

# Challenge

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

The views expressed herein are those of the contributors.

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

## **Tea and Cakes**

We had a good turnout for Tea and Cakes in October and collected £80 for MacMillan Cancer Support. Thanks to everyone who came along.



Our next gathering will be on Friday 15<sup>th</sup> November. Please come along for a cuppa, a piece of cake and a chat. Usual place (the Reading Room), usual time (3.30 - 5 pm). All welcome.

*Melanie (291319)*

## **Saturday Morning Café, West Wrating**

Our next café will be on Saturday 2<sup>nd</sup> November between 10.30 am and noon in the village hall. Buttercups Pre-school will be there with a fabulous arts and crafts table to keep the kids entertained!

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.

*Sherry (290070) and Catherine (291307)*

## **West Wrating Charity Bingo Night**

Back by popular demand! Please come and join us for an evening of bingo games and supper at West Wrating Village Hall on Saturday 23<sup>rd</sup> November. £10 a ticket for your first game, fish & chips supper, and a free first drink!

Proceeds from the evening will go towards the West Wrating 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)*

## **West Wrating Over 60s**

We will meet as arranged for our normal lunch at The Chestnut Tree on Wednesday 6<sup>th</sup> November at 12.30.

The following meeting will be our Christmas lunch at The Chestnut Tree on 4<sup>th</sup> December, also at 12.30, with our Christmas raffle.

*Wendy Halls*

## **Weston Colville Seniors**

Our October meeting saw the return of Duncan Mackay for part two on his work at Lower Wood. As well as some beautiful shots of the wood, he explained the recent work being carried out and why the access was closed for safety reasons. He had some good news about ash dieback, as it has not affected the large coppiced ash tree, and the trust is hoping seeds from this will produce resistant saplings.

At our next meeting on Tuesday 12<sup>th</sup> November I shall be decorating a Christmas cake which will be raffled at this meeting, along with any members' contributions, so please bring them along to help raise much needed funds for our group.

Tuesday 10<sup>th</sup> December is the date for our Christmas lunch at The Chestnut Tree, 12.30 for 1 pm. If anyone wishes to join us it is not too late to book; I have spare copies of the menu, so please contact me.

I was asked the other day who are seniors – for this group, anyone over 60 who is retired from full time work, so if you fit that remit we would love you to just come along and see what we do. If this group is to succeed we need more support please; you do not have to live in Weston Colville, we are open to all our local villages.

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



**Caroline Pinkham-Smith**

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**Weston Colville Circular Walk**

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)

**Weston Colville Cinema Club**

The November film will be a tie in with West Wratting Book Club – on



Wednesday 6<sup>th</sup>, we'll be showing 'The Go-Between' with Alan Bates and Julie Christie.

On 4<sup>th</sup> December we will have the wonderful 'Love Actually', perfect for the run-up to Christmas. Both films at 7.30 pm. All welcome, introduction to films, refreshments available, donations.



*Jacqueline Douglas*

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

**West Wratting Book Club**

Our book for October was 'The Go-Between' by L P Hartley, the film of which will be shown at the Weston Colville Film Club on Wednesday /6<sup>th</sup> November.

All who had read the book had thoroughly enjoyed it, with the language being described as "so good" and

"stunning". It gives a real insight into 'the Golden Era' of late Victorian/Edwardian society and the class hierarchy and snobbery. This is only put to one side for the cricket match. It was agreed that there is something of 'Brideshead Revisited' and 'Great Expectations' in these themes. It also gives an insight into the way boys relate to each other at public school as well as a pubescent boy's take on the world, in particular, the behaviour and actions of adults. Leo understands certain things but totally misunderstands or misinterprets others. One of our number was impressed at how mature, well-read and well spoken he was. Despite this, he becomes confused over what is genuine liking and what is pretence on the part of those whose aim is to make use of his innocence. It is ultimately very sad, poignant and full of irony, in particular the effects of the culmination of events on Leo, then and for the rest of his life, and what happens to the family. All would recommend it and are looking to seeing the film again. Scores were 8.5 – 9 out of 10.

We will discuss 'The Diary of Anne Frank' and 'Wilding' by Isabella Tree, postponed from September, on Wednesday 13<sup>th</sup> November.

*Linda Gorman*

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**FRIDAY 8<sup>th</sup> NOVEMBER**

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### *West Wrattling Football Club*

West Wrattling Football Club held a Spurs Legends night with World Cup winner Ossie Ardiles and Spurs Captain Graham Roberts on Saturday 19<sup>th</sup> October which went very well and was enjoyed by all.



We raised money for the club but more importantly we also raised money for young Danny Hill and his family. Danny is blind in one eye but was tackled in football and blinded in the other eye. Danny's sight in the injured eye is very slowly coming back and the hospital say he should fully see out of it in time. He has to go back to Addenbrookes on regular visits.

He is such a lovely lad and an exceptional footballer. Self employed and currently unable to work at the moment, he lives with Paige and two small children.

*Blanche Miller, Sports Pavilion Secretary*

### *Coppicing Work Parties in Lower Wood*

The new season is upon us and the work parties have begun. We meet in the wood on the main ride at 10 am and usually continue until approximately 3 pm. Currently the trust has closed the path that goes from the bridge to the main ride, because so many trees are falling in this area and felling work is being undertaken. Whilst this is occurring it is best to enter the wood from the Weston Green end.

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The work parties will continue throughout the winter and will be on the last Saturday of each month, so 30<sup>th</sup> Nov, 28<sup>th</sup> Dec, 25<sup>th</sup> Jan, and 29<sup>th</sup> Feb (a leap year!). Please come along to help out or have a chat to find out what we're doing.

*Duncan Mackay (Volunteer Warden of Lower Wood)*

### *Litter*

A big thank you to Winter Glennon-Lynch for helping me on the litter picking scene. He is always very enthusiastic and is particularly effective with our long-handled litter picker. He recently went into the undergrowth at the end of Six Mile Bottom Road, and came out with crisp and chocolate packets, from Walker Crisps, Golden Wonder Wheat Crunchies, Cadburys Dairy Milk Giant Buttons, Walkers Pops, dating from about 1998-2005. Although slightly faded and torn, all of the empty packets were in perfect condition showing no sign of physical deterioration, and in fact the oldest Walkers crisp packet said 'for extra new freshness'. They weren't kidding.



Winter also found a discarded Book of Mormons which I have dried out and have started reading.

Thanks again, Winter, and no doubt we will be venturing out again soon.

*Colin McCall (290036)*



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### 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 Cricket Club



As we head into the winter the future of the cricket club remains in the balance. With the support of parents we managed to get through 2019 and provide cricket opportunities for our 40 junior members. If we are to sustain that into 2020, some changes may be required.

At the moment Trevor and I are the only remaining qualified coaches (at one point we had eight). In order to spread the load, and more importantly to make sure we have a qualified person available for all training and matches, we believe we need at least two more coaches. Courses are held during the winter, and some of the necessary requirements, ie Safeguarding & Child Protection and First Aid, can be done online. If anyone would like more details on the coach qualification process then please get in touch.

It does not matter whether we play one match or twenty matches each season, the ground still needs to be maintained. A few years ago we were hit by the theft of mowers and as a result the insurance has gone through the roof. It is estimated that insurance costs for 2020, which comprise equipment, public liability and player injury, will be around £1,200. Add to that

the cost of servicing the mowers (approx £1,500) and it can be seen that expenses soon mount up. Our main income is from subscriptions but they come in from April which is after the main expenses are due. So to keep our heads above water, and ideally build up a surplus for unplanned expenses, the club needs to find ways of raising funds. Please get in touch if you have any ideas on how we can keep afloat. I am on WhatsApp so that could be used as a messaging service.

The club did not have an AGM in 2018/19 so it is important that one is held before the start of the 2020 season (provisional plan for this is Feb/Mar). Failure to do this would go against the club constitution and also possibly invalidate our Clubmark accreditation. The following is a list of roles that become available at each AGM. Details of an AGM will be posted in due course but if anyone is interested in taking up or assisting with any of the following, again please get in touch.

Chairman, Secretary, Treasurer, Welfare Officer, Committee Member, Groundsman, Junior Cricket Co-ordinator, Coaches, Scorers, Umpires, Website Maintenance, Tuck Shop Organisation, Team Managers.

Finally, keeping the club going is intended to fulfil two objectives: firstly to provide opportunities for young players to learn and play cricket, and secondly the hope is that a senior team will reform and thus provide a pathway for juniors to enter adult cricket. The club remains cautiously optimistic that the objectives can be achieved, but unless we can get some help, both practically and financially, both remain in the balance.

*Steve Potter (07774 051634,  
[steve.potter113@btinternet.com](mailto:steve.potter113@btinternet.com))*

## **West Wratting Oil Syndicate**

There will be a West Wratting oil syndicate fill-up this month and the order cut-off is Monday 11<sup>th</sup> November at 6.30 pm.

Place your orders either by email to me at [WestWrattingOil@gmail.com](mailto:WestWrattingOil@gmail.com) and put your surname in the subject box (if you don't get a reply from me to your emailed order within 48 hours, please place your order with The Chestnut Tree pub by phone), or by phoning the pub during licensing hours – not too late, please – on 290384. Please also make sure that you tell me if you have any special delivery requirements, such as 'Phone day before for gate to be unlocked' etc. In addition to the regular suppliers, I may use BoilerJuice or another order consolidation website, whoever gives the best price.

Remember that syndicate orders take at least a couple of weeks from the cut-off date to be collated, brokered and delivered, but if you take the minimum of 500 litres every time there's a fill up, you'll always be buying at the best price.

*Phil Tempest (westwrattingoil@gmail.com)*

## **Weston Colville Oil Co-operative**

Ordering deadline: **noon, Sunday 1<sup>st</sup> December.**

**Church End to the bottom of Mill Hill:**

Alastair Douglas (291475, or [salguoda@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:salguoda@hotmail.co.uk))

**Chapel Road, Common Road, Horseshoe Lane:**

Anne Vidler (290010, or [anne.vidler@talk21.com](mailto:anne.vidler@talk21.com))

Any orders left by email will always be acknowledged; if you do not get a reply, we haven't received your order. Please don't phone before 8 am or after 10 pm (leave a message during the day). We keep a note of any special requirements, such as needing a phone call the day before delivery to arrange access; please let us know if you wish to

change these. The minimum delivery is 500 litres; this is a Trading Standards ruling because of the accuracy of lorry gauges. To get the minimum ask for 500 litres; do not ask for a 'top up' because you might get a 'fill up'.

Orders will be collated and placed shortly after the order deadline and deliveries may or may not begin the same week. If you are close to running out, tell your contact. The price will not be known until the order is placed, and the supplier may ring for payment before delivery (failure to reply to this call may put your order in jeopardy) or bill you direct after delivery.

**Please ensure we have your correct address and post code** because some deliveries have been delayed due to the lack of correct information.

*Anne Vidler*

## **West Wratting Progressive Supper**

All in West Wratting are invited to take part in the progressive supper on Saturday 18<sup>th</sup> January. You are asked to provide one course of starter, main or dessert, for six people, including yourselves, in your home on the evening of Saturday 18<sup>th</sup> January from 6.30 pm. Each course takes place in a different household and you rotate around the village, ending in The Chestnut Tree. You don't have to be a gourmet chef – the evening is about meeting new people and making new friends, with the young and the not-so-young all taking part. You can take part alone or as a two or group of three. If, for whatever reason, you are not able to use your home you are welcome to join us and are asked to bring a course to share in someone else's home.

To reserve your place or if you have any questions or are not sure what is involved please do email me:

[Tamara.keith@gmail.com](mailto:Tamara.keith@gmail.com)

A lot of planning is involved in the evening to rotate everyone around the village, so the sooner you can commit to participating the better, please.

The cost is £10 to take part which will be going towards the West Wratting playground fundraising appeal.

We look forward to welcoming you to the progressive supper.

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

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

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**RAF Wratting Common  
Remembrance Sunday, 10<sup>th</sup> November**



There will be a short service at the memorial on Sunday 10<sup>th</sup> November at 12 noon.

The memorial is at Weston Woods Farm, Weston Colville, CB21 5NR.

We hope to be joined by some of the veterans who served with XC Squadron, 1651 Heavy Conversion Unit and 195 Squadron. Also, Cadets from 1451 (Haverhill) Squadron of the Air Training Corps will be on parade. Wreaths will be laid in memory of all those who served here and throughout the world, especially those who gave their lives in the cause of freedom. Attendees are invited to lay wreaths or crosses for those they wish to remember and anyone is welcome to attend.

**WE WILL REMEMBER THEM.**

We are always pleased to hear from anyone interested in getting involved with the airfield memorial. With just two services per year to arrange, as well as year-round general maintenance, this is not an onerous project to assist with but is very rewarding. It is hoped that, with the continued support of people in the locality, this important memorial to our community's war effort will survive for many generations.

**Dan Heath. Friends of Wrating Common**  
(rafwrattingcommon@gmail.com,  
07736 737174, 01440 730192)

**West Wrating Village Hall AGM**

The AGM of the Village Hall Management Committee is scheduled for Monday 9<sup>th</sup> December at 7.30 pm, when the report and accounts for the last

**Chalice Tree Sew Crafty Workshops**

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financial year will be presented. All interested residents of our village are welcome to attend. New committee members must be elected at the AGM. If you might like to join the VHMC we would like to hear from you in advance of the meeting.

**Mike Rowland (290788), Anne Catchpole (290967)**

**Granta Vale Community Hubs**

- Friendship, Community and Care

Balsham Church Institute, Church Lane, Balsham CB21 4DS on Thursday 7<sup>th</sup> November, 2 - 4 pm.

Abington Institute, 66 High Street, Great Abington CB21 6AB on Tuesday 19<sup>th</sup> November, 2 - 4 pm.

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

**Steve Jordan, Community Worker**  
(07508 430057, 7churches@community.gmail.com)



**Café Church**  
**Sunday 10<sup>th</sup> November**  
**4 - 5 pm**

**West Wrating Church**

**Rev Alex Jacob**

(from Balsham)

**CEO, Church's Ministry among Jewish People**

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**True Riches**

There is a story of a pickpocket thief who stole only the most exquisite gems. He would hang around the diamond district of Hatton Garden and observe the merchants as they came and went, so he could pick their pockets. One day the thief became very excited as he discovered a particular merchant had an extremely rare and expensive diamond. The thief followed the merchant on to a train and got into the same compartment. He spent the entire journey trying to pick the merchant’s pocket, to steal the precious diamond. When the diamond merchant got off the train, the pickpocket followed. Frustrated as he was, he approached the merchant and asked how he had hidden the diamond from him. “Well, I saw you watching me in the diamond district, and I suspected you were a pickpocket. So I hid the diamond where you would least likely find it – in your pocket” – at which point the merchant reached into the thief’s pocket and pulled it out.

The story speaks of the treasure we have hidden in our own hearts. We are for ever looking for it, and sometimes we discover that it’s been in our pocket all along.



It is easy in our modern life to find ourselves running around in circles trying to achieve our dreams and expectations. Sometimes we need to pause and consider a better way forward.

You may be thinking of ways of being still, allowing time to be calm, time to listen and reflect, time to appreciate the good things in life and to be thankful. It’s not unusual to have a thankful heart, even a sense of God’s love. It’s not unusual to want to sit quietly somewhere, perhaps in a church, to be still and listen. Over the past few months I have been taking a simple service of compline evening prayer. A growing number of people have come to enjoy this time of candle lit reflection and choral music. At the moment we meet on the first Thursday of the month at St Mary’s, Weston Colville, 7 pm, and from January we will meet twice a month. If you are nearer Hildersham church, there is a thirty minute meditation every Tuesday at 7 pm followed by compline. At Great Abington church there will be a time of shared silence, 12 noon until 1 pm, on the third Friday of every month.

With such a growing need for reflective calm in our church settings, you may well discover that your true riches are closer to home than you realised.

*Steven Wheeler*



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**Jayne and John Wallace Say Goodbye**

After a great many years (1983 - 1989 for Jayne, and returning as Jayne and John in 1994) we moved to Lincolnshire in early October. John has family here, and we both like the area. We were supposed to move in early September, but Jayne had a heart attack late in August, so was unable to drive for four weeks – and then packing took over.

We send our best wishes to all who know us, and apologies to those whom we did not get to visit to say goodbye before we left.

*Jayne and John Wallace*

**Weston Colville Folk Evening**

The Reading Room will host 'Camus' (pronounced 'car-mus') featuring our very own David Somerville. Fresh from Cambridge Folk Festival and en route to the festival in St Neots next June, he and his friends will entertain us on Saturday, 7<sup>th</sup> December.

David Somerville – Northumbrian small pipes, keyboard

Greg Smith – fiddle, viola

Andrew Burn – melodeon, Northumbrian small pipes



The three friends have been playing together in various folk bands for over forty years and their music is an eclectic mix of material from the folk traditions of countries including England, Scotland,

Ireland, USA, Spain. David says: “if we like

the tune we'll play it”.

The music begins at 7.30 pm, donations on the door, refreshments available, all welcome. Enquiries: 291475, [jacquelinetheteacher@hotmail.com](mailto:jacquelinetheteacher@hotmail.com)

**Weston Colville Marsh Tit Study**

We're pleased to announce that Phil Rowe has invited your very own South Cambs Ringing Group to appear on his show on Cambridge 105 Radio show at 11.30 on Wednesday 6<sup>th</sup> November, when we have a ten-minute slot to spread the word about conservation of these rare and beautiful birds. We hope you'll listen in with your friends, family and kindred spirits and enjoy it as much as we will.

After four days of sustained effort, at the eleventh hour while we were trudging away empty-handed and downhearted, a wily and elusive Marsh Tit was finally coaxed into a feeder trap (made to Dr Richard

Broughton's proven design by Duncan Mackay) at Joyce's famous bird bistro on Mill Hill, and acquired his colour rings (Black over White over Black) and his rather apt name, ‘Rasputin’. He hatched this year and has a wing length of 65 mm, which means there is a 99% chance he is male.



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Rasputin is a big lad. At 11.9 g, he's 200 mg below the maximum weight for a Marsh Tit ever recorded in the UK. One more good meal of Joyce's, Emma's, Jackie's or John's sunflower hearts, and he'll claim the national record for Weston Colville and West Wrating!

It's a pleasure to note that within a couple of days, Rasputin was seen on the sunflower hearts at Joyce's, both in the camera feeder and the cage trap. Clearly, his first contact with us has not put him off his food or humans, as the feeders are about four metres from Joyce's kitchen window.

Rasputin was also good enough to oblige us with a poo sample for DNA sequencing and identification of the bacteria in his gut, in our new collaboration with the University of Cambridge. Usually, we hardly get any poo at all . . .

Rasputin is the 38<sup>th</sup> Marsh Tit to be colour-ringed in our scientific study around Weston Colville and West Wrating. Please keep your eye out for them on your garden feeders and walks in the woods – they're particularly visible at this time of year – and report them to us at [cambsmarti@gmail.com](mailto:cambsmarti@gmail.com) or **Challenge**. Thank you!

Here is the colour-ringed Rasputin chobbling in the camera feeder, the brazen little piglet. He's not even making way for a



much larger Greenfinch (like all parids, Marsh Tits do not lack chutzpah). And there's another new, unringed Marsh Tit gracing the feeders! It's very difficult to tell unringed Marsh Tits apart, so we can only be sure there's another new bird now that Rasputin has been colour-ringed. The newbie will be christened 'Czar Nicholas' in due course, when its greedy stomach overrides the natural caution of a small bird and s/he takes one trip too many to feed its face in our nice, safe feeder trap. Long live the gourmet (gourmand?) Russian aristocracy and its courtiers . . .

Enjoy your Bonfire Night - as we shall - but bear in mind the creatures who don't understand the explosions, the lights and the smells?

*Alex Inzani and the South Cambs. Ringing Group*

## ***The Snow Queen, St Mary's, Weston Colville***

This is a very exciting production, coming to Weston Colville; for further information, please contact me.

*Jane Pryor* ([jane@janepryor.co.uk](mailto:jane@janepryor.co.uk))



## ***THE SNOW QUEEN***

Hans Christian Anderson

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THIS WILL BE VERY POPULAR SO PLEASE BOOK NOW!

## ***Books for Books***

Friends of Granta School have received donations from the sale of second hand books in the last year at the Saturday Morning Café in West Wrating. To date, the donations have raised the staggering amount of almost £330, which will be divided equally throughout the school and new books chosen for each class. To all of you who have supported and contributed to our fundraising, thank you all so much, every penny is appreciated. Thanks also to those of you who have helped set up the book stall at the cafe.

*Kate Cleary*

**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.

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**Daisy Chains Christmas Fair**  
 Father Christmas will be visiting the Daisy Chains Christmas Fair on 30<sup>th</sup> November between 2.30 and 3.30. Raffle and tombola prizes would be gratefully received.

*Jess Ashbridge*

**The Meadow School**  
 We continue with our journey to improve reading, particularly alongside our drive to improve vocabulary. The children have been involved in the first of our reading cafes; Year 5 and 6 parents were invited to participate in a guided reading activity observing the teaching of vocabulary within reading. We are always keen to welcome more adults into the classrooms to help hear children read, so if you can spare an hour a week, then please do come and speak to the school office.

Our Annual Meadow Mile fundraising event had a vocabulary theme this year. Everyone dressed up as Vocabulary Ninjas and displayed their favourite new word and definition. It was so good to see so many new words on display and hear children begin to use them as they walked.

We have also enjoyed our Harvest Festival this half term. Our chosen charity was Water Aid, reminding of our plentiful harvest and ready access to clean water compared to other parts of the world. The Year 6 children read beautifully and the children sang all their favourite harvest songs with such enthusiasm! Thank you to Mrs Sarah Bassett who always gives her time so readily.

Year 5/6 dressed up as Victorian servants on their visit to Burghley House, a wonderful setting to learn about the jobs undertaken to keep the household running smoothly and to handle Victorian artefacts. A

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particular highlight was a tour of the house; there was a lot of awe and wonder as the children saw the bedroom Queen Victoria stayed in and compared the life of a servant to the lavish lifestyle of the aristocracy.

Year 3/4/5 also had their entry point for Fantastic Mr Dahl. The performing arts company 'StageCoach Saffron Walden' came into school to run a brilliant workshop for the children, exploring the BFG through role play and drama. The children had already tasted snozzcumbers earlier in the week



The Infant classes also had a great day at Mountfichet Castle for the start of their history learning about the Normans. They thoroughly enjoyed exploring the motte and bailey castle, learning about why the castle is there and exploring what living as a Norman would have been like.

This was followed by an exciting re-enactment of the Battle of Hastings during the week!

The school also held their annual craft fair again. Despite the drizzle, plenty of visitors came to support our event. The crafts on displays were of the usual high standard and it was fantastic to see so many people supporting the school. Thank you to everyone who came to support us.

*Nichola Connor, Headteacher*

### Marsh Mail

Our annual sponsored walk, a real highlight of the autumn term, is an important date in the Friends of LVC's fundraising calendar. It is great to see the college community come together to raise much-needed funds and to enjoy a morning together engaging in exercise in the fresh air amongst our beautiful surroundings. Anyone wishing to support LVC and top up the sponsorship from the sponsored walk can do so at [www.justgiving.com/fundraising/linton-village-college40](http://www.justgiving.com/fundraising/linton-village-college40).

LVC is grateful for the support of a team of committed parents/carers and members of the community who give up their time freely to volunteer



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for the Friends of LVC. Last year the Friends raised over £7,000 for the college, which was invested in improving catering facilities and purchasing new sports and IT equipment, amongst other things. Students at the college benefit hugely from the investment made to improve their learning environment and facilities. With significantly depleted financial resources for schools it has become even more crucial to have this important source of additional funding.

The next event is Linton Fireworks; the Friends contribute to the stewarding which raises money for the college. We'll also soon be advertising the Christmas raffle and activities for the spring term.

The Friends are always keen to recruit new members and expectations for involvement are not onerous. Being able to assist with an event or contribute to termly committee meetings is a great help. Supporting with activities such as quiz night, school productions and the Year 11 Ball also provide social opportunities for those involved. Anyone who is keen to contribute to supporting the college through the Friends can get in touch with the chair, Nicola Tudge, by email ([friends@lvc.org](mailto:friends@lvc.org)) or leave a message with the college's reception team.

*Helena Marsh, Principal*

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**Balsham Gardening Club**

Our own member, Jennie Tipler, gave the first talk of this new season, ‘Dyffryn Gardens, a Story of Collaboration’. Jennie lived a mile from the Edwardian 55-acre grade 1 listed garden between 1997 and 2005, considered to be one of the most important in Wales. In the 1990s Heritage Lottery funding enabled extensive restoration of the house and garden, and in 2013 the estate opened under the management of the National Trust, with the garden being a partner garden with the RHS.



The house sits in attractive parkland, but the main focus is at the back of the house which has many features including a 22-acre arboretum, a rockery, a cascade, a fern garden, and many garden rooms; also croquet lawns, a canal and a fountain pool.

Members congratulated Harold Gawthop who has again had great success in the SCDC’s gardening competition. For the ninth year running he won Best Greenhouse Flowers, and now keeps the cup. He won first prize for best container garden and first prize for best greenhouse vegetables. Well done Harold!

Our next meeting will be on Tuesday 5<sup>th</sup> November, 7.15 for 7.30 pm, in The Meadow School, Balsham.

It will be our AGM, followed by our speaker Nigel Start with a talk on ‘The History of English Gardens, pre-Roman to date’. Please can members try to attend this meeting. All welcome.

*Hazel Leeson*


**West Wickham & District Gardening Club**

At the first of our talks this season (from October to April) we welcomed Melanie Collins from Mickfield Hostas in Stowmarket. Melanie was an enthusiastic speaker and covered all aspects of growing Hostas. Her advice about keeping off unwelcome visitors, snails in particular, was to stand the pots in metal trays of water since snails do not like metal and can't swim.

Our next meeting, on 18<sup>th</sup> November at 7.30 in West Wickham Village Hall, will touch on climate change but has a wider context. Our speaker, Olivia Norfolk, has been carrying out research amongst the Bedouin in South Sinai and she will come to share with us her ideas on how desert gardens can be havens for biodiversity, and what lessons we can learn from the Bedouin. This promises to be a fascinating talk and you are welcome to join us.

*Rosemary Yallop*

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## The Ellesmere Centre

**Past Times 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 with 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.

### New Classes For Children –

- Tuesday Sounds Right Phonics Class for preschool children.
- Wednesday Fun Active Fitness Mum & Baby  
 Irish Dancing, 4+ yrs  
 Tiny Town Role Play – preschool
- Thursday Ballet

For full details visit our website or call the office.

**Open Mic** – 9<sup>th</sup> November. Come along for another evening of great music, licensed bar and refreshments. Entrance £3.

*The Ellesmere Centre, www.ellesmerecentre.org.uk  
 (01638 508212, office@ellesmerecentre.org.uk)*

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## Macmillan Coffee Morning, Carlton

A fantastic £1,000 was raised at our coffee morning in Carlton. A huge thank you to Jo and Charlie Bennett, Ian Wylie, and everyone for their wonderful cakes, scones, raffle prizes, and all donations. Thank you all.

*Helen & Bena*

## Roadworks in Weston Colville

CCC hopes to start the delayed culvert repairs at the end of October, and expects them to last a couple of weeks.

*Jess Ashbridge*



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### 2523 (Linton) Squadron Air Training Corps

The achievements of the squadron keep rolling in – Cadets Oldfield and Stewart have achieved the first silver wings on the squadron, by building on their blue wing experience and gaining multiple hours of simulator and powered flight instruction from RAF Wittering, and Cadet Sergeant Keenan achieved his silver trained shot award on the L98 A2 training rifle at RAF Honington.



Two cadets have taken part in the wing Junior NCO course, a weekend of assessment in drill, uniform and leadership, giving them a taste of what is expected to progress up the ranks of the Air Training Corps.

We will be at several local community events throughout November, assisting with car parking and clearing at the Linton Fireworks event, as well as partaking in the annual Remembrance Sunday parades at Castle Camps in the morning and then Linton in the afternoon.

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

### 1st Horseheath Brownies

The Brownies in Horseheath are turning 50 at the end of October and they are having a small party to celebrate on Wednesday 6<sup>th</sup> November, 6 - 7 pm. If you were a Horseheath Brownie and would like to see what Brownies are doing now, or if you have a daughter who would be interested joining Brownies, please email Pauline ([HorseheathBrownies@gmail.com](mailto:HorseheathBrownies@gmail.com)) to let her know you are coming, so we have enough cake.

*Pauline, Katie and Laurené,*

### Advice on Using Emollients Safely

Emollients are moisturising treatments applied directly to the skin to soothe and



hydrate it. They are used by people of all ages, from babies to the elderly, and can be used to prevent or treat dry skin conditions like eczema, ulcers, psoriasis and nappy rash. Emollients come in a variety of forms, including lotions, sprays, creams, ointments, bath oils and shower products as well as soap substitutes.

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While emollients are safe to use and a very effective treatment for many conditions, it's really important that those who use emollients, or who care for people who do, and healthcare professionals are aware of the potential fire risks involved, and take particular care near naked flames, especially smoking materials, cookers and heaters.

The risk of fire is greater when emollients are applied to large areas of the body or when dressings, clothing and soft furnishings become saturated with emollient which leaves a flammable residue on the fabric, that can then be easily ignited.

If you use emollients regularly, it is very important that you follow this guidance to ensure you are kept safe whilst using these products:

- Keep away from fire, flames and cigarettes when using any type of emollients (both paraffin-based and paraffin-free)
- Change clothing and bedding **regularly** (preferably daily). Emollients soak into fabric and residues build up which can increase the fire risk.
- Wash fabrics at high temperatures, which will reduce the build-up of emollients (but not remove it entirely).

- When applying an emollient, ensure that it does not soak into seating, soft furnishings and bedding. This is especially important if you spend extended periods in a bed or armchair due to illness or impaired mobility.
- Tell your relatives or carers about your treatment. Make sure they are aware of the fire risks. Those who care for you can help to keep you safe by understanding and reducing the related risks. The outer packaging and product containers of your emollients should include a warning about the fire hazard.
- Tell your doctor, nurse or pharmacist if you normally smoke. They will be able to offer you help and advice to stop smoking.

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<b>St Andrew's, West Wrating (10.45 am)</b>			SET UP	FLOWERS	CLEANING
Sunday 3 <sup>rd</sup> November	<i>United Service, Balsham, 10.30 am</i>	<i>(Rev Iain McColl)</i>	n/a	Fanny	n/a
Sunday 10 <sup>th</sup> November	<i>Remembrance Day Service, Wrating Common, 12 noon</i>	<i>(Steven Wheeler)</i>	tbc	Linda	Jenny
Sunday 17 <sup>th</sup> November	<i>Holy Communion, Weston Colville, 9.15 am</i>	<i>(Canon John Pinder)</i>	n/a	Linda	n/a
Sunday 24 <sup>th</sup> November	Holy Communion, jointly with Weston Colville	Rev Iain McColl	Fanny	Alex	Sue

<b>St Mary's, Weston Colville (9.15 am)</b>		
Sunday 3 <sup>rd</sup> November	<i>United Service, Balsham, 10.30 am</i>	<i>(Rev Iain McColl)</i>
Thursday 7 <sup>th</sup> November	Compline, 7 pm	Steven Wheeler
Sunday 10 <sup>th</sup> November	Remembrance Day Service, 10.45 am	Steven Wheeler
Sunday 17 <sup>th</sup> November	Holy Communion, jointly with West Wrating	Canon John Pinder
Sunday 24 <sup>th</sup> November	<i>Holy Communion, West Wrating, 10.45 am</i>	<i>(Rev Iain McColl)</i>

## 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

### November 2019

- Fri 1 First Friday Bridge, West Wrating
- Sat 2 Saturday Morning Café, West Wrating  
Circular Walk from Reading Room
- Tues 5 Balsham Gardening Club AGM
- Wed 6 Marsh Tit talk on Cambridge 105 Radio  
Weston Colville Film Club  
West Wrating Over 60s, The Chestnut Tree
- Thur 7 Community Hub, Balsham
- Fri 8 Pop up Pub, Weston Colville Reading Room
- Sun 10 RAF Wrating Common Remembrance Service
- Mon 11 West Wrating Oil Sydicate order cut-off
- Tue 12 Seniors, Weston Colville Reading Room
- Wed 13 West Wrating Book Club
- Fri 15 Tea & Cakes, Weston Colville Reading Room
- Sat 16 St Andrew's Churchyard Clear-up
- Mon 18 West Wickham & District Gardening Club
- Tues 19 Community Hub, Abington
- Thur 21 West Wrating Lunch Club, The Chestnut Tree
- Sat 23 Charity Bingo & Games Night, West Wrating
- Sat 30 Coppicing Party, Lower Wood  
Daisy Chains Christmas Fair, West Wickham

<b>Mobile library:</b> 5 <sup>th</sup> November, 3 <sup>rd</sup> December	
High Street, West Wrating	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  
tel: 892288 email: [revkathy@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:revkathy@hotmail.co.uk)  
 Very Revd Keith Johnson, Honorary Associate Priest  
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**West Wrating Parish Clerk:** Jenny Richards,  
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**Parish Nurse:** Claire Gillett,  
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**Community Warden:** Carol Poll,  
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**Black bins:** Monday 4<sup>th</sup> & 18<sup>th</sup> November,  
Monday 2<sup>nd</sup> & 16<sup>th</sup>, **Tuesday 31<sup>st</sup> December**

**Blue bins:** Monday 11<sup>th</sup> & 25<sup>th</sup> November,  
Monday 9<sup>th</sup> & 23<sup>rd</sup> December

**Green bins:** Monday 11<sup>th</sup> & 25<sup>th</sup> November,  
Monday 9<sup>th</sup> December

**Editor:** Anne Bragg (290550) or email:  
[editor@challengemag.co.uk](mailto:editor@challengemag.co.uk)

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

**December issue's copy date**  
**Wednesday 20<sup>th</sup> November**