

# 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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## ***St Andrew's Gift Day***

Our Gift Day is Saturday 12<sup>th</sup> October, 10 am to noon. As in previous years, members of the PCC will be at the village pump during the morning to meet any of you who wish to stop and chat. Any support, however small, you feel able to offer to help us maintain our beautiful village church for the community and future generations would be greatly appreciated. If you are unable to drop by that morning but would like to make a donation, please contact Sebastian Bain (Churchwarden) or Gary Birditt (Treasurer). If you would like to donate by cheque, please make it payable to 'WWPCC'. Looking forward to meeting you.

***Sebastian (01223 403415, 07736 198101),  
Gary (290990, 16 High Street)***

## ***Tea and Cakes***

September's gathering, the first to be held on the third Friday of the month, was well attended. Well done everyone for remembering!

We get together next on Friday 18<sup>th</sup> October, 3.30 - 5 pm at the Reading Room, when we will be collecting donations for MacMillan Nurses. Please come along for a cuppa, a chat and a piece of cake. We look forward to seeing you.



***Melanie (291319)***

## ***Granta Vale Community Hubs***

*– Friendship, Community and Care*

Balsham Church Institute, Church Lane, CB21 4DS on Thursday 3<sup>rd</sup> October, 2 - 4 pm.

Abington Institute, 66 High Street, Great Abington CB21 6AB on Tuesday 22<sup>nd</sup> October, 2 - 4 pm.

The Parish Nurse will be there as well as a representative from REACH and other services.

***Steve Jordan (07508 430057)***



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

Our next café is on Saturday 5<sup>th</sup> October, between 10.30 am and 12 noon, in the village hall. There will be a stall to sell your excess fruit and vegetables for playground funds. Homemade cakes, jams, chutneys etc all very welcome too. Also – guess the weight / guess the name / challenge the champion peg holder . . . all at 50p a go.

Please come and support us. All donations from this café will be dedicated to the West Wrattling playground project.

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

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

We will meet as usual for lunch at 12.30 pm on Wednesday 2<sup>nd</sup> October at The Chestnut Tree, West Wrattling (with the normal raffle).

The following meeting will also be held at 12.30 at 'The Nuts', on 6<sup>th</sup> November.

***Wendy Halls***

## ***Weston Colville Circular Walk***

Last month, we walked to Carlton in full sun and a warm breeze, followed by lunch in the Reading Room garden. It felt like the last day of summer, with autumnal weather arriving the very

next day. The next walk will be on



Saturday 2<sup>nd</sup> November, meeting in the Reading Room at 10 am. BYO lunch and maybe something to share back in the Reading Room afterwards. All welcome, refreshments available.

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



**Caroline Pinkham-Smith**

MCFHP MAFHP

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### **Litter**

Now that the verges have been cut, the litter picking season is upon us. If, during your travels, you see a large dump of litter or a fly-tip, please contact me and I will deal with it as quickly as possible.

Meanwhile, a big thank you to the litter picking team for their unflagging work. Thank you also to the 'ad hoc' litter pickers, who snip hedges, and those who pick up during their walks.

*Colin McCall (290036)*

### **Community Warden Event**

Age UK Cambridgeshire and Peterborough, Small Villages Community Warden Scheme will be holding a FREE event for those aged 60 years and over on 23<sup>rd</sup> October, noon until 3 pm at West Wrating Village Hall. Please come and join us for a light lunch and an afternoon of entertainment. To book your place, please call Carol, Community Warden, on 07436 102865.



*Sarah Thomson, Service Manager*

### **West Wrating Book Club**

Unfortunately, the September meeting had to be cancelled. We will now discuss these two books, 'The Diary of Anne Frank' and 'Wilding' by Isabelle Tree in November (date to be confirmed).

We will next meet at The Chestnut Tree at 8 pm on Wednesday 16<sup>th</sup> October. The book to be reading is 'The Go-Between' by L P Hartley, which will be a link-up with the Weston Colville film club.

*Linda Gorman*

### **Weston Colville Seniors Group**

We restarted our group in September with a fascinating talk from Janet Morris on the horseracing connection from Wandlebury to Horseheath via West Wrating and the eventual move to Newmarket. The afternoon was completed with a chair yoga session with Charlotte, sending us home relaxed.

Our next meeting will be on Tuesday 8<sup>th</sup> October at 2.30 pm, when Duncan Mackay has agreed to give us part 2 of his talk on Lower Wood.

November 12<sup>th</sup>: I shall be decorating a Christmas cake which will be one of the prizes in our raffle.

December 10<sup>th</sup>: our Christmas Lunch at The Chestnut Tree in West Wrating.

We are a friendly group open to any seniors in our local villages; just come along or contact me.

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

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

The autumn clear-up of our churchyard will take place on Saturday 16<sup>th</sup> November from 10 am to 12 noon. Everyone is welcome, and, as always, coffee, tea and doughnuts will be served.

The churchyard is a beautiful part of the village, and if nothing else, do come down for a chat.

*Colin McCall (290036)*

### **Weston Colville Cinema Club**

On 2<sup>nd</sup> October there'll be a classic comedy treat – Neil Simon's 'The Odd Couple' starring Jack Lemmon and



Walter Matthau. The November film will be



a tie in with West Wrating Book Club – on Wednesday 6<sup>th</sup>, we'll be showing 'The Go-Between' with Alan Bates and Julie Christie. Both films at 7.30 pm. All welcome, introduction to films, refreshments available, donations.

*Jacqueline Douglas (291475, jacquelinetheteacher@hotmail.com)*

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**Weston Colville Murder Mystery**



Another murder in the village! Following the good time we had at the start of the year, we're doing it again near its end.

Comments from the last murder mystery include "a hugely successful and enjoyable evening! . . . we really enjoyed ourselves" and "the food was excellent, company even better and the murder mystery a real hoot.



Everyone seemed to take on their character really well and it made a super evening . . . we'd definitely like to do another." Your wish is our command – we're inviting you to join us in the Reading Room on Saturday, 16<sup>th</sup> November at 8 pm for a 1930s mystery. Not so much 'the butler did it' as 'the butler's dead!' – play a role and guess the culprit. All welcome, bar available, £5 a head and bring a course for dinner. Limited number of places, bookings by 31<sup>st</sup> October. Please contact me to book, including any dietary requirements. You'll be given a card two weeks before the evening which will include your role, tips on how you might dress, and which course to bring.

*Jacqueline (291475, jacquelinetheteacher@hotmail.com)*

**Pop-up Pub, Weston Colville**



The next appearance of the pop-up pub at the Reading Room will be on Friday 8<sup>th</sup> November; further details in next month's Challenge.

*Jeremy Newton*

**West Wrattling Harvest Supper**

We had a very enjoyable evening and raised £657 for St Andrew's Church Restoration Fund. Generous contributions of food for our shared buffet provided us with a wonderful feast to celebrate the harvest. The raffle raised a fantastic amount - thank you for the many raffle prizes, and thanks to Sisse for selling so many raffle tickets.

Many thanks to everyone involved.

*Charlotte, Tamara, Sherry, Fanny*

**West Wrattling Playground Improvement**

The project to replace the playground is progressing well. Sincere thanks to all those who have contributed time, ideas and money so far. Continued support with fund raising activities in the community will be very much appreciated. A grant of £10k has already been received from the National Lottery and several thousand more has been raised through other means. We are progressing well with applications for other significant grants that, if successful, will bring us much closer to the target. Please do visit the website for updated information and post comments and ideas there: [www.facebook.com/WestWrattlingPlaygroundImprovement/](http://www.facebook.com/WestWrattlingPlaygroundImprovement/)

*Ben Willcocks (291307, bwrwillcocks@gmail.com)*

**Kenya Trip: Thank You!**

This summer I was lucky enough to spend a month in Kenya doing a combination of both volunteering and sightseeing activities. We helped at several school projects including completely redoing and repainting a classroom, and conservation projects such as making elephant deterrent fences and planting trees. We spent two days on safari and were able to see a variety of animals such as zebras, elephants and a lion. We finished our trip off with a trek up Mt Kenya, the highest mountain in Kenya and the second highest in Africa. The whole group made it to the highest trekking point at 4985m.

I had an amazing time and I am very grateful for the opportunity. Thank you to everyone who has supported me in raising the funds I needed to go on the trip, I have had an amazing summer that I will always remember.

*Izzy Wilson*



**West Wratting Progressive Supper**

The proceeds from the Progressive Supper next year, on **Saturday 18<sup>th</sup> January 2020**, will be for the playground fund. Tickets £10 each. Please let one of us know if you would like to take part.

*Sherry (sherry.odonovan@gmail.com)*

*Tamara (tamara.keith@gmail.com)*

**West Wratting Speedwatch**

West Wratting operates a Speedwatch team under the auspices of Cambridgeshire Police. We try and cover the three main approaches to the village, and the Common, Honey Hill, Six Mile Bottom Road and the High Street on a regular basis. When operating, we wear high visibility jackets and display a warning sign and a large illuminated screen showing the speed of approaching vehicles. Registration numbers of speeding vehicles are noted and passed to the police for action, with a visit for repeat offenders.

Our function is largely educational, reminding drivers that speed limits exist, and this has a direct and positive impact on driver behaviour. We know we have an impact: static sign data shows that around 30% of drivers exceed the speed limit daily, but when we operate a Speedwatch session in the same location as a static sign this drops to 10 - 12%.

Recently our team has reduced to seven and needs your support. If any residents are interested in knowing more about Speedwatch, with a view to helping us and the village, Tim Bonfield or I would love to hear from you. Tim can be contacted on 07508 027855 and I am on 07740 774625.

*Martin Davey*

**Eyes Down and Save the Date**

The West Wratting Charity Bingo Night is back by popular demand! Please come and join us for an evening of bingo games and supper at West Wratting Village Hall on Saturday 23<sup>rd</sup> November. £10 a ticket for your first game, and fish & chips supper (details to follow), with a free first drink.

Proceeds from the evening will go towards the West Wratting Playground refurbishment and the St Andrew's Church Restoration Fund. All welcome – so grab your dabber and come and join the fun!

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

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**Duke of Edinburgh Award**

Congratulations to Eirlys Stammers for completing the Community Service section of the Duke of Edinburgh bronze award. Eirlys chose to do litter picking, which entailed litter picking along our roads, picking up fallen branches in St Andrew's



churchyard, clearing the car park at Yewtree Cottage in Padlock Road (thank you Jagdish for your help!), and clearing the area round a Romany family at the Weston Colville end of Fox Road.

The latter was particularly rewarding as we befriended the Romany family (and Buddy their dog!), and they picked up at least 18 binliners themselves, and swept up their bonfire so that the ashes could be put into binliners. Thanks to Jean 1, Jean 2, Rebecca, John and the rest of the family for their help. Thank you, also, to Winter and his Mum Rocky from West Wratting who came down and helped. We all learnt a lot about the Romany way of life – an incredibly positive experience.

Well done, Eirlys, and the very best of luck for the future.

*Colin McCall*

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## Café Church

**Sunday 13<sup>th</sup> Oct**

**4 - 5 pm**

**West Wratting Church**

**Mark Newton**

### ‘China Unwrapped’

**Christian businessman explains some of the complexities of doing business in China and how he puts ‘faith into action’ supporting Christians there in low income rural areas**

**Tea, coffee and cakes**  
**Fun activities for children**  
 Everyone, all ages, welcome



### *Lower Wood Nature Reserve Update*

For safety reasons, due to fallen and hung up trees, a part of Lower Wood has been temporarily closed as shown on the map at the bottom of the webpage:  
<https://www.wildlifebcn.org/nature-reserves/lower-wood>

Felling works are scheduled to take place at the end of September / early October. During felling operations, the whole wood will be closed for a few days due to the presence of forest machinery on site. We will use the webpage above to give updates on start and finish dates of the work and when the site will be fully open again.

Regular visitors to Lower Wood will be aware that there is a regular cycle of coppicing done as part of our woodland management. Coppicing is a centuries-old traditional method of woodland management. It is

the practice of cutting broadleaved trees to ground level, which then promotes lots of vigorous new shoots to grow back from each stump. After some years (which can range quite widely depending on the species of tree and the desired product), the straight poles produced are used for a wide variety of purposes and the cycle may be repeated indefinitely. In the UK, it is a truly sustainable way to manage woodland and provides a wide range of conditions that support different species at different times.

The initial extra light from coppicing encourages plants to germinate and flower, such as oxlips, which in turn supports a range of insects including Purple Emperor butterflies. As the coppice ages, birds such as Marsh Tits and Blackcaps use the dense bushy growth for shelter and nesting. The fruit and nuts from plants such as bramble and hazel provide food for a variety of small mammals and birds.

Traditional coppice management mimics natural processes like wind and storm damage, or grazing by large animals such as bison that we no longer have in our woodlands. Without some form of management many of our woodlands would become dark, over-shaded and dominated by big mature trees without any variation in structure, age or cover. Ultimately, this reduces the amount of wildlife that can live in them.

At Lower Wood we are aiming to provide a mix of regularly managed areas as well as areas that are left relatively untouched. The Wildlife Trust BCN would like to thank the many local volunteers who have joined in the warden’s work parties over the years to get essential management work done in the wood.

***Mark Ricketts, Reserves Manager  
 The Wildlife Trust for Bedfordshire,  
 Cambridgeshire & Northamptonshire***



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**Weston Colville Marsh Tit Study**

October is the month where our Marsh Tits really appreciate it if you start to put sunflower hearts out regularly in your gardens. It may be the difference between life and death for many of this year's youngsters, who are still a bit clueless about where to find natural food when it becomes scarce in the colder months. I was interested to discover that birds are warmer than ourselves: on average, 1.87°C higher during rest and 2.43°C higher when active (*Prinzinger et al, 1991, https://doi.org/*

*10.1016/0300-9629(91)90122-5*). Given that Tits are small and so have a huge surface area to weight ratio, they will need a lot of food to keep their resting bodies at around 39°C overnight. You can get sunflower hearts online for about £1 per kilo, delivery included. We'll happily pass on details of a supplier if needed.

Most of you will recall last August's plea in this column to reduce your speed around blind bends, like *Barnie's Bend* between *Balsham* and *West Wratting*, to save the lives of our avian relatives. I deeply regret to report the passing of 'Ralph', Johnny and Emma Kaye's beautiful horse, hit by a car speeding around a bend. It was not a quick or clean death. Ralph's rider Maria was thrown; mercifully she survived without

broken bones, but mentally it is something she will find hard to get over. **Please slow down on our rural bends, when you can't see around them.** You know it makes sense . . .

To happier things: in August, I was privileged to meet this now rare bird on the Sussex coast. It's an adult female, very laid-back and perching on my fingers, on its way back to the Congo after an all-too-brief summer holiday making new life here in the UK. She has a brick-red tail and the males have a loud song that, once heard, is not forgotten. What is it? (*answer on back page of Challenge*).



Please send your sightings of Marsh Tits, ringed or unringed, to: *cambsmarti@gmail.com*, *m\_stammers@btinternet.com* or *Challenge*. We love to hear from you. September's award for sightings goes to Len and Ben Eeles, of Weston Colville. Thank you!

*Alex Inzani & the South Cambs Ringing Group*

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## **West Wrating Parish Council**

At the meeting held on 23<sup>rd</sup> September the following were some of the items discussed. The full minutes can be seen on both noticeboards.

### **Planning:**

S/2783/19/FL – certificate of lawful development for a single storey extension was supported.

Possible solar farm – no planning application has been received but following a joint meeting with the developers and West Wickham Parish Council it was agreed that although a small proposed scheme of solar panels at present, it could become much bigger, very visible and a possible road safety hazard.

**Finance:** a list of authorised payments and monies received are shown on the draft minutes.

**Fox Road barriers:** on 17<sup>th</sup> September a meeting is to be held in Balsham to look at the official evidence so far collected, which is a necessary part of the process to enable prevention of four-wheel vehicles and trailers from using this bridleway and to stop antisocial behaviour.

**Sale of telephone box:** *Please see separate item concerning this.*

### **Recreation ground & pavilion:**

- a) Proposed gates – the posts are now in place and the fabrication of the gate is in hand; a drawing of the proposed gates will be sent to the council for approval.
- b) The battery for the defibrillator will need replacing and the parish council was asked if they would purchase this. Costs were requested by council.
- c) There is a problem with dog poo and litter left on the recreation ground. Cllr Chandler undertook to check with SCDC if they would provide replacement bins as the present bin is in very poor condition.

**Play area:** Cllr Chandler said that so far £13,146 had been raised through grants and donations. An application to Wadlow Wind Farm Fund has been made and the application to Amey will be submitted shortly. The Adoption of the Public Access Statement required by Amey was agreed and signed following distribution to all the councillors.

**Any other business:** several of the trees in the Causeway have died and one tree is in need of some pruning. Cllr Harvey said that the Tree Officer was

attending the next Combined Parish Meeting and this problem could be raised with him.

The next parish council meeting will be held on Monday 11<sup>th</sup> November and all are welcome to attend.

*Jenny Richards, Parish Clerk*

## **Sale of Telephone Box**

The parish council has been asked if the unused telephone box in the High Street could be sold and removed. Before any discussion goes ahead it was felt important that the village should be asked for their views about the ‘red’ landmark. It is a shame that it remains unused, it would make a good ‘book exchange’ or an information centre. Someone I’m sure would enjoy turning it into something useful or quirky. Please do let the parish council have your views on a possible sale.

*Jenny Richards, Parish Clerk (01223 665260)*

## **Weston Colville Parish Council**

A parish council meeting was held on Monday 2<sup>nd</sup> September.

**1. District and County Council reports and items of interest** – our local county councillor and district councillor discussed the drainage at Church End for which funds have been allocated for this financial year; our county councillor said he would try to determine what was planned. It was agreed that no progress had been made with footpath 19 due to the reluctance of the owners to spend any money. It was agreed that the need for repair, including pictures of the damaged bridge, would now be posted on the county highways repair website. It was agreed that details of the street lighting cooperative would be forwarded to the chairman.

Our district councillor mentioned that the new ice rink was open and the council is keen to maximise its use.



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**2. Parishioners' Question Time** – none raised.

### 3. Planning

The Jubilee Farm, the Linnet Hall Barn, and the two Weston Woods Farm applications shown as 'awaiting decisions' in last month's Challenge have now been approved by SCDC. The Mines Farm reapplication is still awaiting decision.

Reference	Address	Application	Decision
S/2783/19/FL	Weston Woods Farm, Common Road, Weston Colville, CB21 5NR	Agricultural sprayer wash down and cover building	5 in favour with no comments
S/2384/19/FL	14 Church End, Weston Colville, CB21 5PE	Erection of a single garage in the driveway	Approved
S/2078/19/FL S/2079/19/LB	Coven Wood Cottage, Mill Hill, Weston Colville, CB21 5NY	Internal works to dining room walls and a small section of the hallway wall	Awaiting decision

### 4. Matters In hand / arising since last meeting

**4.1 Website update** – a parishioner is preparing photos for the website and the clerk has sent all the relevant council documents that need to be uploaded onto the new website. Details of the new website will be circulated to all councillors and the clerk prior to the November meeting so it can be approved for use at that meeting and made live.

The provision of parish council email addresses for all councillors through Microsoft, which will hopefully be free, is also being investigated, with feedback on this due by the next meeting.

**4.2 Car Park transfer from SCDC to WCPC** – the council agreed to pay a further £500 to SCDC to complete this transfer, provided it was fully completed by the end of 2019.

**4.3 SID update** – none given at the meeting.

**4.4 Footpaths update** – as previously mentioned, photos of the damaged bridge for footpath 19 will be logged on the County highways website with a request for repair to see what response they give. It was also reported that all other parish footpaths were in good repair.

**4.5 Highways update** – still no progress on sorting out the drainage at Church End, which is in this year's Highways budget, so progress is expected before April 2020.

The closure of Mill Hill and Common Road is still scheduled for 9<sup>th</sup> September until 4<sup>th</sup> October to allow culvert repairs. Currently both jobs are planned to be concurrent.

A quote is still awaited for a full cut of the roadside verges, to be obtained for the November meeting.

The council was requested to send a letter asking relevant landowners to trim their roadside hedges.

**4.7 Street lights** – it was reported that several quotes were awaited for street lighting which will be circulated to all councillors. If none prove competitive, then the option of joining a parish council cooperative and delaying any move away from the county council unless power networks insist on a change would be investigated.

### 5. Matters for the council to discuss / vote on

**5.1 Gritting scheme** – the council agreed unanimously that we did not want to be part of this.

**5.2 Suffolk Accident Service** – the council agreed unanimously that there were insufficient funds to contribute to this service.

**5.3 Policies** – the council agreed to adopt the new compliments and complaints policy, the new financial regulation policy, and a new health and safety policy.

**5.4 Wadlow Wind Farm fund representative** – it was agreed to keep the existing representative and deputy.

**6. Playground** – repairs are ongoing, with a full report to be given at the next meeting.

**7. Finance** – the accounts to the end of August 2019 were presented at the meeting

**8. Matters for next agenda** – it was agreed that the council approve all donations to organisations at the November meeting to allow for accurate budgeting, and end the process of making donations throughout the year. It was also agreed that the dates for all parish council meetings in 2020 would be set at the November meeting.

**Date of next meeting** – Wednesday 13<sup>th</sup> November at 7.30 pm in the Reading Room.

*Jess Ashbridge, Parish Clerk*

### **West Wrattling Oil Syndicate**

There will be a syndicate order next month, with a cut-off date and time of Monday 11<sup>th</sup> November at 6.30 pm.

*Phil Tempest (westwrattlingoil@gmail.com)*

[www.westwratting.org.uk](http://www.westwratting.org.uk)

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.

### *The Meadow School*

We are always thrilled to see the smiling faces of children returning to school in September and this year was no exception. The start of term has gone very smoothly, and it has been lovely to see old faces returning and welcoming in all our new children and families. Our youngest children have settled in brilliantly, with the help of their new Year 6 buddies who are invaluable at training them in the tricky aspects of school life, especially helping them to cut up their food and balance their tray without dropping its entire contents on the floor!

For the rest of the school, children have dived straight into their learning. Children had already spent time on their transition days back in July getting to know their new teachers and class mates, which really helped relationships start positively. This year we are having a huge focus on developing children's vocabulary. There is extensive research on the impact of a vocabulary-rich school and home life; vocabulary at the age of five is a strong predictor of success at age sixteen. Each teacher is using a 'Word of the Day' to build children's vocabulary and already children have been exposed to words such as 'plethora' and 'bland'. If you are a parent or relative of a Meadow pupil, please do encourage them to share these new words with you.

The school undertook major building works to our drainage this summer. Over the past few years, the school has suffered some serious damage with flash flooding. After a laborious grant application, we were awarded funding to install an advanced borehole and drainage system to the school



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field, only used twelve times before. This meant digging up the entire Early Years area and Key Stage 1 playground and digging a 30 metre hole in the school field. Now this is all complete, we can relax when there is a storm warning issued!



Alongside the building work, we have installed some new playground equipment for the children, generously funded by the PTA. The children now have access to some fantastic

giant musical instruments, a sensory maze to explore, and a giant solar panelled stop watch. The children have loved exploring these and have already made up some new games. We are very grateful to the PTA for all the hard work they have put in place in order for this to happen.

*Nichola Connor, Headteacher*

### *Marsh Mail*

October is an important month for the college as we open our doors to prospective parents/carers on Thursday 3<sup>rd</sup> October for our Open Evening and a series of Open Mornings the following week. It is a great opportunity to share the college with future students and give Year 6s an insight into learning at LVC. I am always so impressed by the volume of student ambassadors from existing year groups who are keen to showcase their school and proud to show families around the site.

A number of local secondary schools share the same date for their Open Evenings. There is a tradition of maintaining this arrangement in recognition of our different catchment areas. While an emphasis on





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parental choice and school league tables is designed to pitch schools against each other, Village College head teachers do not consider our schools to be in competition with each other – we all aim to provide an exceptional standard of education for our respective local communities.

The opportunity to collaborate and be part of a strong network of local schools has been at the heart of strategic decision made by LVC's education trust, CHET, in recent weeks. The Trust Board have voted

to join with another local Multi Academy Trust in order to achieve greater benefits for existing CHET schools. Anglian Learning Trust has been chosen as a prospective partner. Currently comprising four secondary schools (Bottisham, Sawston and Bassingbourn Village Colleges and Netherhall School and Sixth Form) and three primary schools (Bottisham, Fen Ditton and Stapleford) this is an exciting way to strengthen relationships with schools that share our fundamental educational values.

LVC students will benefit from the opportunities that arise from this venture including staff professional development, access to specialist central services and financial savings. We would continue to be part of an organisation that values community focused education, with each school retaining its own unique identity and local leadership and governance arrangements.

Stakeholder consultation events will be published by the college and CHET primary schools in due course to be able to gather community views and address any questions about the trust proposal.

*Helena Marsh, Principal*



**Open Evening**

**Thursday 3rd October from 5.30-8.30pm**

With presentations from the Principal at 5.45pm, 6.30pm, 7.15pm and 8pm

You will be able to explore the College site, meet and talk to students and staff members, discover our purpose-built classrooms, laboratories and studios, listen to some of our musical ensembles perform and rehearse, watch subject demonstrations and try your hand at a number of practical activities.

**No booking is required, just make your way to Reception where you will be warmly welcomed. Bookings will also be taken for our Open Morning tours.**

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**Local History**

Are you interested in the area in which you live? Do you wonder how your village came to be where it is, the shape it is, how old it is, why it is farmed like it is, how residents made their living? Do you want to know about your house and who lived in it? Do you want to know why there is a ‘big house’, church, a chapel, a school, a windmill? Do you want to know more about neighbouring villages, the district and the county in which we live?

If the answer is yes to any of these, or just because you would like to get to know other villagers with a similar interest, then do come along to meetings of West Wickham & District Local History Club. We very much would like your support.

We start our autumn programme on Monday 14<sup>th</sup> October at 7.30pm in West Wickham Village Hall with a talk about Bassingbourn by Valory Hurst – a village slightly out of our area but it is good to see what research others are doing. Other talks lined up (all on the second Monday of the month) are Seppe Casseteri on the Balsham Map Project (a must for anyone interested in maps), Honor Ridout on Tudor Cambridge, and an illustrated talk on West Wickham 100 years ago.

If you want to do some research of your own – your family, your family or house for example – then do get in touch. We have a wealth of information and experience, particularly of local sources and records, and are more than willing to help.

We very much look forward to welcoming you to our meetings.

*Janet Morris (290863, jmmorris@jmmorris.plus.com)*


**Balsham WI**



This month one of our own WI members, Gean Taylor, gave us a talk on Holistic Healing. Gean was very knowledgeable about her subject and gave us a very interesting insight into holistic healing, which concentrates mainly on what’s happening with our emotions and allowing our bodies to release memories that may present as pain in later life. Holistic healing is very good for stress and instead of talking about problems the body must try to let these feelings go, striving to move forward in a positive manner. Gean then asked for a volunteer from the audience to participate in a healing process by repeating phrases from Gean in an almost hypnotic manner. Our volunteer was such a good sport and was surprised how she responded to Gean’s instructions. Gean has helped many patients suffering from a whole range of ailments. A most interesting and thought provoking talk.

Our monthly meetings are held on the second Tuesday of the month at 7.30 pm at the Meadow School, Balsham. Our next meeting will be on 8<sup>th</sup> October, when our speaker will be Ian Cumming from ‘The Great British Bake Off’. Ian was a contestant on the programme and was runner up to the winner Nadiya Hussain. There will be cake!

*Alison Clarke (894031)*



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### Simon Reeve – Ticket Available

Would anyone be interested in Simon Reeve, Corn Exchange, 29<sup>th</sup> October? There's one £28 ticket going, and we'd be happy with half the price.

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

### 2523 Linton ATC

It has been a busy month! We have completed 14 blue communications awards, where cadets learn to operate and use radios, on military frequencies, using all the correct terminology and procedures. Blue leadership training is underway for our newly signed up cadets.



By the time this will be published we will have completed our usual activities at the September Duxford airshow, including camp over. This is often the first time our new recruits get to spend a night under canvas and is always good fun.

Twelve cadets have completed their bronze Duke of Edinburgh expeditions, the final stage meaning that we can apply for the bronze badge and certificate – a fantastic achievement. We look forward to moving on to the silver award.

We also look forward to this year's Air Power exhibition hosted by the RAF, when Linton cadets will have the chance to see all the latest platforms the RAF operate, including a close up of Typhoon, Lightning II, Sentry and A400M aircraft.

We continue to perform well at sports, competing in the wing swim, and look forward to the winter sports trials over the coming months.

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**Balsham Gardening Club**

Our speaker on Tuesday 1<sup>st</sup> October will be our own committee member Jennie Tipler, with 'Dyffryn Gardens – a Story Of Collaboration'. We meet in The Meadow School Balsham, 7.15 for 7.30 pm. Guests £3, refreshments and raffle. All welcome.

*Hazel Leeson*

**The Ellesmere Centre**

**80's Disco Party**, Saturday 5<sup>th</sup> October – in aid of Kettlefields School, with bar proceeds to the Ellesmere centre. Tickets £12 (includes a hot snack).

**Spooky Halloween Roller Skating**, in fancy dress, Thursday 24<sup>th</sup> October. Cost £4 + £1 skate hire. Price includes a bag of sweets, and drinks. Bring your own skates if you have them as we have limited sizes.

**Dementia Cafe** – we will be holding a monthly coffee morning at the centre for those living with dementia. It will be very relaxed, with homemade cakes and good company. Family members and carers: please come along and bring your loved ones to meet up and chat with others in a similar situation. It would be really helpful to let the centre know if you will be attending for the first session, on Wednesday 6<sup>th</sup> November, 10.30 am - noon; contact Julie in the office to register an interest.

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

**RNLI Quiz**



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**Lifeboats**

Institution will be holding a fish supper and quiz on Friday 11<sup>th</sup> October at 7 pm in Queen Edith's Primary School Godwin Way, Cambridge CB1 8QP. Teams of up to eight people; tickets £10, fish & chips or veggie option to be ordered at the time of purchase. Tickets from Geoff Heathcock at 52 Queen Edith's Way, CB1 8PW, or phone 01223 244901.

*Geoff Heathcock*

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Patients with urgent problems will always be seen on the day in our Rapid Access clinics. Barley and Market Hill sites can appear to offer more routine appointments as, due to their limited capacity, appointments are released daily, rather than six-weekly as at Sawston, Linton and Shelford.

We are constantly reviewing our appointments system to get the best balance between urgent-on-the-day and routine appointments across all sites, and are about to start a project with our PPG (Patient Participation

Group) around continuity of care and what this means to our patients. If you would like to join our PPG please email [ppg.grantamedicalpractices@nhs.net](mailto:ppg.grantamedicalpractices@nhs.net)

Our five sites additionally offer telephone appointments and we also run early morning and late evening clinics at various sites (please check our website for details). All of our patients are welcome to go to any of the five Granta sites.

Thank you to our patients who have taken the time to give us feedback. All comments are taken very seriously and contribute to how we shape and improve our services in the future.

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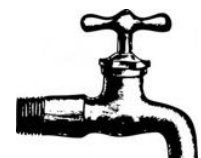
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Sign up at <https://www.beecp.org/sign-up> or call the BEE team on 01733 882549.

## ***Remember, Remember to Celebrate Safely!***

Bonfire night can be plenty of fun for all of the family to enjoy, but with lots of potential hazards, it's really important to keep you and your family safe.

Help support your local community this year and go to an organised firework display instead of holding one at home. If you do plan on using fireworks or lighting a bonfire at your own home, however, please ensure you consider our safety advice below:

### **Fireworks:**

- Only buy fireworks marked BS 7114
- Light fireworks at arm's length using a taper, stand well back and never go back to a lit firework
- Never throw fireworks or put them in your pockets or clothing
- Light sparklers one at a time wearing gloves, and place used sparklers in a bucket of water
- Never give sparklers to children under five
- It is illegal to sell fireworks to someone under the age of 18 or to light fireworks in a public place
- For more information on Firework Safety, visit: [www.hse.gov.uk](http://www.hse.gov.uk)

### **Bonfires:**

- Do not light bonfires in unsuitable weather conditions, particularly when windy
- Do not leave bonfires unattended
- Keep a bucket of water or a hosepipe handy just in case
- Build bonfires well clear of buildings, garden sheds, fences and hedges
- Never use flammable liquids to start the fire
- Never burn dangerous rubbish such as aerosols, paint, foam furniture, rubber tyres, batteries, etc
- Before you light the bonfire, check that children and animals are not hiding inside and are a safe distance away
- Always consider the location of a bonfire or firework display – smoke drifting near or on to roads can have devastating consequences.

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### *1st Horseheath Brownies*

Our first meeting back after a lovely summer break seemed to be full of food – well, sweets anyway – we played our now traditional first game of the first meeting back: ‘Don’t Eat Sammy Sweetie’ which as you can imagine is about sweets. We then constructed the tallest tower we could from spaghetti, using mini-marshmallows as the glue/joints. It was a close call as to who had the tallest tower, but Tayla and Freya won with one and three-quarters water bottles to Bea and Ella’s one and half water bottles (I bet you didn’t know that water bottles were a recognised measurement!). Completing the towers means we have finished our Innovate Skills builder so we now need to pick a new theme for this term.

Also this term we have harvest pictures to complete for the church, pumpkin carving, birthday party, Christmas crafts and possibly a trip to Clip and Climb in Cambridge.

We are currently at eight Brownies, hopefully growing to ten by January, and we are in the process of discussing with the Brownies whether to hold our Over 60s’ luncheon, which has been the mainstay of Horseheath village and the Brownies for at least forty years. We don’t want to let anyone down as I think for most of us the Brownies’ Christmas party is the start of Christmas.

Horseheath Brownies will be fifty years old in October. We will be holding a small celebration towards the end of October with a ‘bring a friend to Brownies’ night but if you know anyone who would like come along to see what we do at Brownies please do get in touch by giving me a ring on 01223 891086.

Pauline, Katie, & Laurené ([brownies@horseheath.info](mailto:brownies@horseheath.info))  
[www.girlguiding.org.uk/information-for-parents/register-your-daughter/](http://www.girlguiding.org.uk/information-for-parents/register-your-daughter/)

### *A Carer’s Story*

*(This is the first part of Frank’s story; further instalments will appear in due course.)*

Barbara was diagnosed with Alzheimer’s disease in early summer 2012, although her memory had been deteriorating for months before then.

Initial shock gave way to anger that this had happened to us, and I still allowed my irritation to show when Barbara asked a particularly strange question, or did something especially daft, but I quickly reminded myself that she was not in control, and I shouldn’t become frustrated. Instead, the advice from everyone was to ‘go with the flow’. If you don’t, you risk your own health being affected.

My vision of life post-retirement was for us to continue to explore Europe and enjoy our music and gardening in a more leisurely sort of way, but I thought Alzheimer’s had put paid to that.

I initially suffered from waves of self-pity, but quickly realized that this was simply being selfish.

One trick is to see the funny side of things, which is not often possible, but when it is it provides real relief.

My day is filled with jobs – mainly repetitive ones, but luckily I enjoy doing practical things, even if they are unpleasant, and get great satisfaction out of seeing something well done, even if it’s relatively trivial, like doing the cooking. Walking the dog is very therapeutic.

The main thing was to try to be positive and get on with life as much as we could, and this is where organisations such as Carers Trust can be a great help.

At the outset, shortly after the diagnosis, we had the good fortune to seek the help of the Alzheimer’s Society, and a very helpful lady kick-started various schemes and gave advice on how to obtain help in the form of a reduction in Council Tax, applying for a Blue Badge, Attendance Allowance, etc.

This advice and assistance is also available from other organisations, including Carers Trust, Age UK, etc. but it just so happened that we went to the Alzheimer’s Society first.

*Frank Breslin*



St Andrew's, West Wrattling (10.45 am)			SET UP	FLOWERS	CLEANING
Sunday 6 <sup>th</sup> October	United Service, <b>Balsham, 10.30 am</b>	(Rev Iain McColl)	n/a	Linda	n/a
Sunday 13 <sup>th</sup> October	Café Church, <b>4.00 pm</b>	Scilla & John Harvey	n/a	Fanny	Maggie
Sunday 20 <sup>th</sup> October	Holy Communion, <b>Weston Colville, 9.15 am</b>	Rev Dr Carrie Pemberton Ford	n/a	Jenny	n/a
Sunday 27 <sup>th</sup> October	Holy Communion, jointly with Weston Colville	Rev Iain McColl	Alex	Louise	Sue

St Mary's, Weston Colville (9.15 am)		
Thursday 3 <sup>rd</sup> October	Compline, <b>7 pm</b>	Steven Wheeler
Sunday 6 <sup>th</sup> October	United Service, <b>Balsham, 10.30 am</b>	(Rev Iain McColl)
Sunday 13 <sup>th</sup> October	Morning Worship	Steven Wheeler
Sunday 20 <sup>th</sup> October	Holy Communion, jointly with West Wrattling	Rev Dr Carrie Pemberton Ford
Sunday 27 <sup>th</sup> October	Holy Communion, <b>West Wrattling, 10.45 am</b>	Rev Iain McColl

### Roman Catholic Mass

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

## DIARY

### October 2019

- Tues 1 Balsham Gardening Club
- Wed 2 West Wrattling Over 60s, The Chestnut Tree  
Weston Colville Film Club
- Thur 3 Community Hub, Balsham  
LVC Open Evening
- Fri 4 First Friday Bridge, West Wrattling
- Sat 5 Saturday Morning Café, West Wrattling
- Tue 8 Seniors, Weston Colville Reading Room  
Balsham WI
- Wed 9 Crafty Morning, West Wrattling Village Hall
- Fri 11 RNLi Quiz, Cambridge
- Sat 12 St Andrew's Gift Day
- Mon 14 West Wickham & District History Society
- Wed 16 West Wrattling Book Club
- Thur 17 West Wrattling Lunch Club, The Chestnut Tree
- Fri 18 Tea & Cakes, Weston Colville Reading Room
- Tues 22 Community Hub, Abington
- Wed 23 Age UK Community Event, West Wrattling

*The mystery bird shown on page 7 is a Nighthawk*

<b>Mobile library:</b> Tuesday 1 <sup>st</sup> October, 5 <sup>th</sup> November		
High Street, West Wrattling	12.15 - 12.45 pm	
Post Office, Weston Green	1.50 - 2.15 pm	
Mill Hill, Weston Colville	2.20 - 2.50 pm	

Revd Iain McColl  
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 Revd Kathy Bishop, 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)

#### Parish Council Contacts:

Weston Colville Parish Clerk – Jess Ashbridge,  
[jess@agrarian.biz](mailto:jess@agrarian.biz)  
 West Wrattling Parish Clerk – Jenny Richards,  
[j.richards597@btinternet.com](mailto:j.richards597@btinternet.com), 01223 665260

**Church Administrator:** Caroline (Cazzy) Walshe,  
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**Parish Nurse:** Claire Gillett,  
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**Black bins:** Monday 7<sup>th</sup> & 21<sup>st</sup> October,  
Monday 4<sup>th</sup> & 18<sup>th</sup> November

**Blue & green bins:** Monday 14<sup>th</sup> & 28<sup>th</sup> October,  
Monday 11<sup>th</sup> & 25<sup>th</sup> November

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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.

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