

# Challenge

The Parish Newsletter of St Mary's, Weston Colville and St Andrew's, West Wrattling  
The views expressed herein are those of the contributors.  
Printed by E & E Plumridge Ltd, Linton (Cambridge 891407)

## Café Church

Sunday 10<sup>th</sup> March  
4 - 5 pm

West Wrattling Church

**Rachel & Will Simonson**

Environmental conservation specialists  
who worked with the A Rocha charity

**“Can the Environment  
be a Christian Cause?”**

Tea, coffee, cakes and activities for the younger ones.  
Everyone, all ages, welcome



## Tea and Cakes

It was a cold and snowy day for our February gathering, but lovely and warm in the Reading Room for the brave who ventured out. Jacqueline joined us in her new role on behalf of the Parish Nurse Project to ascertain our views on village life.



Thank you to everyone who makes Tea and Cakes possible. Our next gathering will be on Friday 1<sup>st</sup> March, 3.30 - 5 pm, at the Reading Room. Please come along for a chat and a cuppa. All welcome.

*Melanie (291319)*

## Spring Celebration

We're holding an afternoon celebration of spring on the Sunday before the equinox, 17<sup>th</sup> March, at 4 pm in Weston Colville Reading Room. You're invited to come and read a poem – it could be one you like about spring, one chosen from some I can send, or something you've written? You could show an image on the screen behind you, or have some accompanying music? We can broaden it out to include a Mothers' Day theme, which will also be coming up. Join us for a little ramble at 11 am on the same day to gather some greenery to decorate the Reading Room? If you'd like to, meet us there, maybe with secateurs. All ages welcome!

Refreshments available.

*jacquelinetheteacher@hotmail.com, 291475*



## Weston Colville Circular Walk

Our next walk, of approximately five miles, will be on Saturday 2<sup>nd</sup> March, meeting in the Reading Room at 10 am. BYO lunch and maybe something to share back in the Reading Room afterwards. All welcome, refreshments available.

Enquiries: *jacquelinetheteacher@hotmail.com, 291475.*

## Saturday Morning Café, West Wrattling

Join us for a catch up over tea / coffee and delicious cake at the next café on Saturday 2<sup>nd</sup> March 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.

Thanks to all who attended our February cafe! Granta School had a table there to demonstrate wooden block printing and it was wonderful to see the work they are producing. We have kept the wonderful display of photographs taken in the hall over the past few years, showcasing some of the activities which have taken or are taking place.

*Sherry (290070) and Catherine (291307)*

## West Wrattling Over 60s

We will meet as usual at The Chestnut Tree at 12.30 pm, to include lunch, on Wednesday 6<sup>th</sup> March. The following meeting on 3<sup>rd</sup> April will also be at The Chestnut Tree.

*Wendy Halls*



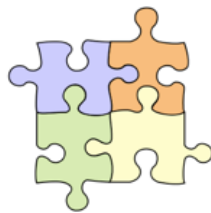
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**Bumble Bees Baby and Toddler Group**

Bumble Bees is held every Tuesday (term time only) from 10 am to 12 noon in The Reading Room, Weston Colville.



There are many different toys suitable for 0 - 5 year olds, a different craft activity each week, a garden with outside play equipment, songs, stories and a drink and snack for both adults and children. Come along and join in the fun! £2.50 per session (with an additional 50p for every additional sibling).

Term dates and planned craft activities for the rest of the spring term are as follows:

- Tuesday 5<sup>th</sup> March                      Pancake Day
- Tuesday 12<sup>th</sup> March                    St Patrick's Day craft
- Tuesday 19<sup>th</sup> March                    Butterfly Painting  
(aprons are provided)
- Tuesday 26<sup>th</sup> March                    Mothers Day craft
- Tuesday 2<sup>nd</sup> March                      Fluffy Sheep

Bumble Bees is closed on Tuesday 9<sup>th</sup> March and Tuesday 16<sup>th</sup> March for the Easter holidays, returning for the summer term on Tuesday 23<sup>rd</sup> March.

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**d'Abo Tennis Club AGM**

The tennis club's Annual General Meeting will be held on Wednesday 13<sup>th</sup> March at 7.30 pm.

As in previous years, Mr & Mrs Colin McCall have kindly offered to host the meeting in their home, The Old Vicarage, West Wrating, CB21 5LU.

All members are welcome to attend. If you are unable to attend the meeting but have any points to be raised, please send your comments by email to [admin@westwrattingtennis.co.uk](mailto:admin@westwrattingtennis.co.uk), or by post to the Treasurer, Mark Holme, Scarletts Farm, Padlock Road, West Wrating, CB21 5LS, to arrive by Monday 11<sup>th</sup> March.

**Cally Wilson**

**West Wrating Oil Syndicate**

There will be a West Wrating Syndicate fill up this month, with an order cut off of Monday 11<sup>th</sup> March 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.

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 possible 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 and emailed to you if you ordered by email.

**Richard Holness**

**Weston Colville Post Box**

The post box by the cricket green is finally back in operation, as of 8<sup>th</sup> February (three weeks later than we had been told, and many months after the old one had been removed). Many thanks to Cllr Ashbridge for chasing!

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### Weston Colville Cinema Club



For this month, we've chosen a comedy as we haven't had one of those for a while. On 6<sup>th</sup> March, our film stars Richard E. Grant, nominated for best supporting actor at this year's Oscars. In 'Withnail and I', he plays an eccentric actor resting in the country.



The film will be in the Reading Room at 7.30 pm. Donations; refreshments available; all welcome. Please note

there will be no film in April, and the cinema club will return in May.

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

### Weston Colville Seniors

Thank you for all your support in Allen's absence; he is making progress but still very weak.

At our February meeting, the talk by Alex Inzani about the Marsh Tits in Weston Colville and West Wrating was outstanding, with beautiful photos. Alex and Joyce had erected a ringing net outside to show how the birds are caught, and demonstrated this with a soft toy bat.

Our next meeting, on 12<sup>th</sup> March, will be a talk on scams with Ann Allen from Reach, and a short talk from Jacqueline on her role supporting the Parish Nurse in our villages. We will end with chair yoga with Charlotte, after more tea and biscuits to sustain us.

We will also look at meetings for the months ahead, including a visit to Ely Cathedral, date to be arranged.

Val and Allen (290837)

**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 ‘Pub’ Quiz**

We’ll be holding a quiz on Wednesday, 10<sup>th</sup> 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](mailto:jacquelinetheteacher@hotmail.com), 291475.

**West Wrating Book Club**

Our February book was ‘Melmoth’, Sarah Perry’s follow up to ‘The Essex Serpent’.

This book was, to a great extent, a reworking of the 1820 Gothic novel ‘Melmoth the Wanderer’ by Charles Maturin, an Irish playwright and clergyman, which itself has echoes of the story of the Wandering Jew. In particular, the conceit of having a number of different stories within the main story echoes the structure of Maturin’s book but the sex of the eponymous character is changed from male to female. These stories detail the histories and actions of those touched by Melmoth in varying historical eras and countries.

All agreed that it was a very dark story, with one of our number, who described it as very depressing and grim, unable to finish it. Other comments were that it was not pleasurable to read and had nothing nice

about it. Although another person agreed with these comments she felt that it did have more to it which redeemed it, reflecting certain human truths and the guilts, whether small or great, that we all carry and the way in which this can affect us. However, two of our number enjoyed it despite the dark themes and grimness. One of those identified particularly with the main setting of Prague. It was granted that it was brilliantly written, with certain scenes beautifully described, and it was written very cleverly. It was felt by one person that the ending gave no feeling of hope although another thought that there was a hint of redemption and a happier future for one character. Having recently read ‘Great Expectations’ it was agreed that one of the characters reminded us of Miss Havisham.

Given the differing views, it was not surprising that scores varied from 4 out of 10 to 8.5. Some felt that they could not recommend it while at least one person felt they would do so to those who enjoyed Gothic novels, with a ‘health warning’.

We will next meet at The Chestnut Tree at 8 pm on Wednesday 13<sup>th</sup> March to talk about ‘WarLight’ by Michael Ondaatje.

*Linda Gorman (290653)*

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*From the Rectory*

Spring time is often associated with a renewal of energy and fresh vision. This month there will be a new minister joining our team, Jeanine Kennedy, who will be living in Little Abington and working throughout our parishes. One of the many advantages of someone new joining a team is they may bring with them a fresh perspective. This can lead to a renewal of vision and energy, a different way of seeing the world.

As we approach Lent this month, the period of around 40 days prior to Easter, we may also experience this as a time of renewal. Lent has traditionally been a time of stepping back from regular patterns to reflect on life. Some aim to give something up; others to take something on. In either case it may encourage us to see the world differently and perhaps appreciate things we have been taking for granted. It may also help us, as St Paul said in his letter to the Romans, to “be transformed by the renewing of your minds”.

In the Christian faith during Lent we often reflect on the story of Jesus being led by the Holy Spirit into the wilderness for 40 days. Just prior to this, Jesus had



been baptized in the River Jordan and experienced a revelation affirming his identity as the Son of God. He was then led into the wilderness to discover more about what it meant to be the Son of God and maybe see the world anew.

Lent can also be a time when we renew our vision. Do we need to take a step back from our regular pattern of doing things to see with a different perspective? Do we need to review our priorities and be transformed by the renewing of our minds? Perhaps in doing so, we may become more aware of the sheer wonder of being human and of the pearl of great price, which is the presence of God in our lives.

*Revd Iain McColl*

*Pioneer Minister*

I am hugely excited about moving to the Abingtons and joining the Granta Vale Benefice as Pioneer Minister. The countryside is where my roots are and I am delighted that my children Wilber (aged 12) and Millie (aged 9) will be able to experience all that rural life has to offer. We will be having an open house at



the vicarage in Little Abington on Saturday 16<sup>th</sup> March between 2 and 4 pm, when all are welcome to pop in for tea and cake. We would love to see you.

I am really looking forward to building connections with everyone in the community and in

particular with people who are interested in faith, but perhaps don't feel that church is for them.

*Jeanine Kennedy*

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 for information on:  
 What's On                      Directory                      Parish Council  
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**Peter and Ruth Lloyd Trust**

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For further information about the trust and award please contact Jonathan Drury (01223 290968). For an application form please apply via email to: [peter.ruthlloydtrust@sky.com](mailto:peter.ruthlloydtrust@sky.com)

The application form and supporting documents must be received at the latest by 31<sup>st</sup> March.

**Weston Colville Cricket Club**

It's been a difficult couple of years for Weston Colville Cricket Club. In common with a lot of other village clubs, we've been finding it tougher and tougher to raise two adult sides and in 2018 we withdrew the 2<sup>nd</sup> XI. Over the winter, we've lost more players and it's become clear that we don't have the resources to run a senior team in 2019. Consequently, we've taken the regrettable decision to



withdraw from the CCA adult leagues. It's more of a shame because only five years ago, the 1<sup>st</sup> XI played in the Hunts and Cambs Premier League, way above the level where a small village would normally play.

We want to stress that the junior section under the leadership of Steve Potter and Trevor Westley is still healthy and will continue in 2019.

We hope that if the junior teams continue to be successful, we can raise an adult side in the future.

We're always looking for support for the junior teams, both financial and time. If you feel that you'd like to contribute to a valuable village facility, you can contact Steve at [steve.potter113@btinternet.com](mailto:steve.potter113@btinternet.com).

*Andy Brightmore, Chairman*

**Wanted – Balls of Knitting Wool**

I have just started knitting 6" squares for a church in Cambridge, to be made into blankets for new mothers in Ethiopia who then take the blankets home – this may be their only possession, but I am short of wool to do this.

If you have any wool I could collect please contact me: Joanna Sanders, Nine Chimney House, Balsham (01223 893063, [sanderschimneys@uwclub.net](mailto:sanderschimneys@uwclub.net)).

  
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***Dog Poo Problems***

It is a recurrent problem, but there has been an increase in dog fouling on The Green outside people's houses, which is a busy route for children getting on and off the bus and toddlers waiting for school drop offs/pick ups. The corner of Horseshoe Lane is a particular concern. There is no excuse for it, especially as the dog waste bin is across the road by the cricket pitch.

***Weston Colville Parish Council***

Having recently moved to Weston Colville I assumed it to be a lovely village with neighbourly residents. For the most part this is true except for the few who feel it way beneath them to clear up their dog poo; it was even on our drive today, and a new bin stands within five yards. These people are not only disgusting but give others a bad name and obviously have no respect whatsoever for other people, ie their neighbours! I really feel it's such a shame, as the footpaths in this area are superb and have many other users including children. So please, dog owners, start acting more responsibly and clear it up.

***Nigel Clayson***

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**Weston Colville Marsh Tit Study**

We have good news this month.

So far, 59 resightings of colour-ringed Marsh Tits were submitted by resighters this year. Eight colour-ringed Marsh Tits have been seen, so have survived the winter. Not one of them is under two years old. A special mention in resighting despatches goes to Joyce Oliver, Dr John Rogers, Anne Bragg, and Ben Eeles. Well done, all!

Two years is the usual age at which wild Marsh Tits go to meet their Maker, so round here the Marsh Tits are long-lived. In fact, very long-lived: three of the birds seen – Red over White over Black on Left 'Guvnor', Red over White over Green on Left 'Useless Eustace' and Black over Red on Left 'Moaty' – are two years old or more; two are at least four years old (double the wild lifespan) and three – Red over Green on Left 'King Charles the First', White over Green on Left 'Pacer' and Red over Black on Left 'Rob' – are at least five years old! This is astonishing for a species in steep decline elsewhere in the UK.

Please keep your eyes peeled for these old ladies and gents, and especially the young pretenders. 'Guvnor' has been making his presence felt across Weston Colville, from the northwestern end of Mill Hill south as far as the edge of civilisation by the old Methodist Chapel along Chapel Road, where the farmland begins. Reports please to me ([cambsmarti@gmail.com](mailto:cambsmarti@gmail.com)), Mel ([m\\_stammers@btinternet.com](mailto:m_stammers@btinternet.com)) or Challenge. Thank you for helping these rare and charismatic birds.



And for something completely different: thanks to the generosity of the Wadlow Wind Farm Fund and Mackays of Cambridge, we are acquiring two camera

feeders. One has just started trials, and has already achieved a first: two colour-ringed Marsh Tits in the same photo!

These birds are Red over White over Green 'Useless Eustace' and a partially identified bird, where we can only see a solitary Black ring on the left leg. This could be one of three birds: Green Right, Black Left 'Lord Sparkington',



Red Right, Black Left 'Baron von Richthofen' or Yellow Right, Black Left 'Dexter'. It's early spring and birds are likely to be going about in pairs. Useless Eustace is an adult with a wing length of 64 mm, making him almost certainly male (97% certainty, according to the Marsh Tit guru and my mentor, Dr Richard Broughton). So Black Ring on Left is probably female. With an adult wing length of 61 - 62 mm, 'Lord Sparkington' is in fact 100% Lady Sparkington. The Red Baron has a wing length of 66 mm, making us 97% sure he's male, and 'Dexter's' 62 - 63 mm wing makes us 83% certain of her femininity. Thus, it's reasonable to rule out the Red Baron (who's only been seen twice anyway, the last time in November 2017).

**Alex Inzani and the superlative resighters and members of the South Cambs Ringing Group**



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**2523 Linton Squadron Air Training Corps**

In February we held our annual presentation evening, attended by cadets and their



families and friends. Some impressive headline numbers are as follows: 9 bronze Duke of Edinburgh's awards, 4 BTEC Level 2, and 27 Air Cadet exam passes.



Twenty Linton cadets including our banner party joined the rest of the sector on the annual ATC Sunday parade in Swavesey. As always our banner party looked excellent and you could see the pride and attention to detail that had gone into every single cadet's uniform and appearance for the parade.



We have capacity for new cadets to join, so if you or someone you know is 12 years 6 months old and in year 8 please get in touch for more information.

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**Local contact for Linton District is Louisa on 01223 833776, louisapowell@hotmail.co.uk**

**Weston Colville Winter Lunch**

We had a great time and much fun getting the Winter Lunch off the ground again in January. Over £750 was raised and, more importantly, nearly 60 people enjoyed a very convivial roast lunch together in the



Reading Room. We must do it again! My sincere thanks to all those who kindly prepared and donated the food and also to the many helpers who gave generously of their time. Combined with other fund-raising efforts before Christmas, we can now afford to paint the walls of the church!

**Bob Coates (07785 361345)**



\* Eat Well   \* Live Well   \* Celebrate Community

# BALSHAM SPRING MARKET

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## Saturday 9th March

2pm to 4pm  
Balsham Church Institute

Café serving cakes and cream teas  
Tombola



### ***Balsham Spring Market***

Saturday 9<sup>th</sup> March, 2 - 4 pm,  
Balsham Church Institute

Join us for our first market of 2019. We have a full house with some new stall holders including Little Linton Red Polls, Neals Yard Remedies and Tansy Country Crafts. We will have our popular Tombola and Camps International Cambodia fundraiser. If you are the 55<sup>th</sup> person to walk through our door, you will win a hamper filled with goodies for Mothers' Day. The cafe will be open, serving up cake and cream teas. Hope to see you there!

***Debbie Paton***

### ***Granta 'Group Consultations'***

We will shortly be holding 'Group Consultations', also known as 'Shared Medical Appointments'. These are organised meetings comprising of 10 to 15 patients with the same condition or set of clinical problems, coming together in a supportive group setting. This allows patients with long term medical conditions to learn from each other as well as from clinicians. Sessions will last from one to two hours, including a one-to-one with a health care professional.

Group consultations can be used for a wide variety of long-term health conditions such as diabetes, respiratory conditions, skin conditions, weight issues

and many more. The first condition to be focussed on is diabetes. If you would like to register your interest please contact Kelly Austin, Granta Social Navigator. For more information about group consultations go to [www.groupconsultations.com](http://www.groupconsultations.com)

***Jennifer Aston, Advanced Nurse Practitioner***

**GRANTA** Medical Practices

### ***Lent Lunch***

The 15<sup>th</sup> annual Lent Lunch will be held at 12.30 on Friday 22<sup>nd</sup> March at Nine Chimneys, Balsham, in aid of Tariro, a small charity helping to educate orphans in Zimbabwe. All welcome, so please come and join us for soup, cheese and fruit.

***Joanna Sanders (893063)***



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**All are welcome at the Community Hub for our monthly gathering with tea, coffee and refreshments.**

We also offer help and advice from the Parish Nurse project, community workers working alongside the Parish Nurse, members of the seven churches ministry team, Reach Community Projects, and other local organisations.

**Granta Vale Community Hub, Church Institute, Church Lane, Balsham CB21 4DS**  
**Thursdays 1.30 - 3.30 pm** on the following dates:  
 7<sup>th</sup> March, 4<sup>th</sup> April, 2<sup>nd</sup> May, 6<sup>th</sup> June, 4<sup>th</sup> July,  
 1<sup>st</sup> August, 5<sup>th</sup> September, 3<sup>rd</sup> October,  
 7<sup>th</sup> November, 5<sup>th</sup> December

**WORLD DAY OF PRAYER**  
 (A WOMEN-LED, GLOBAL, ECUMENICAL MOVEMENT)




World Day of Prayer is an international, inter-church organisation. This year's service has been prepared by women of Slovenia, one of the smallest and youngest countries in Europe, who encourage us to reflect on the barriers they have faced since the end of the Second World War.

The service will be at Balsham on Friday 1<sup>st</sup> March at 11 am, with refreshments afterwards.

**Update on David's Expedition**

It has been three weeks since I arrived in Laos. My initial positive impression of the country and its people hasn't altered; in fact, the longer I stay here, the more I find myself falling in love with every aspect that this country has to offer.

Everyone recycles cans and glass bottles here. There are constantly beer crates full with empty bottles outside restaurants, waiting to be sent back to BeerLao. They also collect the tins and send them to a recycling plant and get paid for the material. Why? Because they don't burn . . . that's right, everything that can be burnt and turned into ash, will be.



They don't have a central landfill for non-recyclables. Instead, they make big piles of rubbish and burn it. In Indonesia, they were used to using natural materials and so rubbish that they threw into the river would go back to the land and degrade in a short amount of time. When plastic came around, they did what they had been doing for hundreds of years and threw it into the river, creating the situation they now have.

The next part of my journey involves kayaking down the Mekong through Cambodia.

*David Brearley*

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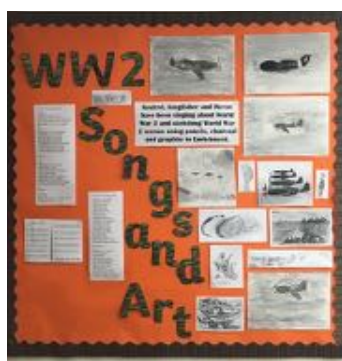
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### *The Meadow School*

Spring term always feels like a quick one, and as teachers met to discuss children's progress at Parents' Evenings this week, it suddenly dawned on them that we are already half way through another academic year.

Along with the sunshine outside, the school environment suddenly appears much brighter. Teachers have worked hard to put their displays up around school, each display purposefully planned to match the learning of each year group. As you walk around school, it is clear to see the progression across the school, with photographs of the very youngest children learning in their environment, to pages of beautifully neat writing or art work from our older children.



This term, Year 5 and 6 have been immersing themselves in World War Two, and grappling with very adult themes of appeasement and the rights and wrongs of war. Although we might dismiss talking to our children about these topics in

current affairs, the maturity of the discussions which have taken place in class have made it very clear that given the right skills, our children are not only able to understand these themes but that they also have very strong opinions themselves!

One of the defining elements of each topic this term, has been the access to quality children's literature linked to each topic. Years 5 and 6 have been reading 'Good Night Mr Tom' by Michelle Magorian. The children have absolutely loved exploring the themes

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of evacuation through the book and have written some amazing emotive diaries. In Years 3 and 4, the children have continued their interest in the Polar regions through the fantastic book 'Ice Palace' by Robert Swindells. This book is excellent for teaching new vocabulary and the children have used the book to write their own endings to the story, using the new language they have learnt. In Years 1 and 2, the teachers have used a beautifully illustrated wordless picture book called 'Journey' by Aaron Becker. The children have absolutely loved studying the illustrations and inferring the story through the pictures, eventually painting their own settings and writing their own adventure stories. It has been so lovely using high quality books which inspire children's imagination and their writing. We are really looking forward to World Book Day, when we are planning to use 'Lost Words' by Robert MacFarlane and Jackie Morris as a whole-school art and literacy topic.

As always, we are keen to gather a network of volunteers to hear our children read in school. If you have a spare hour to spare, then please do contact the office to speak to someone about how you might be able to help.

*Helen Loe, Assistant Headteacher*



**Caroline Pinkham-Smith**

MCFHP MAFHP

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**Marsh Mail**

There are a number of international and national days, some of which we observe and celebrate at Linton Village College.



20<sup>th</sup> March will mark French Language Day and International Day of Happiness. Fortuitously a large group of our Year 10 GCSE students will spend this day in France enjoying a week of immersive language speaking. The Chateau trip has become an important experience for our students, allowing them to sample the culture and language of a foreign country to help to give real life context and motivation for their academic studies. It also provides a rich programme of activities that promote team work and encourage students to venture out of their comfort zones. The pictures from muddy outdoor orienteering capture the fun and exhilaration of this enrichment opportunity.

Our International Schools Award recognises our commitment to international learning activities. It is important that young people have a window into different cultures and countries, while developing as responsible global citizens.

We are hugely successful in both ABRSM exams and Arts Award at Bronze, Silver and Gold. These are an

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important recognition of the College's success in delivering a broad and balanced curriculum experience. This year's school production, 'Annie', will showcase the great talents and hard work of a large number of our students and the skills and hard work of our arts team at LVC. It is brilliant to see so many young people taking part in arts activities and enjoying and taking pride in creative ventures and performances.

The development of arts leaders amongst college staff and students has helped to extend this experience to younger students at local schools. Pupils at our Trust primary schools have benefited from enriching arts opportunities this academic year including African clay mask-making at The Meadow School, singing tuition at Howard Community Primary School resulting in a performance in the Young Voices concert at the O2, and a growing arts partnership provision at Linton Heights Junior School.

Our team of CALSAs (Cultural Arts Leaders in Schools and Academies) and the Arts Cluster are currently preparing for an arts festival to take place in the summer term involving a range of students from CHET schools and across the locality.

*Helena Marsh, Principal*

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### *The Ellesmere Centre, Stetchworth*



**Tiny Toes Ballet** – Twinkle Toes (18 mths - 2½ yrs); Talent Toes (2½ yrs - 4 yrs); Spinners (5 - 6 yrs). For details contact [oonagh@tinytoesballet.co.uk](mailto:oonagh@tinytoesballet.co.uk)

**Family Yoga** – free trial session on Tuesday 12<sup>th</sup> March at 4.15 pm. For more details contact Marta Maj on [marta.maj@mmhealthandfitness.co](mailto:marta.maj@mmhealthandfitness.co)

**Walking Netball** would still welcome new members.



This is a great fun group and all abilities are welcome-whether you have experience or have never played before. Come along and give it a try on Tuesday mornings at 9.30 am.

**Carpet Bowls** – drop in session on Wednesday evenings (when there is no match). If you are interested in a friendly game please contact Ray Pollington on [scamper66@hotmail.com](mailto:scamper66@hotmail.com) or call the centre and leave your number.



**Senior Table Tennis** on Monday and Friday afternoons 1.30 - 3.30 pm also welcomes new members. Please call the centre if you are interested.

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

### *Balsham Gardening Club*

It was with sadness that we reported the death of our friend, long time member and treasurer Pat Faircloth. Her quiet manner yet keen sense of humour will be greatly missed. Pat had a talent with flowers and her arrangements were always thoughtful and inspired.



Our speaker at the February meeting was Geoff Hodge who, as a writer for many magazines and websites as well as presenter on local radio, was more than qualified to deliver his topic – the war on weeds!

From the outset he admitted there is no wonder cure but knowing your enemy was the key to giving yourself a chance to eradicate the scourge of most people's gardens. Whilst annual and biennial weeds are annoying, the perennials are the most challenging. Geoff then explained that in this 'guerilla war' an arsenal of weapons may be needed. Hand tools were discussed and it was agreed that the hoe was the most useful in this category. Weedkillers, used wisely, are another form of defence, whether it be a RTU (ready to use) spray, concentrate or ready mixed sachet. It is always important to follow the instructions precisely. Choosing the correct weedkiller is also vital if you are to see results.

Once weeds are under control, mulching is a good idea but at an ideal thickness of 3 to 4 inches it can be costly. Ground cover plants are another way of forcing out the weeds, and a variety from shrubs to herbaceous perennials were suggested.

Geoff kindly donated tools to the raffle and I think we all left feeling armed to face the enemy in the garden.

Dave Arnold has kindly organised our May meeting, which will be a trip to Great Easton Lodge near Dunmow on Wednesday 8<sup>th</sup> May at 5pm, cost £6.50. Please let Bren know if you would like to go and whether or not you will need a lift.

Our next meeting will be on Tuesday 5<sup>th</sup> March, 7.15 for 7.30 in The Meadow School, when our own Alice Warley will be speaking on 'Plants of the Arizona Desert' and their uses by the indigenous people. We were pleased to welcome new members at the last meeting – please come and give us a try! Raffle and refreshments. Guests £3.

*Hazel Leeson, Jennie Tipler*

### *Weston Colville facebook Page*

Weston Colville has a facebook page, where information can be shared, especially if it needs immediate attention or note. Have a look at the page on facebook and click on the 'join' link to get the latest news.



*Peter Milner (290540)*

## Cambridgeshire Fire & Rescue Service

Have you had your chimney swept in the last year? 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.

### Chimneys and Open 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 (eg 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 2 years)
- Avoid wet or newly felled wood as this will cause tars/ creosote deposits forming 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, test your alarm weekly by pressing the test button and know the life of your battery.
- Always 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.

For more information, contact us at



[firefire@cambsfire.gov.uk](mailto:firefire@cambsfire.gov.uk) or on 0800 917 9994.

## Granta Deanery

supporting the churches' work with young people in village communities in South Cambridgeshire

# Spring Fair



## Saturday 30<sup>th</sup> March

10 am – noon

Great Shelford Memorial Hall

Cakes \* Produce \* White Elephant  
Toys \* Jigsaws \* China \* Glass  
Card & Craft \* Gifts \* Tombola \* Raffle  
Refreshments \* Wide range of Books

Entrance: Adults 50p Children Free

Babraham, Balsham, Bartlow, Castle Camps, Duxford, Great Shelford, Harston, Hauxton, Hildersham, Hinxton, Horseheath, Ickleton, Linton, Little Shelford, Newton, Pampisford, Sawston, Shudy Camps, Stapleford, The Abingtons, West Wickham, West Wrating, Weston Colville, Whittlesford

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St Andrew's, West Wrattling (10.45 am)			SET UP	FLOWERS	CLEANING
Sunday 3 <sup>rd</sup> March	United Service, <b>Balsham, 10.30 am</b>	Rev Iain McColl	n/a	Alex	n/a
Sunday 10 <sup>th</sup> March	Café Church, <b>4 pm</b>	John & Scilla Harvey	n/a	Lent	Maggie
Sunday 17 <sup>th</sup> March	Holy Communion	Very Rev Keith Johnson	Sisse	Lent	n/a
Sunday 24 <sup>th</sup> March	Holy Communion	Rev Iain McColl	Alex	Lent	Sue
Sunday 31 <sup>st</sup> March	Mothering Sunday, joint service with Weston Colville and West Wickham	Steven Wheeler	Jenny	Posies	

St Mary's, Weston Colville (9.15 am)		
Sunday 3 <sup>rd</sup> March	United Service, <b>Balsham, 10.30 am</b>	Rev Iain McColl
Sunday 10 <sup>th</sup> March	Holy Communion	Very Rev Keith Johnson
Sunday 17 <sup>th</sup> March	Holy Communion	Rev Kathy Bishop
Sunday 24 <sup>th</sup> March	Holy Communion	Rev Iain McColl
Sunday 31 <sup>st</sup> March	Mothering Sunday, <b>Balsham, 10.45 am</b>	Steven Wheeler
<b>Flowers, Cleaning</b>	Gay	

## 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

### March 2019

Fri 1	World Day of Prayer, Balsham Tea & Cakes, Weston Colville Reading Room
Sat 2	First Friday Bridge, West Wrattling Saturday Morning Café, West Wrattling Circular Walk from Reading Room Daisy Chains Quiz, West Wickham
Mon 4	Weston Colville Parish Council
Tue 5	Balsham Gardening Club
Wed 6	West Wrattling Over 60s Weston Colville Cinema Club, Reading Room
Sat 9	Balsham Spring Market
Mon 11	Order deadline, West Wrattling Oil Syndicate West Wrattling Parish Council
Tue 12	Weston Colville Seniors, Reading Room
Wed 13	West Wrattling Book Club Tennis Club AGM, West Wrattling
Sat 16	Open House, Little Abington Vicarage
Sun 17	Spring Celebration, Reading Room
Thu 21	Lunch Club, The Chestnut Tree
Fri 22	Lent Lunch, Balsham
Fri 29	Portable Pint, Weston Colville Reading Room
Sat 30	Granta Deanery Spring Fair, Great Shelford
Sun 31	Deadline, Peter & Ruth Lloyd Trust applications

<b>Mobile library:</b> Tuesday 5 <sup>th</sup> March, Tuesday 2 <sup>nd</sup> April
High Street, West Wrattling 12.15 - 12.45
Post Office, Weston Green 1.50 - 2.15
Mill Hill, Weston Colville 2.20 - 2.50

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  
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 Mrs Jeanine Kennedy, Pioneer Minister and LLM  
tel: 893838 email: [jeaninekenedygv@gmail.com](mailto: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](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 11<sup>th</sup> & 25<sup>th</sup> March,  
Monday 8<sup>th</sup> & **Wednesday 24<sup>th</sup> April**

**Blue & green bins:** Monday 4<sup>th</sup> & 18<sup>th</sup> March,  
Monday 1<sup>st</sup> & 15<sup>th</sup>, **Tuesday 30<sup>th</sup> April**

**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.

**April issue's copy date**  
**Wednesday 20<sup>th</sup> March.**