

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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Weston Colville Village and Garden Ramble

2.30 pm, Sunday 2nd June

The Weston Colville Village and Garden Ramble will begin at the Reading Room and follow a circular route through parts of Weston Green, Lower Wood, Church End and Mill Hill before returning to the Reading Room for tea and refreshments. It'll be a great chance to enjoy seeing the village from different perspectives, with detours through a few gardens and some snippets of local history along the way. We look forward to seeing you there. All welcome!

Jacqueline Douglas

(jacquelinetheteacher@hotmail.com, 291475)

Gabrielle Cliff Hodges

(gabrielle.cliffhodges@cantab.net, 290890)

Granta Vale Community Hub

Thursday 6th June, 1.30 – 4.00 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

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St Mary's Church, Weston Colville

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West Wratting Over 60s

This month we will be holding our first garden meeting, thanks to Ann and Roy, on Wednesday 5th June at 2 pm in Hayter Close. There will be a bring'n'buy, and our usual raffle.

The garden meeting next month, also at 2 pm, will be on Wednesday 3rd July at Tower View, in Linton.

Wendy Halls

Saturday Morning Café, West Wratting

Join us for a catch up over tea / coffee and delicious cake at the next café on Saturday 1st June 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. The money raised continues to be donated to local community projects. This year, all proceeds from the bookstall will go to Granta School.

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)



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**WEST WRATTING
TEDDY BEAR
PARACHUTE JUMP**

SUNDAY 9th June

4.45 pm



**St
Andrew's
Church**

Bring your teddy bear and home-made parachute to jump off the church roof!

FREE TO PARTICIPATE

Leave bear in blue bucket in church main entrance by 4.30 pm to ensure your bear can jump.

This event is after the songs of praise service and at the start of the village BBQ
(Please note this will be weather permitting as it would not be safe for bears to jump in wind or rain. All bears jump at their own risk.)

Need more info? email:
tamara.keith@gmail.com

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Tea and Cakes

Unfortunately Tea and Cakes in May had to be cancelled due to a lack of helpers. So if you have ever thought of helping out, please get in touch. You don't have to help every time, you don't even have to bake.



Our next gathering is planned for Friday 7th June, 3.30 - 5 pm, at the Reading Room, where we will be collecting for Stand Up 2 Cancer. Also, David Marsden will be exhibiting things he has made from wood taken from Lower Wood.

We'd like to make you aware that we have decided to change the day that we hold Tea and Cakes. The beginning of the month always seems to have a lot of events, so from September we are going to hold Tea and Cakes on the **third** Friday of the month. This will also mean we can advertise more effectively in Challenge.

We look forward to seeing you at our next gathering, over a cuppa and a piece of cake.

Melanie (291319)

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Summer

Songs of Praise

West Wrattling Church

Sunday 9th June

4 to 4.45 pm

All welcome



Followed by
**BBQ &
Bear Parachute
Jump**
for all the village
4.45 in the Church
grounds

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meat and drink

Salads, bread, cake,
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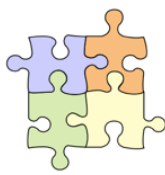
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The Bumble Bees Baby and Toddler Group

The group meets every Tuesday (term time only) from 10 am to 12 noon in The Reading Room, Weston Colville. £2.50 per session (with an additional 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. Come along and join in the fun!

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

Tuesday 4 th June	Butterfly Paintings (aprons are provided)
Tuesday 11 th June	Fathers' Day Craft
Tuesday 18 th June	Chocolate Crispy Cakes
Tuesday 25 th June	Paper Plate Sunshines
Tuesday 2 nd July	USA Independence Day Craft
Tuesday 9 th July	Ladybirds
Tuesday 16 th July	Bubble Art
Tuesday 23 rd July	Teddy Bears' Picnic.

*Beverley (07833 228958,
 bumblebees@hardingworld.net)*

West Wrattling Playground Improvement

Sincere thanks to all who contributed ideas and provided feedback for the playground improvement project. Three vendors have proposed schemes and quotations. With these, we are progressing with applications for grants to help fund the project. Beyond grants, we would welcome any support from fund raising activities from the community (a sponsored bike ride, wine/gin tasting evening?). Equally, if any local businesses felt able to support the project we'd love to hear from you.

*Ben Willcocks (bwrwillcocks@gmail.com, 291307,
 www.facebook.com/WestWrattlingPlaygroundImprovement/)*

Weston Colville Seniors

I would like to say a big thank you to Chloë Cockerill for arranging the recent visit to Ely Cathedral and for escorting us with a personal fascinating tour which was enjoyed by all. It was very special for me as I went to Ely High School, and it would have also been for Allen as he lived in Ely before we met. Also a big thank you to Roger for arranging transport.

Our next meeting will be on Tuesday 11th June at 2.30 pm in the Reading Room as usual, with a talk on 'Scams and How to Avoid Them' given by Bernadette Merry from Nat West Bank. I hope this will be followed by a session of chair yoga with Charlotte (tbc). I look forward to seeing you all again.

Val (290837)

Weston Colville Reading Room AGM

The Annual General Meeting will take place on Wednesday 5th June at 7.30 pm in the Reading Room. It is an open meeting and all are welcome.

Jan Ogden, Secretary

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for information on:

What's On	Directory	Parish Council
Parish History	Local Sports	Village Hall Events
Church News	Parish Matters	Village Calendar

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

Marathon Thanks

I would like to thank all the generous people of West Wrating, Weston Colville and Balsham who supported me for my London Marathon run in April. I enjoyed the whole experience and was pleased to finish in 5 hours, 36 minutes and 14 seconds – better than I had hoped. As a result of your generosity I have raised, to date, in excess of £3,000 for Arthur Rank Hospice Charity. This has been an incredible journey and I am so pleased that the hospice can benefit from it all. Thank you.

Sue Lock

Weston Colville Circular Walk

A select group walked last month, in beautiful spring sunshine for all but the first ten minutes. Those not wearing waterproof trousers came back with wet legs anyway, thanks to a tall rape crop.

Also noticeable was the amount of dog mess – if you walk your dog and don't have a way to deal with this, on behalf of all of us who enjoy our public footpaths, please find one?



The next walk, of approximately five miles, will be on Saturday 20th July, meeting at a new place locally as a one-off – see July's Challenge. BYO lunch and maybe something to share back in the Reading Room afterwards. All welcome, refreshments available. Enquiries: jacquelinetheteacher@hotmail.com, 291475.

No More West Wrating Oil Syndicate?

Boilerjuice won the May fill-up for 17 households with a price of 45.39 ppl + VAT, clearly the best price as the other suppliers refused to even match it.

Lots of people will have noticed the 'Sold' sign outside Holness Towers, as the present Mrs H and I are moving to St Ives (no the Cambridgeshire one) in mid July. This means that, unless somebody volunteers to take over from me, the May order will have been the last one for the West Wrating syndicate. It really is pretty simple to manage, with orders in January, March, May, July, September and October, taking about 3 to 4 hours in total each time – and there's the bonus of collecting the phone orders from the pub! The people who really get the best out of the syndicate are those who order little and often, taking 500 litres each time there's a fill-up, meaning that they always get the best price and don't have to lay out a large amount of cash. Should you like to take over operating the syndicate, please contact me at richardholness023@btinternet.com or on 290404.

With best wishes to you all, and the hope that West Wrating will be connected to the mains gas supply some time . . .

Richard Holness

Sisse's Birthday – Open House



Sisse McCall is reaching a milestone birthday this month, and, as would be customary in Denmark, she will be having an 'open house', but with a difference. It will be held in The Chestnut Tree pub on 15th June commencing at 6.30 pm, and the drinks will be on me until the money runs out.

Anyone who would like to wish her many happy returns are very welcome. If you do intend to come, please could you let me know so that Pete can arrange finger food, but it is not compulsory and you would be very welcome whether you let me know or not.

Colin McCall (290046, sisse.mccall@googlemail.com)



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Parish Matters



In the calendar of the traditional Church of England, there is one Sunday that causes the clergy more stress than any other. That Sunday (Trinity Sunday), this year falls on 16th June. The doctrine of the Holy Trinity, God the Father, God the Son and God the Holy Spirit took nearly four centuries to be clarified. For four centuries of the early church, bishops, archbishops and theologians from all parts of the Roman Empire, debated together.

This is neither the place nor the time for deep theological truths, but do spare a thought for all those who will be writing their sermons in the week beginning 10th June. In the meantime all you need to know is that God is us, and eternal and unchanging love; it is His love that forced us all into existence and gave each of us a guardian angel who watches over us day and night from our birth to the end of our life.

For the last few months, under the leadership of our new Rector, Iain McColl, we have held a United Service in Holy Trinity, Balsham (our largest church for all our seven churches) on the first Sunday of the month, beginning at 10.30 am. There are separate programmes for the children in the Church Institute, and we end with coffee in church, with a chance to talk to each other. On the other Sundays we hold services in all our seven churches, with times and other details appearing in the village magazines.

I recommend that you come to experience the United Service, with our choir and our music group sharing the service with our organist.

Very Revd Keith Johnson

Changes to Service Times

Prayers at the End of the Day (Compline) is a new service being introduced at St Mary's, Weston Colville, that will take place regularly on the first Thursday evening of the month, starting at 7 pm

On Sunday 16th June, at **9.15 am**, the Service of Holy Communion at St Andrew's Church, West Wrating, will be a joint service for West Wickham, Weston Colville and West Wrating. Revd Iain McColl will be leading the service, and Alistair Collen will be preaching. There will be coffee after the service.

Many of you will have met Alistair at the United Service that takes place on the first Sunday of the month in Balsham, and also at some of the West Wickham services. Alistair is a Licensed Lay Minister, and recently retired Clinical Psychologist. He has a particular interest in contemplative prayer . . . and taking up pottery as a hobby!

West Wrating Book Club

Our book for May was 'Becoming' by Michelle Obama, postponed from April. All agreed that this was a very enjoyable and revealing book, although perhaps a little repetitive and too detailed in some places. While some found the parts about her early years most interesting, others were more intrigued by the details of her relationship with Barack Obama and her later life dealing with being 'First Lady'. She is very frank about such things as the problems they went through and coping with his long absences. Although coming from a very ordinary background, she was grounded in and supported by a very solid family. The gradual downward spiral in the area of Chicago, the South Side, is revealing. It is an area which is now considered too dangerous for visitors. She is obviously very gifted, and succeeded in getting where she wanted to be despite setbacks and missteps, not least the negative attitude of her college counsellor. She was always determined to be her own person and refused to fall into the standard role considered appropriate to her position as wife to the American President, and to make a difference, not least the vegetable garden she planted on the White House Lawn as part of her campaign to get people eating more healthily. Despite knowing some of what they went through it is still shocking to hear from her the details of the vicious and ludicrous claims made by Barack Obama's opponents and enemies. Our thoughts were summed up by one of our number who said she would recommend it to any woman considering career change, marriage, relationships and their place in the world. Scores ranged from 8 to 10.

We will next meet at The Chestnut Tree at 8 pm on Wednesday 19th June to discuss 'Normal People' by Sally Rooney

Linda Gorman (290653)



**Weston Colville
Cricket Club**



It has been a difficult few months for the cricket club. First of all, due to lack of players, we were forced to withdraw the senior team from the league. That left the club with only its juniors, and the plan was to run teams in the u15, u13 and u11 age groups.

Then it became clear that out of the expected core of ten u15 players, several would not be available due to other activities that occurred on the same night. With only six players committed to the games the only course of action was to withdraw the team.

Then three of the five original teams in the u11 league withdrew, leaving just ourselves and Haverhill. Clearly that was not enough to run a league so we are trying to get by this season with a few friendlies, which is not ideal.

That leaves the club effectively with one team – the u13s, who have actually played a match (see report below) but even that league has suffered as Linton withdrew the week before the first week of fixtures.

All of the above illustrates the fragile nature of village cricket. The signs are not good and with the upcoming World Cup and Ashes only available to satellite TV subscribers the opportunity to promote the game via terrestrial television has been missed.

Match Report (u13 Cricket) – the junior season got under way with a home game against a depleted Sawston & Babraham team. Winning the toss, Weston put the opposition in and quickly got among the wickets. Nine bowlers were used in all, with Teddie Clifton marking his debut with 3 for 2 in one over. Zack Earl (2 for 4) and Bethan Todd (2 for 4) were well supported by Josh Vellacott (1 for 3), Niall Graham (1 for 2) and Aarnavh Trivedi who took the final wicket with his first ball. Sawston scored 42 in 13 overs.

In reply Weston made short work of the total with Zack Earl (29 no) showing his all-round skill as the target was achieved in 6 overs with the loss of just one wicket.

Steve Potter

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West Wratting Youth Football Club

On Saturday 15th June we will be holding our second ‘West Wratting Youth Football Tournament & Fun Day’, for age groups u8, u10, u11 & u12, at West Wratting Pavilion, Bull Lane, West Wratting, Cambs, CB21 5NP.

This event will see West Wratting Youth host approx 24 teams from Cambridgeshire and surrounding areas, with over 700 people (players, parents, officials and supporters) expected to attend.




We have opportunities for advertising in our tournament programme and around the pitch on tournament day, for general sponsorship for the whole event or individual age groups. 250+ copies of the programme are being printed. Sponsorship packages are available by negotiation. Prices for placing an advertisement in our tournament programme range from £10 for a quarter page, £15 for half page and up to £30 for a full page

This is an excellent opportunity to reach hundreds of potential customers in one day, whilst donating to and supporting youth sport at the same time!

For more information or to register your interest please contact: Richard Cole – Youth Chair
wwfcyouthchair@hotmail.com, 07776 232163

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Weston Colville Marsh Tit Study

The Marsh Tit chicks of our area will all have fledged by the end of June, so we will recommence ringing in the woods next month. Look out for fat, fluffy youngsters, still yellow around the corners of their mouths and still expecting to be fed by Mum and Dad. If you see any, please tell us at cambsmarti@gmail.com, Mel (m_stammers@btinternet.com) or Challenge.

An astonishing number of our wild songbirds nest right on the open ground, even in short grass. The photo below shows a Willow Warbler's nest with eggs, close to a path in a field of grass in South Norfolk on 20th May. The whole thing is only 5 cm across and about 5 cm high. It is easily wiped out by a careless foot or dog's paw. Your dog wouldn't even know she had crushed it. So please, if you enjoy the heart-lifting songs of birds in spring, keep to footpaths and keep your dog on a lead when out and about in the countryside in April, May and June.



Our South Cambs Ringing Group is delighted to be awarded a grant from the Wadlow Wind Farm Community Fund, managed by Cambridgeshire Community Foundation. This has enabled us to replace worn-out nets and a precision spring weighing balance taken by a sub-adult man in Lower Wood last year.



Lastly, it's a fun time of year if you like cute babies. Behold this year's crop of Tawny Owl chicks at John O'Gaunt golf club in Bedfordshire!

The legs mature first, so they can be ringed. However, this does mean the chicks have a very strong grip with full grown, razor-sharp talons. Tawny Owl nestlings often leave the nest before they have grown adult feathers, but they're certainly not defenceless. Also, Tawny Owl parents are very dangerous. I know of three people who have lost eyes to these birds. If you see fluffy Tawny Owl chicks sitting alone on a tree branch or the ground, it's perfectly normal, and they should be left well alone.



Have a great start to summer and tell us your bird news – we always like to hear from you.

Alex Inzani and the terrific South Cambs. Ringing Group



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West Wrating Parish Council

The Annual Parish Meeting was held on 13th May prior to the parish council meeting, and last year's minutes will be on the notice boards. At the Parish Council meeting the following items were discussed. Drafts minutes will be posted on the village noticeboards and shown on the website.

Election of Chairman & Vice-Chairman: Cllr Holness was elected as Chairman, and Cllr Nichols as Vice Chairman. Cllrs Roberts and Holness remain as representatives on the Sports Pavilion Committee and Cllrs Bonfield and Nichols remain as representatives on the Village Hall Management Committee.

Correspondence: a letter had been received from the Hon Lucy Fraser requesting comments on the needs of the area with regard to public transport. The clerk will reply requesting that buses now available go from one population centre to another population centre rather than stopping in a village, eg Thurlow or Burrough Green. If anyone has a particular request please email the clerk so she can include it.

Finance: details of authorised payments and monies received are in the draft minutes on noticeboards.

Following discussion it was agreed to increase the contribution to Age UK Mobile Warden Scheme from £200 to £250 per year.

- a) Exemption form was signed and will be returned to the external auditor, allowing us to only be audited by the internal auditor.
- b) The end of year accounts were also signed off by the Chairman and Cllr Nichols and the Statement of Accounts and Annual Return was also signed following agreement by the parish council. These will be with the various documents going to the internal auditor.

Recreation Ground & Pavilion:

- a) The Chairman attended the meeting on 13th March. It is hoped to put a bore hole in for watering the pitches and three quotes have been received, and grants applied for; if successful, permission will be needed from the Parish Council. The chain at the entrance will shortly be replaced by a gate.
- b) *RoSPA report:* much of the equipment needs repair or replacing and the subcommittee are looking at renewing the equipment.

Maintenance:

- a) *Fox Road barriers:* still no progress regarding a Gating Order despite it being discussed for more than three years so far.
- b) *Risk assessment form:* this was completed by the chairman and was signed at the meeting to go to the internal auditor.

Traffic Issues:

- a) Cllr Bonfield hopes that a SID can be purchased for the sole use of the village and funding is being looked at. Martin Davey is now in charge of the use of the SIDs and Speed Watch.
- b) *Access to High Street from Spicers Close* – the residents of Spicers Close have been informed that the land opposite Spicers Close is District Council land and therefore no mirrors would be allowed.

Play Area: there is a display of the design and equipment hoped to be purchased and in principal the parish council has agreed to fund part of the cost but other funding will be needed.

Reports by County Cllr Harvey & District Cllr Batchelor are on the website and their annual reports are in the Parish Meeting minutes.

The next meeting will be on Monday 8th July at 8 pm.

Jenny Richards



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Weston Colville Parish Council

The **Annual Parish Meeting** was held on Monday 13th May, followed by a Parish Council meeting.

1. **Election of Officers** – Ray Vidler as Chairman, Bridget Durham as Vice Chair, Jessica Ashbridge as Clerk/RFO.
2. **Chairman’s Report** – Cllr Vidler delivered his report – see report after parish council notes.
3. A presentation was made by Jacqueline Douglas about the **Parish Nurse Scheme**.

Parish Council Meeting

1. District and County Council reports and items of interest – Cllr Harvey delivered his report – there is a Zero Carbon Communities Grant available for photovoltaics, battery storage, tree planting etc. Cllr Harvey is the Vice Chair of the Climate Change Committee, and also a member of the A1307 Strategy Group. SCDC are recruiting for a new Chief Executive.

Cllr Batchelor delivered his report – bidding for traffic calming will be opening at the end of the summer. A1307 – public engagements start next month, June 4th at Homerton College, more

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2. Planning

S/1514/19/FL – Mines Park, Chapel Road, Weston Colville – Re-submission of S/1311/16/FL for the erection of a country house, two staff dwellings, and barn, together with parkland, associated site works, and excavation of lake and pond. *No recommendation.*

S/1060/19/FL – Jubilee Farm, Chapel Road, Weston Colville – Single storey side extension and two storey rear extension – amended. *Council objects on the grounds of loss of light and privacy for the neighbour, and there is scope to extend on the far side of the property.*

3. Matters in hand / arising since last meeting

3.1 *Website update* – no update given. The AGAR documents (annual accounts) are to be placed on the SCDC website, as they need to be available to the public. They will also be on the parish notice board.

3.2 *Car park transfer from SCDC to WCPC update* – no update; contact provided by Cllr Batchelor, for the Clerk to chase at SCDC.

3.3 *Footpaths update* – a new bridge has been installed by the Methodist Chapel. There have been some complaints as it has a step making it unsuitable for a wheelchair.



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4. Matters for the council to discuss / vote on

4.1 *Ickniel Way* – a report was issued which stated gating the byway would not be considered yet due to a Public Space Protection Order, and in the meantime to report any illegal/antisocial activities to the relevant authorities (see contact details below). All reports are logged, and may help build a picture of whether gating is required in the future. Cllr Batchelor expressed the importance of reporting. It was agreed to emphasise the importance of this in *Challenge* and list where issues can be logged.

4.2 *Bus routes* – there is potential for the times of the buses that run through the village to be altered subject to demand by contacting the contractors directly.

4.3 *Parish Plan review* – following discussion it was determined to review the questionnaires that were circulated to all households before the last Parish Plan, to establish what parishioners would like. Most of the items on the previous plan have either been carried out or are beyond the control of the Parish Council. A question needs to be raised regarding the precept: due to overspending, either the precept would need to be raised, or charitable donations that are currently made would need to be reduced.

5. Playground – inspection report received from David Bracey. The clerk accompanied the Inspector. Church End equipment is all in good order; there was a suggestion of placing matting either side of the slide. Some maintenance work is required at the recreation ground, which is being organised.

Next Parish Council Meetings

Extraordinary meeting to discuss SID and traffic calming (+ planning if needed): Thursday 6th June.

Date of next parish council meeting: 1st July.

Ray Vidler, Jess Ashbridge

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Contact details for reporting issues on Ickniel Way – it's vital that parishioners report any issues if they want the council to take action

Fly-Tipping – residents should report fly-tipping to the SCDC via the website here:

<https://scams-framework.egovhub.net/ENVIROCRIMEREPORTINGFORM/launch>

Scramblers/quad bikes/rallying of vehicles – concerns about the anti-social use of the byway or physical problems such as potholes etc can be reported via CCC's website here: <https://www.cambridgeshire.gov.uk/residents/travel-roads-and-parking/roads-and-pathways/roadworks-and-faults/>

Traveller encampments – Romany Gypsies and Irish Travellers have a right to live a nomadic lifestyle. It would be a breach of their human rights to interfere with this in any way. If you have any issues about a particular encampment you can contact George Hay on 07827 234451.

Hare coursing – hare coursing is where people use dogs to chase, catch and kill hares. Hunting wild mammals with a dog is illegal in the UK under the Hunting Act 2004. If you witness hare coursing in progress, contact the police immediately on 999.

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Chairman's Report to Parish Meeting 2019

The last year has been a relatively quiet year for the council, which continued to carry out a range of village maintenance activities including:

Maintenance of roads and verges – the parish council implemented its usual verge cutting program this year and continues to provide street lighting for the village. Progress was also made with getting potholes repaired and clearing gullies and drains. However, there is still more work to be done both on Church End drains and at the 'temporary' plate installed over the collapsed culvert by the Reading Room where a permanent repair is awaited. Despite frequent chasing of the County Council Highways department we are still awaiting clarification on what they plan to do.

Speeding through the village – the council has continued to use the shared speed indicator devices to monitor the speed of traffic through the village and they seem effective in slowing most motorists down when in use. The current plan is to use the information collected from these devices to support a grant application for traffic calming in the village. The precise nature of what speed reduction measures will be implemented is still to be decided.

Rural nature of the village – the council has continued to carry out its programme of grass cutting and hedge trimming around the war memorial, at the Church End playing field, and the play area on the Green. On a positive note the cost of this reduced this year following negotiation.

Play areas – the council has ensured that essential maintenance has been carried out for both play areas to ensure they are safe to use and kept in good order, supported by the annual safety inspection of this equipment by an outside expert.

Community assets – the parish council has continued to make good progress with the transfer of the Reading Room car park from the District Council to the parish council and this would have been completed had it not been for yet another change of staff at SCDC. Hopefully at least all the requirements have been met and this transfer can be completed this year. Once complete I would like to propose we name this the Allen Scott car park in recognition of all his services to the village over many years. This would need to be ratified by the full council so is currently only a proposal.

Community-led parish plan – the current parish plan was originally approved in 2015 following an extensive village survey in 2014 and most of its objectives, with two notable exceptions, have been completed as far as reasonably practical. As a result, I intend to propose that we revitalise the plan and will seek councillor support for forming a new steering group to create a new 2020 plan for the village. This will be discussed in the meeting immediately following this one but if we decide to go ahead, we will be looking for volunteers from the village to support this and help identify and deliver the needs that a majority of the village see as important. I look forward to all your support in making this a reality

Annual budget for the parish – I feel it would be remiss of me not to mention our current budget deficit. In 2018/19 we spent £12,644 versus an income of £8,850 showing we are currently spending 43% more than we receive. The difference is currently funded by what is termed '106' money which we receive from building developments in the village. Unfortunately, there have been no new housing developments in the last two years, and we will exhaust all our 106 money in 2020. The council will need to decide in January this year whether to put through a significant increase to the precept or cut back on its expenditure, especially its donations, or a combination of both. I look forward to a healthy debate on this later in the year but think it would be useful if we do a parish plan survey as to what parishioners would prefer.

Finally, I would like to end by thanking all my fellow councillors and our clerk for their time and effort in supporting the work and objectives of the council.

Ray Vidler

Weston Colville Parish Council Chairman



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You can also download our General Travel Advice sheet from our website or collect a copy from reception. For additional information you can visit www.fitfortravel.nhs.uk, www.nathnac.org, or www.fco.gov.uk/travel.

Sandra East, Granta Communications
(sandra.east@nhs.net, 0300 2345555)

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NARP National Association of Registered Pet Sitters

Parish Nurse Plus - Carers Week Event

Carers Week is an annual campaign to raise awareness of caring. This year the theme is Connecting Carers, something we would very much like to do, as part of Parish Nurse Plus Project.

There will be a carers week event on Thursday 13th June, 2 - 4 pm at Abington Village Institute. This event is open to everyone from the Abingtons, Hildersham, Balsham, West Wickham, Weston Colville, and West Wrating, and includes people who care for friends and families who live outside our villages. Please come if you can. It will be an informal event, an opportunity for carers to get together, to share their experiences and any issues that we might be able to help resolve.

Feel free to bring the people you are caring for. There will be a space with jigsaws and books for people who do not want to participate in discussions, and tea and cakes will be provided. If there are any special requirements, please let us know. If you would like help with transport, tell us and we will see if we can help.



For any further information, contact Diana Edwards (01223 290616, dedwards594@btinternet.com)



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The Meadow School

Year 6 children have been working hard completing their SATS silently in the hall. It is always a rather tricky week for the rest of the school, as they have had to be flexible waiting for playtime to start but everyone has done so well, working quietly in class to enable the Year 6 to concentrate. We cannot avoid the high stakes nature of the SATS, and although there is still much debate in the media as to their benefit, they are statutory and ultimately schools are benchmarked against the results. We continue to balance the need to prepare children adequately for them, with the delivery of a high quality, broad and balanced curriculum. Our ultimate aim is to prepare children for their future learning and help them grow into responsible and well-rounded adults. We have certainly started to see signs of this maturity amongst the Year 6 this week. They have coped fantastically with the SATS, maturely and sensibly at all times. We are very proud of each one of them, particularly with the perseverance they have shown when the questions have been tricky!

This term has already been full of off-site visits by different year groups. Year 3 and 4 had a fantastic day at Stibbington, immersed in life as a Roman Soldier.

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Right from the moment they arrived, the children were in role, learning marching drills and Latin commands, preparing Roman foods and even taking part in a Roman maths lesson!

All the Infant classes have visited Wandlebury Country Park, linked to their Marvellous Maps topic. Everyone enjoyed a great day outside, learning the skills of orienteering, following a simple map to help with directions, pond dipping and studying woodland habitats.



This has tied in beautifully to the Geography and Science work for this term. Map reading has then continued back in

Balsham with the Infant children on their village walk, following a map, looking for local landmarks and planning their Balsham based 'Little Red Riding Hood' stories.



The summer term is always full of sports fixtures. So far, children have been involved in Cross-

Country competitions, and netball. Mrs Tinsley, plus our two wonderful parent helpers, Mrs Lock and

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Mrs Green, took sixteen of the running club members to the St Neots Cross-Country race. The children ran in teams of four in a relay race, each running 1200 m. There were over 300 teams participating, and the competition was fierce. Our runners ran fantastically, with great team spirit, thanks to all the great training which has taken place over the year with Mrs Green and Mrs Lock. We are so grateful to them for giving up their time each week. A huge well done to the girls teams who came 46th and 91st and the boys teams who came 63rd and 64th, out of approximately 150 teams.



Mrs Bridgeman and another parent helper, Anita Stone, took the A Netball team to participate in the High 5 Netball Shield in Impington. The children played brilliantly, with fabulous team work. Huge congratulations to Oliver Morrow, who was awarded the 'Spirit of the Games' certificate by the organisers of the event, for demonstrating the values of the competition.



Caroline Pinkham-Smith
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The school has been awarded the Silver Arts Mark. Being an Arts Mark school demonstrates that “through offering a broad, balanced and creative curriculum, young people have the opportunity to develop character and talent and increase their knowledge, curiosity and skills”. This is something that staff within the school constantly strive for, determined to maintain standards alongside a broad and balanced curriculum. We are really proud of our success; a huge thank you to Miss Copare for all her hard work in promoting Arts in school and preparing the Arts Mark evidence.

We are very keen to involve people from the local community in our school. Over the next few weeks, the Year 5 and Year 6 children will be preparing their end of year production. Over the past number of years, a volunteer has always helped paint the scenery for this, but sadly, is no longer able to help. If you feel able to offer a few hours of time and creativity to paint some scenery, or help further our Arts Curriculum, then please do contact the school.

Please do keep up-to-date on the school events on *Twitter @Meadow_Balsham*

Nichola Connor, Headteacher

The Ellesmere Centre, Stetchworth

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.

The **Summer Show** is on Sunday 14th July, from noon.

*The Ellesmere Centre, www.ellesmerecentre.org.uk
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Marsh Mail

This time of year is filled with enrichment activities and celebrations in schools. It is also a challenging time for setting budgets and timetabling for the following academic year. In recent times this has become increasingly difficult due to financial pressures faced by schools.

The march conducted on Parker's Piece, Cambridge in April showed the strength of feeling shared by parent/carers and students about real-term cuts to money received by schools. Linton Village College, like other schools across the county, continues to suffer the inequities of historic funding arrangements. In 2019/2020 LVC will be £174,000 worse off than the promised minimum funding for schools as set out in the National Funding Formula. We will be the equivalent of £360,000 worse off next year than we were in 2010 due to rising costs.

I am very grateful for the support from parents/carers in raising these issues with local MPs. I met the Secretary of State for Education, Damian Hinds, in May to raise my concerns directly on behalf of head teachers who are struggling to balance budgets.

I am also really appreciative of the great work done by the Friends of LVC to fundraise for much-needed improvements to College facilities and resources. This group is not limited to parents of children at the College. Nicola Tudge, Chair of the Friends, welcomes support from volunteers to run events that raise funds for LVC: friends@lvc.org.

Education is a crucial investment in our children and their future. I hope our collective voices will help to provide the pressure needed to ensure all schools receive the funding they need and students deserve.

Helena Marsh, Principal

2523 (Linton) Squadron Air Training Corps

As we enter school exam season we try to include as much light relief into our programme as possible; giving the cadets a little bit of time to relax is as important as all the revising. The athletics events over the next few weeks are a great way to let off some steam in a fun environment. As with everything in the RAF, there is a little friendly competition involved too.



I'd like to ask for a little help. The squadron is looking at the possibility of procuring a semi professional flight simulator as a training aid. It would enable us to put lots of our training into practice on the squadron. We always make the most of our flying allocations, but being able to do some simulator training before heading off for the Air Experience Flights would mean the cadets gain even more from the experience.

We have several qualified pilots on the squadron able to teach using a basic simulator and the technology, although now affordable, is still just beyond the squadron funds. If anyone is able to help by suggesting local charitable funds we could access or businesses that may be open to sponsoring a training aid like this then please do get in touch with me. Any additional ideas on top of our own research would be most helpful.

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



Balsham WI

Lucy Tranquillian was our speaker this month, who spoke about The Suffragettes. Lucy worked as a stunt woman on the film 'Suffragette' starring Meryl Streep and told us interesting stories about working on the film. Lucy had many props to illustrate her talk and recited very dramatically quotes from the suffragettes. These women were very brave and literally had to fight for their cause. In 1918 the vote was given to women but only to those over 30 years of age and who were land owners. It took 10 years for women to be given the vote on the same terms as men. Sadly Emilie Pankhurst died just before this happened.

It has been suggested that we meet for a 'crafty' evening on a regular basis. Also our July meeting may be an afternoon tea party, to replace our regular BBQ which in the past has been plagued by bad weather.

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 11th June, with Steve Lester's talk 'That's a Wrap'.

Alison Clarke (894031)

Balsham Gardening Club

In May thirty stalwarts of Balsham Gardening Club visited the gardens of Easton Lodge at Little Easton near Dunmow. As we arrived for a talk and guided walk, the heavens opened, followed by hail and thunder as we all battled on!

Easton Lodge was originally an Elizabethan mansion built in 1597, but was devastated by fire in 1847. It was rebuilt as a Victorian Gothic mansion, which again was partly destroyed by fire in 1918. During World War II, the land was acquired by the war office, 10,000 trees were removed to make a runway and to house RAF Dunmow and its servicemen and women. The house was abandoned for 30 years before the west wing and land were purchased by private owners in 1971.

The gardens were designed by Harold Peto in 1912 for the Countess of Warwick, who inherited the estate when she was just 4 years old. The house was famous for its society gatherings, and Daisy famous for her various affairs including as mistress to King Edward VII for many years.

Peto created many features in the garden, including a sunken Italianate garden which is currently under restoration, a yew walk, a splendid tree house, a large walled kitchen garden and a glade which has memorials to the service personnel who were stationed at Easton Lodge. The gardens have been Grade 2 listed by English Heritage for special historic interest. A charity run by trustees and a loyal group of volunteers are slowly restoring the gardens to their former glory.

The gardens have open days through the year and provide home made refreshments, which we were able to enjoy out of the rain at the end of the tour. We shall return in better weather, to see this garden in its true splendour.

Hazel Leeson

Sawston Open Gardens

Sunday 7th July, 1 - 5 pm

Sawston is participating again in the National Gardens Scheme in the afternoon of 7th July, with three gardens opening to the public. The ngs scheme has raised over £50m for UK nursing charities since its inception in 1927. In 2017 alone, £3.1 million was given to twelve charities, and the ngs is now the largest single benefactor to Macmillan and Marie Curie.

Three very different gardens are on show this year: 35 Mill Lane is a modern bungalow with immaculate colourful flower beds and water features; striped lawns and herbaceous borders set off the 16th century



house at 11 Mill Lane; and the Mary Challis garden is a peaceful two-acre haven left in trust to the village and managed by volunteers.

View visit details and descriptions of the gardens at www.ngs.org.uk. Entrance (£5 per adult, children free) covers all gardens. Tickets and village map are available from each garden. Parking behind the Co-op supermarket. Enjoy a cream tea and other goodies at Sweet Tea Café in the High Street. Enquiries: Mike & Ann Redshaw (01223 834511).

Two Sawston artists will be displaying watercolours and basketry work on the same afternoon, as part of the Cambridge Open Studios initiative. Details at www.camopenstudios.co.uk.

Mike Redshaw

Linton Scarecrow Festival

Friday 28th – Sunday 30th June



We're really looking forward to welcoming you to this year's Festival. The theme this year for the scarecrows is 'Book Characters' which gives a very wide choice. Follow the scarecrow trail and collect the names or take part in one of the many other activities.

The weekend starts on Friday 28th June. Between 10.00 and 11.30 am we'll show a film especially for children in St Mary's, Church Lane, Linton CB21 4JX and follow it with a picnic. Tickets are £3; see contact details below. Afterwards, you can collect your trail booklet and start scarecrow-spotting!



On Saturday 29th June we'll have stalls, a dog show, music, a bar and food, and activities for children including Dan Penfold and his zorbs. Linton Jazz will be joining us to help things go with a swing.

Sunday 30th June will feature an open-air service on Camping Close and a service of celebration in St Mary's, a pop-up photo studio, duck race and teddy jumping, plus more music and stalls and activities for all the family. For full details please see the trail booklet available over the weekend.

The festival, organised by St Mary's, Linton, aims to encourage the community to come together for the benefit of all. If you'd like a stall or need further information, please contact Pam Richardson on 890921, or follow us on Facebook @LintonScarecrowFestival.

Anne Parry-Smith

Weston Colville Facebook Page

Weston Colville has its own Facebook Page which contains a wealth of useful information and many items of interest, such as bin collection days, bus timetables, photographs, announcements of events, and much more. If you can suggest further matters of interest, please contact Admin.



Peter Milner

1st Horseheath Brownies

We have now finished the skills builder 'Make Change' from the 'Take Action' theme and the Brownies have been presented with their badges. The majority of them have also completed the 'Speaking Out' interest badge so they are two-thirds of the way to completing the 'Take Action' theme. We have moved on to 'Innovate' from the 'Express Myself' theme, and have so far invented new products ranging from the Peel'n'Pip to a bath that recycles the water so you can use it again, with the added feature of a bath bombe dispenser. We have edible architecture, mime time, move & shake and made to measure to go.

Also this term we have already attended our annual District Campfire in Newmarket, and have our annual Strawberry Evening in Linton and a litter pickup around the village to look forward to.

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

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St Andrew's, West Wratting (10.45 am)			SET UP	FLOWERS	CLEANING
Sunday 2 nd June	United Service, Balsham, 10.30 am	Rev Iain McColl	n/a	Jenny	n/a
Sunday 9 th June	Songs of Praise, 4 pm	Scilla & John Harvey	n/a	Alex	Fanny
Sunday 16 th June	Holy Communion, with Weston Colville & West Wickham, 9.15 am	Rev Iain McColl	Alex	Linda	n/a
Sunday 23 rd June	Holy Communion	Rev Iain McColl	Jenny	Linda	Jenny
Sunday 30 th June	Evensong, Weston Colville, 5.30 pm	Rev Iain McColl	n/a	Louise	Maggie

St Mary's, Weston Colville (9.15 am)		
Sunday 2 nd June	United Service, Balsham, 10.30 am	Rev Iain McColl
Thursday 6 th June	Compline, 7 pm	Rev Iain McColl
Sunday 9 th June	Morning Worship	Steven Wheeler
Sunday 16 th June	Joint Service, West Wratting	
Sunday 23 rd June	Holy Communion	Canon John Pinder
Sunday 30 th June	Evensong, 5.30 pm	Rev Iain McColl
Flowers	Gay	
Cleaning	Emily	

Roman Catholic Mass

Every Saturday at 5.30 pm, Sundays at 10 am and noon, at St Philip Howard Church, Cherry Hinton. Every Saturday at 6.30 pm, Sundays at 10 am, Haverhill (St Felix Roman Catholic Church)

DIARY

June 2019

- Sat 1 Saturday Morning Café, West Wratting
- Sun 2 Weston Colville Village & Garden Ramble
- Wed 5 West Wratting Over 60s, Hayter Close Reading Room AGM, Weston Colville
- Thur 6 Granta Vale Community Hub, Balsham Extraordinary meeting, Weston Colville PC
- Fri 7 Tea & Cakes, Weston Colville Reading Room
- Sun 9 Songs of Praise, BBQ, Teddy Bear Jump
- Tue 11 Seniors, Weston Colville Balsham WI
- Thur 13 Carers' Week event, Abington
- Fri 14 Second Friday Evening, The Chestnut Tree
- Sat 15 West Wratting Youth Football Tournament Sisse's birthday celebration, Chestnut Tree
- Wed 19 West Wratting Book Club, The Chestnut Tree
- Thur 20 Lunch Club, The Chestnut Tree
- Sun 23 Hildersham Country Fayre
- Fri 28 - Sun 30 Linton Scarecrow Festival
- Sat 29, Sun 30 Weston Colville Flower Festival

July 2019

- Mon 1 Weston Colville Parish Council
- Wed 3 West Wratting Over 60s, Linton
- Sun 7 Sawston Open Gardens
- Mon 8 West Wratting Parish Council

Mobile library: Tuesday 4 th June, Tuesday 2 nd July		
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	

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
tel: 890835 email: jkeith1412@gmail.com
 Mr Steven Wheeler, Licensed Lay Minister
tel: 290396 email: steven@juicyfruitsuk.com
 Mr Alistair Collen, Licensed Lay Minister
tel: 894230 email: alistair.collen@hotmail.co.uk
 Mrs Rosemary Mead, Authorised Lay Minister
tel: 891718 email: leonardavmead@hotmail.com
 Mr Keith Day, Authorised Lay Minister
tel: 891527 email: keithday@btinternet.com
 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 Wratting Parish Clerk – Jenny Richards,
j.richards597@btinternet.com, 01223 665260

Church Administrator: Caroline (Cazzy) Walshe,
7churches.seven@gmail.com, 01223 891443

Parish Nurse: Claire Gillett,
7churches.parishnurse@gmail.com, 07498 994205

Black bins: Monday 3rd & 17th June,
Monday 1st, 15th & 29th July

Blue & green bins: Monday 10th & 24th June,
Monday 8th & 22nd July

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.

July issue's copy date
Thursday 20th June.