

# Challenge

The Parish Newsletter of St Mary's, Weston Colville and St Andrew's, West Wrating

The views expressed herein are those of the contributors.

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

## Tea and Cakes

The rain didn't keep people away for our June gathering, in which we collected £80 for Stand Up 2 Cancer. Everyone enjoyed David Marsden's stunning exhibition of wood craft made from wood from our own Lower Wood.



Thank you to all have have volunteered to help with Tea and Cakes after last month's appeal.

We meet next on Friday 5<sup>th</sup> July, 3.30 - 5 pm, at the Reading Room. All welcome. Please come along for a cuppa, a piece of cake and a chat.

*Melanie (291319)*

## Granta Vale Community Hub

Thursday 4<sup>th</sup> July, 1.30 – 3.30 pm

All are welcome for a cream tea and chat at our monthly Community Hub in the Church Institute in Balsham.



We also offer help and advice from the Parish Nurse Project, Reach Community Project and other local organisations.

*Steve Jordan*

## Saturday Morning Café, West Wrating

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

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

*Sherry (290070) and Catherine (291307)*

## West Wrating Over 60s

Last month, thanks to Ann and Roy, we enjoyed a very sociable afternoon in their garden, the weather was ideal, and we appreciated the very well-managed garden ranging from productive vegetable plots to flowers and borders containing a variety of colourful plants.

Thanks to Jo, our next garden next meeting will be at Tower View, Linton on Wednesday 3<sup>rd</sup> July at 2 pm, to include bring'n'buy and our usual raffle.

The meeting on 7<sup>th</sup> August will be a garden meeting at The Land Settlement, Abington. Time yet to be arranged.

*Wendy Halls*

**Café Church**

**Sunday 14<sup>th</sup> July**

**4-5 pm**

West Wrating Church



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### *Weston Colville Seniors*

It was so nice to see you all again back in the Reading Room for our June meeting.

Our speaker Bernadette Merry from NatWest Bank gave a very informative and sometimes scary presentation on 'Scams and How to Avoid Them', with detailed accounts of how people had lost large sums of money because they had been taken in by a friendly person calling them and being really helpful and gaining access to their personal information. Never ever give your bank details over the phone, or let someone have access to your computer, also make sure your phone has disconnected when you put it down. This was a free presentation set up by the bank and she is available for talks to local groups.

Our next meeting will be on Tuesday 9<sup>th</sup> July in the Reading Room at 2.30 pm, where we will be discussing future plans for our group over tea and biscuits of course. We will also take part in Art Therapy, and chair yoga with Charlotte. Please come along, we really need more members. We are a friendly group, and you can contact me by phone or email.

*Val (290837, valscakesuk@gmail.com)*

### *Weston Colville Circular Walk*

The next walk, of approximately five miles, will be on Saturday 20<sup>th</sup> July and will take in the site of Horseheath Hall. Our walk this time will be guided by Janet Morris of West Wickham Historical Club, who gave us a talk on the hall last year and suggested this follow up. So as a one-off, we're meeting at West Wickham Village Hall, where there's parking, though it might be good, if you know of anyone else coming, to arrange car shares? BYO lunch and maybe

something to share back in the Reading Room afterwards. All welcome, refreshments available. Enquiries (eg if you'd like directions to the meeting point): [jacquelinetheteacher@hotmail.com](mailto:jacquelinetheteacher@hotmail.com), 291475.

### *Lost Sunglasses*

I dropped my Raybans in a brown leather-look case while on a walk from Weston Colville to West Wrating and Balsham. If you see or have seen them, would you be able to let me know? I bought them about 25 years ago and feel lost without them.

Thanks.

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

### *West Wrating Oil Syndicate Lives On!*

My name is Phil Tempest and I live in West Wrating. I have now taken over the West Wrating Oil Syndicate from Richard Holness, so please note the change of email address.

There will be a West Wrating Oil Syndicate fill-up this month, and the order cut-off is Monday 8<sup>th</sup> July at 6.30 pm. Please don't place your orders until 1<sup>st</sup> July as they can get missed.

Place your orders either by email to me at [WestWratingOil@gmail.com](mailto:WestWratingOil@gmail.com) (put your surname 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. In addition to the regular suppliers, I may use BoilerJuice or another order consolidation website, whoever gives the best price.

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*Richard Tempest ( WestWrattlingOil@gmail.com )*

### Summer Tennis Camp: West Wrattling

This year Ali Mcgee will be running a tennis camp on our court in West Wrattling from Monday 5<sup>th</sup> to Wednesday 7<sup>th</sup> August.

Classes cost £8 each and will run daily from 9 - 10.30 am for 5 - 8 year olds and 10.30 - 12 for 9 - 15 year olds.

If you would like more information or to book a place on the tennis camp please contact Ali on 07581 087325 or [alimcgee123@yahoo.com](mailto:alimcgee123@yahoo.com)

*Cally Wilson*

### West Wrattling Parish Council

The next meeting will now be on Monday 15<sup>th</sup> July at 8 pm, rather than Monday 8<sup>th</sup> July.

*Jenny Richards*



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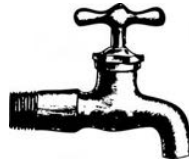
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## West Wrating Book Club

Our book for June was 'Normal People' by Sally Rooney, winner of the 2018 Costa Novel Award.

One or two people found it difficult to get into this book but found it worth reading once they did. Some said they had very much enjoyed it and were fascinated to know what would happen next, and one person said it was not what they would normally read but found it quite gripping. It is not an obvious relationship between Marianne and Connor, two people from different backgrounds linked by the fact that one of their mothers cleans for the other and that they go to the same school. She is the odd girl with no friends and he is the popular boy who everyone likes, but there is an electric connection between them. Gradually we learn more about their backgrounds and how their relationship with their families affects how they relate to each other.

The story captures the pain and anxieties of teenagers as they try to work out who they are, what they want and what matters. This explored the problems of depression among the young particularly when away from home at university, a very current concern. It also covers how violence in families can affect later behaviour and relationships, making people



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subservient and brutalised. It is very well observed and written and is quite accessible. One or two thought the ending disappointing and unsatisfactory. However, all would recommend it and scores ranged between 7 and 8.

We will now have a break for summer, and will next meet at The Chestnut Tree at 8 pm on Wednesday 16<sup>th</sup> September. The books to be reading are 'The Diary of Anne Frank' and 'Wilding' by Isabelle Tree.

For October, we will be reading 'The Turn of the Screw' by Henry James (date to be confirmed) which will be a link-up with the Weston Colville film club

*Linda Gorman (290653)*

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Parish History	Local Sports	Village Hall Events
Church News	Parish Matters	Village Calendar

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

**Dog Fouling**

I've received a letter about dog fouling, in response to the comment in last month's Challenge about the mess on the footpaths. In particular fouling had been noticed on the cricket field at Weston Colville, despite the notices saying that all dogs should be kept on leads while on the field. In addition, dogs should be kept out of the fenced play area.



As the subject of dog fouling is raised regularly, and nothing seems to get through to the hard core of dog walkers who give the rest of us a bad name, I'm showing an excerpt from the SCDC website:

“Considerate dog owners are always welcome in South Cambridgeshire; please clear up after your dog to keep it a pleasant place for everybody.

You can use any plastic bag to pick up your dog's waste and put it in one of the dog waste bins or litter bins. Dog waste from your garden can be double-bagged and placed in your waste bin.

It is important for all dog owners to take responsibility for cleaning up after their animal as, not only is it unpleasant to look at, and even more unpleasant to step in, it can also pose a health risk. For example, *Toxocariasis* is a rare infection caused by roundworms in the digestive tracts of dogs. It can cause headaches, eye problems and fever in humans if they come into contact with it.

If you spot a dog fouling problem, you can report it to us using our online form.

We can fine those who fail to pick up after their dog £50, so please ensure you have bags or poop scoops with you every time you walk your dog.”

*Anne Bragg*



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*Weston Colville Cricket Club*



The summer schedule was further disrupted when Haverhill withdrew from the u13 league. That left just three teams, ourselves plus Sawston and Thriplow. As reported last month Linton had already withdrawn so fixtures in May were few and far between. Prior to their withdrawal we did have a game against Haverhill where the visitors were bowled out for 35, with three wickets for Bethan Todd and two each for Josh Vellacott, Zack Earl and Fletcher Daniels. Only one wicket was lost in reaching the target, with Jasmine Westley 19 not out.

The next game was the return fixture with Sawston. This was a much closer game and all members of the team made a contribution. Batting first, Weston scored 118 for 3 with Niall Graham leading the way with 29. There was good support from Teddie Clifton with 17 and a generous helping of extras which boosted the total. In reply all of the outfield players had a bowl, with wickets evenly spread, but the main feature was the fielding. Daniel Jackson and George Green both effected run outs with excellent ground fielding, and overall the commitment and effort was excellent. Sawston were bowled out for 81.

With the u11 league not taking off this year we were left with a number of friendlies and there have been two games

against Haverhill. u11 games give players their first taste of competitive



cricket and for many this was their first game. At this level it is all about taking part, and over the two games, twenty players have represented the club. We hope to have at least one more friendly with Haverhill before the end of the season.

The cricket club would like to thank the members of the Tea & Cakes group for their generous donation which has enabled caps to be provided for all the junior players.

*Steve Potter*



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## *From the Rectory*

Here we are, in the summer, and at the time of writing 'June Revels' has just taken place at the Meadow primary school in Balsham. It's a wonderful fundraising event with bouncy castles and other fun activities and stalls. My children had a great time but it's also a time for parents to catch up with each other and support the school. It is one of many community events in our villages held over the summer months, as we hope to enjoy the sunnier weather outdoors. These kind of events remind us how strengthening our relationships and community life may enhance our sense of purpose and wellbeing.

Part of the church's mission is to pray for and help communities to flourish. We employ a parish nurse and engage two community workers with the vision of helping to sustain 'compassionate, connected communities'. Our community workers, Steve Jordan and Jacqueline Douglas, work alongside our parish nurse Claire Gillett, as they seek to support people's



health and wellbeing and empower others. We also run a 'Community Hub' on the first Thursday afternoon of each month at the Church Institute in Balsham. This provides a community space, with free cake and coffee, and is regularly attended by our parish nurse and community workers. We will shortly be starting a similar 'Community Hub' at the Institute in Great Abington and all are welcome at either or both of these.

This vision also draws upon the words of Jesus in the gospels, calling people to love God and love your neighbour as yourself. Jesus said that no other commandments were greater than these. This way of seeing the world is at the heart of his gospel. It informs an understanding of human beings as interdependent and sees our humanity shaped by our relationship with God and each other. When we experience fragmentation and conflict in our lives, it can be transformative to remind ourselves of these gospel words, and to pray for and seek the wellbeing of people and places around us.

*Revd Iain McColl*

**Weston Colville Marsh Tit Study**

Welcome to July! Over the last month, we have welcomed the old and the new. No young Marsh Tits yet, as we haven't ringed in the woods for the last two months, so they can breed in peace.

The fledglings have a lot of yellow on them. If you're the first to see one, please let us know at [cambsmarti@gmail.com](mailto:cambsmarti@gmail.com), Mel ([m\\_stammers@btinternet.com](mailto:m_stammers@btinternet.com)) or **Challenge**. Thank you.

In a Mill Hill garden, we encountered a Wood Pigeon who was remarkably relaxed in our company from the outset. (They're strong birds, weighing over half a kilo, which can accelerate flying straight up. If they want to kick up a fuss, they can easily do so). We discovered that this venerable Pigeon had been ringed by us almost exactly three years ago. Upon release, the bird simply walked away across the lawn, roused its feathers, then lifted itself about two metres onto the shed roof, where it watched us sleepily for quite a while. Not your usual reaction from a wild bird! It's hard to avoid the conclusion that it recognised us and knew it was safe.

Here is another columbid, a Stock Dove, expertly held by Joyce. Notice the dark eye and absence of white markings other than the bill. It's the only wild pigeon here that likes to nest in cavities and nestboxes. We don't see them very often.



And now, the youngsters of the season. We start with a very recently fledged Coal Tit. Like most juvenile Tits, they are VERY lemon yellow in colour. With the usual brazen chutzpah of the Paridae, emboldened



even further by youth, this tiny bird – only just heavier than a 2p coin – is sizing up Joyce's finger for another peck.

At my home in Letchworth, a nestful of Great Tits has taken up residence in the flue vent brick in my kitchen. The cheeping is incredible and goes on from dawn to dusk. That's over 15 hours, btw. I daren't turn on the radio or the light; even boiling the kettle starts up the cacophony – they think I'm Mum or Dad coming home with the bacon. Great Tit chicks fledge just nineteen days after hatching. It seems far longer than that already.

Lastly, we have a fledgling Great Spotted Woodpecker for you. The red crown is the giveaway of a young bird, hatched this year.

You can't tell if they're boys or girls until the red patch develops on the back of the head in adult males (or not, for females). Interestingly, both males and females develop a bare patch on the tum for brooding eggs and chicks. In most species, only females do so. We were grateful that this youngster realised we were harmless very quickly, as it can make a staccato screech as loud as a car alarm if it chooses, which makes your ears ring and sets off all the household dogs within a quarter of a kilometre. Not the best way to make friends and influence people!



Enjoy your high summer, and keep your eyes peeled for those young fledglings begging for yet more food from their harassed parents.

*Alex Inzani and the early-rising South Cambridgeshire Ringing Group*



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**Bathroom Cabinet**

Bathroom cabinet available for collection from Weston Colville, W: 60 cm, H: 70cm, D: 14cm, mirrored outside and inside, with two glass shelves. Good condition.

Donation accepted but not necessary.



*Cindy or Peter (290160)*

**2018-2019 Reports from West Wratting Clubs and Activities for Parish Meeting**

**West Wratting Parish Council Chairman's Report**

Since the last meeting there have been a couple of changes in the membership of the parish council. Campbell Ross-Bain has stepped down from the chair with me as his replacement, and has resigned from the parish council, so we are pleased to welcome Barry Glennon-Lynch as our new parish councillor.

The parish council owns and is responsible for a number of properties in West Wratting, principally the village hall, the sports pavilion, the recreation ground and children's playground with associated equipment, the water pump and shelter, the pocket park and village pound. Smaller assets are two notice boards, two bus shelters, the village sign, phone box and bench, as well as (with special thanks to Councillor Chandler) several litter bins. All of these assets are in a reasonable state of repair although there is a need to improve the equipment in the children's playground, but more of that later.

I would like to thank the parish grass cutter, Mark Grimwood, for keeping our verges and pocket park tidy during the growing season.

This year the parish council has once again increased the precept by the cost of inflation. It is important to note that parish councils are recommended to hold at least a year to a year and a half of their precept in reserve and our accounts show that we are close to the higher reserve figure. However, we have planned probable expenditure over the next year that will reduce our financial reserves quite considerably, as well as having a continued backstop responsibility for the village hall and sports pavilion.

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In addition to maintaining and where possible improving village assets, the parish council has the task of commenting on planning applications. It has a policy of using direct mail deliveries to ensure that the parishioners most likely to be affected by a planning application are aware of it and know the required timescale for comment to SCDC, the planning authority.

Although the parish council is unable to have a direct effect on traffic volumes and traffic speeds through the village, it continues to work on mitigating both. Last year Councillors Ross-Bain and Nichols were instrumental in obtaining 40 mph 'buffer zones' in the village and the parishioners living in these new zones have since commented favourably about their effect on vehicle speeds. The parish council has not yet been billed by Cambridgeshire County Council for the 40 mph limits and these are likely to cost in excess of £3,000. The parish council continues to work with the other Balsham Ward parishes by sharing two Speed Indicator Devices (SIDs). Once again, parishioners have commented positively on the reduction of vehicle speeds entering the village when the SIDs are in place and I must thank Councillor Bonfield for his tireless work collecting, erecting and taking down the equipment. Due to the SIDs'

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success, the parish council will now be investigating the purchase of one for the exclusive use of West Wrating. The village Speedwatch team continues to run several sessions a month around the village and I must also thank Martin Davey for his work as the Speedwatch co-ordinator, as well as the volunteers from the village who help make up his teams.

The parish council has set up a 'Playground Group' consisting of two councillors and two parishioners to work out how the children's playground equipment can be improved. The recent ROSPA report on the current equipment has identified that it is in need of refurbishment in the near future if it is to remain safe, and in any case, the current equipment really only appeals to children up to the age of nine or ten. The 'Playground Group' has a wide ranging brief to look at the playground, including removing everything and starting again, or refurbishing the current equipment and then adding to it. Whatever is decided, undoubtedly the parish council will need to apply for grant money to pay for what needs to be done, but the council will certainly have to make a contribution towards it.

The parish council is also working with our District Councillor Geoff Harvey and SCDC to have a public consultation on a gating order for the byway that crosses Six Mile Bottom Road at Green End Cottages. If granted, a gating order would reduce the level of anti social behaviour that affects our parishioners who live beside the byway.

In order to help support and protect our more vulnerable parishioners, the parish council is pleased to give financial support to the village warden and Parish Nurse Plus schemes, and thanks Sisse McCall and Suan Rowland for liaising with these organisations on behalf of the village.

There are also many parishioners working hard to make West Wrating parish such a happy and vibrant place to live in and, at the risk of offending the people that I've left out, I must thank Simon Anderson, Simon Chandler and Ben Wilcocks for their grass cutting efforts, Mike Rowland for the village website and with his team for looking after the village hall, Linda Gorman and team for ensuring that St Andrews Church is cleaned and adorned with flowers, and Sherry O'Donovan and Catherine Willcocks plus their helpers for the monthly Saturday Café. Many activities take place in the village including the d'Abo Tennis Club, West Wrating Football Club, Keep Fit, Tai Chi, Fitsteps, Monthly Lunch Club, Over 60s, two Book Clubs, the Bridge Club and the Church Bellringers at St Andrews.

Leaving the best till last, but definitely not the least, I must thank the inimitable Colin 'Cobby' McCall and all of his team of village litter pickers for keeping our roads, paths and verges looking so pristine, as well as Rachel and Peter Causton, our welcoming hosts at the CAMRA award-winning West Wrating Chestnut Tree pub for keeping our spirits high throughout the year.

Personally, as well as on behalf of the Parish Council, I would like to thank Jenny Richards our Parish clerk for her valiant work over the last year and, in particular, for keeping me on the straight and narrow.

## Village Hall Report

This has been a year of consolidation. Our regular activities, Keep Fit, T'ai Chi, and FitSteps have continued, typically with increasing numbers, wider catchment areas and improving skill levels.

Regarding specific functions we have seen a pleasing diversity of activities and ages including Bingo and quiz fund-raisers for young-at-heart adults, Little



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[john@easterncountiesoilservices.co.uk](mailto:john@easterncountiesoilservices.co.uk)

Movers dance mornings and a film show at a children's party. Importantly, we continue to be a popular stopping point for Cycle Club events. The monthly Saturday Café continues to be a great attraction. I thank Sherry O'Donovan and Catherine Willcocks for directing some of the donations to help meet costs of running the hall, and we are grateful too for a boost from the proceeds of the Progressive Supper. Our finances are again in a steady state.

We are continuing to explore the best way forward for fitting double-glazed replacement windows to the rear of the building and an upgrade to the doors separating the committee room from the main hall. Both projects will require grants. I have confirmed that the Cambridgeshire Community Foundation and in particular the Wadlow Wind Farm Community Fund will accept applications from West Wrating Parish Council, making us eligible to reclaim the VAT incurred.

Diana Edwards has continued to arrange much of the routine maintenance and inspections, advised when needed by Nigel Heath. Jenny Knowelden continues to keep the premises clean and tidy, and has treated the floor of the main hall. We are grateful for the voluntary efforts of those village residents who have helped maintain the grounds by gritting the steps and

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ramp in winter, and hedge and grass cutting through the year.

Tim Bonfield has replaced Campbell Ross-Bain as a nominated parish council representative and has already made a helpful contribution. My thanks go as always to all members of our village hall management committee for their active support.

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

### West Wrating Lunch Club

Pete and Rachel continue to provide us with scrumptious lunches at The Chestnut Tree every third Thursday of the month. We meet for 12.30 and finish lunch usually around 2 pm. It is consistently well attended, with a core of West Wrating attendees but also from other villages. As numbers have increased in recent months, the pub has agreed to extend the numbers it caters for from 26 to 31. We are grateful for all that the pub does to accommodate us and make this such an enjoyable social outing for so many people.

*Suan Rowland*



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**West Wrattling Saturday Café**

This is held on the first Saturday of every month between 10.30 and 12 in the village hall. Volunteers provide help in setting up, serving and baking cakes. Fresh coffee, tea and cakes are served at the café. We regularly have children's toys and crafts and a book stall.

Donations received for the refreshments are used to fund various projects within our community. We also have a book stall each month. This year we are donating the proceeds from the book sales to the Friends of Granta School (FOGS).

If you would like more information please contact either of us.

*Catherine Willcocks, Sherry O'Donovan*

**The West Wrattling Bridge Club**

This takes place on the first Friday of the month, from 7.30 until about 10pm. With an average of twelve players, the group enjoy very informal games of bridge and refreshments. Our fee of £1.50 per person per evening covers the hire of the village hall.

*Sherry O'Donovan*

**West Wrattling Over 60s Club**

We informally met monthly at The Chestnut Tree with lunch included, with six ladies on average attending. We held only one garden meeting last year, nine were held at The Chestnut Tree.

*Wendy Halls*

**Parish Paths Partnership**

The public footpaths were well maintained throughout the year, and the council continues to give us two

cuts, while the landowners keep the cross-field paths in good order.

A problem remains along the length of Fox Road after the laying of road chippings. There has been a large increase in general litter.


We had a positive dialogue with the Romanies camped at the Weston Colville end of Fox Road, which culminated in three young litter pickers (thank you Winter, Eirllys and Rocky) spending two litter picking sessions, while the Romanies did their bit and bagged up at least sixteen binliners themselves.

Simon Anderson, who has cut the paths round the perimeters of West Wrattling for many year, may be moving away during the year. We all owe Simon a huge debt of gratitude for his excellent work. At time of writing I am not sure of his departure date, but I am sure we would like to give him a big thank you and wish him and Nikki all the very best.

As always, please contact me on any path issues.

*Colin McCall, Tree Officer (290036)*

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**Balsham Gardening Club**



Balsham Gardening Club held their annual plant sale on 25<sup>th</sup> May. It was a busy morning, and a grand sum of £435.30 was raised.

The monies will go towards providing a tree and Owl box in memory of our long serving, kind and efficient treasurer Pat Faircloth.

Many thanks to all who helped on the day and to those generous folk who donated plants and packets of seeds.

Let's hope for spectacular blooms and much edible produce this year.

*Hazel Leeson*

**Balsham WI**

Our speaker this month was Steve Lester, an auctioneer by profession but, as a result of responding to a newspaper advert, also an Equity card holding supporting artiste, so his talk was a very amusing insight into luvvie land. In his talk entitled 'That's a Wrap' he described his experiences in adverts, films and TV. He gave us a fascinating background to Downton Abbey and its characters when he played the part of one of the umpires at the Downton Abbey

cricket match. Steve has also appeared as a doctor in a TV hospital drama, a biopic film about Paul Raymond, and as an auctioneer. He played a professor at Oxford and worked with Richard Gere on the film 'Mother, Father, Son'.

Our monthly meetings are held on the second Tuesday of the month at 7.30 pm at the Meadow School, Balsham. Our next meeting is on July 19<sup>th</sup> which is our Member' Summer Meeting. We break for August but on September 10<sup>th</sup> we have a talk on 'Holistic Healing' by Gene Taylor.

*Alison Clarke (894031)*



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**Sunday, July 21, 2019 at 5pm**  
**St Augustine's Church, Burrough Green**  
 Tickets £10 per adult (Children 12 and under free)  
 To include a glass of wine and nibbles

**The Meadow**

Sport has featured heavily this past month, as children have taken part in a wide range of sporting activities. We are always so proud of the way our children interact with other children at these events and show great team spirit. The Year 2 children attended a Mini-Olympics event at Linton Heights, and thoroughly enjoyed rotating around all their different sporting activities, interacting with the other Year 2 children from the cluster schools. Year 5 and 6 also attended a football and netball tournament at Linton Village College. Sadly, some of the other schools cancelled due to the rain, but they managed to play some matches against the teams who attended. Miss Totterdale, Mrs Bridgeman and Anita Stone accompanied the children to the tournament and reported how well the children all played. Once again, The Meadow children really demonstrated their fantastic sportsmanship. Mrs Tinsley also accompanied Year 5 and 6 children to a Quad Kids athletics event, where for several hours the children sprinted and jumped themselves through a number of athletics activities. Mrs Tinsley was particularly proud of the children who participated with such a fantastic spirit, and three of the children won a ‘Spirit of the Games’ Award for their sportsmanship.

May and June has been full of success for our mathematicians too. Back in May, Mrs Loe took four Year 5 children to the Cambridgeshire Maths Challenge.

Our school attended the heat held in Sawston, along with 14 other teams from the area. The children worked



together in a team to answer a range of questions. The rounds included an estimation round, a memory round, bonus questions, tricky arithmetic and extra ‘thinks’. The children worked fantastically as a team, and barely a whisper could be heard in the hall, as children conferred and the adults tried to challenge themselves answering the questions too! Our four children did so well they have achieved a place in the

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final, to be held at Duxford Imperial War Museum. We are looking forward to a great event!

The Year 6 Maths Challenge has also taken place at St Faiths School in Cambridge. A small team of Year 6 children attended the event, in which the children participated in two teams, working together at pace for over an hour through a number of challenges. It was so lovely to see the look of concentration and determination amongst the children. 51 teams took part, so the competition was fierce, but The Meadow finished a highly respectable 9<sup>th</sup> and 22<sup>nd</sup>. Well done to the children who represented us so well.

We have also celebrated our June Revels event, raising much needed funds for the school. It was a fantastic event, with families, friends and children all enjoying the wide choice of children’s stalls, inflatables, BBQ and café during the evening. We are so grateful for the PTA, who organise the event, and to parents giving time to volunteer for setting up, running stalls and tidying away. The school relies heavily on these fundraising events as budgets for next year look so tight. We are looking forward to inviting new parents to join our PTA in September, to continue this great work.

*Helen Loe, Assistant Headteacher*



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**Marsh Mail**

The first week in June is when all students in Years 7 to 10 benefit from a programme of enrichment. The ‘action of improving or enhancing the quality or value of something’, makes it an apt title for the week’s events; the opportunity to learn outside the classroom and have access to new experiences certainly develops students’ character.



Year 7s were fortunate to benefit from two educational day trips that informed their knowledge and appreciation of important historical events and scientific discoveries. They spent a show day at Duxford Imperial War Museum commemorating the 75<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the D-Day landings and another at the London Planetarium. Year 8s were immersed in different cultural experiences including an Indian day in which they made artwork and food to enjoy in a collective feast and learnt some Bhangra dance moves, a day working with professional musicians to find out about the music industry, and a team-building day led by the Army.

The whole of Year 9 spent the week on a residential trip either in Paris exploring landmarks, or south west France engaging with water sports, or the Peak District involved in adventurous activities. The opportunity to be away from home, experience new things and develop skills with their peers was immensely enriching. Feedback from parents and accompanying staff commented on students’ enjoyment of the freedom and responsibility involved.

Meanwhile Year 10 students were engaged in a week of work experience. The majority of students sourced their own placements to sample the world of work in a particular industry. The exposure to a professional working environment certainly developed students’

maturity and confidence and gave them an insight into work ethic and work place skills.

I am grateful for the hard work and energies that LVC staff have invested to make these extra-curricular activities possible. The planning and supervision involved in organising trips and events and conducting the necessary risk assessments is significant. From the smiling and exhausted faces seen in the photographs, it was all worth it.

*Helena Marsh, Principal*

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**Summer Holiday Activities** – a full programme of events is available on our website or to pick up in the foyer. Book early to avoid disappointment as these are proving to be very popular at the moment.



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**MoT Testing for the over 65s** – encouraging us all to get fit in later years and to remain as fit as possible. In conjunction with ‘Let’s Get Moving’ we will be running 30 minute sessions from 12.30 to 4.30 pm on Wednesday 17<sup>th</sup> July, which will consist of completing nine small challenges and will finish with refreshments. This is suitable for those aged 65 upwards and of all abilities. For more information or to book a slot please call Julie any weekday morning.

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**2523 (Linton) Squadron Air Training Corps**

Huge congratulations to the Linton cadets who came first in the sector field day competition, beating all the local squadrons for the second year running. The leadership and teamwork on display during the competition was exemplary, and a special mention should go to Cadet Corporals Coates and Pybus for steering the team to victory.



Since my last report four cadets have flown, with another four allocated spaces for the end of June. Recently the airborne times have increased too, with cadets getting between forty minutes to an hour's worth of flying at a time.

The first Duke of Edinburgh practice and assessment expeditions are coming up, as well as the annual Wing Field Weekend exercise, all the summer camps, and a visit to NATS air traffic control unit at Swanwick.

We have our civilian committee AGM shortly, and welcome anybody who would wish to join the civcom committee, which meets four times a year and helps guide the squadron and decide matters such as policy and expenditure. Please contact me for more details.

*CI Wright, Training Officer 2523 (Linton Sqn)*  
*(training.2523@aircadets.org, 07943 873272)*

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**WEEK 3: MON 12<sup>TH</sup> - WED 14<sup>TH</sup> AUG**

**WEEK 4: MON 19<sup>TH</sup> - WED 21<sup>ST</sup> AUG**

**WEEK 5: TUES 27<sup>TH</sup> & WED 28<sup>TH</sup> AUG**

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Sunday 14 <sup>th</sup> July	Café Church, <b>4 pm</b>	Scilla & John Harvey	n/a	Jenny	Jenny
Sunday 21 <sup>st</sup> July	Holy Communion	Canon John Pinder	Fanny	Linda	n/a
Sunday 28 <sup>th</sup> July	Holy Communion	Rev Iain McColl	Jenny	Fanny	Maggie

St Mary's, Weston Colville (9.15 am)		
Thursday 4 <sup>th</sup> July	Compline, <b>7 pm</b>	Rev Iain McColl
Sunday 7 <sup>th</sup> July	United Service, <b>Balsham, 10.30 am</b>	Rev Iain McColl
Sunday 14 <sup>th</sup> July	Morning Worship	Steven Wheeler
Sunday 21 <sup>st</sup> July	Holy Communion	Canon John Pinder
Sunday 28 <sup>th</sup> July	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

### July 2019

- Mon 1 Weston Colville Parish Council
- Wed 3 West Wratting Over 60s, Linton
- Thur 4 Granta Vale Community Hub, Balsham
- Fri 5 Tea & Cakes, Weston Colville Reading Room  
First Friday Bridge, West Wratting
- Sat 6 Saturday Morning Café, West Wratting
- Sun 7 Sawston Open Gardens
- Mon 8 Cut-off, West Wratting Oil Syndicate  
West Wratting Parish Council
- Tue 9 Seniors, Weston Colville Reading Room
- Fri 12 Pop-up Pub, Weston Colville Reading Room
- Sun 14 Summer Show, Ellesmere Centre, Stetchworth
- Mon 15 West Wratting Parish Council
- Wed 17 'MoT' tests for over 65s, Ellesmere Centre
- Thur 18 Lunch Club, The Chestnut Tree
- Fri 19 Balsham WI
- Sat 20 Circular Walk, from West Wickham
- Sun 21 Skylark, concert at Burrough Green

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  
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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)  
 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 Wratting 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 1<sup>st</sup>, 15<sup>th</sup> & 29<sup>th</sup> July,  
Monday 12<sup>th</sup> & **Tuesday 27<sup>th</sup> August**

**Blue & green bins:** Monday 8<sup>th</sup> & 22<sup>nd</sup> July,  
Monday 5<sup>th</sup> & 19<sup>th</sup> August

**Mobile library:** Tuesday 4<sup>th</sup> June, Tuesday 6<sup>th</sup> August  
 High Street, West Wratting 12.15 - 12.45 pm  
 Post Office, Weston Green 1.50 - 2.15 pm  
 Mill Hill, Weston Colville 2.20 - 2.50 pm

**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.

**August issue's copy date**  
**Saturday 20<sup>th</sup> July.**



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