

# Challenge

The Parish Newsletter of Weston Colville and West Wratting

The views expressed herein are those of the contributors.

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## West Wratting Café

Our next West Wratting café will be at the village hall on Saturday 2<sup>nd</sup> October from 10.30 am to 12 noon. The café works by different volunteers kindly offering to serve and donate cakes every month. The money raised will continue to be donated to local community projects. There will also be a charity cake sale, run by Becky Gilley.

We are looking forward to catching up again over coffee and cake. Please do come and join us!

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

## Tea and Cakes

It was lovely to catch up with everyone at the Reading Room in September, on an afternoon warm enough to sit outside. We would like to extend a big thank you to Mel for her time and enthusiasm over the last seven years; Mel helped set up T&Cs and has now stepped back from our leadership. Hope to see you soon for a cuppa.

The next Tea & Cakes will be on Friday 15<sup>th</sup> October, 3.30 - 5 pm, where we can be inside.

**Val and the Team**

## Friday Night Inn@The Reading Room

It was great to see lots of new and matured villagers at the Friday Night Inn in September. Feedback has been effervescent and so we are planning a festive version in December. Profits towards village projects. Thank you for supporting us.

**The Jacksons**

## St Andrew's Churchyard Clear-up

I have pencilled this in for Saturday 20<sup>th</sup> November, when it is hoped we can finally serve coffee and doughnuts. Do please come along, if only for a chat.

**Colin McCall (290036)**

## Lower Wood Celebration

### Saturday 2<sup>nd</sup> October

Time	What's happening	Where
10 am	Thanksgiving ceremony	Edna's Glade*
10.30 am - 5 pm	Exhibition and refreshments	Reading Room
10.30-ish	Children's activity	Edna's Glade*
10.30-ish	'Flora and fauna' walk	from Edna's Glade*
12 noon	Teddy bears' picnic	Edna's Glade*/Reading Room
2 pm	'Birds of the wood' walk	from Edna's Glade*
4 pm	Dog walk (on leads)	from Reading Room
5 pm	Poetry reading	Reading Room
6 - 8 pm	Bar, and street food from 'The Kitsch Hen'	Reading Room
7.30 pm	Musical evening	Reading Room

Children's activities will be in the Reading Room if it is raining.

Please pre-order evening food from:

[www.kitschhencatering.co.uk/online-orders/](http://www.kitschhencatering.co.uk/online-orders/)

Rosemary Davenport is looking for cakes and biscuits for the refreshments ([rosemarydavenport@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:rosemarydavenport@yahoo.co.uk)).

\* Edna's Glade is the open area at the southeast entrance to the wood, accessed from Horseshoe Lane past Jaggard's Woodyard.

**Jackie Brearley (Jackie.brearley@yahoo.co.uk, 290076)**

## West Wratting Oil Syndicate

There will not be a West Wratting Oil Syndicate order this month. The next order is scheduled for November and details will be given in next month's Challenge.

**Phil Tempest (westwrattingoil@gmail.com)**



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### *Who Needs the Chelsea Flower Show?*

We have some show-stopping, gorgeous sunflowers and plenty of gold medals to hand out (or small prizes at least) here in West Wrattling and Weston Colville. A HUGE thank you to everyone who helped me complete this challenge, there were some very impressive entries.



My next challenge is to run the Cambridge Half Marathon on 17<sup>th</sup> October. If you would like to sponsor me, I would be hugely grateful for any donations, no matter how small. Please go to: <https://fundraise.cancerresearchuk.org/page/beckys-giving-page-2433>

To find out more about all of my challenges, see:  
<https://beckygilley.wixsite.com/50for50>

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### *Book Exchange at Church End*

We've recently been told by our self-professed 'best customer' that it's great to have a 'book shop' in our village. We're delighted it's appreciated and well used and just have one polite request, reprised from previous months, but regarding a problem that sadly lingers. If you have more than a handful of books, please drop them off on one of our doorsteps, or call



Joyce on 07980 404764. We ask this not for ourselves, but for the benefit of those who use the Book Exchange. When a lot of books are left in the phone box, we might not realise for a few days to be able to tidy them, and this reduces the ability to see what's on the shelves. Thanks, and happy reading!

**Joyce, Jackie B, Emma Kaye and Jacqueline,  
Community Bookworms**

### *Weston Colville Circular Walk*

Last month, the sun shone warmly for us and welcomed a new walker. We had a good walk around golden stubble which, as one of our number said, it looks like short blond hair. Our next walk will be on



Saturday 6<sup>th</sup> November at 10 am: meet at the Reading Room, 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)



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### ***West Wratting Book Club***

After our summer break we met outside at The Chestnut Tree to discuss two books.

**‘The Wild Silence’** is the sequel to ‘The Salt Path’ by Raynor Wynn. It is an examination of the author’s childhood, her and Moth’s earlier life together, their later experiences, and how this brought her to writing ‘The Salt Path’. She explores the consequences of its publication and their attempt to regain the positive effects on Moth of walking with a perhaps ill-advised trip to Iceland.

There were contrasting views amongst our group with one finding it difficult to get into, another not wanting to read it but then being pulled in, while others loved it. All agreed on her excellent descriptive powers and the amazing relationship that Raynor and Moth had. One of our group thought it was rather disjointed but, in contrast to some of our number, enjoyed the Icelandic trip.

Despite certain reservations, it is still worth reading if only to discover what followed the earlier story and how Moth fared. Scores ranged from 7 to 9 out of 10.

**‘The Versions of Us’** by Laura Barnett opens at Cambridge University where the main protagonists are students, giving it some local interest. It examines how small decisions can change the pattern of our lives and the directions we take. We are given three versions of the story with chapters of each version following on. One had to make the decision whether to read all of version 1, then 2 and 3, or read each chapter of each version following on from each other. We all seem to have decided on the latter but agreed that it would be useful to have notepad and pen to hand to keep track. One person felt unable to read it. Another felt it was a clever idea but was not keen on the writing style. Others enjoyed it, liked the concept and the question that whatever path you take do you always get to the right end, the intertwining of lives with happiness and unhappiness on each path. All scores were 7 out of 10.

Our next book is ‘Daughter of Fortune’ by Isabelle Allende, to be discussed on Wednesday 20<sup>th</sup> October at 7.30 pm at The Chestnut Tree.

*Linda Gorman (290653)*



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## News from The Chestnut Tree

We are happy to report that trade has bounced back beyond our expectations and we have, thankfully, managed to survive Covid on a sound financial footing, and are very much enjoying trading fully again.

We would like to say a sincere and heartfelt thank you to all of you who supported us during lockdown. The takeaways played such a huge part in enabling us to keep our heads above water, whilst also making improvements to our outside space and bar. Also the love and thought shown by many saw us through a difficult time, we are so lucky to be surrounded by so many wonderful people, thank you!

Just a reminder that prescriptions are now being held at the pub for your collection. These are put into a bag at the surgery which is picked up and brought to the pub on Monday, Wednesday and Friday. Please allow a little extra time if you are collecting from us.

Sorry, this seems very early, but we now have RNLI Christmas cards available. We will also be advertising our Christmas menu shortly.

Finally, we are taking a holiday to coincide with the October half term. There will be relief managers staying at the pub but we will be operating on reduced hours and not serving food from Friday 22<sup>nd</sup> October to Sunday 31<sup>st</sup> October. The pub will still be open every day as follows for drinks:

Monday to Thursday	5.30 pm to 11.30 pm
Friday	4 pm to midnight
Saturday	noon to midnight
Sunday	noon to 10.30 pm.

Please bear in mind the reduced hours during the week if you need to collect prescriptions. We appreciate that some of you may prefer not to come out after dark; if you need to collect earlier in the day



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please call the pub during opening hours the day before. We can then check your prescription is here and arrange a convenient time for you to pick up during the following day.

Apologies but we will also not be serving food from Friday 19<sup>th</sup> to Sunday 21<sup>st</sup> November due to a family wedding. Whilst we are not serving food, if any of you would like to come in for a drink and bring or order in a takeaway we are happy for you to do so, and our team will provide plates, cutlery etc if needed.

Thank you again, it has been great welcoming you all back to your pub. Best wishes,

*Peter & Rachel*

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## Weston Colville Cinema Club

We're back! After 18 months, we're delighted to say that we are going to be showing films again from autumn to spring. For our first one we've chosen a comedy, as we don't know about you, but we think an evening of laughter will be just the thing at the moment. On Wednesday, 3<sup>rd</sup> November, you're welcome to join us to watch 'The Blues Brothers'.



Donations, refreshments available, all welcome. The programme starts at 7.30 pm as usual with an introduction to the film. To help you feel safe, seats will be arranged allowing your party to sit together and when not in your seat, masks are recommended. Enquiries: [jacquelinetheteacher@hotmail.com](mailto:jacquelinetheteacher@hotmail.com), 291475.

## Platinum Jubilee – 3<sup>rd</sup> June 2022

The Queen will be celebrating the 70<sup>th</sup> anniversary of her Coronation on Friday 3<sup>rd</sup> June 2022, and there will be an extra Bank Holiday. West Wrattling parish council wishes to reserve the recreation ground for an event on the Friday to which all the village would be invited. Please would you give us some ideas of what sort of celebration you would like, eg a barbeque, stalls, a concert, games – ALL SUGGESTIONS ARE MOST WELCOME.

Ideas can be emailed or written to me (Jenny Richards), the chairman (Mira Nichols), or the vice-chairman (Martin Davey).

The parish council looks forward to receiving some great suggestions to make this a most special occasion. Thank you.

**Jenny Richards** ([j.richards597@btinternet.com](mailto:j.richards597@btinternet.com),  
88 High St. Balsham, CB21 4EP)

**Mira Nichols** ([miranich@otmail.com](mailto:miranich@otmail.com))

**Martin Davey** ([martindavey5@btinternet.com](mailto:martindavey5@btinternet.com))

## Save the Date

Weston Colville **CHRISTMAS FAIR** will take place on Saturday 4<sup>th</sup> December in St Mary's Church, with new stalls, jewellery, presents, and Christmas fare.

Details in November's Challenge.

**Gaye** ([redman.tessa@gmail.com](mailto:redman.tessa@gmail.com))

## West Wrattling Clay Shoot

Once again our annual clay morning took place at Six Mile Bottom, hosted by Richard and Jackie Clarke.

This year 22 guns took part in what turned out to be very windy conditions, so a true test for the guns.

Thank you to all those who took part, resulting in around £2,500 raised for St Andrew's at West Wrattling.

For those who are interested, next year's date is Saturday 27<sup>th</sup> August 2022.

**Simon Sampson**

Weston Colville Reading Room  
(Charity 1162032)

## Annual General Meeting

Monday 22<sup>nd</sup> November  
at 7 pm

*This is an open meeting.  
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Please come along*

Jan Ogden, Secretary







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Church News	Parish Matters	Village Calendar

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

## GRANTA Medical Practices

**Flu clinics** – you may have seen in the news that some scheduled flu vaccine deliveries could be delayed. If your appointment is affected we will contact you to rearrange. If you do not hear from us then please assume that your existing appointment is going ahead.

**Face coverings** – please note that face coverings must be worn when entering any Granta building, unless you are exempt. This is to protect our vulnerable patients and also to protect our staff and our community.

**Covid symptoms** – if you are experiencing any Covid symptoms, please do not come into any of our surgeries. Instead, stay at home and ring 119 or go online to [www.nhs.uk](http://www.nhs.uk) to arrange for a PCR test.

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**Sandra East, Head of Patient Services**  
(sandra.east@nhs.net)

### *The Ellesmere Centre, Stetchworth*

**Walking Group** – we walk every Thursday, weather permitting, meeting at the centre at 2 pm. We have two groups – one for those who are more energetic, and one for those who like a slightly slower place. Walks last 45 mins to an hour and finish at the centre with refreshments. All welcome, just turn up.

**Greek Dancing Fitness Classes** will be starting on Tuesday evenings from 28<sup>th</sup> September from 7 - 8 pm.

**The mini gym** is now open: £5 for an hour for up to three people, and the space is all yours. We have a cross trainer, a spin bike, an exercise bike, a treadmill and hand weights. Please call us to book a slot.

**Christmas Market** – 21<sup>st</sup> November, with lots of stalls and festive refreshments.

### JUMBLE & BRIC-A-BRAC SALE

on 9<sup>th</sup> October, 2 - 4 pm, in aid of  
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*The Ellesmere Centre, [www.ellesmerecentre.org.uk](http://www.ellesmerecentre.org.uk)  
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### From the Rectory

At the time of writing, we are looking forward to harvest festivals in our churches. Harvest festivals in this country are usually traced back to the 1840s when the church responded to the many 'Harvest Home celebrations' by including an annual harvest thanksgiving service on the first Sunday of October, often accompanied by bringing to church gifts of fresh produce and other foodstuffs.

Nowadays our harvest festivals in church are usually celebrated sometime in early-mid autumn and are times when we give thanks for the many gifts of God and seek to be generous in Christ's name. During our harvest festivals this year we will be asking for donations of non-perishable food towards the foodbank run by Reach in Haverhill, though this is something we can support throughout the year. Alongside this, we are mindful there are a number of current initiatives, in our communities and beyond, supporting refugees from Afghanistan and we hope to support these initiatives as well.

We have also been focusing on a theme of giving thanks in our children's and youth groups. In addition to the children's activities during our 10.30 am Sunday services, we now have a youth group for



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school years 4 - 7 which meets once a month at 6.30 pm on a Tuesday, as well as a Children's Church Council which meets once a month at 5 pm on a Friday. Please let me know by emailing me at [mccoll.iain@gmail.com](mailto:mccoll.iain@gmail.com) if you'd like to learn more about any of these groups or activities.

The writer Anne Lamott says her prayers may be summed up as 'Help, Thanks, Wow'! Showing gratitude and praise is central to the Christian faith and can help change us, let alone anybody else; it may also transform a sense of ethical duty into the work of grateful hands and hearts. Harvest thanksgiving, then, can be a reminder that a daily practice of gratitude and praise may charge our lives with greater meaning, joy and wonder, as well as moving us to serve those in need.

*Revd Iain McColl*

### United Services for October

There will be a United Service with Holy Communion each Sunday, starting at 10.30 am. All are warmly welcome to come along and there will be activities for children. For more information contact the Parish Administrator, Cazzy Walshe on 01223 891443 or go to the Seven Churches website. [www.grantavale.org.uk](http://www.grantavale.org.uk)

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## Granta Vale October Services

	9.00 am	10.30 am	6.00 pm
3rd		<b>United Service with Holy Communion</b> – Balsham <i>Revd Iain McColl</i>	<b>Evening Prayer</b> – Little Abington, <i>Keith Day</i>
10th	<b>Morning Worship</b> - West Wickham, <i>Keith Day</i> <b>Holy Communion</b> – Weston Colville, <i>Revd Iain McColl/Jeanine Kennedy</i> <b>Morning Worship</b> – West Wratting, <i>Steven Wheeler</i>	<b>United Service with Holy Communion</b> – Gt Abington, <i>Revd Iain McColl/ Jeanine Kennedy</i>	
17th	<b>Morning Worship</b> – West Wratting, <i>Sebastian Bain</i> <b>Morning Worship</b> – Little Abington, <i>Alistair Collen</i> <b>Holy Communion</b> – West Wickham, <i>Revd Iain McColl</i>	<b>United Service with Holy Communion (&amp; Baptism)</b> Balsham, <i>Revd Iain McColl</i>	<b>Evening Prayer</b> – Hildersham, <i>Alistair Collen</i>
24th	<b>Holy Communion</b> – West Wratting <i>Revd Kathy Bishop</i> <b>Morning Worship</b> – West Wickham <i>Steven Wheeler</i> <b>Morning Worship</b> – Weston Colville <i>Alistair Collen</i>	<b>United Service with Holy Communion</b> – Hildersham, <i>Revd Kathy Bishop</i>	<b>Evening Prayer</b> – Balsham, <i>Alistair Collen</i>
31st	<b>Holy Communion (BCP)</b> – Hildersham, <i>Revd Iain McColl</i> <b>Morning Worship</b> - West Wickham, <i>Marcus Cornish</i> <b>Morning Worship</b> – Weston Colville, <i>Steven Wheeler</i>	<b>United Service with Holy Communion</b> – Gt Abington, <i>Revd Iain McColl</i>	

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## Nature Notes

Autumn is definitely here, time to start the autumnal feeding that keeps our wild birds going through the winter. We know that young Marsh Tits rely on village garden feeders from October to March. It helps make up for the fact that 93% of their food resource – British native woodland – has gone.

Sightings of these rare birds would be very welcome at [cambsmarti@gmail.com](mailto:cambsmarti@gmail.com) or *Challenge*. Thank you!

Please, please clean your feeders regularly. We have seen a male Bullfinch along Mill Hill with a Scaly Leg infection so bad that it couldn't stand on its feet. Scaly Leg looks like the bird's feet and legs are encrusted with salt; it is contagious, caused by mites and also by a virus, and can be passed to and from domestic poultry. Clean feeders go a long way to limiting transmission of this disease.

And now, some happy people. Early last month, Kelly Pryce invited us to ring the birds in her garden for science and was delighted to meet this Blue Tit. The bird clearly liked Kelly too – it let her live. It must be her Irish charm and love of nature which spared her life. (Blue Tits are small, brightly coloured and nutritious – natural predator targets – but also abundant. How so? Because a) they'll eat your birdseed till you're out of house and home; b) they breed like rabbits in any warm, dark place and c) they are unrelentingly ferocious. No-one takes on a Blue Tit with impunity . . .)



Later in September, we encountered a new Marsh Tit at Johnny and Emma Kaye's garden, our first since lockdown. It now rejoices in the name of Green over

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Blue over Red 'Tiggy', after Johnny's cousin whose hands are seen here releasing her namesake.



It's not well known that energy-efficient LED lights are worse for moths than yellow sodium vapour streetlights, because LEDs produce more blue light. A study in Oxon, Bucks and Beds published last August found that moth caterpillar numbers in hedges beside rural roads were 52% lower under LEDs and 41% lower under sodium lights compared to nearby unlit areas. In grass verges, moth caterpillars near LEDs were a third lower than in unlit areas, while sodium lights had little effect (<https://www.science.org/doi/10.1126/sciadv.abi8322>).

The good news is that LEDs are dimmable and can be linked to motion sensors and have cheap filters fitted to remove blue light. In 2019, Worcs County Council fitted lights with red filters to a road to help bats. There has been no effect on road safety ([www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-england-hereford-worcester-49534621](http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-england-hereford-worcester-49534621)). Maybe, our local councils could fit red filters to new LED lights?

*Alex Inzani and the South Cambs Ringing Group*



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### ***West Wratting Parish Council***

The following is a précis of the minutes of the parish council meeting held on 13<sup>th</sup> September. The draft minutes can be read on the noticeboards in the village.

1. **Opportunity for Public Statement:** three members of the audience wished to take part in the discussion regarding issues with the WWFC/Sports Pavilion.
2. **Vacancy for a Councillor:** Dr Matt Williams-Gray, who had been proposed at the July meeting and accepted, signed the Declaration of Acceptance form and the Declaration of Registered Interests, countersigned by the Chairman, who welcomed him on to the council.
3. **Planning:** a retrospective planning application made for 38 High St and 9 High St has been looked at. There has been no breach of planning control.
4. **Maintenance:**

*The Lamb Pub development:* there is nothing new to report at present.

*Highways:* the drains and gullies have still not all been cleared out. Cllr Batchelor will expedite this matter. Complaints also about the road sweeper which visited twice to do pavements and road, both before harvesting began so a complete waste of time.

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*Footpaths:* it was suggested that this now becomes a fixed item on the agenda if Cobby agrees.

*Verges & Pocket Park:* six free trees from SCDC will be put in the pocket park and Ashley Gerrard will check the park for suitable siting. The question of the grass cutting contract will be on the next meeting's agenda.

### **5. Recreation Ground:**

*Recreation ground gate:* Cllr Davey is looking at ways to achieve simpler and better access through the gate as at present it is difficult to open.

*Asbestos:* this has not yet been removed. Cllr Harvey will check this out.

*Noise & other issues:* there have been many complaints by residents local to the rec about the high sound level of music played whilst training is going on and then again in the evening. Chris Hodson, Chairman of the WWFC, was keen to get these matters resolved and was happy to hold a special meeting to sort out the issues.

### **6. Traffic issues:**

*SID equipment:* this is now back in working order and seven new poles will be sited in the village in order to move the SID sign round.

*Parking:* the cost of marking the dropped kerbs was too expensive so this idea has been dropped. The area for disabled parking needs to be remarked.

**Reports by District & County Cllrs:** these are published on the website.

The **next Parish Council meeting** will be held on Monday 8<sup>th</sup> November in the village hall and all are welcome.

*Jenny Richards, Parish Clerk*





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## Weston Colville Parish Council

The following are extracts from the meeting held on Monday 6<sup>th</sup> September in the Reading Room. The full minutes and meeting documents can be found on [www.westoncolville.org.uk](http://www.westoncolville.org.uk)

**Covid Community Champion** – it was determined that Jo Jackson and Melanie Stammers should be nominated for all their efforts coordinating and carrying out help for the vulnerable during the pandemic.

**Defibrillator** – the clerk will carry out some fact finding with local parish councils as to how often their defibrillators are checked and serviced, and also whether the cabinets are plugged in.

**Highways Actions at the Ford on Horseshoe Lane** – the concrete sandbags had been removed from the bank so agricultural machinery could fit through the ford. Large concrete blocks had been placed on top of the banks, to stop vehicles circumnavigating the gates during the winter months. There was a real concern that during heavy rains, the soil would erode into the ford leading to flooding issues. A ridge had also been created, damming the stream that ran behind the houses. Cllr Batchelor was asked to chase Highways about this before the autumn rains begin.

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**Dog Waste Bin** – SCDC had determined that as there was a dog waste bin at the top of Horseshoe Lane, and there was no evidence of a lot of waste on the paths near the ford, that they would not provide a bin (combined dog waste and litter bin). The suggestion was that the council purchase the bin, and pay for it to be emptied, and that it should be sited near the former garage plot. The clerk would find out about costs of the bin and emptying.

**Free Trees from SCDC** – there was no more room on parish council land for a new tree. The Reading Room Committee and Johnny Kaye will be asked whether they required any trees. One could be planted by the bench on Mill Hill.

**Flooding** – the gullies and pots will be cleared within three months on Mill Hill, Chapel Road and Common Road. Cllr Garrod had an updated version of the Flood Plan. Cllr Garrod was thanked for all his work.

**SID and LHI** – Cllrs Ashbridge and Hubbard will apply for the maximum amount available through the Local Highways Initiative (LHI) of £15,000 (10% paid by the parish council). Measures were likely to include gates at the village entrances/exits, speed roundels painted on the road, and more repeater signs.

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A questionnaire about traffic calming/speeding in the village would be delivered to all residents and a public consultation will be held.

**Footpaths** – it was noted that the paths had been cut.

**Platinum Jubilee Event** – there had not been any response to the note in *Challenge*; it will be tried again in a few months, to try to form a working party to report back to the council in January before the budget is set.

**Playground** – the boards on the swings needs to be replaced, and also the basket swing at Church End requires additional fastenings for safety, as reported in the Playground Inspection. Four hinges at £80 each will be purchased and installed.

**Training** – The clerk asked to attend the CAPALC Annual Conference on 17<sup>th</sup> September, with topics and speakers from NALC, Climate and biodiversity emergencies, Queen's Green Canopy, Think Communities, and Jackie Weaver (of Handsforth PC fame). This was agreed.

**Matters for Next Agenda** – Highways actions at the ford, defibrillator, travellers training.

**Date of Next Meeting** – 1<sup>st</sup> November.

*Jess Ashbridge, Weston Colville Parish Clerk*



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## Albert's Charity Shoot

We all had an amazing day at Six Mile Bottom at the charity shoot for the children's cancer wards at Addenbrooke's Hospital. This was something very close to Albert's heart.

We would like to thank everyone involved. At the moment the amount raised is standing at £14,000 but we are keeping it open until the end of September as some people on holiday want to contribute.

Once again thank you so much for making Albert's wish come true.

*Bena, Tracy & Dean*

## West Wickham & District Gardening Club

Andrew Morris will be giving an extensively illustrated talk on Monday 18<sup>th</sup> October at 7.30 pm in the village hall on tulip appreciation and obsession, 'Flames and Feathers'.

## Balsham WI

The September meeting was a talk by Mildred Freeman – The Lady Historian – on 'Mother's Ruin – The History of Gin', with a full history of gin and many fascinating facts.

For our October meeting, which will be held via Zoom on 12<sup>th</sup> October at 7.30 pm, I will be giving a talk entitled 'Putting the Garden to Bed'. This seemed to be a good idea at the time when I agreed to do it but now I'm not too sure, but I will do my best. I'll have my husband hovering in the background to help me with any questions you might have!

*Alison Clarke*


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## 2523 Linton Air Cadets

As cadets gain experience and show initiative on the squadron the Commanding Officer, Flight Lieutenant Tennison, looks to promote cadets into and through our NCO team. As well as being recognition for their many achievements on squadron, being promoted puts cadets into positions of leadership both on and off the squadron. The hard work is just about to begin! A massive congratulations to all of those promoted.

The squadron will be participating in the September Duxford airshow. We assist on the north side car park and after a hard days marshalling get to enjoy the



show and a camp over. After a long day the food cooked on our field kitchens tastes all the

better, and with the nights drawing in we set up a projector and have a film night.



In September our cadets get the chance to visit The Air Charter Expo, a business aviation industry event, where they will get a chance to see the latest innovations in electric aircraft and a chance to talk to the crews and see inside luxury private business jets. A fantastic career's experience as well as good fun.

We are open for new cadets to join - please get in touch today.

**Bradley Wright, Pilot Officer**

(07943 873272, [training.2523@rafac.mod.gov.uk](mailto:training.2523@rafac.mod.gov.uk))

## The Meadow

School is back! I love the first day of term when we see children come to school looking super smart and so pleased to see their friends again. This year it has been even more special as we have welcomed parents/carers back into the playground for drop off for the first time in over 18 months. It has been so lovely to welcome so many new and old families to The Meadow and be able to stand outside and have a proper conversation with people.

Our Mini Moo, which has for the past few months been part of the Cows About Cambridge event, and had taken pride of place in Heffers Bookshop window, has returned to school and has taken up residence in our school library so everyone can enjoy seeing her.



We have lots of amazing learning planned which we cannot wait to share with the children. The Infants are using 'Not all Superheroes Wear Capes' as a focus for much of their learning, focussing on superhero powers the children would like and considering jobs people do and how these people can also be classed as 'heroes'.

Year 3/4 are learning about the Stone Age and Iron Age Settlements. An experience day of being archeologists kicked off their learning, with a follow up trip to Flag Fen planned to also support their learning.

Our oldest children in Year 5/6 have started the year with a topic on 'Conflict'. This isn't as worrying as it sounds! They are learning about the Anglo Saxons and Vikings with a trip to West Stowe supporting their learning. Later in the term they will be writing their own persuasive battle speeches based on 'How to Train Your Dragon' by Cressida Cowell. I can't wait to read them!

This year our assemblies are being held outside whilst the weather allows. We were delighted to be able to put our Y6 'Roles and Responsibilities' in place again this year and it was a real pleasure to see the children's faces when they received their badges and were allocated their roles.

It is with a very heavy heart the PTA have decided to cancel once again the Craft Fair, which was due to be held in October. We are very sorry as we know this is



a community event enjoyed by many, but at this time we want to protect our school and our local communities.

If you have a child due to start school in September 2022 and would like to come and visit, then please do make contact with the office.

*Nichola Pickford, Headteacher*

### **Marsh Mail**

Coming back to school this autumn term has felt particularly special as we've been able to enjoy returning to subject-based teaching with the removal of a number of Covid-19 restrictions such as year group bubbles.

It is also great to see the college buzzing with extra-curricular and enrichment activities for our students and the wider community. The restarting of adult education classes in September is an important aspect of our commitment to life-long learning that we were keen to see back on the calendar.

While remaining cautious and maintaining health and safety measures, we are hopeful that a number of college events will be able to take place this term. We are looking forward to welcoming back our outgoing Year 11s on 1<sup>st</sup> October for an awards ceremony/mini prom to celebrate their GCSE results and their time at LVC. Observing their arrival will be limited to parents on this occasion to avoid large crowds on site.

It will also be great to be able to welcome Year 6 parents and students for a face to face Open Evening this year, on 7<sup>th</sup> October. Families wishing to attend will need to book a place on a tour in advance. We'll also have a range of online materials to showcase the college.

We're delighted with the results of our recent Ofsted monitoring visit and details are now available on our website. The report shows the progress that has been made since our last inspection in February 2020 and recognises that we are taking effective action to become a good school. It is pleasing to see external validation of the improvements that have been achieved by college staff over the last 18 months, especially considering how much educational disruption we have also managed successfully, including remote learning.

Some highlights from the letter from the lead inspector include students' views shared in the report

that LVC "is really inclusive and welcoming" and recognition that changes made to improve the curriculum experience, SEND provision and behaviour for learning are having a positive impact. Our effective PSHE education and robust safeguarding practices are also noted.

We'd like to thank our students, parents and local community for their support in achieving this progress and we look forward to seeing what we can continue to achieve together.

*Helena Marsh*

### **LVC Open Evening**

Thursday 7<sup>th</sup> October, 4.30 - 8.30 pm

A booking is required to attend this evening. During your booked tour, 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, watch subject demonstrations and try your hand at a number of practical activities. We ask that all visitors wear a face covering and take a lateral flow test before attending this event.

**01223 891233, [www.lvc.org](http://www.lvc.org) @LVCollege**

### **Girlguiding, Linton District**

We had a really successful Mystery Trail around Linton during August, and we hope those of you who took part enjoyed it.

Our Guides and Rangers had an incredible weekend at Grafham, with sailing, windsurfing, kayaking and raft building. It was wonderful hearing the excited stories of all they had been up to.

This is my last report as District Commissioner as my term now ends. It has been a wonderful time and I have really enjoyed seeing all that we get up to as a district. If you feel you could do this kind of role and would like a chat, please contact our County Commissioner on [claire-cc@cambsseastguides.org.uk](mailto:claire-cc@cambsseastguides.org.uk). It is extremely rewarding; it is very much a role that works around you, with no regular weekly commitments, plenty of help to settle you in, and the team you lead are amazing and extremely knowledgeable.

**Louisa (07711 614328)**

<https://www.girlguiding.org.uk/lintondistrict@gmail.com>



## Operation Christmas Child

This is a Christian charity that sends shoeboxes filled with various items that children would love to receive, to many parts of the world.

Last year nearly 9 million were distributed. Each box may be the only gift a child will receive, and so often items are treasured for years after and even into adulthood.

There are various ways to get involved: fill a whole shoebox with the suggested items, or donate one or more items, or make a donation which can be used to buy items or for transport costs, or pack an 'on line box', choosing gifts via the website: [www.samaritans-purse.org.uk/what-we-do/operationchristmas-child/](http://www.samaritans-purse.org.uk/what-we-do/operationchristmas-child/)

Suggested items include stationery, toiletries (not toothpaste or liquids), toys, jewellery, hats, gloves, scarves, paper, balls – there is a long list on the website. Age groups are 2 - 4 / 5 - 8 / 9 - 14 yrs, for boys or girls

I live in Abington, and I can collect items or boxes. Collection week is 15<sup>th</sup> – 22<sup>nd</sup> November.

**Jane Furlow (893232 / 07745 046921,**  
*jane.furlow@gmail.com)*



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: [jeaninekenedygv@gmail.com](mailto:jeaninekenedygv@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), 07779 277647

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

**Community Warden:** Faye Parker,  
[Faye.Parker@AgeUKCAP.org.uk](mailto:Faye.Parker@AgeUKCAP.org.uk), 07436 102865

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

Within our churches, the ministry team will, in common with many places, be encouraging people to continue to use masks and to social distance within a church service for the time being. We recognise, however, that this is a choice for each individual to make and each person's view will be respected.

**Mobile Post Office:** Thursdays, Reading Room car park, Weston Colville, 12.30 - 1.30 pm

**Mobile library:** first Tuesdays – 5th Oct, 2nd Nov  
High Street, West Wrating 12.15 - 12.45 pm  
Weston Green 1.50 - 2.15 pm  
Mill Hill, Weston Colville 2.20 - 2.50 pm

**Black bins:** Monday 4<sup>th</sup> & 18<sup>th</sup> October,  
Monday 1<sup>st</sup>, 15<sup>th</sup> & 29<sup>th</sup> November

**Blue & Green bins:** Mon 11<sup>th</sup> & 25<sup>th</sup> October,  
Monday 8<sup>th</sup> & 22<sup>nd</sup> November

**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.

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

## DIARY

### October 2021

Fri 1 Pimp My Fish, opposite Reading Room  
Sat 2 Saturday Morning Café, West Wrating  
Lower Wood Celebration, Weston Colville  
Thur 7 Linton Village College Open Evening  
Sat 9 Jumble Sale, Ellesmere Centre, Stetchworth  
Tue 12 Balsham WI  
Fri 15 Tea & Cakes, Weston Colville Reading Room  
Mon 18 West Wickham & District Gardening Club  
Wed 20 West Wrating Book Club, The Chestnut Tree  
Thur 21 Lunch Club, The Chestnut Tree

### November 2021

Mon 1 Weston Colville Parish Council meeting  
Wed 3 Weston Colville Cinema Club, Reading Room  
Sat 6 Circular Walk, from outside Reading Room  
Mon 8 West Wrating Parish Council meeting  
Sat 20 St Andrew's Churchyard clear-up  
Mon 22 Weston Colville Reading Room Committee AGM