

# Challenge

The Parish Newsletter of Weston Colville and West Wrating

The views expressed herein are those of the contributors.

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**BRINGING THE PUB BACK  
TO WESTON COLVILLE**



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**WESTON COLVILLE READING ROOM**

**FRIDAY 6<sup>th</sup> MARCH**

**BAR & FOOD 6.30 - 10.00 PM**

**FOR INFO, CONTACT: [newtonjed@gmail.com](mailto:newtonjed@gmail.com)**

### *Weston Colville Circular Walk*

Our next walk will be on Saturday 28<sup>th</sup> March, meeting in the Reading Room at 10 am. As the River Stour rises in our parish, and the Stour Festival are including the walk on their website, the route will take in part of it. BYO lunch and maybe something to share back in the Reading Room afterwards. Come and join us – all welcome, refreshments available. Enquiries: 291475, [jacquelinetheteacher@hotmail.com](mailto:jacquelinetheteacher@hotmail.com)

### *Delivery Help Wanted*

Help wanted to deliver Challenge in Common Road, Weston Colville. It will take less than half an hour a month to deliver Challenge to fifteen houses in Common Road. If you could help, please contact me.  
*Anne Vidler (290010)*

### *Saturday Morning Café, West Wrating*

Our next café will be on Saturday 7<sup>th</sup> March between 10.30 am and 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. All proceeds from the bookstall will go to Granta School.

*Sherry (290070) and Catherine (291307)*

### *Tea and Cakes*

I am writing this before we have had our February gathering which will be during half term and so likely to be attended by only the hard core tea and cakes goers. However many people attend, it's always lovely to meet and catch up over a cuppa and cake.

We meet next on Friday 27<sup>th</sup> March, 3.30 - 5 pm at the Reading Room. All are welcome. Please come and join us.

*Melanie (291319)*



## Café Church

**Sunday 8<sup>th</sup> March**

**4 - 5 pm**

**West Wrating Church**

**Stephen Munday CBE**

Exec Head, Comberton VC

**'Running Schools and being a Christian. A good mix?'**

Tea, coffee and cakes  
**Programme for children**  
Everyone, all ages, very welcome



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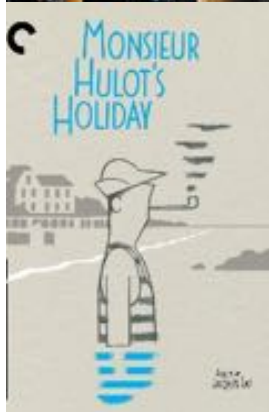
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**Weston Colville Cinema Club**

On 4<sup>th</sup> March, we'll show the iconic and acclaimed film 'Bladerunner', regarded



as one of the best sci-fi movies ever. Then as the first Wednesday next month falls on 1<sup>st</sup> April, we'll be celebrating April Fool's Day with a comedy, chosen from the select few



films given a four-star rating in Halliwell's Film Guide. It's a French film, but without subtitles – none are needed. Come and laugh! Both films will be shown in the Reading Room from 7.30 pm. All welcome, refreshments available.

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

**Tennis Club AGM**

The d'Abo Tennis Club Annual General Meeting will be held on Wednesday 18<sup>th</sup> March at 7.30 pm. As in previous years, Mr & Mrs Colin McCall have kindly offered to host the meeting in their home, The Old Vicarage, West Wrattling, CB21 5LU.

All members are welcome to attend. If you are unable to attend the meeting but have any points to be raised, please send your comments by email to:

[admin@westwrattlingtennis.co.uk](mailto:admin@westwrattlingtennis.co.uk), or by post to:  
The Treasurer, Mark Holme, Scarletts Farm,  
Padlock Road, West Wrattling, CB21 5LS to arrive by Monday 16<sup>th</sup> March.


**Cally Wilson**

**Songs of Praise**

**Getting Ready for EASTER**

**Sunday 29<sup>th</sup> March 4 - 5 pm**  
West Wrattling Church

Everyone welcome  
Child-friendly songs  
Bonfire and food afterwards



**Weston Colville Seniors**

Our February meeting was well attended. We started off at the earlier time of 2 pm with our chair yoga session with Charlotte.

This was followed by a fascinating talk on the local history of our village by Tim Cockerill, assisted by some of our older members in identifying people and places on the many photographs.

Our next meeting will be on Tuesday 10<sup>th</sup> March, at our normal time of 2.30 pm in the Reading Room, when our own member Jenny Taylor will be showing us how to make her beautiful hand made cards. I am sure many of you will have bought or received one of her cards. Please bring a small pair of scissors with you. Jenny will provide all the materials for an extra donation.

We will end our meeting with a chair yoga session with Charlotte.

We are a friendly group open to anyone over 60 or anyone who has retired in our local villages. Just come along or contact me.

**Val Scott (290837, [valscakesuk@gmail.com](mailto:valscakesuk@gmail.com))**

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### *West Wrating Oil Syndicate*

There will be a Syndicate fill-up this month and the order cut-off is Monday 16<sup>th</sup> March at 6.30 pm.

Place your orders either by email to me at [WestWratingOil@gmail.com](mailto:WestWratingOil@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 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, and the minimum order is 500 litres.

*Phil Tempest* ([westwratingoil@gmail.com](mailto:westwratingoil@gmail.com))

### *West Wrating Book Club*

For February, we read 'Where the Crawdads Sing' by Delia Owens, a wildlife scientist who has written several books about her life and work in Africa, and now lives in North Carolina.

Set in the marshes of North Carolina in the 1950s and 60s, it is at once a murder mystery, a love story and a natural history book. It tells the story of a young girl, left to her own devices when the rest of her family leave because of the drunken and violent father. She learns to fend for herself with the support of only one or two friends, one of whom helps her to educate herself. She also learns lessons from the creatures of the marsh. There are wonderfully detailed descriptions of the environment and wildlife, and an

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evocation of the times and social attitudes, with a strong ending. The setting had personal resonances for two of our number.

All enjoyed the book, although one person had some reservations, wondering whether it was feasible for her to develop the language and writing skills which she does later in the story. It was definitely a 'page turner', quite tense at times with unexpected plot twists. Scores were between 7 and 9 out of 10, and we would recommend it.

We will next meet on Tuesday 17<sup>th</sup> March at 7.30 pm to talk about 'The Dutch House' by Ann Patchett. The book for April will be 'The English Patient' by Michael Ondaatje, to link in with the May Weston Colville film club screening.

*Linda Gorman*

### *Weston Colville 'Pub' Quiz*

We're holding the next quiz on Wednesday 22<sup>nd</sup> April at 8 pm. Up to four per team, entry £2 per person. Bar with wine, cider and draft ale. All welcome, enquiries: 291475, [jacquelinetheteacher@hotmail.com](mailto:jacquelinetheteacher@hotmail.com)

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**Ministry Matters**

One of the joys for me of living in Little Abington and being a minister within the Granta Vale Churches is the abundant nature that surrounds our homes.



In Abington, I love the footbridge over the river Granta leading from Church Lane to the park. Every day I have the delight of crossing the bridge with my daughter and Freddie our little dog. I smile thinking about how, on one occasion, we were all startled as the familiar Egret swooped so close to our heads as we trip trapped across the bridge followed within seconds by a deer speeding across our path, probably equally startled by our clomping feet and chitter chatter.

The smells, sights, sounds and changing seasons that surround us remind me of my childhood. I grew up making dens in hay fields, getting muddy and loving the fresh air of the country. Returning to the UK from Kenya with young children, my hope was that we would find ourselves in a rural location. Life in the city or suburbia can make it far more challenging to notice the wonderful creation that surrounds us. Changing seasons may otherwise be reduced to the thermostat in the car dictating the need for heat or air conditioning.

Every day in our villages we have the joy of the unexpected beauty of creation. The anticipation of wondering how high the river might be today, or if we might see the Heron waiting patiently by the river. I feel so thankful for the talented Deborah at Abington Woods providing opportunities for our children to learn about the life of the river and the woodland habitat on its banks, and the wonderful primary schools in Balsham that value days out getting muddy in nature, alongside iPads, text books and tests.

We are now in the midst of the season of Lent which is a wonderful time of reflection. Excitingly, this year, the Church of England has set an audacious ground-breaking target for all churches to become 'carbon net zero' by 2030, and the Lent Challenge is focused on how we look after the world that God has made. It's not too late to sign up for the #liveLent daily challenge at [www.churchofengland.org/liveLent](http://www.churchofengland.org/liveLent) where, through daily emails, we are urged to reflect on our own relationship with the environment and to share in God's joy and creativity by making a difference for good through the way we live our lives.

We will also have the opportunity to reflect together during our Lent meetings at the Black Bull in Balsham on Wednesday evenings on 11<sup>th</sup>, 18<sup>th</sup> and 25<sup>th</sup> March. We will be looking at our relationship with time and place, and how this affects our sense of being human and our faith. Be the Light.


*Jeanine Kennedy, Lay Pioneer Minister*

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

The spring clear-up of the churchyard will be on Saturday 11<sup>th</sup> April between 10 am and 12 noon.

As ever, there will be tea, coffee, hot cross buns and doughnuts. Everyone is welcome. Looking forward to seeing you.

*Colin McCall (290036)*



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**Granta Vale Community Hubs**

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Balsham Church Institute, Church Lane, Balsham CB21 4DS on Thursday 5<sup>th</sup> March, 2 - 4 pm.

Abington Institute, 66 High Street, Great Abington CB21 6AB on Tuesday 24<sup>th</sup> March, 2 - 4 pm.

The Parish Nurse will be there as well as a representative from REACH. Free tea, coffee and cake, and the opportunity to meet others.

[7churches@community.gmail.com](mailto:7churches@community.gmail.com)



**The Old Butchers Book Club**

We are a new book club and we will meet on the first Friday of every month at the Old Butchers Coffee Shop. Our first book will be 'The Lost Man' by Jane Harper, a Sunday Times top ten bestseller. Anyone is welcome to join us and chat about the book.

Our first meeting will be on Friday 1<sup>st</sup> May, from 10 am until 11.15 am at The Old Butchers Coffee Shop, 35 High Street, Balsham CB21 4DJ.

Please contact me for further information and to tell us if you are thinking of coming so we have some idea of numbers, or drop a note into the Old Butchers.

*Mary Newton* ([butterflyecho@hotmail.com](mailto:butterflyecho@hotmail.com))

**WEST WRATTING PARISH COUNCIL  
Notice of Vacancy for Councillor**

1. There is a vacancy on the above parish council caused by the resignation of Cllr B Glennon-Lynch.
2. A bye-election will be held to fill the vacancy if, within 14 Statutory Days (does not include Saturday, Sunday or Bank Holidays) from the date below, 10 (ten) electors for the West Wrating Parish give notice in writing to the Returning Officer claiming such an election.
3. The address of the Returning Officer is:
4. The Returning Officer  
South Cambridgeshire District Council  
Cambourne Business Park  
Cambourne CB3 6EA
5. If no such notice is given, the West Wrating Parish Council will fill the vacancy by co-option. Anyone who would like to put their name forward to be considered for co-option please email, write to or phone the Parish Clerk.

Dated 17<sup>th</sup> February 2020

Parish Clerk: Jennifer Richards,  
West Lodge, 88 High St, Balsham, CB21 4EP  
01223 665260; [j.richards597@btinternet.com](mailto:j.richards597@btinternet.com)

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**Weston Colville Parish Council**

At the meeting held on Monday 6<sup>th</sup> January the following items were discussed.

**Public Participation Session** – a representative from West Wrattling Estate made a presentation about Hall Farm. The buildings are derelict, so potentially there will be a re-development and creation of a manufacturing facility for gene/cell therapy, to complement the nearby research and science parks. West Wrattling Estate will retain ownership and lease out the new barn style buildings. He suggested there would be a 6 - 12 month timescale before a formal application was submitted. Cllr Vidler thanked him for his time.

**Flooding** – an email had been received from a parishioner concerning the flooding on Common Road, on 20<sup>th</sup> December. Other parishioners had expressed concern about the amount of sediment gathering under the bridge crossing the ford at the bottom of Horseshoe Lane. The end of the road is not adopted; Cllr Batchelor was asked to look into the ownership, so the sediment could be cleared. The ditch behind the recreation ground is overgrown, and requires a working party to clear it, as a lot of debris has been dumped in it, and vegetation needs to be cut back.

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**SCDC Decisions**

| Reference    | Address                                | Application   | Decision |
|--------------|--|---|----------|
| S/2967/19/FL | Woodlands, Brinkley Rd, CB21 5PA       | Clad walls of house and garage with cream fibre cement hardiboard.  | Approved |
| S/4232/19/PN | Weston Woods Farm, Common Rd, CB21 5NR | Prior notification of agricultural or forestry development for the erection of a plant room extension to existing barn. | Approved |

**Website** – Cllr Pagonis advised that the website was ready to be used and that a working party be formed to add content, and demonstrate how to use it. It was determined that the clerk and Cllr Vidler would attend on 14<sup>th</sup> January. A parishioner had been taking photographs, and had sent these across.

**Street Lighting** – the Reading Room Car Park light had been fixed, and added to the lighting list. The cost of the additional light may be backdated to October. A brief discussion took place about switching to LED bulbs, but they were deemed to be too bright.



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**Hedges** – Cllr Garrod met with one of the landowners, who will be cutting his hedges. The clerk was instructed to contact the other landowner again.

**SID and LHI** – the LHI application has been submitted. Cllr Hubbard will present the application to the panel. There has been a software issue with the SID, so not much recent data.

**Footpaths** – no action from the owners is being taken for the bridge at footpath 19. Steps have been installed at the new bridge on Chapel Road.

**Ivy House Development** – a report was received.

**Playground** – it was determined to apply for a Wadlow Windfarm grant to replace the fencing at the recreation ground. The clerk was instructed to seek quotes. Cllrs Jackson and Hubbard to complete the application. It was also determined to instruct David Bracey to inspect the playgrounds in 2020. His quote remained the same as 2019, allowing the clerk/Cllr to accompany him on his inspection.

### Finance

**Budget** – it was determined to remove £850 for tree work. All s106 money had been spent. Following a discussion the budget was agreed.

**Precept** – it was determined to raise the precept to £12,500, as the council has been spending beyond its

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means at a detriment to the reserves, and without a significant increase there would have to be cuts to charitable donations and other areas. The council should hold 6 - 9 months' worth of spending in reserves. In future years the precept increase would remain low.

**Date of next meeting** – 2<sup>nd</sup> March.

### Dates of Parish Council Meetings in 2020 –

2<sup>nd</sup> March, 6<sup>th</sup> April (planning), 4<sup>th</sup> May AGM and APM, 1<sup>st</sup> June (planning), 6<sup>th</sup> July, 3<sup>rd</sup> August (planning), 7<sup>th</sup> September, 5<sup>th</sup> October (planning), 2<sup>nd</sup> November, 7<sup>th</sup> December (planning).

**Ray Vidler, Chairman (290010, [rvidler@btinternet.com](mailto:rvidler@btinternet.com))**  
**Jessica Ashbridge, Clerk ([jess@agrarian.biz](mailto:jess@agrarian.biz))**

### Local Rail

The government have announced the route for the new rail line between Oxford and Cambridge, named East-West rail. This 'Northern Route' will come into Cambridgeshire via Cambourne and then go south down the side of the city to link up with the new Cambridge South Station at Addenbrookes hospital.

Network Rail's consultation on the details of Cambridge South Station around final location, access, connectivity etc runs until 2<sup>nd</sup> March. For full details and ability to engage, go to:

[www.networkrail.co.uk/running-the-railway/our-routes/anglia/cambridge-south-station](http://www.networkrail.co.uk/running-the-railway/our-routes/anglia/cambridge-south-station)

### Attempted Burglary

An incident happened on 16<sup>th</sup> February during Storm Dennis, when my back gates were broken to gain access to my workshop. Luckily enough the attempt failed, as entry couldn't be gained.

I have reported it to the police and thought that I should raise the alert just in case there has been any other suspicious activity in the area.

**Glenn, The Green, Weston Colville**

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### ***Weston Colville Marsh Tit Study***

Our feathery friends are still hitting the feeders hard, as they need the energy and nutrients to make eggs and defend territories now.

Natural food – tiny caterpillars, aphids and the like – will start to appear, so their visits to your garden feeders should tail off over the course of this month. Your bank balances should show a welcome bounce!

The pressure for food is such that a Great Tit will face off against a Great Spotted Woodpecker for access to sunflower hearts, as can be seen in this photo, taken in February. Great Spots are known predators of small birds, especially fledglings, so the Great Tit must be desperate to be next in line for the food.



It seems that your Marsh Tits have divided Weston Colville into thirds – into northwestern, central and southeastern parts of the village.

Although the birds are known to range up to 5 km, your individuals seem to stay within their very parochial areas. For example, the excellent work done by Ben and Len shows that Black over Red 'Moaty', a Marsh Tit at least 4 years old ringed in Great Coven's Wood, has remained faithful to the area around the Moat House. It ventures as far as Church End, but is not seen further east or south. It's part of

the northwestern population. Moaty has found an unringed partner. Conversely, Joyce's 'Russian aristocrats' ringed along central Mill Hill – birds like Blue over Red over Black 'Anastasia' – have remained faithful to the central area of the village. Last but not least, one of the 'Kray twins', Green over Black 'Ronnie', ringed along central Mill Hill in February 2017, moved pretty smartly to the southeastern end of Weston Colville, where he was seen by David in March 2017 and in Anne and Nigel's garden along Chapel Road in February 2019.

The reason for the unusual lack of movement, known as site fidelity or philopatric behaviour, is possibly because they don't have to move. All they need is available in each small area: trees large enough to provide nesting holes, breeding partners, and reliable winter food. Len and Ben and Johnny and Emma feed reliably around Church End, Joyce and John feed along Mill Hill, and Anne and Nigel along Chapel Road (David may do so too). In other words, Weston Colville is an excellent place to be a rare Marsh Tit – there's an abundance of resources in and around the village for them, which is why they continue to do well here, unlike most of the rest of the country. Please give yourselves a pat on the back as conservationists!

As always, please send your sightings to [cambsmarti@gmail.com](mailto:cambsmarti@gmail.com), Mel at [m\\_stammers@btinternet.com](mailto:m_stammers@btinternet.com) or to **Challenge**. We can't discover these golden nuggets of information without you!

Enjoy the Daffodils and look forward to the blue Squills, white Ransoms and Tulips of every colour.

***Alex Inzani & the South Cambs Ringing Group***



**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    |

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**Toys, Games and Jigsaw Puzzles Needed**

Do you have toys in good condition, games with all parts and instructions present, or complete jigsaw puzzles that you no longer need? The churches of Balsham, West Wickham, West Wrating and Weston Colville are tasked with running a stall at the Deanery Spring Fair to be held on March 21<sup>st</sup> in Great Shelford to sell any of these items. We need contributions for the stall. (There are several other stalls – produce, books, white elephant, cakes, raffle etc – which all need contributions. If you have anything for these please tell someone on your church's PCC.)

If you have donations of any of the items we need, please can you leave them in your local church before Thursday 19<sup>th</sup> March, so that they can be collected together ready to take to Shelford. Help on the morning in Shelford would also be welcome. Please contact me for more information.

There will be jigsaws in Balsham Church before this event if anyone would like to donate, buy or exchange them. These must be complete and the pieces should be in a sealable plastic bag in a firm box.

Thank you.

**Gill Parry Brown (893012, gillbrown25@yahoo.co.uk)**

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**Women's World Day of Prayer 2020**

The Women's World Day of Prayer service will be taking place at Balsham church on Friday 6<sup>th</sup> March at 10.30 am.

The country leading the worship is Zimbabwe and the theme is 'Rise! Take up your mat and walk'. We will learn about the lives of the women of Zimbabwe and offer our prayers for them. It is a lively service with lovely hymns and a meditation. If you would like to be a reader in the service please let me know. I do hope that you will be able to join us on this special day; there will be refreshments after the service if you are able to stay.

For further information please ring me.

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***The Meadow School, Balsham***

Although winter feels like it is dragging on, the school environment suddenly appears much brighter, with displays around the school clearly reflecting the learning of each year group. Our youngest children have started to use their early stages of writing to share their learning about polar regions, and our older children have produced pages of beautifully neat writing and art work based on 'Crime & Punishment' in Year 3 and 4, or 'Holes' in Year 5 and 6.

As always, our teachers have carefully planned a curriculum which links reading with the wider topic. This term, Kestrel and Kingfisher classes have been immersing themselves in a geography topic focusing on North America. Their focus text all term is 'Holes' by Louis Sachar, which is set in Texas. They have loved reading the book and basing all their English around the text, including newspaper reports and writing a non-chronological report on the deadly 'Yellow Spotted Lizard'! They held a reading café for parents, which incorporated a reading activity alongside art work drawing a Lizard eye. The results were very impressive!

In Heron, Otter and Squirrel classes, the learning has been based around 'The Iron Man' by Ted Hughes.

The imagery and description in the book is powerful and it has been fantastic to see so much of this included in narrative and newspaper reports they have produced. Key Stage 1 children have been reading a book called 'Leaf' by Sandra Deickman about a polar bear who has wandered away from his natural habitat. It has led to some interesting discussions about how we need to be accepting of outsiders, rather than judging them by their appearance; an essential topic for children to be engaging in our world now.

This term we have been involved in a whole school art initiative running throughout Cambridge. 'Cows about Cambridge' is a public art event that weaves its way across the city from 30<sup>th</sup> March until 6<sup>th</sup> June. Forty cow sculptures will be individually designed by an artist to form a free family-friendly trail for people to enjoy. Our school has been involved in designing a 'mini-moo', which will form part of this art trail. The children have thoroughly enjoyed designing the cow and thinking carefully about how the design might best reflect our school. It has been wonderful to watch children work so carefully together to complete the design. We are very proud of the final product and can't wait to see it on display in Cambridge.

*Nichola Connor, Headteacher*

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### *Linton Village College*

This year is the 75<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the last year of World War II. Some dates, such as VE Day on 8<sup>th</sup> May, will be celebrations; other dates have been, and will be, commemorated in a very different spirit.



Monday 27<sup>th</sup> January was Holocaust Memorial Day and marks the date of the liberation of Auschwitz by the Soviet Army. Throughout the week the College held assemblies and Year 7 Religious Studies lessons focussed on the 'Shoah' or calamity of the Nazi's attempted genocide. The holocaust is a grim reminder of what humans are capable of doing to each other and that is exactly the reason why we are required to teach it. Understanding the holocaust is essential in helping students realise why we must treat others as equals and protect the vulnerable. Students never forget learning about the holocaust and I hope that continues to be the case. If we succeed in that, perhaps the Jewish prayer of 'Never Again' will be fulfilled.

February was also LGBT History Month. In the 25 years I have been teaching, the shift in attitudes around LGBT issues has been nothing less than monumental. Legislation such as the 2010 Equality

Act and new media attitudes have been significant in influencing change. Students who identify themselves as LGBT do so in an environment that is unrecognisable to the one that existed a quarter of a century ago. On the whole, schools and communities are much more at ease with themselves as a result. In fact the shift has been so great that part of the point of LGBT History Month is to remind and educate students that some of our great historical figures, such as Alan Turing, had to contend with levels of prejudice that meant their contributions and identities were hidden.

LVC places huge value on enriching the students' curriculum and we are fortunate to have staff who support that ethos. During the February half term over 120 students went on the LVC ski trip, a major organisational feat led by Mr Kerley, the Head of PE, and fifteen other staff who gave up their break. Even before everyone gets on the coaches the LVC administration and finance teams spend hundreds of hours sorting out everything from protocols to finance. To see the students' faces when they return is wonderful and the trip is always amongst the students' top memories.

In March, 40 of our Year 10 students have a week's GCSE 'Chateau' trip in France. There is, quite simply, no substitute for being immersed in another culture to accelerate students' language acquisition. Having said that, as with the ski trip, it doesn't just happen. Once again the support staff at LVC have been putting in the hours, with Mrs Fenn in the Finance Team bearing the brunt of the work. Schools at their best are genuinely extraordinary places where dedicated staff make special things happen for our young people; we are fortunate to have such staff working at LVC.

*Mr Doug Brechin, Assistant Principal*

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### Granta Medical Practices

Dr Mig Arbide and Dr Chris Schramm will be leaving us in March. Both doctors have dedicated over 20 years to the Linton practice and Shelford practice respectively, and will be greatly missed. Their patients have been assigned new registered GPs, but patients can access care from any of our clinical team within Granta, irrespective of their registered GP.

A message from Dr Mig Arbide, who is leaving on 23<sup>rd</sup> March: “I am immensely grateful to have had the opportunity to serve my patients for the best part of twenty years. I have enjoyed the privilege of their trust, built through respect, dedication, and stability. I am fortunate to continue offering my time, experience and knowledge to patients in the prison service. I will also continue to practice in my areas of clinical specialist skill and interest: enhanced minor surgery, vasectomy services, sports medicals and dermatology.”

*Sandra East (sandra.east@nhs.net)*

### Connecting Communities

Connecting Communities is a service operated by The Voluntary Network, a charity based in Newmarket. It is a door to door service that will pick you up at your home and deliver you to your chosen location. You can do a single or return journey. It is particularly valuable for those who find difficulty with accessing public transport, location, disability etc. We can safely carry wheelchair users, and our drivers are fully trained and insured. There is a £15 yearly membership fee, and the fares compare favourably to the bus companies. If you are interested in learning more, then please contact one of our team on 01638 664304.

*Peter Lawson, The Voluntary Network*

### Walking Stick Ferrules

The librarian at the mobile library wants to publicise the fact that they have ferrules (free, and in three sizes) for walking sticks and walking frames. If people take sticks or frames to their mobile library they will be fitted out with the right size.

*Joanna Sanders*

### The Ellesmere Centre

**Over 65s' 'Feel Good Feet'**-is a new service being



offered in the Gredley Room on the second Wednesday of each month, to look after the care and hygiene of feet for both men and women. Sessions will involve a warm foot bath, toe nail trim and tidy, and a gentle exfoliation, with a foot and leg massage to aid circulation and hydration, and cost £10. Toe nail painting will be an extra £3. Tea and coffee will be served along with cake and biscuits. Call Keri on 07876 068099 to book; the first session will be on 11<sup>th</sup> March.

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

### Come & Sing

Fauré Requiem and Cantique de Jean Racine (Fauré), at St Mary's, Linton on Saturday, 7<sup>th</sup> March. Arrive 1 pm; rehearsals 1.30 - 5 pm. The cost will be £13, to include tea. See @LintonComeAndSing Facebook page for more information. Proceeds after costs to St Mary's, Linton. All welcome at informal performance at 6 pm.

To register contact David Parry-Smith, Director of Music at St Mary's, Linton, [dom@stmaryslinton.org.uk](mailto:dom@stmaryslinton.org.uk).

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### 2523 (Linton) Squadron Air Training Corps

We continue our strong start to the year by getting three of our newly qualified cadets airborne within the first few days of achieving their first class cadet classification. Comments from them included:



- “Flying was the most exhilarating experience I have ever had.”
- “I went to RAF Cranwell and actually FLEW the plane! At first I was nervous but after doing it I am eager to go again.”
- “It was amazing! The weather was fantastic, and I got a chance to fly the plane. The instructor did some aerobatics with me – loop the loop, barrel rolls, and more.”

Debbie Keenan and I successfully completed uniformed staff training and assessments resulting in being appointed as Acting Pilot Officer (RAFAC).

We always welcome new cadets to the squadron, so if you are aged 12 and in year 8, or older, please get in touch about joining with the details below.

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

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### Balsham WI

‘A Better Understanding of Dementia’ was the title of our talk in February given by Jill Abderrour.

Jill was a very knowledgeable speaker and explained to us that dementia is not a disease in itself, but a word used to describe a group of symptoms that occur when brain cells stop working properly. This happens inside specific areas of the brain that can affect how we think, remember and communicate. Most of us forget things every day, like people’s names or where we put our keys, but this is not necessarily a sign of Alzheimer’s or another form of dementia. Dementia often develops slowly and is not always obvious in the early stages, and similar symptoms can be seen in other illnesses. Diagnosing dementia, and which form of dementia someone has, is important. It will ensure that people can get the right support and treatments and can plan for the future. Dementia has a huge impact on someone’s life, as well as on their family and carers. Jill was able to talk about her sad experience of her father suffering from Alzheimer’s.

Accessing services and support can make a positive difference to those affected by dementia. Alzheimer’s Research UK has funded over £100 million of pioneering research into the causes, diagnosis, prevention and treatment of dementia, and is the UK’s leading dementia research charity dedicated to making life-changing breakthroughs in diagnosis, prevention, treatment and cure. Jill encouraged us to support this charity whenever possible.

Our monthly meetings are held on the second Tuesday of the month at 7.15 pm at the Meadow School, Balsham. The WI is open to all people who identify as female and are over the age of 18; visitors fitting this criteria are always welcome. We are a friendly bunch at Balsham WI so why not come along and meet us. Keep an eye on our Facebook page @balshamwi for more details. Our next meeting, our AGM, will be on 10<sup>th</sup> March.

*Alison Clarke (894031)*

### Jumble Sale Date

Daisy Chains will be holding a jumble sale on 2<sup>nd</sup> May. Jumble can be collected nearer the time if you contact me.

*Jess Ashbridge, Chairman (07779 277447)*  
*Daisy Chains Preschool*

**theWI**  
INSPIRING WOMEN

**QUIZ NIGHT**

In support of Daisy Chains Pre-School  
Registered Charity No: 1035276

**Saturday**  
**7th March 2020**

**West Wickham Village Hall**  
**Bar 7.30pm - Quiz 8pm**  
**£3.50 per person - Team of up to 6**  
**Pizza available**

**Raffle Bar**

**West Wickham & District Gardening Club**

The club's former chair, Hilary Thomas, stepped in at the last minute and talked at its February meeting. Hilary is an expert horticulturalist and taught for many years at Capel Manor College. She talked on planting design, and how to create structure with evergreens, and the importance of shapes, texture and colour. Being familiar with our area, her talk was both richly informed and attuned to local conditions.

The club's March talk will be 'Flames and Feathers', the story of tulip appreciation and obsession, by Andrew Morris. 7.30 pm on Monday 16<sup>th</sup> March at West Wickham Village Hall.

*Andrew Morris*

**16<sup>th</sup> Annual**  
**LENT LUNCH**  
in aid of **TARIRO** in Zimbabwe  
at **Nine Chimneys, Balsham**  
on **Friday 13<sup>th</sup> March, 12.30 pm**  
Please come and join us for soup, cheese and fruit

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**Balsham Gardening Club**

On a cold winter's February evening, members were given a talk with slides to show how to brighten our gardens during these cold days. Peter Jackson, now retired from Scotsdales Garden Centre, discussed 'plants with winter interest', and showed a series of slides including his own north facing front garden, filled with bulbs, structural plants, grasses and flowering shrubs with wonderful fragrance to brighten even the darkest days.

Bulbs such as snowdrop are best bought in the green and planted in a group along with the bright yellow of aconites to give a splash of colour. He described cyclamen as promiscuous because they flower freely and the sticky seeds attach themselves to ants who disperse them around the garden, so they pop up where you have not planted them! Other flowering bulbs include Iris reticulata and hellebores (which should have their large leaves removed in late autumn to reveal their lovely flowering faces).

Peter explained that daffodils should not be tied in a knot after flowering, but be allowed to die back, however messy they may look. The plants benefit from a seaweed feed to encourage the bulb to flower again the following year.

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### Relaxation Classes

**Monthly:** £5 per person

Linton Village Hall, every third Monday, 8-9 pm

**Weekly:** £5 for block bookings, or £7.50 drop in

Tuesday – Ashdon Village Hall, 1.30-2.30 pm

Wednesday – Arthur Rank, 10-11 am

Stapleford Pavilion – 1.30-2.30 pm

Thursday – Old Butchers, Balsham, 9.45-10.45 am

Friday – St Marys Community Hall Sawston 8-9 pm

Bring a mat, pillow, blankets and water

**Booking essential – contact Faye**

**faye@kalmareiki.co.uk, 07815 608897**

Ferns and grasses such as Carex evergold provide structure, and dogwoods give colour with the yellow, orange & red stem varieties. Heucheras come in many shades and as evergreen plants give all year interest. Flowering shrubs can give the greatest pleasure with their fragrance: Sarcococca, mahonia, viburnums, and winter honeysuckle, to name a few. Shrubs with berries provide food for the birds as well as colour, and can also act as a deterrent to intruders with their sharp spines, such as pyracantha, cotoneaster, and hollies.

Finally, small trees give additional height and texture, like the snake bark maples with shiny peeling red barks, and small cherry trees with flowers in the spring, orange autumn colour, and structure in the winter. The white barks of the famous silver birches at Anglesey Abbey give impact, and small varieties

### Granta Deanery

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

## Spring Fair



**Saturday 28<sup>th</sup> March**

10 am – noon

Great Shelford Memorial Hall

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

Entrance: Adults 50p Children Free

Registered Charity No: 245456

are now available for the smaller garden. The winter walk at Anglesey Abbey is a wonderful way to see and smell the best that winter plants can offer.

Next month's meeting is on Tuesday 3<sup>rd</sup> March, 7.15 for 7.30 pm in the Meadow School. Peter Green will talk about 'Wicken Fen – Past, Present and Future'. Everyone welcome.

### Harold's Gardening Tips:

- Order seeds & seed potatoes
- Sow sweet peas
- Plant Lily bulbs in pots
- Tidy ornamental grasses and cut them down
- Plant shallots in cell trays in a cold greenhouse.
- Prune apple and pear trees and winter jasmine.

*Hazel Leeson*

### Cambridgeshire Fire and Rescue Service

**Test Your Smoke Alarm** – did you know that you should test your smoke alarms at least once a month? Or that you should have smoke alarms on every floor of your home? Or that Cambridgeshire Fire and Rescue Service do free home visits to make sure your home is fire safe?

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[www.firekills.campaign.gov.uk/](http://www.firekills.campaign.gov.uk/)

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- Check your property to identify any fire hazards
- Check that you have at least one working smoke alarm on each level of your home
- Fit FREE ten-year smoke alarms as appropriate
- Provide you with fire safety advice and show you how to test your smoke alarms
- Talk about escape plans, so that you can escape safely if a fire starts
- Provide advice, or link you into organisations that can help you if you need support with other issues such as health, wellbeing or crime prevention.

To find out if you are eligible for a visit, contact us on 01480 444500 or at [firefire@cambsfire.gov.uk](mailto:firefire@cambsfire.gov.uk)

| MARCH SERVICES           |          |  |                 |                              |
|--------------------------|----------|--|-----------------|------------------------------|
| Sunday 1 <sup>st</sup>   | 10.30 am | Joint Service – <i>family Eucharist with children's activities</i>   | Balsham         | Rev Iain McColl.             |
| Thursday 5 <sup>th</sup> | 7 pm     | Compline – <i>a contemplative candlelit service</i>  | Weston Colville | Steven Wheeler               |
| Sunday 8 <sup>th</sup>   | 9.15 am  | Morning Prayer – <i>a short service for all ages</i>   | Weston Colville | Steven Wheeler               |
|                          | 4 pm     | Café Church – <i>an informal meeting with visiting speaker, and children's activities</i>                  | West Wrating    | John & Scilla Harvey         |
| Sunday 15 <sup>th</sup>  | 10.45 am | Holy Communion & Baptism – <i>joint service with West Wrating</i>  | Weston Colville | Rev Dr Carrie Pemberton Ford |
| Thurs 19 <sup>th</sup>   | 7 pm     | Compline – <i>a contemplative candlelit service</i>  | Weston Colville | Steven Wheeler               |
| Sun 22 <sup>nd</sup>     | 10.45 am | Holy Communion – <i>a traditional sung service (joint service with Weston Colville &amp; West Wickham)</i> | West Wrating    | Rev Iain McColl              |
| Sunday 29 <sup>th</sup>  | 9.15 am  | Holy Communion   | Weston Colville | Rev Iain McColl              |
|                          | 4 pm     | Songs of Praise, Easter  | West Wrating    | Songs of Praise Team         |

|                     |                      | Set up | Flowers                        | Cleaning |
|---------------------|----------------------|--------|--------------------------------|----------|
| <b>St Andrew's:</b> | 1 <sup>st</sup> Mar  | n/a    | Lent                           | n/a      |
|                     | 8 <sup>th</sup> Mar  | n/a    | Lent                           | Jenny    |
|                     | 15 <sup>th</sup> Mar | n/a    | Lent                           | n/a      |
|                     | 22 <sup>nd</sup> Mar | Alex   | Posies –<br>Linda,<br>Louise + | Jenny    |
|                     | 29 <sup>th</sup> Mar | n/a    | Lent                           | n/a      |
| <b>St Mary's:</b>   | March                |        | Christine                      | Katie    |

## 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

### March 2020

|         |   |
|---------|---|
| Mon 2   | Weston Colville Parish Council meeting  |
| Tue 3   | Balsham Gardening Club  |
| Wed 4   | Weston Colville Film Club, 'Bladerunner'  |
| Thur 5  | Community Hub, Balsham  |
| Fri 6   | Pop-up Pub, Weston Colville Reading Room<br>First Friday Bridge, West Wrating                         |
| Sat 7   | Saturday Morning Café, West Wrating<br>'Come & Sing', Linton<br>Daisy Chains Quiz Night, West Wickham |
| Tue 10  | Weston Colville Seniors, Reading Room<br>Balsham WI AGM   |
| Wed 11  | Crafty Morning Drop In, West Wrating  |
| Fri 13  | Lent Lunch, Balsham   |
| Sat 14  | Balsham Spring Market   |
| Mon 16  | West Wrating Oil Syndicate order deadline<br>West Wickham & District Gardening Club                   |
| Tue 17  | West Wrating Book Club  |
| Wed 18  | Tennis Club AGM   |
| Thur 19 | West Wrating Lunch Club, The Chestnut Tree  |
| Tue 24  | Community Hub, Great Abington   |
| Fri 27  | Tea & Cakes, Weston Colville Reading Room   |
| Sat 28  | Weston Colville Circular Walk<br>Granta Deanery Spring Fair, Gt Shelford                              |

Revd Iain McColl

tel: 890693 email: [mccoll.iain@gmail.com](mailto:mccoll.iain@gmail.com)

Revd Kathy Bishop, Associate Priest

tel: 892288 email: [revkathy@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:revkathy@hotmail.co.uk)

Mr Steven Wheeler, Licensed Lay Minister

tel: 290396 email: [steven@juicyfruitsuk.com](mailto:steven@juicyfruitsuk.com)

Jeanine Kennedy, Lay Pioneer Minister

email: [jeaninekennedygv@gmail.com](mailto:jeaninekennedygv@gmail.com)

### Churchwardens:

St Mary's – Ian Ashbridge (291344)

St Andrew's – Sebastian Bain (403415)

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

**Weston Colville Parish Clerk:** Jess Ashbridge,  
[jess@agrarian.biz](mailto:jess@agrarian.biz)

**West Wrating Parish Clerk:** Jenny Richards,  
[j.richards597@btinternet.com](mailto:j.richards597@btinternet.com), 01223 665260

**Parish Nurse:** Claire Gillett,  
[7churches.parishnurse@gmail.com](mailto:7churches.parishnurse@gmail.com), 07498 994205

**Community Warden:** Carol Poll,  
[carol.poll@ageukcap.org.uk](mailto:carol.poll@ageukcap.org.uk) 07436 102865

**Black bins:** Monday 9<sup>th</sup> & 23<sup>rd</sup> March,  
Monday 6<sup>th</sup> & **Tuesday 21<sup>st</sup> April**

**Blue & green bins:** Monday 2<sup>nd</sup>, 16<sup>th</sup> & 30<sup>th</sup> March,  
**Wednesday 15<sup>th</sup> & Monday 27<sup>th</sup> April**

**Mobile library:** 3<sup>rd</sup> March, 7<sup>th</sup> April

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

**Editor:** Anne Bragg (290550) or email:  
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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.

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