melanie (291319)

Saturday Morning Café, West Wrattling

Join us for a catch up over tea / coffee and delicious cake at the next café on Saturday 6th April between 10.30 am and 12 noon in the village hall.

The café works by different volunteers kindly offering to serve and donate cakes every month. There is always a play corner set up for kids and a bookstall with second hand books. The money raised continues to be donated to local community projects. This year, all proceeds from the bookstall will go to Granta School.

Back by popular demand, Buttercups Pre-School will be running an Easter-themed arts and crafts table for kids, and Sue Lock will also have a fundraising table at the café – she is running the London Marathon in April to raise funds for Arthur Rank Hospice.

A team of villagers are looking at redevelopment opportunities for the playground. Please come and see the proposals at the April café and provide any feedback or suggestions.

Sherry (290070) and Catherine (291307)



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Weston Colville Seniors

Allen is making slow progress but his move to rehabilitation has been delayed by another chest infection, which is very frustrating for him.

Our talk in March was about Reach in Haverhill. Ann Allen, their Operations Manager, explained how the organisation was set up in 2005 as ‘Christians Against Poverty’ before adopting the name ‘Reach’, which is an acronym meaning Restore, Encourage, Action, Community and Hope. They run a drop-in centre and the Haverhill Foodbank, and offer money advice and provide starter packs for people moving into their first home in Haverhill and the surrounding area, including our own villages.

This was followed by a short talk by Jaqueline, with some ideas for us to think about that we may like to consider for our village community. We finished with a session of chair yoga with our own local teacher Charlotte.

Our next meeting, on Tuesday 9th April at 2.30 pm in the Reading Room, will be with Janet Morris from West Wickham History Club. Her talk is called ‘Godolphin Arabian, Eclipse and Plenipotentiary: from Wandlebury to Horseheath via West Wrattling – the Horseracing Connection’. This will be followed by chair yoga to end the afternoon.

On Tuesday 14th May we are planning a tour of Ely Cathedral with Chloe Cockerill; please let me know if you would like to go as soon as possible.

Our meetings are open to anyone over retirement age, from any of our local villages, not just Weston Colville, so do come along and see what we do.

Val and Allen (290837)

West Wrattling Over 60s

We will meet as usual at The Chestnut Tree at 12.30 pm, to include lunch, on Wednesday 3rd April. The following meeting will be on 1st May.

Wendy Halls

Weston Colville Reading Room ‘Pub’ Quiz

We’ll be holding a quiz on Wednesday, 10th April at 8 pm. Up to four per team, entry £2 per person. Bar includes wine, cider and draft ale. All welcome, enquiries: jacquelinetheteacher@hotmail.com, 291475.

Weston Colville Cinema Club



The cinema club is having an Easter break this month; next month, in a cinema club first, we’re showing an Irish film. The characters in ‘Sanctuary’ are a group living with intellectual disability, played by actors living with intellectual disability. It subverts received ideas about disability in its very approach to film making – as the Guardian reviewer has it, “care, chaos and comedy in the community”. Come and see it – it’ll make you think, it’ll make you laugh inside and I hope you’ll leave the Reading Room feeling glad you watched it. The film will be in the Reading Room at 7.30 pm on Wednesday 1st May. Donations; refreshments available; all welcome.



jacquelinetheteacher@hotmail.com , 291475

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Weston Colville Circular Walk

Our March walk was grey but happily dry as we missed the wind and rain that came the following morning, so we had a good breath of fresh air walking via Carlton.



The next walks will be on Saturday 11th May, meeting in the Reading Room at 10 am, and Saturday 20th July, meeting at a new place locally as a one-off, which we'll put in July's **Challenge**. For both walks BYO lunch and maybe something to share back in the Reading Room afterwards. All welcome, refreshments available. Enquiries:

jacquelinetheteacher@hotmail.com, 291475.

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The Bumble Bees Baby and Toddler Group

The group meets every Tuesday (term time only) from 10 am to 12 noon in The Reading Room, Weston Colville. £2.50 per session (plus 50p for every additional sibling.)



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

Term dates and planned craft activities for the start of the summer term are as follows:

Tuesday 2 nd April	Fluffy Sheep
Tuesday 9 th April	CLOSED (Easter Holidays)
Tuesday 16 th April	CLOSED (Easter Holidays)
Tuesday 23 rd April	St George's Day Dragons
Tuesday 30 th April	Junk Modelling
Tuesday 7 th May	Handprint Sunshine
Tuesday 14 th May	Blossom Trees
Tuesday 21 st May	Cress Growing
Tuesday 28 th May	CLOSED (Half Term)

Sessions return on Tuesday 4th June.

Beverley (07833 228958,
bumblebees@hardingworld.net)

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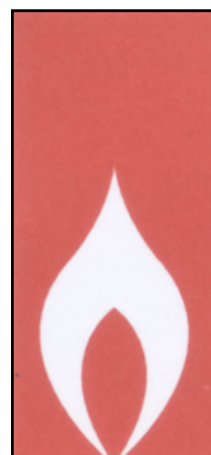
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West Wrating Playground Improvement

Residents of West Wrating and the parish council would like to improve / upgrade the playground here in West Wrating. To start with, the existing equipment and surface could do with a good clean, but eventually we would like to replace the old play equipment with new.

A Facebook page (www.facebook.com/WestWratingPlaygroundImprovement/) has been created to share ideas and opinions on the type of play equipment users would like, plus any ideas for funding the project.

Please 'like' and share this page with other people in the area who may be interested.

Your playground ideas and feedback can also be shared at the Saturday morning café or sent via email to louise@chandler1.co.uk

At the next Saturday morning café, on 6th April, we plan to show the ideas presented to us by two playground companies. Please come and have a look if you have time.

Louise Chandler

West Wrating Book Club

Our book for March was 'WarLight' by Michael Ondaatje.

This book is set in the years after the war, based in London to begin with but then set in various parts of England and around the world. It looks back at what preceded the opening events and the later consequences. It is based around two children left with a friend to look after them while their parents are away. However, all is not as it seems and they become more and more involved in the shadowy world of their guardian and his mysterious associates.

All present had thoroughly enjoyed this book, with comments ranging from an amazing storyteller, beautifully written with a strong ending, really enjoyed, brilliant. One person felt that it was not necessarily pleasurable but was a good read. Others reminisced about their own experiences of the London canals and River Lea which make up a major part of the story. Slight criticisms were that that it dipped in the middle and one or two people were uncertain about the way it was structured. The quest for the past is compelling and the history of certain aspects of post Second World War events, in England and abroad, fascinating. All would recommend it, with scores varying but an average score of 8 out of 10.

We will next meet at The Chestnut Tree at 8 pm on Wednesday 17th April to talk about 'Becoming' by Michelle Obama.

Linda Gorman (290653)

Weston Colville Village and Garden Ramble

2.30 pm, Sunday 2nd June

In addition to our regular Weston Colville Circular Walks, we're planning a leisurely Village and Garden Ramble on the afternoon of Sunday 2nd June.

We'll begin at the Reading Room and follow a circular route round Weston Green, Lower Wood, Church End and Mill Hill before returning to the Reading Room for tea. Along the way, there'll be regular pauses for refreshments and snippets of local history as well as detours through a few gardens to enjoy seeing the village from new perspectives. If you'd be willing for the walk to take a detour through your garden, we'd love to hear from you – don't worry if you're not Monty Don, the focus is on space rather than the plants themselves or Latin names. Otherwise, if you'd just like to join us please save the date, and more information will appear in May's **Challenge**.

Jacqueline Douglas
(jacquelinetheteacher@hotmail.com, 291475)

Gabrielle Cliff Hodges
(gabrielle.cliffhodges@cantab.net, 290890)

Alan Ogden (alan2ogden@yahoo.co.uk, 291401)

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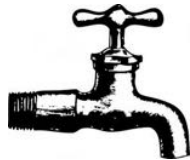
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St Andrew's Churchyard Clear-up

The spring clear-up of our beautiful churchyard will take place on Saturday 13th April from 10 am till 12 noon. This is the weekend before Easter.

Everyone is welcome, and if nothing else, do come down for coffee, tea, hot cross buns and a chat.

Colin McCall (290036)

From the Rectory

Lent has traditionally been a time when people try to give things up. Recently, however, there has been a trend towards a commitment to do something during Lent. A UK Christian charity called Stewardship, for example, has created a movement called 40acts, which challenges people to see Lent in a different light and commit to acts of kindness during this time. For eight years, 40acts has asked a question: what if Lent could be about more than just giving stuff up? What if it could be a time of radical generosity as well as spiritual discipline?



This question, which could be addressed to any one of us, echoes what lies at the heart of Christian worship at Easter time. Here we discern the radical generosity and grace of God, reflected in the life, death and resurrection of Jesus. The Greek word used by St Paul to describe the love of God for us in Christ is agape – which means the unconditional loving kindness of God towards humans. This is the love, as St Paul says in one of his letters, which ‘never ends’; the love which opens the door into a new creation.

At Easter, we are also invited to trust in the power of Christ to re-create our lives today. To see the whole landscape of our lives enlightened by Jesus. In this light we see who we are, how we so often fail but also how we are valued and loved by God. We see each other as people valued by God, and our perspectives are changed. We see the world around us charged with God’s glory, inviting our care and reverence.

When we start to see other people and the world around us in this light, we recognise that discerning God’s presence and seeking to do acts of loving-kindness are not just marks of Lent, but a way of being and doing which can help us walk through an open door into a world transfigured by grace.

Revd Iain McColl

www.westwratting.org.uk

for information on:

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



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London Marathon, 28th April

I would like to thank all the kind people who have already sponsored me for this event. Running is something I have come to late in life and my progress has been slow! However, I am determined to complete the course and raise funds for Arthur Rank Hospice. This worthwhile organisation has touched many local lives and we know that their support is so appreciated.

If anyone would still like to sponsor me I will be at the West Wrating Café on Saturday 6th April, complete with sponsor form and collecting tin. Alternatively, donations may be left on my Virgin Money Giving site – just enter Sue Lock on the donate page. Once again, many thanks to you all.

Sue Lock

Beware of Scams

Scams come in all shapes and sizes, with it being estimated that every year over 3 million people fall victim to scammers, losing £5 - 10 billion in the process. In addition to the financial detriment, the effect on health and wellbeing can be devastating. No one is immune, with all ages being targeted. However, senior citizens are a favourite target, with the average age of a victim being 75.

Scams range from people knocking on your door, to fraudsters trying to get your personal details online. The criminals attempt to trick you with official looking documents and websites, convincing telephone sales patter and texts, with the aim of persuading you to either:

1. Give them your internet passwords or your bank details – never do this
2. Send a processing or administration fee
3. Pay postal or insurance cost
4. Buy an overvalued product or have unnecessary work done
5. Get you to make a premium rate phone call.

We can all help to tackle scammers by reporting people targeting you or those you know.

For telephone scams please contact the Citizens Advice consumer helpline on 0845 4040505.

For online fraud either report at www.actionfraud.police.uk or phone 0300 1232040

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To help tackle this issue the Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Against Scams Partnership (CAPASP) was set up to bring together people to support communities to prevent scams and provide support to victims. For more information and to see how you can help the local community beat the scammers, go to friendsagainstscams.org.uk

Ray Vidler, Weston Colville Parish Council

Weston Colville Marsh Tit Study

One important thing you can do now to aid local breeding of Marsh Tits and other birds is to put out nesting material. Cotton, wool and natural fibre lint from your clothes drier filter is ideal. Put it into an empty peanut feeder to stop the fluff blowing around your garden. It's free, direct recycling and rarely offered, so a magnet for breeding birds and a lot cheaper than peanuts for bringing birds into your garden!

I have lots of clean cotton lint to spare, as I've been collecting it for years. (Yes, I'm a recycling devotee.) If anyone wants some to attract nesting birds, just contact me via cambsmarti@gmail.com, Mel at m_stammers@btinternet.com or Challenge (the same places to which you send your invaluable Marsh Tit sightings!).

NB If anyone sees the Loch Ness Monster in Weston Colville pond on April 1st, please don't bother reporting the sighting. Even if you have the inevitably fuzzy photo . . .

Enjoy the mostly yellow Daffodils, blue Squills and smelly white Ramsons this spring.

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

Ken Boreham

Sadly, Ken Boreham passed away in hospital on Monday 11th March.

Ken worked hard all his life helping the community and West Wrattling Football Club (he was vice president for 35 years), and also helping with the pavilion and the recreation ground.

Ken will be missed by all – a lovely caring man, who always made us laugh dancing with Pauline on his shoulders at the football dinner and dances. The family have always been very supportive.

West Wrattling Football Club held a minute's silence before the game on Saturday 16th March in memory of Ken. Pauline, Ian and Sara, Simon and Lynn were present.

We send our condolences to Pauline, Ian, Simon and all the family.

On behalf of West Wrattling Football Club,
Blanche Miller, Pavilion Secretary

West Wrattling Football Reports

Senior 1st Team – after a tough start to the season with losing so many players, things took a while to settle down, but the 1st team is sitting in fourth place at the moment which is a huge achievement after everything we have had to deal with. Some very good young players have been brought in who have fallen in love with the club, and the future looks bright for next season, when hopefully we can challenge for the league again.

Michael Bavester, Manager

Youth Report – this season we have four youth teams, three of which play in non competitive leagues, so I am not allowed by the rules of the mini league to discuss their results. I can say that the u8, u10 and u11 teams are playing in the top leagues in their respective age groups.

The u12 team, which I can discuss, are sitting fourth in their league.

Richard Cole, Chairman



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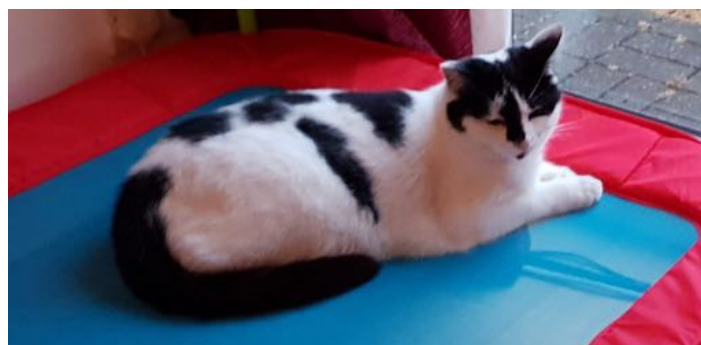
Knitting Wool Request

Many thanks to those of you who responded to my request for wool – I received plenty for Balsham Mothers' Union members to knit 25 8-inch squares, which will be made into a blanket to commemorate the founding of the charity 'Christian Hope International' as a result of the Rwandan Genocide in 1994. All knitting done by members in the Ely Diocesan Mothers' Union also goes to this charity.

Joanna Sanders

Missing Cat

We are missing our cat, Poppy, who is white with black patches, black tail and majority black head, and very timid. We, especially my daughter, are desperate to find her, so please could we ask people to keep a look out and check their sheds/outhouses; we would really appreciate it. Thank you for everyone's help so far.



If you do see her, please, please can you call Katie on 07714 280296 or Gary on 07850 253496. We are staying at Pound Farms Barns, Weston Colville.



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West Wratting Parish Council

At the meeting held on 11th March the following items were discussed. Drafts of the minutes are posted on the village noticeboards and shown on the website.

Footpaths: Colin McCall would like more volunteers to help with keeping the footpaths in good order, particularly for the Weston Colville area.

Parish Council Vacancy: Barry Glennon-Lynch was co-opted onto the council following a vote after being proposed by the Chairman and seconded by Cllr Roberts.

Jacqueline Douglas (*Community Worker under the Parish Nurse Plus Project*) spoke of her role in supporting the Parish Nurse, her areas being West Wratting, West Wickham and Weston Colville, in finding out the needs of people with regard to transport, activities, facilities and a key part is to access services. Age UK and Reach are associated with this scheme. A Community Hub meeting will be held each month in Balsham Institute as advertised in *Challenge* where all those involved in the scheme will be on hand to help and advise. For contact, her email address is: jacquelinecommunityworker@gmail.com.

Finance: details in the draft minutes.

West Wratting Village Hall: the chairman, Mike Rowland, is hoping to raise funds to cover the cost of replacing the folding doors without using parish council funds. He agreed that any large project would be carried out by the parish council as they could reclaim VAT.

Recreation Ground & Pavilion: the next meeting on 13th March will discuss gating the grounds. The management committee also wishes to apply to create boreholes for watering the pitches.

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Traffic Issues:

- a) *Access to High Street from Spicers Close* – the residents of Spicers Close wish to put up a mirror to help with access to the High Street. A decision/visit is awaited. If the mirror was positioned on private property this would be acceptable but would require planning permission.
- b) *Footpath along Six Mile Bottom Road* – this is a good idea and District Cllr Batchelor suggested applying to Greater Cambridge Partnerships who are keen to promote and fund cycleways.
- c) *Play Area* – Ben Willcocks, Cllr Chandler, Cllr Glennon-Lynch and Alex Brown had discussed the options, being: a) tidying up and repairing those items reported by RoSPA, and jet washing surfaces for the present, followed by b) a major design for a completely new play area. Two schemes have already been looked at and another is expected. The cost will be approximately £60,000 - 80,000, so a great deal of fund raising would be needed. It is hoped to put these designs on display at a Saturday Café morning.

Dates for 2019/2020 Parish Council meetings:

Monday 13th May (including Parish Meeting beginning at 7.30pm), 8th July, 9th September, 11th November, 13th January 2020, and 9th March.

Jenny Richards

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Weston Colville Parish Council

At the meeting on Monday 4th March the following items were discussed and where necessary agreed.

Emma Knight from SCDC will be attending the next Combined Parishes Meeting to listen to concerns raised about the Icknield Way Byway, before opening the consultation about gating it; sufficient evidence has been provided by Weston Colville, more is needed from the other villages.

Planning – S/0691/19/FL Weston Woods Farm, Common Road, Weston Colville – replacement/new farm buildings and drainage attenuation within existing farmstead. No objections; buildings will not be visible from the road or by the public and are for agricultural use.

Website update – the website is ready, the next stage is securing a domain name, and email addresses. Photographs of the village and councillors to be added, and all the council policies and standing orders, and a section for *Challenge*. The clerk has enquired with CAPALC whether any Transparency Funding is available to add the minutes and agenda from previous years.

Road drain clearance and repair update – no update. A missing highways manhole cover was reported in Church End for Cllr Batchelor to chase.

Footpaths and rights of way – Cllr Batchelor to enquire about possible routes for redirecting footpath 19, as replacing the bridge would be very costly for the land owners. Also enquiring about installing a bridge for the footpath by the Methodist Chapel.

Dog waste bin – working party required; Cllr Jackson is to organise a working party to swap the small red bin from the cricket pitch with the new bin, and to site the small bin on the opposite side of the road next to the footpath. Once this has occurred the clerk is to inform SCDC for their collections.

Tenders for grass cutting for 2019 – four tenders were received for grass cutting of the amenity sites and cutting the verges. Following a discussion it was proposed that Trevor Potter would continue to cut the verges, and the clerk was instructed to discuss fees with another party, and if resolved to instruct them to cut the amenities.

Date for the meeting in May – the clerk cannot attend the meeting on 20th May, or 13th May. The

Annual Parish Meeting and Parish Council Meeting will be at 7 pm on Wednesday 15th May.

Traffic calming – a brief discussion was held with Cllr Batchelor; a Highways Officer needs to be paid to inspect the area before an application is submitted. Cllr Batchelor to look into the cut-off date for the application.

Gritting – there have been complaints from parishioners about the lack of gritting on The Green and Common Road, the route used by public and school buses. Cllr Batchelor to enquire with Highways.

Playground – for the annual playground inspection, ROSPA has quoted £95 per area (plus VAT) and requires an additional £38 fee if the clerk attends the inspection. An independent inspector, David Bracey, has quoted £135 plus VAT to inspect both areas, which the clerk can attend for no extra fee. Clerk instructed to appoint David Bracey.

Dates of meetings –

- Annual Parish Meeting, 15th May, 7pm
- Full Council Meeting, 15th May, 7.30pm

Dates of parish council meetings in 2019:

- Full Council – 1st July, 2nd September, 4th November
- Planning (if required) – 1st April, 3rd June, 5th August, 7th October, 2nd December.

Jessica Ashbridge (jess@agrarian.biz)

Reports by County Cllr Harvey & District Cllr Batchelor

Council Tax – both the County and District Councils have the ability to raise council tax each year. They (almost) always take this option up and have both done so this year, with the District raising their rates by 3.56% and the County raising their rates by 4.98%.

Neighbourhood Plan – congratulations to Great Abington Parish Council for being the first parish in South Cambs to get their Neighbourhood Plan adopted, a long and arduous process. We will be meeting with the cabinet member responsible shortly to see if there are any prospects of simplifying and speeding up the process.

Shire Hall – the County Council is relocating to Alconbury, in an attempt to save money by not using the expensive Shire Hall location.

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The Meadow School

Mrs Tinsley has taken Year 5 and 6 teams to various tournaments this month, a fantastic opportunity for children to be involved in playing sports they might not often get the chance to play. The QuickSticks hockey tournament took place in Comberton, where the children were playing against other schools from across Cambridgeshire. The teams played enthusiastically and finished fifth and second in their rounds, with the A team only one point away from the finals. We are always very proud of how well the children represent The Meadow School, with a fantastic 'have-a-go' attitude and politeness towards other players. We are looking forward to seeing how the school gets on in the forthcoming Tag Rugby tournament and Cross-Country competition.

March 7th was World Book day, where we spent the whole day immersed in 'The Lost Words' by Robert MacFarlane and Jackie Morris. This book is a celebration of nature words and the natural world they evoke, through spell-poems in the form of acrostic poems. It is beautifully illustrated and written, providing a perfect opportunity to combine both art and literacy for the day. The children enjoyed spending time outside looking for inspiration for their

own poetry, produced fabulous art work and wrote their own poems. Shortly after this, the children were offered the chance to submit a story for the Radio 2 '500 Word' competition, a hugely successful national competition, but as a school we chose to hold our own smaller competition. Mrs Butcher was inundated with fantastic stories and had the very difficult job of judging the stories to find three winners from different age groups. Huge congratulations to Anoushka Trivedi, Esther Morris and Daisy Nott for their winning entries.

We are continued to be committed to develop Arts across the school and Miss Copare is always on the look out for an interesting range of music and art groups to perform to the children. This term we had Song Speil, who base their performance on a poetry book called 'Moon Juice'. The show consists of a wonderful creation of shadow puppetry, opera singing and imaginative drama, accompanied by a piano. It was certainly unlike any performance we have ever seen, but was a real treat to see how different artistic styles can come together. We are now looking forward to our own Year 3 and 4 production of 'King of all Polar Bears' at the end of the month.



As Easter nears, we are once again reminded of how fortunate we are to teach enthusiastic children, with a love of learning. We are very grateful to all our fabulous volunteers from within and outside our school community who enable these experiences to take place. We wish everyone in the community and school a very happy Easter.

Nichola Connor, Headteacher

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Marsh Mail

The national press has been dominated by very sad news of teenagers whose lives have been tragically cut short as a result of knife crime. Sometimes it is tempting to believe such issues happen elsewhere; that extreme anti-social behaviours are restricted to other parts of the country and are not relevant to our own communities.




While less rural areas may be more prone to criminal behaviours, this does not make villages such as Linton immune to them.

Young people have always been susceptible to risk-taking behaviours. The adolescent brain is in the process of regulating thrill-seeking impulses. Meanwhile, the transition to adulthood creates greater independence and opportunities that may compromise children's safety and wellbeing.

At Linton Village College, our PSHE (personal, social, health and education) curriculum helps students to develop an appreciation of how their bodies and minds work. We encourage our learners to be reflective and self-aware as well as educating them about potential harmful influences in order that they can keep themselves and others safe and healthy.

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In recent months we have developed stronger educational links with Cambridgeshire Constabulary. Our students have benefited from police sessions entitled 'What's the Point?' including an appreciation of the facts and consequences of carrying weapons. The police have also contributed to input about county lines (gangs that target young people to take and sell drugs across county borders). It is important that our children are aware of practices that seek to exploit them and entice them into criminal behaviours.

Peer pressure has become more sophisticated and significant with the development of technological communication and mobility. Research into the rise in online grooming, facilitated by social media platforms, has coincided with a spike in adolescent mental health issues.

The African proverb 'it takes a village to raise a child' is particularly relevant at the moment. More than ever, our young people need responsible adults in their communities to keep them safe and prevent them from seeking acceptance by more dangerous means. Reporting concerns to the college (thinkpink@lvc.org), the police (www.cambs.police.uk/report/Report-Shared/Report-a-concern) and students' families is integral to this.

Helena Marsh, Principal

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2523 Linton Squadron Air Training Corps

A recent sector skills weekend saw seven Linton cadets achieve their 'Youth First Aid' award, five cadets achieve 'Bronze Leadership' awards and one cadet pass his weapons handling test on rifles. This is all part of our new progressive training syllabus.



There's never a dull moment with regular flying allocations coming through and more shooting too. There has been a wing-wide push to get cadets passing their weapons handling tests and we now have cadets qualified to shoot the L98A2.

There has been an excited buzz on the squadron since hearing that blank firing field exercises are taking place. This involves the use of various pyrotechnics and blank firing rifles and we have cadets training ready for the first of this type of exercise for many years.

As always, we have space for new cadets on the squadron; please contact me for details.

Civilian Instructor Brad Wright (07943 873272,
training.2523@aircadets.org)

Charity Bingo Night



Friday 10th May

7:00pm – Eyes down at 7:15pm
 Chippy's delivery at 8:00pm



Balsham Church Institute

Fish / Sausage / Chips Supper
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All proceeds to go towards end of term party for Buttercups children.

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1st Horseheath Brownies

We have just returned from our annual Brownie holiday to the Jarman Centre, where eight Brownies were unicorns for the weekend. They made masks, a unicorn inspired pudding and sparkly snow globes, decorated CDs as unicorns, and had unicorn hobbyhorse races. They also completed their Wildlife Explorer badge; for this they had to make bird feeders and identify three different butterflies, birds and mammals as well as looking and listening for different wildlife at the Jarman Centre. We were joined by Guides and Rainbows on Saturday; the Guides did outdoor cooking and the Rainbows joined the Brownies in their unicorn crafts and they also went on a trail to find their lunch.

We have started on the new Brownie programme with the 'Take Action' theme, and so far we have made monsters out of recycled materials, designed the greatest place on earth, and discussed our opinions on different subjects. We still have two more topics to cover which we hope to finish by the end of term, as well as making Mothering Sunday cards and something for Easter. It's never a dull moment when you're a Brownie.

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

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NARPS National Association of Registered Pet Sitters

The Ellesmere Centre, Stetchworth



Do you or a loved one have Parkinson's disease, MS, or polio, or have you been referred by a doctor to attend exercise classes? A new group will be starting in April offering **chair-based exercise** and gentle use of spin-bikes. The group welcomes all abilities, and partners and carers are welcome to watch or join in. Refreshments will be available afterwards. Please contact Julie in the office if you are interested in coming along.

There will be a **Coffee Morning** on Wednesday 3rd April, with homemade cakes and a raffle, in aid of this exercise group.

Family Yoga Sessions are now running on Tuesdays from 4.15 pm; please contact marta.maj@mmhealthandfitness.co.uk

Multisports and Craft days on Tuesday 9th, Wednesday 10th, Tuesday 16th and Wednesday 17th April. Please book early to avoid disappointment, at www.slsportanded.co.uk

Gymnastics Fun Day on 11th April; contact helen.snook@btinternet.com to book your child in.

Roller Skating on Thursday 18th April, 2 - 4pm. All abilities welcome; £2 to skate, £1 for skate hire. Tuck shop. Just come along, no need to book.

The **mini-gym** has now reopened after its refurbishment. It has a cross trainer, a treadmill, an upright bike and a spin bike. Cost: £5 per hour with exclusive use (a maximum of two friends can share the slot with you). Call for details.



The Ellesmere Centre, www.ellesmerecentre.org.uk
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MOPS HAIR SALON

West Wickham & District Gardening Club

On 18th March the club welcomed Colin Ward from Swines Meadow Farm Nursery in Market Deeping. Colin and his wife Karen decided to concentrate on their ever increasing plant collection rather than trying to farm at the same time, so they specialise in unusual plants, and the tables were filled with so many goodies I think our members imagined all their birthdays had come at once. Colin described each of these plants, many of which were coming into early bloom and leaf. As a gardening club we try to offer a variety of talks and some could be, if not educational, perhaps instructive. We all learned a lot about these gorgeous plants and many were bought and happily carried off at the end of the evening.

Next month we have another timely talk – Matthew Long from Riverside Bulbs at Monks Eleigh will tell us about planting bulbs for summer colour. This is on April 15th at 7.30 in West Wickham Village Hall.

Our FABULOUS PLANT SALE will be on 18th May, 10.30 - 12.00 noon, so DO NOT miss it. Happy gardening!

Rosemary Yallop

Balsham Gardening Club

For our February meeting our own member Alice Warley, very expertly told us about her experiences of plants of the Sonoran desert, in Arizona. Alice has been visiting a friend in this region for several years. Her knowledge and enthusiasm for these seemingly desolate areas was evident and we were surprised to learn about the abundant plant life, its uses, and how it is adapted to this harsh environment. The Sonoran



desert covers approximately 250,000 square miles, half being in the USA and half in Mexico, in the state of Sonoro.

The Oxford English dictionary describes a desert as ‘an uncultivated, sparsely inhabited tract of land, a wilderness, now specifically a waterless and treeless region’. It can also be described as a place where water demand exceeds supply!

Alice informed us that temperatures in the summer could reach 48° C. In the winter rainfall is a light drizzle, the majority of the rain falls in the monsoon season between July & September, but this rain runs off the land. The climate is subtropical.

Despite dictionary definitions, apart from the obvious cacti & Agave plants, flowering trees and shrubs do survive in this region, as Alice’s slides revealed.

One interesting species is The Saguaro it is a protected tree like cactus, which grows to over 40 feet tall and is the Arizona state symbol. The plant may live to over 200 years old. It produces white waxy flowers between April & June, and a red fruit 6-9 inches long which ripen in June. The flowers open at sunset and produce a perfume, which during the day attracts hummingbirds and gila woodpeckers to the nectar. Bats & moths are the main pollinators. The native Tohono O’odham people harvest the fruit in June & July, and the families stew it for several hours to make a sweet syrup.

Alice explained that desert plants are not dull, they provide structure & make an attractive garden but she advised to plant our desert loving plants well in advance as they can take a lifetime to grow!

With our hotter summers, next month’s speaker will prove very useful to us all, gardeners or not. On Tuesday 2nd April in the Meadow school, 7.15 for 7.30 pm, we will have a presentation from Anglia Water on ‘Water Conservation’. There will be light refreshments and a raffle. Guests £3. All welcome.

Dates for your diary: **Plant sale**, Saturday 25th May at the Prince Memorial, and members’ evening meeting: 8th May, at Easton Lodge near Dunmow. Cost £6.50; details at the April meeting.

Hazel Leeson

GRANTA Medical Practices

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In January, Granta Medical Practice's clinicians saw / spoke to 20,256 patients. This number includes urgent appointments, routine appointments and telephone appointments. Unfortunately, there were an extra 1,026 appointments that patients did not attend (DNA).

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David's Expedition

Cambodia is a beautiful country, but has a dark side that I have attempted to bring light to.

In Laos I decided to paddle to Vietnam and document the plastic tide down the Mekong. This was a massive learning curve, as my first kayaking expedition, in a country that I'd never been to, which speaks little to no English, and solo at that!

The owner of the hostel in Don Det was doubtful that my homemade hammock would work so gave me one of his old and slightly broken ones. This set a trend and I was given gifts of food and little bits and pieces that I could not find in the Loatian markets. This was a great confidence booster and I will always be grateful for the parting gifts and support from backpackers just before I left.

I can understand why around the mooring sites in a town there was so much rubbish generated by the river people. With no easy alternatives, and lack of knowledge on plastic leakage etc, the fishermen discard all their rubbish on the bank because any extra weight that they and their family generate just slows their boat down and costs them more in fuel.

Although there was a lot of rubbish on the sides of the river, I found very little floating in the river. There were several occasions that I found it in mangroves, which essentially act as natural filters for the rivers, and again in fishing



traps, where the only thing the fishermen caught was plastic. Hopefully this means that most of the rubbish that the fishermen make is deposited on land, but I doubt this. It doesn't matter, as I would predict that come monsoon season, it all gets washed down to the sea anyway.

At Ruessej Chrouy, 25 km north of Cambodia's capital Phnom Penh, the beach was around 2 km long, completely filled with rubbish, with a couple of hundred people milling about their everyday business. With many beautifully decorated fishing boats moored to the bank, it was clear this was a popular site to sell the goods the Mekong provided. Families ate, worked and lived in this rubbish heap, but didn't seem to mind.



From this point onwards, even when there were no buildings on the banks, I still couldn't paddle more than 5 m without paddling past a piece of plastic. Ranging from full bin bags to small bottle caps, it was everywhere. All the way down to Vietnam, the problem stayed pretty constant and almost certainly got worse further into the delta,

At one point, on a beach where a lot of plastic had washed up, I saw a man and his son walking down and collecting the bottle caps (made from a valuable plastic that can be recycled) to sell back to the companies. They also collected aluminium cans and glass bottles that are heavily recycled in Cambodia (or sent or sold to another country for recycling) and have been so for some time. It was unclear if this was how

they made the majority of their money, but they were definitely there for profit and not to clean the beaches. This was still encouraging, as it shows that there is value in other people's rubbish, which could be a turning point if everyone was aware of this.

Plastic Free Cambodia are leading the charge on educating local people and organizations in the importance of living plastic free lives, or at least close as to them as possible, and I would like to thank everyone that contributes to such a great organization. I am so proud to be raising money for a program that has such a great leadership and education mission.

Thanks to everyone who has donated, or will donate. I have been humbled by your generosity, which has spurred me on since I made my Go Fund Me page (gf.me/u/q3w73p). Please carry on sharing the campaign and its updates, as this was the main aim for creating the page, although the money is greatly appreciated by myself, Plastic Free Cambodia and Surfers Against Sewage. Please feel free to contact me on Facebook, Instagram or email me:

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David Brearley



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Weston Colville facebook Page

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Sunday 14 th April	Songs of Praise (Palm Sunday), 4 pm	John & Scilla Harvey	n/a	Lent	Maggie
<i>Wednesday 17th April</i>	<i>Compline, 7.30 pm</i>	<i>Rev Kathy Bishop</i>			
Sunday 21 st April	Holy Communion	Very Rev Keith Johnson	Alex	Easter – all available	Sue
Sunday 28 th April	Holy Communion	Rev Iain McColl	Jenny	Linda	n/a

St Mary's, Weston Colville (9.15 am)		
Sunday 7 th April	United Service, Balsham, 10.30 am	Canon John Pinder
Sunday 14 th April	Morning Worship	Steven Wheeler
<i>Tuesday 16th April</i>	<i>Compline, 7.30 pm</i>	<i>Steven Wheeler</i>
Sunday 21 st April	Holy Communion	
Sunday 28 th April	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

April 2019

- Tue 2 Balsham Gardening Club
- Wed 3 West Wrattling Over 60s
Coffee Morning, Ellesmere Centre, Stetchworth
- Fri 5 Tea & Cakes, Weston Colville Reading Room
First Friday Bridge, West Wrattling
- Sat 6 Saturday Morning Café, West Wrattling
- Tue 9 Weston Colville Seniors, Reading Room
- Wed 10 Weston Colville Reading Room 'Pub Quiz'
- Sat 13 St Andrew's Churchyard Spring Clear-up
- Mon 15 West Wickham & District Gardening Club
- Wed 17 West Wrattling Book Club
- Thur 18 Lunch Club, The Chestnut Tree
- Sat 27 Jumble Sale, West Wickham
Tapestry Singers Concert, Gt Abington

May 2019

- Wed 1 Weston Colville Cinema Club, Reading Room
- Tue 7 Order deadline, West Wrattling Oil Syndicate
- Sun 12 Order deadline, Weston Colville Oil Co-operative
- Mon 13 West Wrattling Annual Parish Meeting
- Tue 14 Weston Colville Seniors Ely Cathedral Tour
- Wed 15 Weston Colville Annual Parish Meeting

Mobile library: Tuesday 2 nd April, Tuesday 7 th May		
High Street, West Wrattling	12.15 - 12.45 pm	
Post Office, Weston Green	1.50 - 2.15 pm	
Mill Hill, Weston Colville	2.20 - 2.50 pm	

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 Jeanine Kennedy, Pioneer Minister and LLM
tel: 893838 email: jeaninekenedygv@gmail.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
 West Wrattling Parish Clerk – Jenny Richards,
j.richards597@btinternet.com, 01223 665260
Church Administrator: Caroline (Cazzy) Walshe,
7churches.seven@gmail.com, 01223 891443
Parish Nurse: Claire Gillett,
7churches.parishnurse@gmail.com, 07498 994205

Black bins: Monday 8th & **Wednesday 24th April.**
Tuesday 7th & Monday 20th May
Blue & green bins: Mon 1st & 15th, **Tuesday 30th April,**
Monday 13th & **Tuesday 28th May**

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

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

May issue's copy date
Saturday 20th April.